

Our approach and the context we work in

We use a scientific, evidence-based approach to ensure food is safe and what it says it is.

This empowers businesses and consumers to do the right thing to keep food safe. We tell the truth about food.

We strive to:

- Be the trusted voice on food standards in the consumer interest
- Make it easy for businesses to maintain food safety and standards
- Collaborate with the most influential players in the food system to improve food safety and standards
- Optimise data and digital capability internally and externally to strengthen our influence
- Operate transparently and openly



The context we work in

The UK food sector is made up of:

- 4.1m people employed in the agri-food sector in Q4 2019 (GB)
- £23.6bn worth of food, feed and drink exports in 2019 (UK)
- £234bn is the consumer expenditure on food, drink and catering in 2019 (UK)
- £120.2bn is the agri-food sector contribution to national Gross Value Added in 2018 (UK)

Source: Defra's [Food Statistics in your pocket](#)



The 500,000+ food establishments (2018/2019) in the England, Northern Ireland and Wales consist of:

- 413,000 Restaurants & Caterers
- 124,000 Retailers
- 17,000 Manufacturers & Packers
- 9,000 Distributors/Transporters
- 4,000 Primary Producers
- 1,000 Importers/Exporters

Source: [Annual report on local authority food law enforcement 2018-2019](#)

Download our brochure. Learn more about how we have worked to protect your plate over the last 20 years and our vision for the future.