



# East Lothian Council

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*T. Deluca*

ENVIRONMENT & TECHNICAL SERVICES

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**FACSIMILE**

DATE 5-1-06

TO Elizabeth Baird

Head of Food Marketing + Policy Branch

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FROM George Fairgrieve, Food + Safety Manager

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NO OF PAGES (including this one) 1+3

MESSAGE

**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: *GEORGE FAIRGRIEVE*

Postal Address: *FOOD & SAFETY MANAGER ENVIRONMENTAL & CONSUMER SERVICES  
DUNDEE NORTHIAN COUNCIL, JOHN MUIR HOUSE, HADDINGTON.*

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



**Annex A****Questions raised in Scottish Executive's consultation paper on the Country of Origin of Beef in the Food Service Sector.**

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

The current requirements are sufficient to allow proprietors of businesses in the food service sector to be provided with the necessary information but there is no requirement for such information to be passed on to the customers of such businesses.

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

The failure to provide the information to consumers is a continual source of confusion especially in relation to the use of terms such as 'Aberdeen Angus', 'Scotch', etc as there is a common assumption that such terms guarantee a quality product. In many instances, such terms are used to extract a premium from the customer based on their assumptions.

*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?*

Any new requirements in relation to country of origin of beef information must be based on a compulsory scheme to ensure equality throughout the industry and guarantee public trust in the scheme.

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

The approach proposed is to be supported, as the additional information will be to the benefit of customers, allowing them to make informed choices. The information will be available to the food service sector at no extra cost and the sector can make such information available to their customers at very little additional expense.

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

In the interests of consistency with current regulations, veal must be included along with the requirements for beef.

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

The proposed method of monitoring and enforcement will ensure consistency of action as Environmental Health Officers have great experience and understanding of the food service sector as well as the trust of proprietors. The initial monitoring can be achieved by way of additional checks during

programmed inspections, but the assessment that it will result in no additional cost is inaccurate. In the simplest case, an additional check during a routine inspection will add officer time (a resource cost) to that inspection. The results of such checks may result in additional officer time to advise the proprietor on the requirements or the expense of carrying out further traceability checks.

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

Civil action would seem to be the simplest and most equitable method of approaching the enforcement of the proposals. However, to maintain trust in Scottish justice and the impartiality of Local Authorities, any fixed penalty notices issued by an officer may require to be witnessed by a second officer. This requirement will add to the local authority resource costs.