

# Consultation on proposed amendments to the Food Law Code of Practice and Practice Guidance - Northern Ireland

Statws: Agored

Dyddiad lansio: 24 Chwefror 2025

Dyddiad cau: 19 Mai 2025

## This consultation will be of most interest to:?

- Competent Authorities - District Councils
- Food businesses and industry trade bodies
- Awarding bodies for environmental health professionals??
- Trade unions and expert groups may also have an interest?

## Consultation subject

The Code sets out instructions and criteria to which District Councils in Northern Ireland must have regard when discharging their duties in relation to the delivery of official food control activities. The Code requires regular review and revision to ensure that it reflects current priorities, policy and legislative requirements so that the delivery of food control activities remain effective, consistent and proportionate. The FSA is required to consult on proposed amendments to the Code.

## Purpose of this consultation

This consultation seeks stakeholders' views on proposed changes to the Northern Ireland Code and Practice Guidance. The key proposals include:

1. an updated risk-based approach to the prioritisation and timescales for undertaking initial food hygiene official controls of new food establishments
2. enabling, in certain circumstances, an establishment's food hygiene intervention risk rating to be amended following a wider range of official control methods and techniques, including those undertaken remotely
3. extending the activities that officers who do not hold a specified qualification for food hygiene or standards, can, if competent, undertake
4. a clarification in approach to interventions at food hygiene establishments that fall into risk category E for food hygiene
5. removal of a prescriptive number of hours required for continuing professional development
6. other amendments to reflect legislative change, provide clarity, improve consistency, and keep pace with current practices

## Consultation pack

## Northern Ireland

PDF

[Gweld Consultation Pack - Food Law Code of Practice \(Northern Ireland\) as PDF\(Open in a new window\)](#) (699.92 KB)

## Northern Ireland

PDF

[Gweld Draft Food Law Code of Practice \(Northern Ireland\) as PDF\(Open in a new window\)](#) (1.06 MB)

## Northern Ireland

PDF

[Gweld Draft Food Law Practice Guidance \(Northern Ireland\) as PDF\(Open in a new window\)](#) (2.12 MB)

## How to respond

Please use the consultation response form to provide your comments. The form should then be emailed to [CodeReviewResponses@food.gov.uk](mailto:CodeReviewResponses@food.gov.uk)

## Northern Ireland

WORD

[Gweld Food Law Code Consultation Response Form - Northern Ireland as Word\(Open in a new window\)](#) (59.63 KB)

Parallel consultations are also being undertaken in [England](#) and [Wales](#).

## Cyhoeddi crynodeb o'r ymatebion

Y bwriad yw cyhoeddi crynodeb o'r ymatebion ar y dudalen hon o fewn tri mis i ddiwedd yr ymgynghoriad. Gallwch ddod o hyd i wybodaeth am sut yr ydym yn trin data a ddarperir mewn ymateb i ymgynghoriadau yn ein [hysbysiad preifatrwydd am ymgynghoriadau](#).

## Mwy o wybodaeth

Mae'r ymgynghoriad hwn wedi'i baratoi yn unol ag [egwyddorion ymgynghori llywodraeth y DU](#). Os oes Asesiad Effaith wedi'i lunio, bydd wedi'i gynnwys yn y dogfennau ymgynghori. Os na ddarparwyd Asesiad Effaith, nodir y rheswm dros hynny y ddogfen ymgynghori.