

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <b>Report on</b>         | Food Standards Agency Consultation on The Supply of Wild Game for Human Consumption |
| <b>Date of Meeting</b>   | 8 <sup>th</sup> September 2020  |
| <b>Reporting Officer</b> | Fiona McClements  |

|   |     |   |
|---|-----|---|
| <b>Is this report restricted for confidential business?</b>         | Yes |   |
| If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon | No  | X |

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| <b>1.0</b> | <b>Purpose of Report</b>   |
| 1.1        | This report is to inform Members about the Food Standards Agency's consultation on guidance relating to The Supply of Wild Game for Human Consumption and to consider the draft response prepared by the Environmental Health service.   |
| <b>2.0</b> | <b>Background</b>  |
| 2.1        | The Food Standards Agency (FSA) had previously published a guidance document relating to the Supply of Wild Game for Human Consumption. The guidance has been updated to primarily improve clarity regarding EU and UK Regulation requirements for the wild game industry. It is intended to provide food businesses and people who hunt wild game and supply it in-fur or in-feather or as small quantities of wild game meat within England, Wales and Northern Ireland with clear guidance to the requirements of the relevant parts of the EU food hygiene and domestic legislation.   |
| <b>3.0</b> | <b>Main Report</b>   |
| 3.1        | This revised guidance does not contain any change in policy, rather it reflects greater clarity around EU Regulations for the wild game industry. This will assist the hunters, processors and the retailers who shoot and supply wild game and wild game meat.  |
| 3.2        | <p>The main proposals within the consultation are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clarity in relation to EU Regulations for hunter and retail exemptions.</li> <li>• Change in layout of the original guide to improve readability.</li> <li>• Clarity from current EU regulations within areas such as the game larder, transport, traceability, primary producers and hunter/hunting party.</li> <li>• Intended audience: guide is specifically for the wild game industry (hunters and retailers), not food law enforcement authorities as the previous guide suggests (although it may prove useful when undertaking enforcement checks).</li> </ul> |

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| 3.3        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Terminology: term 'shooter' has been removed. Hunter is a single term that covers both hunting and shooting.</li> </ul> <p>The Northern Ireland Food Managers Group, which sits under Environmental Health Northern Ireland (EHNI), has prepared a response to the Food Standards Agency's consultation on the guidance on The Supply of Wild Game for Human Consumption. This consultation response has been considered and reviewed by the Environmental Health service of MUDC and is attached at Appendix 2.</p> |
| <b>4.0</b> | <b>Other Considerations</b>   |
| <b>4.1</b> | <b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b>   |
|            | Financial: N/A  |
|            | Human: N/A  |
|            | Risk Management: N/A  |
| <b>4.2</b> | <b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>   |
|            | Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/A   |
|            | Rural Needs Implications: N/A   |
| <b>5.0</b> | <b>Recommendation(s)</b>  |
| 5.1        | It is recommended that Members note the content of the consultation document and agree to the forwarding of the Environmental Health response attached in advance of the deadline which is 11 <sup>th</sup> September 2020.   |
| <b>6.0</b> | <b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>  |
| 6.1        | Appendix 1 – Consultation document  |
| 6.2        | Appendix 2 – Consultation response on the Food Standards Agency's revised guidance relating to The Supply of Wild Game for Human Consumption.   |



## Supply of Wild Game for Human Consumption

**Launch date: 15<sup>th</sup> July 2020**

**Respond by: 11<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

### This consultation be of most interest to

Wild Game Hunters, Wild Game Organisations, Wild Game Retailers, Wild Game Processors and Enforcement Authorities.

### Consultation subject

Guidance for hunters and retailers on the safe handling, preparation and supply of wild game and wild game meat.

### Purpose of the consultation

The Food Standards Agency (FSA) has launched an 8-week consultation on the revised guidance to the Supply of Wild Game for Human Consumption. The guidance has been updated to primarily improve clarity regarding EU and UK Regulation requirements for the wild game industry.

### How to respond

Responses to this consultation should be sent to:

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Email: <a href="mailto:mary.mcglinchey@food.gov.uk">mary.mcglinchey@food.gov.uk</a> | Postal address:  |
| Mary McGlinchey   | Food Standards Agency, 6 <sup>th</sup> Floor, Clive House, 70 Petty France, London, SW1H 9EX |
| Division/Branch: Meat Hygiene Policy  |  |

## Details of consultation

The FSA (Food Standards Agency) has revised it's 2015 Wild Game Guide due to an increasing demand from the wild game industry for more clarity concerning EU and UK Regulations, particularly those regarding hunter and retailer exemptions mentioned in (EC) Regulation 853/2004.

*Acronyms:*

- *FSA – Food Standards Agency*
- *FSS – Food Standards Scotland*
- *AGHE – Approved Game Handling Establishment*
- *EC – European Community*
- *EU – European Union*
- *UK – United Kingdom*
- *NI – Northern Ireland*
- *FBO – Food Business Operator*
- *DAERA – Department of Agriculture, Environment, and Rural Affairs*
- *ABP – Animal By-Product*
- *OV – Official Veterinarian*
- *MHI – Meat Hygiene Inspector*
- *HACCP – Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point*
- *APHA – Animal and Plant Health Agency*
- *TRACES – Trade Control and Expert System*

## Introduction

This revised guidance does not contain any change in policy, rather it reflects greater clarity around EU Regulations for the wild game industry; mainly for the hunters, processors and the retailers who shoot and supply wild game and wild game meat.

## Main proposals:

- Clarity in relation to EU Regulations for hunter and retail exemptions.
- Change in layout of the original guide to improve readability.
- Clarity from current EU regulations within areas such as the game larder, transport, traceability, primary producers and hunter/hunting party.

- Intended audience: guide is specifically for the wild game industry (hunters and retailers), not food law enforcement authorities as the previous guide suggests (although it may prove useful when undertaking enforcement checks).
- Terminology: term 'shooter' has been removed. Hunter is a single term that covers both hunting and shooting.

## Detailed Proposals

There is no change in policy in this new guidance, merely a clarification of EU Regulations and change in layout to improve readability. We anticipate that this guide will be well-received as the industry have requested these changes, and they have been involved in shaping this new guidance.

## Impacts

These minor additions ensure that the guidance fully reflects the current legislation with the changes intended to provide greater clarity and to enhance understanding of the rules surrounding the supply of wild game for human consumption. The FSA assessment of the impact of the updates, is that the changes will present a relatively low familiarisation cost to those hunters and retailers that the guidance is relevant to, and to local authorities. We estimate an average familiarisation time of 20 minutes.

## Engagement and Consultation Process

Stakeholders have been actively involved in the process shaping the revised FSA Wild Game Guidance. The FSA created a wild game working group; it included enforcement officers, hunters, wild game organisations, wild game processors, FSA policy and veterinary advisor representatives from England, Wales and Northern Ireland and FSS (Food Standards Scotland). This working group members had face to face meetings to discuss the issues with the current guide, and were key in the shaping of this revised guidance. No further engagement is required before this consultation, however the feedback they provide will be accounted for and considered.

### Questions asked in this consultation:

1. Does this new guide clarify the hunter and retailer exemptions of Regulation (EC) 853/2004 for supply of wild game and wild game meat?
2. Does this new guide have improved readability?
3. Does this new guide fulfil the needs of its audience (hunters, processors and retailers of wild game and wild game meat)?



## Other relevant documents

- <https://www.food.gov.uk/business-guidance/wild-game-guidance>
- FSA – Trichinella Guidance – Wild Boar (<https://www.food.gov.uk/business-guidance/trichinella>)
- Regulation (EC) 852/2004, Regulation (EC) 853/2004, and Regulation (EC) 178/2002, Regulation (EC) 999/2001, Regulation (EC) 931/2011, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/homepage.html?locale=en>
- FSA Manual of Official Controls (<https://www.food.gov.uk/business-guidance/manual-for-official-controls>)

## Responses

Responses are required by close 11th September 2020. Please state, in your response, whether you are responding as a private individual or on behalf of an organisation/company (including details of any stakeholders your organisation represents).

Thank you on behalf of the Food Standards Agency for participating in this public consultation.

Yours,

Mary McGlinchey  
Meat Hygiene  
Policy

## **Annex A: Standard Consultation Information**

### **Disclosure of the information you provide**

Information provided in response to this consultation may be subject to publication or release to other parties or to disclosure in accordance with the access to information regimes (these are primarily the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA) and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004).

If you want information you provide to be treated as confidential, please be aware that, under the FOIA, there is a statutory Code of Practice with which public authorities must comply and which deals, amongst other things, with obligations of confidence.

In view of this it would be helpful if you could explain to us why you regard the information you have provided as confidential. If we receive a request for disclosure of the information we will take full account of your explanation, but we cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Any automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will not, of itself, be regarded as binding.

The Food Standards Agency will be what is known as the 'Controller' of the personal data provided to us.

### **Why we are collecting your personal data**

Your personal data is being collected as an essential part of the consultation process, so that we can contact you regarding your response and for statistical purposes. We may also use it to contact you about related matters.

The Data Protection Act 2018 states that, as a government department, the Food Standards Agency may process personal data as necessary for the effective performance of a task carried out in the public interest. i.e. a consultation.

### **What we do with it**

All the personal data we process is located on servers within the European Union. Our cloud based services have been procured through the government framework agreements and these services have been assessed against the national cyber security centre cloud security principles.

No third parties have access to your personal data unless the law allows them to do so. The Food Standards Agency will sometimes share data with other government departments, public bodies, and organisations which perform public functions to assist them in the performance of their statutory duties or when it is in the public interest.

## What are your rights?

You have a right to see the information we hold on you by making a request in writing to the email address below. If at any point you believe the information we process on you is incorrect you can request to have it corrected. If you wish to raise a complaint on how we have handled your personal data, you can contact our Data Protection Officer who will investigate the matter.

If you are not satisfied with our response or believe we are processing your personal data not in accordance with the law you can complain to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) at <https://ico.org.uk>, or telephone 0303 123 1113.

Our Data Protection Officer in the FSA is the Information Management and Security Team Leader who can be contacted at the following email address:  
[informationmanagement@food.gov.uk](mailto:informationmanagement@food.gov.uk)

## Further information

If you require a more accessible format of this document please send details to the named contact for responses to this consultation and your request will be considered.

This consultation has been prepared in accordance with [HM Government consultation principles](#).



## **Annex B: List of interested parties**

**Shropshire council**

**National Gamekeepers**

**National Gamekeepers**

**The Deer Initiative**

**Hampshire Game**

**British Association Shooting & Conservation**

**National Gamekeepers**

**Daventry DC**

**British Game Alliance**

**Willo Game**

**St. David's Game Birds**

**Ben Rigby Game**

## **Food Standards Agency Consultation**

### **Supply of Wild Game for Human Consumption**

#### **Response from: Environmental Health Department of Mid Ulster District Council**

The Environmental Health Department of Mid Ulster District Council welcomes the opportunity to comment on the proposed guidance on the Supply of Wild Game for Human Consumption.

#### **Question 1**

##### **Does the new guide clarify the hunter and retailer exemptions of Regulation (EC) 853/2004 for supply of wild game and wild game meat?**

The Environmental Health Department of Mid Ulster District Council is of the opinion that the new guide does provide clarification on the hunter and retailer exemptions of Regulation (EC) 853/2004 but that it does not go far enough in terms of addressing all aspects of supply. For example, the collection and transportation of in-fur/in-feather game is not covered in sufficient detail. The Environmental Health Department of Mid Ulster District Council is also of the opinion that the section on Exemptions is repetitive and that reorganising this section may assist clarification for the intended audience.

#### **Question 2**

##### **Does the new guide have improved readability?**

The Environmental Health Department of Mid Ulster District Council agrees that in general, the guide has improved readability. However, this could be improved further by considering the following:

| Page no | Section Title     | Comments  |
|---------|-------------------|---|
| 2       | Intended audience | The intended audience which includes enforcement officers appears to conflict with the last paragraph of the introduction on page 5 i.e. "This guide is <b>not</b> intended to provide enforcement advice for local authority enforcement officers though the information provided may prove useful" and could be construed as contradictory to a lay person reading this document. |
| 4       | Contents          | The sections on the contents page could be numbered to make it more obvious to the reader when one sections finished and another section starts.  |

|    |   |  |
|----|---|--|
| 5  | Intended audience   | The Environmental Health Department of Mid Ulster District Council believes that the first sentence should be reworded. For example: "This guidance is intended primarily for industry who hunt and sell wild game for human consumption, and enforcement officers....."   |
| 9  | Trained Hunter's Declaration  | The Environmental Health Department of Mid Ulster District Council believes that the competent authority should be identified, and contact details provided. This would add clarity for the reader   |
| 10 | Acceptance at AGHE  | Guidance on what an alternative suitable method to verify that the hunter is trained, would be beneficial in this section.   |
| 11 | Trained person (hunter) unexpectedly delayed                                | Guidance on what constitutes the term "unexpectedly delayed" would be helpful in this section as is may be misinterpreted and thus enable this rationale to be used without good reason  |
| 11 | Small wild Game   | For consistency, it would be beneficial to state that it is considered good practice for a trained hunter's declaration to be provided after inspecting small wild game. Also stating the name and contact details of the Competent Authority would be helpful for the reader.   |
| 13 | Exemptions  | The Environmental Health Department of Mid Ulster District Council would suggest the last sentence be reworded. For example: "You cannot sell or supply this game to anyone else as part of a food business operation".  |
| 13 | Primary Production for direct or local sale by a hunter (in-fur/in-feather) | The Environmental Health Department of Mid Ulster District Council would suggest that the first sentence should finish after the word "not" and a new sentence should start "Therefore, you must register....." The first bullet point should read AGHE (not AHGE). It would be helpful for the reader if the second bullet referred to the definition of small quantities on page 33. |
| 14 | Processing and sale of game meat by hunters                                 | In the first paragraph the use of final consumer and local consumers could cause confusion. It is suggested that the term final consumer only is used. The definition of small quantities is on page 33 (not page 32).<br>It is suggested that the words "commensurate with the work activity" follow the existing text in the 4 <sup>th</sup> bullet point.                           |
| 15 |   | Under the third bullet, further detail on hunter training is on Page 29 (not page 16).   |
| 15 | Summary   | The first bullet point in relation to the exemption extending to online sales directly to the final consumer is not mentioned anywhere else other than in the summary.   |

|    |  |   |
|----|--|---|
|    |  | <p>It is suggested that the second bullet point is re-worded to improve readability.</p> <p>It is suggested that the summary is moved to the end of this section.</p>   |
| 16 | Examples (cont.)                                 | It would be beneficial to include a definition of a caterer in the first bullet point.  |
| 16 | Exemptions explained                             | <p>The first sentence after the bullet points is long. It is suggested that it is reworded. For example: "Unless wild game and wild game meat is supplied by an AGHE, a retailer cannot supply wild game meat to another retailer. A retailer can only receive wild game meat from a register hunter and supply to the final consumer."</p> <p>It appears the word "is" requires to be inserted between document and merely.</p>  |
| 18 | Processing and supply of game meat by retailers  | The Environmental Health Department of Mid Ulster District Council considers this section may be confusing to a lay person. Therefore, it is suggested that it be re-worded to improve readability.   |
| 18 | Separate Area for de-feathering or de-skinning   | It is suggested that the word "ideally" is removed, and the wording changed to reflect the guidance under the same heading on page 17.  |
| 18 | Food safety management documentation             | The Environmental Health Department of Mid Ulster District Council would suggest that this section should reflect that a food safety management system needs to be in place that is commensurate with the work activity rather than giving the impression that records are all that is required.  |
| 19 | Table for the supply of wild game/wild game meat | <p>The Environmental Health Department of Mid Ulster District Council considers that the title does not reflect the purpose of this section. We would welcome the inclusion of a version of the flowchart on page 9 and 10 from the previous guide which helped identify the requirements which applied to a particular situation.</p> <p>In addition, the collection and transportation of wild game meat is not fully addressed in this table or anywhere else in the document. Paragraph 22 on page 14 of the previous guide provided information on this and again, we would welcome the inclusion of this in the new guidance.</p> |
| 24 | Traceability                                     | <p>It was noted that:</p> <p>Under the first bullet point, "(EC)" needs to be inserted between "Regulation" and "178/2002"</p> <p>On the next paragraph, Regulation (EU) needs to be inserted in front of 931/2011.</p>   |
| 25 | Traceability                                     | The Environmental Health Department of Mid Ulster District Council would welcome some clarification on what would be considered good practice in terms of   |



|    |   |  |
|----|---|--|
|    |   | recommended timescales for retaining traceability records.   |
| 26 | Trichinella testing of wild boar          | It is suggested that the last sentence in this section is reworded to improve readability.   |
| 26 | Wild boar for personal consumption        | It is suggested that additional information is provided on who should take the sample for trichinella testing. The guide states that the hunter should take the sample, but would it also be appropriate for an AGHE to take the sample? Contact details of who to contact to obtain a sampling kit from, and where to post the samples to, would also be helpful. |
| 33 | Hunter/ Hunting Party cont'd from page 32 | It is suggested that the second sentence in the second paragraph is reworded to improve readability. In the first sentence there is reference to the "community market", it may be beneficial to include a definition of this.   |
| 33 | Small quantities                          | The Environmental Health Department of Mid Ulster District Council suggests that the first sentence of the second paragraph is reworded. For example: "The supply of small quantities by the producer must also be local to where the hunter is registered with the Local Authority."  |

### Question 3

#### **Does this guide fulfil the needs of its intended audience (hunters, processors and retailers of wild game and wild game meat)?**

The Environmental Health Department of Mid Ulster District Council agrees that the guide does fulfil the needs of its intended audience, caveated with consideration being given to the above comments.

The guide no longer covers the consignment of wild game to other EU member states.

As mentioned above, the Environmental Health Department of Mid Ulster District Council considers that the collection and transportation of wild game is not adequately covered in this guide.