

Report on	Regional Public Analyst contract for Environmental Health.
Date of Meeting	15 th June 2023
Reporting Officer	Kieran Gordon, Assistant Director Health, Leisure and Wellbeing
Contact Officers	Melanie Patterson, Environmental Health Service Manager Monica McDonnell, Principal Environmental Health Officer

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To inform members of an extension of the current regional Public Analyst contract with Eurofins Food Testing Ireland Ltd and District Councils for the provision of public analyst services to Council.
2.0	Background
2.1	Article 27 (1) of The Food Safety (Northern Ireland) Order 1991 requires that councils appoint one or more persons (Public Analyst(s) to act as Analyst(s) within the district of the Council.
2.2	Furthermore, the Framework Agreement* (Chapter 2, para 12.8), states that District Councils ensure a Food Analyst is appointed to carry out examinations and analyses of food samples. In making these appointments, all relevant legal requirements and Codes of Practice shall be satisfied. * The Framework Agreement on Official Feed and Food Controls by Local Authorities (Amendment 5 April 2010)
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Previously, in March 2021, members at the Environment Committee approved the award of a regional contract to provide Public Analyst services for the 11 District Council (minute reference E084/21). A regional tender involving the 11 Councils was administered via Belfast City Council Commercial and Procurement Services, and following evaluation, was awarded to Eurofins Food Testing Ireland Ltd for public analyst services.
3.2	A stipulation of the regional tender award was that each Council had to enter into individual contracts with Eurofins. Therefore, approval was obtained in March 2021 for the current Public Analysts for Mid Ulster District Council.
3.3	The contract commenced on 1 st April 2021 for a contract period of 2 years up to 31 st March 2023 with an option to renew for a further 2 years.
3.4	The qualifications required by Analysts are set out in the Food Safety (Sampling and Qualifications) Regulations (NI) 2013. Council has previously appointed the Public Analysts listed, having been satisfied that they fulfil the requirements of the Regulations. In February 2022, an additional Public Analyst was approved.

	<p><u>Currently appointed Public Analysts</u></p> <p>Duncan Kenelm Arthur BSc, MChemA, CChem, MRSC Nigel Kenneth Payne MSc, MChemA, CChem, MRSC Lilian Emma Jane Downie MChem, MChemA, CChem, MRSC Michelle Evans BSc, MChemA, CChem, MRSC Donna Hanks BSc, MChemA, MRSC Mary Butts MSc MChemA MRSC</p>
3.5	The option to renew the contract for a further 2 years has been implemented. This renewal commenced on 1 st April 2023 for a further 2 years up to 31 st March 2025.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: No additional cost - budget is already recognised within Environmental Health revenue budgets for sampling of products.
	Human: Officer time.
	Risk Management: Considered in line with Council policies and procedures.
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: None anticipated at this juncture.
	Rural Needs Implications: None anticipated at this juncture.
5.0	Recommendation
5.1	To note the contents of this report and the extension to the regional contract with Eurofins Food Testing Ireland Ltd and District Councils for the provision of public analyst services to Councils, up until 31 st March 2025.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	N/A