

Report on	Response to The Food Standards Agency's Consultation on the Implementation of the Official Controls Regulations
Date of Meeting	8 th Oct 2019
Reporting Officer	Fiona McClements, Head of Environmental Health

Is this report restricted for confidential business?	Yes	
If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	No	X

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To advise Members of the Food Standards Agency's Consultation on the implementation of the Official Controls Regulations and provide a Mid Ulster Council response to the consultation.
2.0	Background
2.1	The Official Controls Regulations (OCR) were adopted by the European Parliament and the Council on 15 March 2017 and entered into force on 27th April 2017. The new OCR rules were set to apply gradually over several years, with the main application taking effect 14 th December 2019.
2.2	The OCR addresses official controls and other official activities performed to ensure the application of food and feed law, rules on animal health and welfare, plant health and plant protection products. It repeals and replaces Regulation (EC) 882/2004 on official controls and other legislation which currently governs the control and enforcement of rules along the agri-food chain.
2.3	This consultation focuses on the implementation of legislation in Northern Ireland to provide for the execution of powers and enforcement only in relation to the aspects of the OCR that apply from 14 December 2019, and only in relation to the FSA areas of responsibility for food and feed law and animal health and welfare.
2.4	The FSA is preparing the legislative groundwork to implement the OCR in the event that the UK leaves the EU with an implementation period at the end of October, or sooner. It is anticipated that during any implementation period it will be necessary to maintain alignment with EU Regulations for food and feed safety and hygiene.
2.5	In the event that the UK leaves without a deal the FSA will update stakeholders further in relation to the proposed implementation of the OCR. The FSA will also consult further on any proposals to align national legislation with the OCR, including an updated assessment of the impacts.
3.0	Main Report

3.1	This consultation provides stakeholders with an opportunity to comment on the draft Regulations contained in the consultation package.
3.2	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 Implementation of the Official Controls Regulations. This consultation response has been considered by this department and is attached, having been amended to reflect the Mid Ulster area.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: N/a
	Human: N/a
	Risk Management: N/a
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/a
	Rural Needs Implications: N/a
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	It is recommended that Members consider the content of the attached proposed response to this consultation and if in agreement, respond to the Food Standards Agency in accordance with the completed consultation template.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Appendix 1: FSA consultation on The Implementation of the Official Control Regulations.
6.2	Appendix 2: Proposed Mid Ulster District Council response to the FSA consultation on The Implementation of the Official Control Regulations.