

# **Audit of Local Authority Service Delivery Controls for Incidents and Alerts**

Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council  
26 & 27 October 2015



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## **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 This is a report on the outcomes of the Food Standards Agency's (FSA's) audit of Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council conducted on 26 and 27 October 2015 at 4 Ednam Road, Dudley, West Midlands, DY1 1HL. The audit was carried out as part of a programme of audits on local authority (LA) controls for incidents and alerts. In the Authority these controls were delivered by Environmental Health team. The report has been made available on the Agency's website at:

[www.food.gov.uk/enforcement/auditandmonitoring/auditreports](http://www.food.gov.uk/enforcement/auditandmonitoring/auditreports)

Hard copies are available from the FSA's Operations Assurance Division at Foss House, Peasholme Green, York, YO1 7PR. Tel: 01904 232116.

- 1.2 The audit was carried out under section 12(4) of the Food Standards Act 1999 and the Agency will produce a summary report covering outcomes from the audits of all local authorities assessed during this programme.

## **2.0 Scope of the Audit**

- 2.1 The audit focused on controls that the LA had in place to deal with incidents and alerts with reference to the Framework Agreement and the Food Law Code of Practice (FLCoP). This included organisation and management, resources, development and implementation of appropriate control procedures, receipt of and response to alerts, reporting of incidents, advice enforcement and sampling, premises database, training and authorisation of officers, liaison and internal monitoring. Views on current arrangements for incidents and alerts were sought to inform FSA policy development.

## **3.0 Objectives**

- 3.1 The objectives of the audit were to gain assurance that:

- LAs have adequate capability and effective controls in place to deal with incidents and alerts with reference to the requirements of the Standard in the Framework Agreement, the FLCoP and centrally issued guidance.
- The interface between the FSA and LAs with regard to the handling of incidents and alerts is appropriate and effective.

The audit also sought to;

- Identify any significant weaknesses and potential improvements in the overall arrangements for the handling of incidents and alerts.

- Identify and disseminate good practice for incidents and alerts controls

## 4.0 Executive Summary

4.1 The Authority was delivering a range of official controls concerning incidents and alerts in accordance with its statutory obligations and liaison between the FSA and the Authority was for most parts effective. Auditors noted several areas of good practice involving information management and red flagging on the food premises database. However the Authority needed to make some improvements to fully meet the requirements of the Framework Agreement and the Food Law Code of Practice (FLCoP). A number of potential improvements in the overall arrangements and controls for incidents and alerts were identified. The key areas for improvements for the Authority are set out below.

### 4.2 Key areas for improvement:

#### Incidents and Alerts

- 4.2.1 The Authority had not recorded receipt, response and outcomes for two of the food alerts for action that were assessed. The Authority should ensure that it documents responses and outcomes to all alerts.
- 4.2.2 The Authority should develop, implement and maintain a documented procedure for initiating feed incidents and describing how serious localised feed hazards and non localised feed hazards are to be reported to the FSA.

#### Organisation and Management

- 4.2.3 The Authority's service plan did not set out all the proactive and reactive demands on the Service. The Authority needs to ensure that the Plan and any associated summary reports provided to its Cabinet Members includes a clear comparison of the resources required to carry out the full range of statutory food and feed law enforcement activities against the resources available to the Service.

## **5.0 Audit Findings and Recommendations**

### **5.1 Organisation and Management**

5.1.1 The Environmental Health and Trading Standards service had recently been through a restructure which included the service moving, from the Directorate of the Urban Environment into the newly created People Services Directorate. The restructure had combined food hygiene and standards into a single team, with feed law remaining the responsibility of trading standards.

#### Food Law

5.1.2 The Authority had developed a Service Plan 2015/16 that included both food hygiene and food standards enforcement, which had been approved by the Council on the 12<sup>th</sup> October 2015.

5.1.3 The Service was provided by food safety officers delivering official controls relating to both food hygiene, food standards and a range of other environmental health disciplines including infectious disease and smoke free legislation.

5.1.4 The Plan was generally in line with the Service Planning Guidance, as laid down in the Framework Agreement. However it would benefit from a more detailed breakdown of all of the demands on the Service including more details concerning the significant number of approved establishments in the area subject to additional controls under Regulation (EC) No 853 (2004). Although the Plan identified that the Authority had 19 approved establishments, it would be beneficial to give a breakdown of the types of business involved and to highlight the resource implications associated with inspecting these types of businesses, including the need for ongoing specialist training for relevant officers.

5.1.5 The Service Plan identified the resources available to the Service and included a breakdown of how officer time was allocated against various food law enforcement activities. This did not cover all aspects of service delivery in that there was no estimation of the specific resources required for dealing with food alerts and incidents or to deliver the full intervention programme. The Plan needed to compare the resources required to deliver the Service fully in accordance with the Food Law Code of Practice (FLCoP) against those available and any shortfall should be identified. Whilst the Plan included some details of the intervention plan and strategy for the year, it would benefit from the addition of greater detail on what would not be achieved given the resources available, so that senior managers and elected Members are fully aware of the risks to the Authority.

## Feedstuffs

- 5.1.7 Although the Food Service Plan made reference to the Service undertaking approximately eight inspections of establishments registered for feed, the Authority had not developed a service plan for feedstuffs in line with the Framework Agreement. Auditors discussed how the current Food Service Plan could be expanded to include feedstuffs, in order to highlight the proactive and reactive demands on the service, and the resources required to deliver the Service.

### **Recommendation**

- 5.1.8 The Authority should develop and implement future service delivery plans for both food and feed in accordance with the Service Planning Guidance in the Framework Agreement. The Plan should give consideration to all the demands on the food and feed services, including the significant number of approved establishments in the area, and the provision of feed law enforcement activities. The Plan should include a clear comparison of the resources required to carry out the full range of statutory food and feed law enforcement activities against the resources available to the Service. [The Standard - 3.1]

## **5.2 Incidents and Alerts**

### Food Hygiene and standards procedure

- 5.2.1 The Authority had developed a comprehensive documented procedure dated 25 September 2015 that detailed the Authority's procedures for responding to food alerts and food safety incidents in regard to food hygiene.
- 5.2.2 The procedure detailed the actions to be taken in response to a food alert from the FSA, including entry onto the Authority's computerised database and the recording of any relevant actions taken in response.
- 5.2.3 The procedure also specified that Serious Localized Food Hazards and non-Localized Food Hazards were to be reported to the FSA.
- 5.2.4 In addition, the procedure highlighted that although emails were not routinely monitored outside normal office hours, systems were in place to respond to telephone calls received out of hours relating to food alerts and incidents.

- 5.2.5 Out of hours calls were managed by the Repairs Management Centre. Detailed written emergency call procedures were in place, specifying the types of calls that should be passed onto a relevant manager detailed in the emergency contact list.
- 5.2.6 The Authority also provided senior managers with additional guidance on dealing with emergencies outside office hours, including a “Procedure Note for Food and Consumer Safety related emergencies”
- 5.2.7 The procedures included most of the information required by the FLCoP 2015.

#### Feedstuffs

- 5.2.8 The Authority had not developed a documented procedure for responding to feed alerts and incidents. Auditors discussed how the current documented food alerts and incidents procedure could be expanded to include feedstuffs.

#### Environmental Health Food Alerts for Action

- 5.2.9 Auditors reviewed two food alerts for action issued by the FSA. Both food alerts required the Authority to check for the products during routine inspections. As products were not found during routine visits for either food alert, the Authority had not created a worksheet for these food alerts, and no records could be found to demonstrate when operational officers had been informed. The lead officer confirmed that they had reviewed the handling of all food alerts for action and intended to start creating worksheets for all such alerts.

#### Trading Standards Food Alerts for Action

- 5.2.10 Auditors reviewed a further two food alerts for action issued by the FSA. One of these alerts was adequately responded to by the officers in the Environmental Health Team, whilst the other was dealt with by officers in Trading Standards who had been responsible for food standards issues at the time of the alert. The Authority was able to demonstrate that the alerts were promptly brought to the attention of operational officers and the actions to be taken by LAs described in the food alerts had been undertaken.

## Notifications

5.2.11 There had been no serious localised incidents in the two years prior to the audit.

### **Recommendations**

5.2.12 The Authority should:

- i) Ensure that it documents its responses to and the outcome of each alert. [The Standard 14.3]
- ii) Set up, maintain and implement a documented procedure for initiating and responding to feed alerts. [The Standard 14.1]

## **5.3 Advice to Business**

5.3.1 The Authority published all food alerts issued by the FSA on the food safety page of their website using the RSS feed facility from the FSA website.

5.3.2 The Authority informed auditors that they write to all new food businesses to provide advice on food safety matters.

5.3.3 The Authority also outlined how they have started to use social media, including Facebook and Twitter to disseminate food alerts to local businesses and members of the public.

## **5.4 Food Inspection and Sampling**

5.4.1 The Authority had a documented Food Sampling Policy which set out their commitment to carrying out sampling when required and provided details of the Authority's annual sampling programme.

5.4.2 The Authority had developed and implemented a comprehensive sampling procedure. This outlined the actions to be taken by officers after being notified of any unsatisfactory sample results. Actions included sending a letter to the business or an investigatory visit following consultation with the lead officer or service manager. The procedure would benefit from being updated to more accurately reflect what happens in practice, and the inclusion of a reference to the incidents procedure to ensure officers consider instigating a food incident notification following unsatisfactory sampling results.

5.4.3 Auditors reviewed the sampling programme for food hygiene and food standards, which took account of local priorities including approved premises, and national and regional surveys.



5.4.4 Unsatisfactory sampling result records were assessed for three food hygiene samples and two food standards samples. The outcome in each case was found to be consistent with the Authority's procedure and the FLCoP, with none requiring further escalation to a food alert or incident.

### **Feed Sampling**

5.4.5 The Authority did not have a documented Feed Sampling Policy or procedure. Officers explained that any sampling would be focused on complaints received.

5.4.6 The Authority reported that they had not received any unsatisfactory feed sampling results for the previous 2 years.

#### **Recommendation**

5.4.7 The Authority should:

- i) set up, implement and maintain a suitable documented feed sampling policy. [The Standard – 12.4]
- ii) set up, maintain and implement documented procedures for the inspection of feedingstuffs. [The Standard – 12.3]

### **5.5 Enforcement**

5.5.1 The Authority had developed a documented Enforcement Policy for the Planning and Environmental Health Division, which was generally in line with official guidance. The policy had been published on the Authority's website.

5.5.2 The Policy had been approved by the appropriate cabinet member in consultation with the Director of the Urban Environment in November 2011.

5.5.3 Auditors noted that the Enforcement Policy was under review and the Authority will shortly be adopting the Joint Black Country Regulators Operating Framework.

5.5.4 The Authority had a comprehensive documented procedure for the Inspection, Detention and Seizure of Food, which included imported food and notifications to the agency. The procedure would benefit from being reviewed and updated to reflect the Food Safety and Hygiene (England) Regulations 2013 which repealed Regulations 4 and 7 of the General Food Regulations 2004. The flow diagram detailing the

procedure for seizure of food would also benefit with the inclusion of Regulation 29 of Food Safety and Hygiene Regulations 2013

5.5.5 The Authority had not needed to take any specific enforcement action in relation to alerts and incidents in the last two years.

## **5.6 Control and Investigation of Outbreaks and Food Related Disease**

5.6.1 There were various documents in place in relation to infectious disease. The Authority had developed a comprehensive policy and procedure document for the “Control and Investigation of Outbreaks and Food Related Infectious Disease”.

5.6.2 The policy stated that the Authority would have regard to the West Midlands West Public Health England Team joint outbreak control plan.

5.6.3 The Procedure Note for Food and Consumer Safety related emergencies for out of hours response gave advice for officers on call out, on how to respond to outbreaks and included out of hours contact numbers for other organisations such as the FSA and Public Health England.

5.6.4 Together these documents provided comprehensive instructions for officers and were generally in line with the FSA guidance on management of outbreaks of foodborne disease.

5.6.5 Auditors examined three sets of records reported by the Authority as outbreaks in pre-audit information. None of the cases reviewed required incident reports, each failing to meet the necessary criteria.

## **5.7 Authorised Officers**

5.7.1 The Authority had developed a documented procedure for the authorisation of officers in the Food and Occupational Safety Team, based on competence in accordance with the FLCoP. The procedure covered Food Hygiene, Health and Safety and Animal Welfare. The Authority outlined that the procedure was currently under review in order to include food standards legislation.

5.7.2 The procedure required newly qualified and officers returning to food law enforcement, to undertake a programme of structured training in relevant areas before undertaking food law enforcement duties. Officers are then progressively assessed and undertake duties for which they are authorised as their competency develops. The procedure contained a training record for new and returning officers.

5.7.3 The procedure also highlighted the systems that are in place to monitor ongoing competence of authorised officers.

- 5.7.4 The Authority had a corporate performance review and development system in place whereby officer development and training needs were assessed on an annual basis.
- 5.7.5 The procedure stated that the Lead Officer for Food was the Principal EHO.
- 5.7.6 The Authority gave assurance that the scheme of delegation had been reviewed and updated following the reorganisation in order to reflect the new managerial structure. Auditors recommended that the authorisation procedure be reviewed and amended to reflect the recent changes to the qualification and experience section of the FLCoP and Practice Guidance.
- 5.7.7 The Authority was currently in the process of re-issuing authorisations for all officers. Auditors noted that three of the four authorisations checked contained references to superseded legislation. 'However auditors were assured that all officers had been separately authorised in January 2013 for the Food Safety and Hygiene (England ) Regulations 2013.
- 5.7.8 Qualifications and training records for Environmental Health staff were examined and these generally demonstrated that officers were receiving the minimum 10 hours relevant training per annum based on the principles of continuing professional development.
- 5.7.9 The Authority had recently trained all food officers on their internal documented procedure for Food Incidents and Alerts.

#### **Recommendations**

5.7.10 The Authority should review the documented procedure for the authorisation of officers, including the lead officer, based upon their competencies and qualifications, linking this process to officer training and competency requirements. [The Standard – 5.1]

### **5.8 Reviewing and Updating Documented Policies and Procedures**

- 5.8.1 The Authority had adopted a range of documented policies, procedures and work instructions which were directly and indirectly related to incidents and alerts food law enforcement activities.

5.8.2 Auditors found that the majority of the documented procedures in place had been recently reviewed, and had developed a documented procedure for reviewing and updating policies and procedures.

## **5.9 Facilities and Equipment**

5.9.1 The Authority had in place a reliable computerised database which was capable of providing information required by the FSA specifically with regard to incidents and alerts.

5.9.2 Following an office relocation in 2013 the Environmental Health Team implemented a paperless back office system, the Authority put in place information management policies, which included procedures for photocopying and scanning of documents. The Authority has self-checked that their policies and procedures conform to the British Standard for evidential weight and legal admissibility of electronic information (BSI 0008:2008).

### **Good Practice - Information Management**

5.9.3 The authority had self assessed its information management policies and procedures against the British Standard for evidential weight and legal admissibility of electronic information (BSI 0008:2008).

## **5.10 Food and Feed Premises Database**

5.10.1 The database, together with other electronic documents used in connection with food and feed law enforcement services, was subject to end of day back-up to prevent the loss of data.

5.10.2 Auditors discussed the benefits of developing a database monitoring and validation procedure that reflects the checks that are carried out to ensure the accuracy of the database should the Authority need to action a food or feed alert.

5.10.3 Officers gave assurances that access for entering and deleting data had been restricted to the Officer Service Support Team.

5.10.4 The Authority had configured their database to record details of primary authority agreements and any red flagging issues for premises. These details were displayed automatically in a pop up window when officers accessed the worksheet on the database.

5.10.5 Auditors identified potential anomalies and inaccuracies in Food Hygiene Rating System data prior to the audit, including some potential premises usage coding errors. These were brought to the attention of the Authority for further investigation.

5.10.6 Auditors randomly selected six food establishments located in the Authority's area from the internet. All the food establishments had been included on the food establishment database, however three premises did not have an next intervention date for food standards.

#### **Recommendations**

5.10.7 The Authority shall set up, maintain and implement a documented procedure to ensure that its food and feed premises database is accurate, reliable and up to date [The Standard – 11.2]

#### **Good Practice - Food Premises Database**

*5.10.8 The authority had configured its food premises database to record details of primary authority agreements and any red flagging issues for premises. These details are displayed automatically in a pop up window when officers access the worksheet on the database*

### **5.11 Liaison with other Organisations**

5.11.1 The Authority had effective liaison arrangements in place with officers attending Regional food groups such as the West Midlands Food Liaison Group and The Central England Trading Standards Authorities Group. There are also good contact arrangements with the PHE and the FSA.

5.11.2 The Authority had liaison arrangements in place with officers attending the Central England Trading Standards Authority Group Feed Panel, which met three times a year. Officers had found the liaison group extremely useful and had shadowed officers at neighbouring authorities in order to develop experience in feedstuffs.

## 5.12 Internal Monitoring

### Food Hygiene

5.12.1 The Authority had developed a procedure for the “Authorisation and Monitoring of Officers”, which highlighted the range of internal monitoring carried out across the Service, including reviews of:

- >10% officer inspection records
- annual accompanied inspection
- 1 x food complaint
- 1 x food premises complaint
- Annual appraisal with 6 monthly review

5.12.2 Auditors did recommend that current arrangements should be expanded to cover all areas of the Service, including food sampling and alerts and incidents.

5.12.3 Auditors noted that team meetings were used to discuss interpretational issues such as wash hand basin requirements for domestic premises, and also to review quantitative aspects of the service, such as number of :

- interventions carried out, and % of intervention programme achieved
- revisits
- IDs investigated

5.12.4 The time taken for appropriate risk based internal monitoring should be included in any calculation of the resources required to deliver the Service when developing the Authority’s annual Service Plan.

### Feed

5.12.5 The Authority had no documented internal monitoring procedure to detail how the Service monitored the feed law enforcement activities carried out.

5.12.6 Auditors recommend developing a documented internal monitoring procedure that covers both quantitative and qualitative monitoring activities, and that any findings and resulting actions are recorded. As discussed this could be incorporated into the food law monitoring procedure.

### **Recommendation**

5.12.7 The Authority should review, document and implement internal monitoring procedures to accurately reflect the range of risk based monitoring activities it carries out across all areas of the Service including food sampling, food alerts and feed law enforcement activities etc. [The Standard – 19.1]

### **5.13 Local Authority Views on Arrangements for Incidents and Alerts**

5.13.1 At the conclusion of the audit the Authority was asked to provide some feedback on the arrangements in place for incidents and alerts at the Agency and associated statutory guidance. The responses to these questions were noted and will be considered in the final summary report for the audit programme.

### **5.14 Issues Outside the Scope of the Audit**

5.14.1 During the course of the audit, Auditors raised some concerns regarding delivery of the full intervention programme and the accuracy of the figures outlined in the LAEMs return.

#### Intervention Programme

5.14.2 The Service Plan highlighted an inspection target of 100% of A-C inspections and 20% of the category Ds that were due. Auditors asked for clarification on the intervention strategy for the remaining 80% of category Ds. The Authority explained that its focus was on non-compliant Ds for inspection but they did not have a detailed strategy to deal with any remaining compliant category D establishments. Auditors discussed the possible use of flexibilities available in the FLCoP and requested confirmation of any proposals to address this matter.

#### Alternative Enforcement Strategies (AES)

5.14.4 Auditors noted that the Authority were utilizing some of the flexibilities for interventions as detailed in the FLCoP including AES for category E premises.

5.14.5 Auditors noted some coding anomalies with the LAEMS data in regard to the recording of its AES at category E premises. Auditors discussed the most appropriate way to record such activities on LAEMS and forwarded further LAEMS guidance following the audit. Auditors also had some concerns that the AES was being applied to some category D establishments, contrary to the FLCoP.

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## ANNEX A - Action Plan for Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council

Audit date: 26-27 October 2015

TO ADDRESS (RECOMMENDATION INCLUDING STANDARD PARAGRAPH)	BY (DATE)	PLANNED IMPROVEMENTS	ACTION TAKEN TO DATE
5.1.8 Develop and implement future service delivery plans for both food and feed in accordance with the Service Planning Guidance in the Framework Agreement. The Plan should give consideration to all the demands on the food and feed services, including the significant number of approved establishments in the area, and the provision of feed law enforcement activities. The Plan should include a clear comparison of the resources required to carry out the full range of statutory food and feed law enforcement activities against the resources available to the Service. [The Standard - 3.1]	1 June 2016	All recommendations for both food and feed will be incorporated into the next Service Plan. Service planning will be completed in April for approval by Elected Members in June.	
5.2.12 (i) Ensure that it documents its responses to and the outcome of each alert. [The Standard 14.3]	31 December 2015	The existing documented procedure for 'Food Incidents and Hazards' will be revised so as to require a worksheet to be created for each and every 'Food Alert: For Action' and any action taken in relation to it to be recorded on the worksheet.	
5.2.12 (ii) Set up, maintain and implement a documented procedure for initiating and responding to feed alerts. [The Standard 14.1]	31 March 2016	Produce and implement a documented procedure for initiating and responding to feed alerts.	

5.4.7 (i) Set up, implement and maintain a suitable documented feed sampling policy. [The Standard – 12.4]	31 March 2016	Produce and implement a feed sampling policy and procedure	
5.4.7 (ii) Set up, maintain and implement documented procedures for the inspection of feeding stuffs. [The Standard – 12.3]	31 March 2016	Produce and implement a procedure for the inspection of feeding stuffs	
5.7.10 Review the documented procedure for the authorisation of officers, including the lead officer, based upon their competencies and qualifications, linking this process to officer training and competency requirements. [The Standard – 5.1]	1 May 2016	The current ‘Authorisation and Monitoring of Officers’ procedure will be revised to take account of the new competency requirements under the revised Food Law Code of Practice and Practice Guidance. The procedure will be extended to include food standards and feed.	
5.10.7 Set up, maintain and implement a documented procedure to ensure that its food and feed premises database is accurate, reliable and up to date [The Standard – 11.2]	30 September 2016	A documented procedure will be produced detailing a procedure for ensuring that the database of premises is accurate, reliable and up to date.	
5.12.7 Review, document and implement internal monitoring procedures to include food sampling, food alerts and feed law enforcement activities. [The Standard – 19.1]	1 May 2016	This will be included in the updated ‘Authorisation and Monitoring of Officers’ procedure alongside existing monitoring arrangements.	

## **ANNEX B - Audit Approach/Methodology**

The audit was conducted using a variety of approaches and methodologies as follows:

- (1) Examination of LA plans, policies and procedures.
- (2) A range of LA file records were reviewed.
- (3) Review of Database records
- (4) Officer interviews

## **ANNEX C - Glossary**

Authorised officer	A suitably qualified officer who is authorised by the local authority to act on its behalf in, for example, the enforcement of legislation.
Codes of Practice	Government Codes of Practice issued under Section 40 of the Food Safety Act 1990 as guidance to local authorities on the enforcement of food legislation.
County Council	A local authority whose geographical area corresponds to the county and whose responsibilities include food standards and feeding stuffs enforcement.
District Council	A local authority of a smaller geographical area and situated within a County Council whose responsibilities include food hygiene enforcement.
Environmental Health Officer (EHO)	Officer employed by the local authority to enforce food safety legislation.
Feeding stuffs	Term used in legislation on feed mixes for farm animals and pet food.
Food hygiene	The legal requirements covering the safety and wholesomeness of food.
Food standards	The legal requirements covering the quality, composition, labelling, presentation and advertising of food, and materials in contact with food.
Framework Agreement	The Framework Agreement consists of:

- Food and Feed Law Enforcement Standard
- Service Planning Guidance
- Monitoring Scheme
- Audit Scheme

The **Standard** and the **Service Planning Guidance** set out the Agency's expectations on the planning and delivery of food and feed law enforcement.

The **Monitoring Scheme** requires local authorities to submit yearly returns via LAEMS to the Agency on their food enforcement activities i.e. numbers of inspections, samples and prosecutions.

Under the **Audit Scheme** the Food Standards Agency will be conducting audits of the food and feed law enforcement services of local authorities against the criteria set out in the Standard.

Full Time Equivalents (FTE)	A figure which represents that part of an individual officer's time available to a particular role or set of duties. It reflects the fact that individuals may work part-time, or may have other responsibilities within the organisation not related to food and feed enforcement.
Member forum	A local authority forum at which Council Members discuss and make decisions on food law enforcement services.
Metropolitan Authority	A local authority normally associated with a large urban conurbation in which the County and District Council functions are combined.
Service Plan	A document produced by a local authority setting out their plans on providing and delivering a food service to the local community.
Trading Standards	The Department within a local authority which carries out, amongst other responsibilities, the enforcement of food standards and feeding stuffs legislation.
Trading Standards Officer (TSO)	Officer employed by the local authority who, amongst other responsibilities, may enforce food standards and feeding stuffs legislation.

Unitary Authority

A local authority in which the County and District Council functions are combined, examples being Metropolitan District/Borough Councils, and London Boroughs. A Unitary Authority's responsibilities will include food hygiene, food standards and feeding stuffs enforcement.