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For food law enforcement, and port health authorities in England

Food Hygiene Rating Scheme (FHRS) celebrates a milestone 10th birthday

Summary: Letter of thanks from Heather Hancock, Chair of the FSA Board and Emily Miles, Chief Executive of the FSA.

Dear Colleagues,

Please bring this letter to the attention of all relevant officers in your Local Authority/ District Council.

Ten years ago today we launched the Food Hygiene Rating Scheme in partnership with local authorities.

We were very proud when early this year the scheme was identified in the Royal Society for Public Health's top 20 public health achievements of the 21st century alongside the ban on smoking, traffic light labelling on foods, soft drinks industry levy (sugar levy) and many others. We wanted to take this opportunity to thank you and your teams as it is your hard work and dedication that lies behind this achievement and that has gone into making the FHRS such a success. Local authorities are absolutely essential to the delivery of the scheme.

The scheme was developed to empower the public to make informed choices about where to buy and eat food, and, a decade on, has driven up standards in food businesses in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Your essential work means that people can now vote with their feet or by a click of a mouse and choose those businesses that take food hygiene seriously.

Since its introduction, the FHRS has driven up hygiene standards in food businesses and 96% (over 377,000) of rated businesses in England, now have a rating of 3 or better with 73% (over 286,000) achieving the top rating of 5. [Our research](#) shows that foodborne illness outbreaks are twice as likely to occur at businesses with low ratings than in those with a rating of 3, 4 or 5, ultimately benefiting consumers.

It has been an extremely difficult year for you as you have tackled the pandemic and its consequences with fewer resources and greater pressure. These are extraordinary times which have shown the very best of the public sector at the local level.

Thank you again for all your hard work and support.

Yours sincerely
Hancock

Mrs H.J. Hancock DL LVO

Emily Miles

Emily Miles