

Food Standards Agency: UK food hygiene rating data application programming interface (the 'FTRS/FHIS SEO API')

A developer's guide
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England, Wales and Northern Ireland:
The Food Hygiene Rating Scheme (FTRS)



Scotland:
The Food Hygiene Information Scheme (FHIS)

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ABOUT THIS GUIDANCE

Guidance for developers to access, in XML and JSON formats, the underlying Food Hygiene Rating Scheme (FHRS) and Food Hygiene Information Scheme (FHIS) data published at www.food.gov.uk/ratings. The FHRS is run in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, and the FHIS is run in Scotland.

SEO API

The FHRS/FHIS system exposes data via XML and JSON through a series of SEO-friendly routes. XML data meets the published XSD for FHRS Establishments.

Several different routes have been created to allow differing information to be extracted. These are grouped in to four areas: Search, Search Name, Search Address, Enhanced Search (Advanced) and Enhanced Search (Advanced Location). Each is discussed in the following sections. Each command has several different variations, which are all detailed.

All example calls are given in the format: <web root>/<command>/<parameter 1>/.../<parameter x>
 <web root> is the base of the web site. It is different depending on the server it is running on. For example, on the live server it will be <http://ratings.food.gov.uk>; on a developer's machine it will be <http://localhost/FHRSWeb>.

SEARCH

This is the basic search operation. It replaced the former Quick Search methods, using a new sub-system named 'enhanced search'.

COMMAND SYNTAX

The command is structured in one of the following ways:

CULTURED

```
search/{lang}/{name}/{address}/{sortOrder}/{page}/{pageSize}/{format}
search/{lang}/{name}/{address}/{page}/{pageSize}/{format}
search/{lang}/{name}/{address}/{page}/{format}
search/{lang}/{name}/{address}/{format}
```

NON-CULTURED

```
search/{name}/{address}/{sortOrder}/{page}/{pageSize}/{format}
search/{name}/{address}/{page}/{pageSize}/{format}
search/{name}/{address}/{page}/{format}
search/{name}/{address}/{format}
```

PARAMETERS

The following parameters can be used. The value in the default column is used if the route does not explicitly supply a value. For example, if the route does not specify pageSize, a default value of 10 will be used.

Name	Type	Description	Default
lang	String	Must be either en-GB or cy-GB	en-GB
name	String	Name of business to search for. Supplying a ^ (caret) will search for all businesses	-
address	String	Part of the address (or postcode) to search for. Supplying a ^ (caret) will search for all addresses/post codes	-
sortOrder	String	Must be one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alpha Returns the results in the order of Business Name in ascending order. • Desc_Alpha Returns the results in the order of Business Name in descending order • Type Returns the results in the order of Business Type in ascending order. • Desc_Type Returns the results in the order of Business Type in descending order. • Rating Returns the results in the order of Rating in ascending order (5,4,3,2,1,0,Pass, Pass and Eatsafe, Improvement Required, Awaiting Publication, Exempt, Awaiting Inspection) • Desc_Rating Returns the results in the order of Rating in descending order (0,1,2,3,4,5, Improvement Required, Pass, Pass and Eatsafe, Awaiting Publication, Exempt, Awaiting Inspection) 	

page	Numeric	Page to return	1
pageSize	Numeric	The number of results to return in a page	10
format	String	Must be either xml or json	-

EXAMPLE SEARCHES

To search for all establishments that have 'cafe' in the name and have Norwich in the address:

<http://localhost/FHRSWeb/search/cafe/norwich/xml>

<http://localhost/FHRSWeb/search/en-gb/cafe/norwich/xml>

To search for all establishments that have 'cafe' in the name and have Norwich in the address, returning page 2:

<http://localhost/FHRSWeb/search/cafe/norwich/2/xml>

<http://localhost/FHRSWeb/search/en-gb/cafe/norwich/2/xml>

To search for all establishments that have 'cafe' in the name and have Norwich in the address, returning page 2, where the page size is 30:

<http://localhost/FHRSWeb/search/cafe/norwich/2/30/xml>

<http://localhost/FHRSWeb/search/en-gb/cafe/norwich/2/30/xml>

To search for all establishment that have 'cafe' in the name, for all addresses:

<http://localhost/FHRSWeb/search/cafe/^/xml>

<http://localhost/FHRSWeb/search/en-gb/cafe/^/xml>

To search for all establishments that have Norwich in the address:

<http://localhost/FHRSWeb/search/^/norwich/xml>

<http://localhost/FHRSWeb/search/en-gb/^/norwich/xml>

SEARCH-NAME

This is very similar to the Search function, except that no address can be supplied.

COMMAND SYNTAX

The command is structured in one of the following ways:

CULTURED

```
Search-name/{lang}/{name}/{sortOrder}/{page}/{pageSize}/{format}
search-name/{lang}/{name}/{page}/{pageSize}/{format}
search-name/{lang}/{name}/{page}/{format}
search-name/{lang}/{name}/{format}
```

NON-CULTURED

```
search-name/{name}/{sortOrder}/{page}/{pageSize}/{format}
search-name/{name}/{page}/{pageSize}/{format}
```

```
search-name/{name}/{page}/{format}
search-name/{name}/{format}
```

PARAMETERS

The following parameters can be used. The value in the default column is used if the route does not explicitly supply a value. For example, if the route does not specify pageSize, a default value of 10 will be used.

Name	Type	Description	Default
lang	String	Must be either en-GB or cy-GB	en-GB
name	String	Name of business to search for. Supplying a ^ (caret) will search for all businesses	-
sortOrder	String	Must be one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Alpha Returns the results in the order of Business Name in ascending order.• Desc_Alpha Returns the results in the order of Business Name in descending order.• Type Returns the results in the order of Business Type in ascending order.• Desc_Type Returns the results in the order of Business Type in descending order.• Rating Returns the results in the order of Rating in ascending order (5,4,3,2,1,0,Pass, Pass and Eatsafe, Improvement Required, Awaiting Publication, Exempt, Awaiting Inspection)• Desc_Rating Returns the results in the order of Rating in descending order (0,1,2,3,4,5, Improvement Required, Pass, Pass and Eatsafe, Awaiting Publication,	

			Exempt, Awaiting Inspection)
page	Numeric	Page to return	1
pageSize	Numeric	The number of results to return in a page	10
format	String	Must be either xml or json	-

EXAMPLE SEARCHES

To search for all establishments that have 'cafe' in the name:

<http://localhost/FHRSWeb/search-name/cafe/xml>

<http://localhost/FHRSWeb/search-name/en-gb/cafe/xml>

To search for all establishments that have 'cafe' in the name, returning page 2:

<http://localhost/FHRSWeb/search-name/cafe/2/xml>

<http://localhost/FHRSWeb/search-name/en-gb/cafe/2/xml>

To search for all establishments that have 'cafe' in the name, returning page 2, where the page size is 30:

<http://localhost/FHRSWeb/search-name/cafe/2/30/xml>

<http://localhost/FHRSWeb/search-name/en-gb/cafe/2/30/xml>

SEARCH-ADDRESS

This is very similar to the Search function, except that no business name can be supplied.

COMMAND SYNTAX

The command is structured in one of the following ways:

CULTURED

```
Search-address/{lang}/{address}/{sortOrder}/{page}/{pageSize}/{format}
search-address/{lang}/{address}/{page}/{pageSize}/{format}
search-address/{lang}/{address}/{page}/{format}
search-address/{lang}/{address}/{format}
```

NON-CULTURED

```
search-address/{address}/{sortOrder}/{page}/{pageSize}/{format}
search-address/{address}/{page}/{pageSize}/{format}
search-address/{address}/{page}/{format}
search-address/{address}/{format}
```

PARAMETERS

The following parameters can be used. The value in the default column is used if the route does not explicitly supply a value. For example, if the route does not specify pageSize, a default value of 10 will be used.

Name	Type	Description	Default
lang	String	Must be either en-GB or cy-GB	en-GB
address	String	Part of the address (or postcode) to search for. Supplying a ^ (caret) will search for all addresses/post codes	-
sortOrder	String	Must be one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alpha Returns the results in the order of Business Name in ascending order. • Desc_Alpha Returns the results in the order of Business Name in descending order. • Type Returns the results in the order of Business Type in ascending order. • Desc_Type 	

		Returns the results in the order of Business Type in descending order.	
	• Rating	Returns the results in the order of Rating in ascending order (5,4,3,2,1,0,Pass, Pass and Eatsafe, Improvement Required, Awaiting Publication, Exempt, Awaiting Inspection)	
	• Desc_Rating	Returns the results in the order of Rating in descending order (0,1,2,3,4,5, Improvement Required, Pass, Pass and Eatsafe, Awaiting Publication, Exempt, Awaiting Inspection)	
page	Numeric	Page to return	1
pageSize	Numeric	The number of results to return in a page	10
format	String	Must be either xml or json	-

EXAMPLE SEARCHES

To search for all establishments that have Norwich in the address:

<http://localhost/FHRSWeb/search-address/norwich/xml>
<http://localhost/FHRSWeb/search-address/en-gb/norwich/xml>

To search for all establishments that have Norwich in the address, returning page 2:

<http://localhost/FHRSWeb/search-address/norwich/2/xml>
<http://localhost/FHRSWeb/search-address/en-gb/norwich/2/xml>

To search for all establishments that have Norwich in the address, returning page 2, where the page size is 30:

<http://localhost/FHRSWeb/search-address/norwich/2/30/xml>
<http://localhost/FHRSWeb/search-address/en-gb/norwich/2/30/xml>

ENHANCED SEARCH (ADVANCED)

This is an advanced search operation that requires a longer command to achieve results, but gives more search options.

NB: unless indicated otherwise each example shown returns page one, with 30 results per page in an xml format (...../1/30/xml).

COMMAND SYNTAX

The command is structured in two ways:

CULTURED

```
enhanced-search/{lang}/{name}/{address}/{sortOrder}/{businessType}/{la}/{page}/{pageSize}/{format}
```

NON-CULTURED

```
enhanced-search/{name}/{address}/{sortOrder}/{businessType}/{la}/{page}/{pageSize}/{format}
```

PARAMETERS

The following parameters can be used. The value in the default column is used if the route does not explicitly supply a value. For example, if the route does not specify pageSize, a default value of 10 will be used.

Name	Type	Description	Default
lang	String	Must be either en-GB or cy-GB	en-GB
name	String	Name of business to search for. Supplying a ^ (caret) will search for all businesses	-
address	String	Part of the address (or postcode) to search for. Supplying a ^ (caret) will search for all addresses/post codes	-
sortOrder	String	Must be one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alpha Returns the results in the order of Business Name in ascending order. • Desc_Alpha Returns the results in the order of Business Name in descending order. • Type Returns the results in the 	-

		<p>order of Business Type in ascending order.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desc_Type Returns the results in the order of Business Type in descending order. • Rating Returns the results in the order of Rating in ascending order (5,4,3,2,1,0,Pass, Pass and Eatsafe, Improvement Required, Awaiting Publication, Exempt, Awaiting Inspection) • Desc_Rating Returns the results in the order of Rating in descending order (0,1,2,3,4,5, Improvement Required, Pass, Pass and Eatsafe, Awaiting Publication, Exempt, Awaiting Inspection)
businessType	Numeric	<p>FSA Business Type ID. Specifying a value of 0 will include all business types</p> <p>Business types - http://ratings.food.gov.uk/business-types/xml</p>
la	String	<p>FSA Local Authority ID Code or Country. Supplying a ^ (caret) will search for all Local Authorities</p> <p>Local authority ID Codes: http://ratings.food.gov.uk/authories/xml</p> <p>Countries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • England; • NorthernIreland; • Scotland; or • Wales
page	Numeric	Page to return 1
pageSize	Numeric	The number of results to return in a page 10
format	String	Must be either xml or json -

EXAMPLE SEARCHES

To search for all establishments for council 107 (Wealdon):

<http://localhost/FHRSSWeb//enhanced-search/en-GB/^/^/ALPHA/0/107/1/30/xml>

To search for all establishments in Northern Ireland:

<http://localhost/FHRSSWeb//enhanced-search/en-GB/^/^/ALPHA/0/NorthernIreland/1/30/xml>

To search for all establishments that have a business type of 2 (Hotel/Guest House):

<http://localhost/FHRSSWeb//enhanced-search/en-GB/^/^/ALPHA/2/^/1/30/xml>

ENHANCED SEARCH (RATING)

This is an advanced search operation will return specific ratings (or a range of ratings). Please note: this does require the inclusion of an additional digit in the command.

The command is structured in two ways:

CULTURED

```
enhanced-
search/{lang}/{name}/{address}/{sortOrder}/{businessType}/{la}/{rating}/{map}/{page}/{pageSize}/{format}
```

NON-CULTURED

```
enhanced-
search/{name}/{address}/{sortOrder}/{businessType}/{la}/{rating}/{map}/{page}/{pageSize}/{format}
```

EXAMPLE SEARCHES

To search for FHIS information:

<http://localhost/enhanced-search/en-GB/^/^/alpha/0/^/All/1/1/10/xml>
<http://localhost/enhanced-search/en-GB/^/^/alpha/0/^/Pass/1/1/10/xml>
<http://localhost/enhanced-search/en-GB/^/^/alpha/0/^/ImprovementRequired/1/1/10>
<http://localhost/enhanced-search/en-GB/^/^/alpha/0/^/AwaitingInspection/1/1/10>
<http://localhost/enhanced-search/en-GB/^/^/alpha/0/^/AwaitingPublication/1/1/10>

To search for FHRs ratings:

<http://localhost/enhanced-search/en-GB/^/^/rating/0/^/EqualAll/1/1/10/xml>
<http://localhost/enhanced-search/en-GB/^/^/rating/0/wales/EqualAll/1/1/10/xml>
<http://localhost/enhanced-search/en-GB/^/^/alpha/0/northernireland/Equal5/1/1/10/xml>
<http://localhost/enhanced-search/en-GB/^/^/alpha/0/england/LessThanOrEqual2/1/1/10/xml>
<http://localhost/enhanced-search/cy-GB/^/^/alpha/0/wales/GreaterThanOrEqual3/1/1/10/xml>
<http://localhost/enhanced-search/en-GB/^/^/alpha/7843/england/Equal3/1/1/10/xml>

PARAMETERS

The following parameters can be used. The value in the default column is used if the route does not explicitly supply a value. For example, if the route does not specify pageSize, a default value of 10 will be used.

Name	Type	Description	Default
lang	String	Must be either en-GB or cy-GB	en-GB
name	String	Name of business to search for. Supplying a ^ (caret) will search for all businesses	-
address	String	Part of the address (or postcode) to search for. Supplying a ^ (caret) will search for all addresses/post codes	-
sortOrder	String	<p>Must be one of the following:</p> <p>Must be one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alpha Returns the results in the order of Business Name in ascending order. • Desc_Alpha Returns the results in the order of Business Name in descending order. • Type Returns the results in the order of Business Type in ascending order. • Desc_Type Returns the results in the order of Business Type in descending order. • Rating Returns the results in the order of Rating in ascending order (5,4,3,2,1,0,Pass, Pass and Eatsafe, Improvement Required, Awaiting Publication, Exempt, Awaiting Inspection) Desc_Rating Returns the results in the order of Rating in descending order (0,1,2,3,4,5, Improvement Required, Pass, Pass and Eatsafe, Awaiting Publication, Exempt, Awaiting Inspection) 	-
businessType	Numeric	FSA Business Type ID. Specifying a value of 0 will include all business types	

la	String	FSA Local Authority ID Code or Country. Supplying a ^ (caret) will search for all Local Authorities Local authority ID Codes: http://ratings.food.gov.uk/authorities/xml Countries: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• England;• NorthernIreland;• Scotland; or• Wales	
rating	string	<p>FHIS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All – returns all FHIS results • Pass – returns pass and pass and eat safe only • ImprovementRequired – returns improvement required only • AwaitingInspection – returns awaiting inspection only • Awaiting Publication – returns awaiting publication only <p>FHRS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EqualAll – returns all FHRS ratings • Equal[rating] – returns ratings specified e.g. Equal5 returns all 5 ratings • LessThanOrEqual[rating] – returns range of ratings e.g. LessThanOrEqual 2 returns 0, 1 and 2 ratings • GreaterThanOrEqual[rating] – returns range of ratings e.g. GreaterThanOrEqual3 returns 3, 4 and 5 ratings 	
map	Numeric	0 or 1	
page	Numeric	Page to return	1
pageSize	Numeric	The number of results to return in a page	10

format	String	Must be either xml or json	-
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ENHANCED SEARCH (ADVANCED WITH LOCATION)

This is an advanced search operation that requires a longer command to achieve results, but gives more search options. It performs location based searching.

COMMAND SYNTAX

The command is structured in two ways:

CULTURED

```
enhanced-search/{lang}/{name}/{address}/{sortOrder}/{businessType}/{la}/{long}/{lat}/{page}/{pageSize}/{format}
```

NON-CULTURED

```
enhanced-search/{name}/{address}/{sortOrder}/{businessType}/{la}/{long}/{lat}/{page}/{pageSize}/{format}
```

PARAMETERS

The following parameters can be used. The value in the default column is used if the route does not explicitly supply a value. For example, if the route does not specify pageSize, a default value of 10 will be used.

Name	Type	Description	Default
lang	String	Must be either en-GB or cy-GB	en-GB
name	String	Name of business to search for. Supplying a ^ (caret) will search for all businesses	-
address	String	Part of the address (or postcode) to search for. Supplying a ^ (caret) will search for all addresses/post codes	-
sortOrder	String	Must be one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distance Returns results for businesses within a 20 mile radius of the supplied Long and Lat in order of distance with closest business first. 	-

businessType	Numeric	FSA Business Type ID. Specifying a value of 0 will include all business types
la	String	<p>FSA Local Authority ID Code or Country. Supplying a ^ (caret) will search for all Local Authorities</p> <p>Local authority ID Codes: http://ratings.food.gov.uk/authorities/xml</p> <p>Countries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • England; • NorthernIreland; • Scotland; or • Wales
long	float	Longitude
lat	float	Latitude
page	Numeric	Page to return
pageSize	Numeric	The number of results to return in a page
format	String	Must be either xml or json

EXAMPLE SEARCHES

To search for all establishments that near the specified point:

<http://localhost/FHRSWeb/enhanced-search/en-GB/^/^/DISTANCE/0/^/-4.73561176951173/55.9421692082746/1/30/xml>

BUSINESS DETAILS

Each business has a unique identifier assigned to it by the FHRS system. This is a business details operation that retrieves the details of a business.

COMMAND SYNTAX

The command is structured in one of the following ways:

CULTURED

`business/{lang}/{fhrid}/{format}`

NON-CULTURED

business/{fhrid}/{format}

PARAMETERS

The following parameters can be used. The value in the default column is used if the route does not explicitly supply a value. For example, if the route does not specify `lang`, a default value of `en-GB` will be used.

Name	Type	Description	Default
<code>lang</code>	String	Must be either <code>en-GB</code> or <code>cy-GB</code>	<code>en-GB</code>
<code>fhrid</code>	String	Unique identifier for the business.	-
<code>format</code>	String	Must be either <code>xml</code> or <code>json</code>	-

EXAMPLE SEARCHES

To retrieve the details of a particular business using the unique identifier:

<http://localhost/FHRSWeb/business/80928/xml>

<http://localhost/FHRSWeb/business/en-GB/80928/xml>

LOCAL AUTHORITY LIST

This is a local authority operation that retrieves all a list of all local authorities within the system. An entry in the list, does not guarantee data will be available for the authority.

COMMAND SYNTAX

The command is structured in one of the following ways:

CULTURED

authorities/{lang}/{format}

NON-CULTURED

authorities/{format}

PARAMETERS

The following parameters can be used. The value in the default column is used if the route does not explicitly supply a value. For example, if the route does not specify `lang`, a default value of `en-GB` will be used.

Name	Type	Description	Default
lang	String	Must be either en-GB or cy-GB	en-GB
format	String	Must be either xml or json	-

EXAMPLE SEARCHES

A list of local authorities can be accessed as follows:

<http://localhost/FHRSWeb/authorities/en-GB/xml>

<http://localhost/FHRSWeb/authorities/xml>

SCHEME TYPES

Two types of scheme are supported by the API; two (the FHIS) and six (the FHRS) tiers. A local authority can only belong to one scheme. The scheme in which they participate is determined by the country in which the local authority is located. The scheme/countries are list below:

Scheme Code	Scheme Name	Country
FHIS	Food Hygiene Information Scheme	Scotland
FHRS	Food Hygiene Rating System	England, Wales and Northern Ireland

RATING VALUES AND KEYS

The rating value is the result of an inspection for a business. FHRS uses a rating between 0 and 5 whereas FHIS uses 'Pass', Pass and Eatsafe or 'Improvement required'. Additionally, a business may be shown as 'Awaiting inspection', 'Exempt' or 'Awaiting publication'. See below for a complete list.

The rating key can be used by developers to decide which rating image to show within their application. The keys correspond to images available on the FSA website (<http://ratings.food.gov.uk/open-data-resources/images/images.zip>). Images have been made available in three sizes and should not be modified in any way. Images supplied by the FSA must only be used in accordance with the Terms and Conditions at: www.food.gov.uk/ratings-terms-and-conditions.

Supported cultures are English and Welsh (en-GB and cy-GB). Images available are:

large: 290 x 147 pixels (72ppi; 163ppi; 326ppi)

medium: 185 x 43 pixels (72ppi, 163ppi, 326ppi)

small: 120 x 61 pixels (72ppi)

FHRS		
Rating Value	Rating Key	Culture
0	fhrs_0_en-gb	en-GB
1	fhrs_1_en-gb	en-GB
2	fhrs_2_en-gb	en-GB
3	fhrs_3_en-gb	en-GB
4	fhrs_4_en-gb	en-GB
5	fhrs_5_en-gb	en-GB
exempt	fhrs_exempt_en-gb	en-GB
awaitingpublication	fhrs_awaitingpublication_en-gb	en-GB
awaitinginspection	fhrs_awaitinginspection_en-gb	en-GB
0	fhrs_0_cy-gb	cy-GB
1	fhrs_1_cy-gb	cy-GB
2	fhrs_2_cy-gb	cy-GB
3	fhrs_3_cy-gb	cy-GB
4	fhrs_4_cy-gb	cy-GB
5	fhrs_5_cy-gb	cy-GB
exempt	fhrs_exempt_cy-gb	cy-GB
awaitingpublication	fhrs_awaitingpublication_cy-gb	cy-GB
awaitinginspection	fhrs_awaitinginspection_cy-gb	cy-GB

FHIS		
Rating Value	Rating Key	Culture
Pass	fhis_pass	-
Exempt	fhis_exempt	-
Improvement Required	fhis_improvement_required	-
Awaiting Inspection	fhis_awaiting_inspection	-
Awaiting Publication	fhis_awaiting_publication	-
Pass and Eat Safe	fhis_pass_and_eat_safe	-

FSA BUSINESS TYPES

The business types returned by the API can be found at: <http://ratings.food.gov.uk/business-types/xml>

Please note: for business type category 'retailers - other' (code 4613) this returns the two separate types - codes 3 (small retailer) and 9 (retailer - other) - that comprise the category. Within the data returned the 'businesstype' are shown as 'retailers – other'.