



Bae Caerdydd / Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd / Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

30 May 2012

Dear Sir/Madam

## Consultation on the Food Hygiene Rating (Wales) Bill

As part of its Stage 1 consideration, the Health and Social Care Committee is calling for evidence on the general principles of the Food Hygiene Rating (Wales) Bill. To assist with its consideration, the Committee would welcome your views on this subject.

### What is a Bill?

A Bill is a draft law. Once a Bill has been considered and passed by the Assembly **and given Royal Assent by the Queen, it becomes an 'Act of the Assembly'**.

There is a four stage process for the consideration of a Bill. Stage 1 involves consideration of the general principles of the Bill by a committee (which includes the taking of written and oral evidence from interested parties and stakeholders), and the agreement of those general principles by the Assembly.

### What does this Bill seek to achieve?

The Explanatory Memorandum that accompanies the Bill states:

**"The Bill gives effect to the Welsh Government's proposals to introduce a statutory food hygiene rating scheme in Wales. The Bill establishes a statutory requirement for food authorities to operate a food hygiene rating scheme (which includes rating food businesses and enforcing the scheme) and places a duty on food businesses to display their food hygiene rating at their establishment. The intention of the Bill is to ensure that consumers are provided with information about the food hygiene standards of food businesses in Wales. This will enable consumers to make better informed choices about where to eat or shop for food.**

## What **is the committee's role?**

The role of the committee is to consider and report on the general principles of the Bill. In doing so, the Committee has agreed to work within the following framework:

To consider:

- i. the need for a Bill to introduce a statutory food hygiene rating scheme in Wales;
- ii. whether the Bill achieves its stated purposes;
- iii. the key provisions set out in the Bill and whether they are appropriate to deliver its stated purposes;
- iv. potential barriers to the implementation of the key provisions and whether the Bill takes account of them;
- v. whether there are any unintended consequences arising from the Bill;
- vi. the views of stakeholders who will have to work with the new arrangements;
- vii. whether the Bill contains a reasonable balance between the powers on the face of the Bill and the powers conferred by Regulations.

## Invitation to contribute to the inquiry

The Committee would like to invite you to submit written evidence to assist in its scrutiny of the Bill. In particular, we would welcome your views on the questions listed in Annex 1. We appreciate that you may have recently been invited to respond to a similar consultation exercise undertaken by the Welsh Government on the draft Bill. **Should you have responded to the Welsh Government's consultation**, you may wish to resubmit that response. However, please note some revisions have been made to the Bill since its original draft and these are listed in Annex 2.

If you wish to submit evidence, please send an electronic copy of your submission to <mailto:HSCCommittee@wales.gov.uk> and entitle the e-mail Consultation – Food Hygiene Rating (Wales) Bill.

Alternatively, you can write to:

Claire Griffiths, Deputy Clerk  
Legislation Office  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay, CF99 1NA.

Submissions should arrive by 29 June 2012. It may not be possible to take into account responses received after this date.

When preparing your submission, please keep the following in mind:

- your response should address the issues before the Committee. Please reference your response using the title applied above;
- the National Assembly normally makes responses to public consultation available for public scrutiny and they may also be seen and discussed by

Assembly Members at Committee meetings. If you do not want your response or name published, it is important that you clearly specify this in your submission;

- please indicate whether you are responding on behalf of an organisation, or as an individual; and
- please indicate whether or not you would be prepared to give oral evidence to the Committee.

The Committee welcomes contributions in English and Welsh and will consider responses to the written consultation and hold oral evidence sessions during the summer term.

For your information, the Committee has invited submissions from those on the attached distribution list (see Annex 3). The Committee would be grateful if you could forward a copy of the letter to any individuals or organisations that are not included on this list, but might like to contribute to the inquiry. A copy of this letter has been **placed on the National Assembly's website with an open invitation** to submit views.

### Disclosure of Information

It is normal practice for the National Assembly to publish evidence provided to a Committee. Consequently your response may appear in a report or in supplementary evidence to a report. The National Assembly will not publish information which it considers to be personal data.

In the event of a request for information submitted under UK legislation, it may be necessary to disclose the information that you provide. This may include information which has previously been removed by the National Assembly for publication purposes.

If you are providing any information, other than personal data, which you feel is not suitable for public disclosure, it is up to you to stipulate which parts should not be published and to provide a reasoned argument to support this. The National Assembly will take this into account when publishing information or responding to requests for information.

If you have any queries, please contact Fay Buckle, Committee Clerk on 029 2089 8041 or Claire Griffiths, Deputy Clerk on 029 2089 8019.

Yours faithfully

Mark Drakeford AC / AM  
Cadeirydd / Chair

## Consultation Questions

### General

1. Is there a need for a Bill to introduce a statutory food hygiene rating scheme in Wales? Please explain your answer.
2. Do you think the Bill, as drafted, delivers the stated objectives as set out in the Explanatory Memorandum? Please explain your answer.
3. Are the sections of the Bill appropriate in terms of introducing a statutory food hygiene rating scheme in Wales? If not, how does the Bill to need to change?
4. How will the proposed Measure change what organisations do currently and what impact will such changes have, if any?
5. What are the potential barriers to implementing the provisions of the Bill (if any) and does the Bill take account of them?

### Powers to make subordinate legislation

6. What are your views on powers in the Bill for Welsh Ministers to make subordinate legislation (i.e. statutory instruments, including regulations, orders and directions)?

In answering this question, you may wish to consider Section 5 of the Explanatory Memorandum, which contains a table summarising the powers delegated to Welsh Ministers in the Bill to make orders and regulations, etc.

### Financial Implications

7. What are your views on the financial implications of the Bill?

In answering this question you may wish to consider Part 2 of the Explanatory Memorandum (the Regulatory Impact Assessment), which estimates the costs and benefits of implementation of the Bill.

### Other comments

8. Are there any other comments you wish to make about specific sections of the Bill?

## Changes made to the Bill

(Extract from page 13 of the Explanatory Memorandum accompanying the Bill)

**“33.**Following the consultation some important amendments to the Bill have been made. These are:

- (a) businesses that supply food to other businesses are now included within the scope of the scheme;
- (b) the Bill will apply only to food businesses that are registered in Wales. Food business establishments registered outside Wales but trading on a transient basis in Wales (i.e. mobile traders) will not be within the scope of the new scheme;
- (c) food authorities are now required to prepare a programme of inspections of food business establishments in their area having regard to matters specified by the FSA – the programme will determine whether an inspection is required and the frequency of those inspections;
- (d) the requirement to retain the food hygiene certificate, and the associated offence of failure to produce it to an authorised officer on request have been removed;
- (e) the time limit for food businesses to submit an appeal will now be 21 days and food authorities will also be allowed 21 days to consider and determine the appeal – the provisions relating to appeal now also make it clear there is no further right of appeal available to a food business operator following a food authorities determination of their original appeal;
- (f) the provisions relating to right to reply have been made clearer and time limits on the right to reply have been removed; it has been made clear in the Bill that this right may be exercised more than once in relation to any rating while the rating remains valid;
- (g) the provisions relating to re-rating inspections have been made clearer;
- (h) food authorities are now required to inform the operator of a food business establishment of the costs of a re-rating inspections and the way the costs have been calculated before carrying out the re-rating;
- (i) there is a new a duty on food businesses to verbally inform a person of the food hygiene rating for their establishment if requested and an associated offence if they refuse to do so – this will allow people with impaired vision or enquiring by telephone to establish the hygiene rating of an establishment prior to use.”

## Distribution List

## Local Authorities

Blaenau Gwent  
 Bridgend  
 Caerphilly  
 Cardiff  
 Carmarthenshire  
 Ceredigion  
 Conwy  
 Denbighshire  
 Flintshire  
 Gwynedd  
 Isle of Anglesey  
 Merthyr Tydfil  
 Monmouthshire  
 Neath Port Talbot  
 Newport  
 Pembrokeshire  
 Powys  
 Rhondda Cynon Taff  
 Swansea  
 Torfaen  
 Vale of Glamorgan  
 Wrexham

## Voluntary Sector

Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin

**National Federation of Women's Institutes**

Wales Council for Voluntary Action

## Advisory Groups

Age Cymru  
 Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales (CSSIW)  
 Care Council for Wales  
 Care Standards Inspectorate for Wales  
 Citizens Advice Cymru  
 Consumer Focus Wales  
 Disability Wales  
 Equality and Human Rights Commission  
 RNIB Cymru – Royal National Institute for Blind People  
 RNID Cymru – Royal National Institute for Deaf People  
 Wales Council for Deaf People  
 Wales TUC Cymru

## Representative Organisations

Association of Convenience Stores  
 Bar and Restaurant Foods Ltd  
 British Beer and Pub Association  
 British Hospitality Association

British Independent Retailers Association  
British Institute of Inn Keeping  
British Retail Consortium  
British Sandwich Association  
Care Forum Wales  
CBI Wales

Chamber Wales Consumer Focus Wales  
Council for Economic Renewal

Estyn

Federation of Small Businesses Wales

Food and Drink Federation

Hospital Caterers Association

Independent Retailers Association

**Local Authorities Caterers' Association**

Nationwide Caterers Association

**National Childminder's Association**

National Federation of Meat and Food Traders

National Day Nurseries Association

Trading Standards Institute Wales

**Welsh Regulators' Forum Members**

Wales Tourism Alliance

Welsh Food Alliance

Welsh WI

Government/Local Government

Directors of Public Protection (Wales)

Food Standards Agency

Local Authority Caterers Association

Local Government Regulation

Office of Fair Trading

Port Health Authorities

Public Service Ombudsman Wales

Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA)

Health

Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board

Aneurin Bevan Health Board

Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board

Cardiff and Vale University Health Board

Cwm Taf Health Board

Hywel Dda Health Board

Powys Teaching Health Board

Velindre NHS Trust

Public Health

Association of Directors of Public Health

Chartered Institute of Environmental Health

Faculty of Public Health

Public Health Wales