

Lead Food officers
REHIS
SFELC

ENF/15/11

30th October 2015

Dear Colleagues

Cross Contamination Guidance

Following on from Enforcement letter, ENF/S/14/020 and my email dated the 13 January 2015. I would like to update all lead officers of the upcoming review of the Cross Contamination Guidance and its application in Scotland.

We have reviewed the current UK version of the Cross Contamination Guidance, V3, December 2014, and are of the view that it broadly aligns with the principles of the Scottish Government's VTEC/E.coli O157 Action Plan for Scotland 2013-2017. This plan includes specific recommendations on the control of cross-contamination for which the FSS is responsible. However as part of the Scottish review, I would welcome any comments Local Authorities have in terms of the cross contamination guidance V3 and its application in Scotland. To facilitate this we have set up a specific email address for Local Authorities to use for all cross contamination enquires cross-contamination@fss.scot

This email address can also be accessed via the FSS website below.

<http://www.foodstandards.gov.scot/food-safety-standards>

The Scottish review of the Cross Contamination Guidance will assist FSS in identifying whether this enforcement approach is effective in improving food safety within food businesses and therefore a potential model that could be adopted in other policy areas.

The review will undertake both a quantitative and qualitative approach and assess;

- The number of Scottish Local Authorities specifically changing procedures in applying the guidance

- What effect this had on Local Authority delivery in other areas of food control
- Compare the effect with Local Authorities who did not specifically change procedures to apply the guidance
- Compare the effect with Local Authorities who maintained “business as usual”
- The number of businesses who received a cross contamination based inspection
- The number of inspections each business received before being broadly compliant in terms of cross contamination
- The level of cross contamination control knowledge within food businesses who received a focussed inspection compared to that of those who did not
- The level of cross contamination control expertise within Local Authorities who applied the SFELC Strategy towards focussed inspections compared to that of those who did not

The review project will begin by the end of the calendar with a view to having field assessments completed by the first quarter of 2016. Your participation in the project will clearly be vital to its success so I would be grateful for your input. I will provide more detail of the project in due course following the procurement stage of the process.

The link to the current UK version of the Cross Contamination Guidance, V3 is attached below, FSS anticipates having its own version available on the FSS website following our review.

<http://www.food.gov.uk/business-industry/guidancenotes/hygguid/ecoliguide>

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lorna Murray".

Lorna Murray
Head of Intelligence, Incidents and Delivery Assurance
Food Standards Scotland