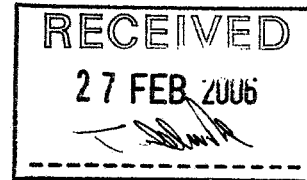


◆ EDINBURGH ◆
THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENTAL AND CONSUMER SERVICES

Country of Origin Consultation
Mail Point R259
Pentland House
47 Robb's Loan
EDINBURGH
EH14 1TY

Date 24 February 2006
Your ref
Our ref idf.feb.originconsult.skm.wjw



Dear Sir

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN CONSULTATION

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the above mentioned consultation paper.

Please find enclosed our comments and the completed Consultation Response Form.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "S K Moorshead".

S K Moorshead
Environmental Health Officer

ERIC ROBINSON
HEAD OF REGULATORY SERVICES
500 Gorgie Road, Edinburgh EH11 3YJ Tel 0131 529 3030 Fax 0131 529 3014



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Question 1.

Do you consider that the current requirements provide adequate information to consumers of beef in the food service sector?

As the situation stands at present, only those consumers who are aware that the information should be available on request are able to find out the country of origin of their beef. This means that the emphasis is on the consumer to actively seek out this information, leaving a great number who will never know.

The surveys undertaken in some Member States which show that 80% of consumers assumed that the beef served in the food service sector had been produced in their own country, would suggest that a large proportion of the Scottish consumers would be under the same misapprehension. This could be dispelled by displaying the information.

Question 2.

Do you consider that the absence of country of origin information confuses consumers about the source of beef in the food service sector?

As 80% of consumers assume that the country of origin is their own, I do not think that they are confused. However they do not have the correct information, and would probably be surprised to find out if the information was provided.

Question 3.

If you consider that the current requirements are not adequate, do you favour a voluntary or compulsory scheme to indicate country of origin of beef in the food service sector?

If the current requirements were to remain voluntary the situation would remain as they are at the present, in that a large number of people would remain ignorant of the source of their beef.

Making the scheme compulsory would put that information in the wider domain. This would also mean that fraudulent claims concerning the source could be enforced more easily, rather than verbal claims that the beef was from "X".

Question 4.

Do you agree with the proposed approach? Please explain your reasons.

The proposed approach would place few extra responsibilities to either the trade or to the enforcement sector and would incur negligible costs. Enforcement of a voluntary scheme is at present difficult, as the information would normally be oral. The requirement to display it would alleviate this problem.

Question 5.

Do you consider that the requirement should be applied to veal as well as beef?

There would seem to be no reason why veal should be considered any different than beef, as the consumer should be able to find out the country of origin of all bovines.

Question 6.

Do you agree with the proposals for monitoring and enforcement?

The proposals for monitoring and enforcement would fit into the established practices undertaken by the Environmental Health Officer service, and would place no real burden, either financially or in terms of workload.

Question 7.

Do you agree that a civil action would be appropriate?

The use of civil action would impose both a financial and procedural burden on Local Authorities.

Both The Beef Labelling and Fish Labelling Regulations require retailers to provide the country of origin, and breaches are regarded as criminal offences even though they do not relate to food safety or public health but merely traceability. I can see no reason why the food service sector should be treated any differently.

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN OF BEEF IN THE FOOD SERVICE SECTOR

RESPONDEE INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the details below and attach it with your response. This will help ensure we handle your response appropriately:

Name: CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENTAL AND CONSUMER SERVICES

Postal Address: 500 GORGIE ROAD, EDINBURGH. EH11 3YJ

Consultation title: Country of Origin of Beef in the Food Service Sector

1. Are you responding as: (please tick one box)

- (a) an individual (go to 2a/b)
- (b) on behalf of a group or organisation (go to 2c)

2a. INDIVIDUALS:

Do you agree to your response being made available to the public (in SE library and/or on SE website)?

- Yes (go to 2b below)
- No, not at all

2b. Where *confidentiality is not requested*, we will make your response available to the public on the following basis (please tick one of the following boxes)

- Yes, make my response, name and address all available
- Yes, make my response available, but not my name or address
- Yes, make my response and name available, but not my address

2c ON BEHALF OF GROUPS OR ORGANISATIONS:

Your name and address as respondents *will be* made available to the public (in the SE library and/or on SE website). Are you content for your response to be made available also?

- Yes
- No

SHARING RESPONSES/FUTURE ENGAGEMENT

3. We will share your response internally with other SE policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for the Scottish Executive to contact you again in the future in relation to this consultation response?

- Yes No