

Evaluation of provision of allergen information for non pre-packed foods guidance

Area of research interest: [Food hypersensitivity](#)

Study duration: 2010-01-01

Project code: T07063

Conducted by: Jigsaw Research

We produced voluntary best practice Guidance on the Provision of Allergen Information for Non Pre-packed Foods aimed at caterers and retailers, which gave advice on controlling food allergens in food businesses where the food has not been pre-packed, for example, take-aways, restaurants, bakeries, deli counters, sandwich bars and schools.

The research set out the following objectives:

- Assess the level of awareness of the full guidance and supporting materials
- Explore the uptake of the guidance and supporting materials and the extent to which it has led to businesses changing their practices
- Assess the usefulness of the full guidance and supporting materials
- Assess whether these materials would be sufficient guidance for businesses if a statutory requirement to provide allergen information was introduced

Research approach

The project consisted of both qualitative and quantitative research. For the qualitative stage, a total of 16 in-depth interviews were conducted with various caterers and retailers, some training bodies and Environmental Health and Trading Standards Officers (EHO's and TSO's). For the quantitative stage, a total of 374 semi-structured telephone interviews were conducted with caterers and EHO's and TSO's.

Results

No major changes need to be made to the full guidance, leaflet or poster.

The key issue for us is to boost awareness and usage of the guidance among both enforcers and businesses, by:

- stressing the importance of allergen controls and customer notification in non pre-packed foods
- ensuring as many businesses as possible are aware of the guidance In the longer term, increasing consumer awareness in the expectation of this leading to higher levels of business engagement

Research report

England, Northern Ireland and Wales

PDF

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