



Department
of Health

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Sue Cllr Waddington

Thank you for your letters of 17 February to Liz Truss and 22 February to me about Leicester City Council's support for mandatory display of food hygiene ratings at food outlets in England. The Food Standards Agency (FSA) has responsibility for the Food Hygiene Rating Scheme (FHRS), and reports to Parliament through me.

Protecting public health and improving food safety are at the core of what the FSA does and the FHRS is a key element of this work. The transparency that the FHRS provides is an important commercial driver for businesses and FSA research findings provide evidence that it is working and driving up food hygiene standards. The success of the scheme to date is in no small part due to the commitment and support of local authorities, including Leicester City Council, to improve hygiene standards in food businesses.

The FSA is monitoring the impact of mandatory display in Wales, with a view to presenting a case to extend this approach in England. The Government will consider this evidence carefully, once it is available.

I hope this reply is helpful. However, if you have any further queries, you might wish to contact the FSA directly.

*With kind regards
Jane Ellison*

JANE ELLISON