

# Department of Neighbourhood Services

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please ask for:

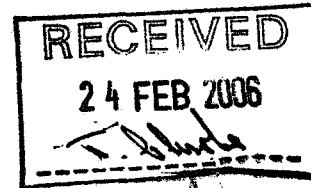


**East Ayrshire**  
COUNCIL

20<sup>th</sup> February 2006

Our Ref: JFC/PLT/RRS

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



Dear Sir/Madam

## CONSULTATION PAPER: COUNTRY OF ORIGIN OF BEEF IN THE FOOD SECTOR

I refer to the above Consultation Paper issued for comment to East Ayrshire Council. In consultation with the Chair of Community Services Committee I would offer the undernoted comments to the questions raised in the consultation:-

a) It is noted that comments are requested on the proposal to require the food service sector in Scotland to inform consumers in restaurants, canteens and cafes of the country or countries of origin of beef served. Information on the origin of raw beef is currently required to be provided for consumers at retail level but not within the food service sector, although it should be noted that this has had little impact in the retail sector.

b) **Q1.** Do you consider that the current requirements provide adequate information to consumers of beef in the food service sector?

Yes. If anyone is interested they can ask, this information being available to the caterers from their suppliers.

**Q2.** Do you consider that the absence of country of origin information confuses consumers about the source of beef in the food service sector?

No. There is no such information available about any foodstuffs unless the caterer chooses to emphasise the origin such as in Scottish Salmon, English Strawberries etc. It is of course an offence at present to mis-describe any article.

**Q3.** 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?

Voluntary scheme.

**Q4.** Do you agree with the proposed approach? Please explain your reasons.

The proposed methodology of providing the information would appear to be satisfactory.

**Q5.** Do you consider that the requirement should be applied to veal as well as beef?

Since we are not in favour of the proposals it is difficult to answer this question. Why stop at Veal (or even Beef), why not require the disclosure of everything on the menu?

**Q6.** Do you agree with the proposals for monitoring and enforcement?

The proposal is that the enforcement of this scheme would fall to Environmental Health but in an era of strained resources, this would be an un-necessary burden, unless additional resources were provided.

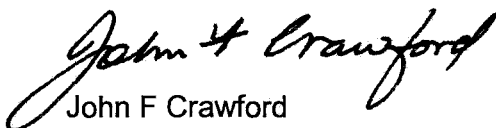
**Q7.** Do you agree that a civil action would be appropriate?

No. This gives the impression that it is not important.

c) This is not a UK wide initiative and therefore applies in Scotland only. France has introduced a scheme and Ireland is about to but no other country in Europe has introduced such a scheme. The absence of a statutory requirement to provide country of origin is no impediment to any caterer providing this information voluntarily and so I see no great benefit in making such a declaration compulsory.

I would take this opportunity in thanking you for submitting the proposal to East Ayrshire Council for comment.

Yours faithfully



John F Crawford  
**Head of Protective Services**

Cc Chief Executive

## COUNTRY OF ORIGIN OF BEEF IN THE FOOD SERVICE RESPONDEE INFORMATION FORM

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

Name:

Postal Address:

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