

## **Allerdale Borough Council Food Sampling Policy**

### **Legislation**

The Food Safety Act 1990 and The Food Safety (Sampling and Qualification) (England) (Regulations) 2013 provides a framework for food authority sampling. Legal action can be taken if necessary where an offence has been committed. The majority of our samples are taken for the purpose of monitoring, verifying process controls, surveillance and to educate and provide advice to businesses.

Allerdale Borough Council recognises the important contribution food sampling makes to the protection of public health and the food law enforcement responsibilities of the authority. We undertake sampling within our district as a result of:

- National, regional, local sampling programme
- Inspections
- Process monitoring and verification of food businesses within the district
- Home Authority Principle Activities
- Special investigations
- Imported foods
- Complaints

### **Sampling Programme**

Our sampling programme is produced annually in consultation with PHE York FEW Laboratory and is based around:

- National food sampling programmes (PHE, FSA, LACORS)
- Local sampling programmes – local higher risk businesses, investigation of incidents of food poisoning and food complaints

### **Food Complaints**

Samples may need to be taken as a result of a complaint made by a member of the public. Samples may be taken and sent to the public analyst or for microbiological testing at PHE York laboratory.

## **Process monitoring and verification**

Process monitoring of higher risk product specific businesses are sampled regularly. Within our district, we have raw milk producers, dairy product manufacturers, meat and fishery product manufacturers. Samples are taken to verify their processes.

## **Inspections**

Food is not routinely sampled during a routine inspection, however, it may highlight the need to take samples due to certain concerns highlighted during an inspection.

## **Imported Foods**

'Food importers' will be sampled where necessary.

## **Home / Originating Authority**

We are not currently a Home Authority for any food businesses.

## **Special Investigations**

Samples may be taken under special circumstances as and when required (as directed by FSA).