

Report on	Appointment of an Additional Public Analyst
Date of Meeting	16 th October 2025
Reporting Officer	Kieran Gordon, Assistant Director, Health, Leisure and Wellbeing
Contact Officer	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 request the appointment by Council of an additional Public Analyst, acting on behalf of Eurofins Food Testing Ireland Ltd, in the provision of public analyst services to Council.
2.0	Background
2.1	<p>Article 27(1) of <i>The Food Safety (Northern Ireland) Order 1991</i> requires that Councils appoint one or more persons - Public Analyst(s) - to act as Analysts within the district of the Council.</p> <p>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.</p> <p><i>* The Framework Agreement on Official Feed and Food Controls by Local Authorities (Amendment 5 April 2010)</i></p>
2.2	<p>Previously, in May 2025, Members at the Development Committee were informed about the award of a regional contract to provide Public Analyst services for the 11 District Councils (minute reference D084/25). A regional tender involving the 11 Councils was administered via Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council's Procurement Services, and following evaluation, was awarded to Eurofins Food Testing Ireland Ltd for Public Analyst services and commenced 1st April 2025 for a contract period of 2 years up to 31st March 2027, with an option to renew for a further 2 years.</p> <p>Council's Environmental Health Service is satisfied that the following persons, who are employed by Eurofins Food Testing Ireland Ltd, fulfil the requirements of the Regulations for appointment as Public Analysts on behalf of the Council:</p>

2.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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>The above Public Analysts work with Council officers as and when required by carrying out food testing and analysis to establish the safety, composition, authenticity, origin, traceability and purity of our food. Food officers collect samples of food produced in the MUDC area regularly to verify (e.g.) that the products are compositionally compliant and to ensure the labelling is accurate. Samples may also be taken as part of a regional food related survey. The samples are submitted to the Public Analyst for examination on a monthly basis. On receipt of the reports from the Public Analysts, the results are communicated to the relevant businesses and where necessary, advice provided to assist the businesses comply with the legislative requirements.</p>
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>The following individual has recently commenced employment with, and will be acting on behalf of, Eurofins Food Testing Ireland Ltd in the provision of public analyst services to the Council. They fulfil the requirements of the Regulations for appointment as a Public Analyst.</p> <p><u>Additional Public Analyst</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emily Shannon Roberts MSc MChemA CChem MRSC <p>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 in section 2.2 of this report, having been satisfied that they fulfil the requirements of the Regulations.</p> <p>Officers are satisfied that the above named individual fulfils the requirements of the Regulations for appointment as a Public Analyst.</p>
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	<p>Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications</p> <p>Financial: No additional cost - budget is already recognised within Environmental Health revenue budgets for sampling of products.</p> <p>Human: N/A</p> <p>Risk Management: Considered in line with relevant Council policies and procedures.</p>

4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/A
	Rural Needs Implications: N/A
5.0	Recommendation
5.1	To note the contents of this report and give approval for the appointment of an additional Public Analyst as named within section 3.1 of this report with immediate effect under Article 27(1) of <i>the Food Safety (Northern Ireland) Order 1991</i> , and that a letter confirming the appointment is sent to Eurofins Food Testing Ireland Ltd.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	N/A