



FOOD
STANDARDS
AGENCY
SCOTLAND
Buidheann
Inbhe-Bidhe
an Alba

To: Elizabeth Baird, SEERAD
Elaine MacGregor, SEERAD
Copies: see attached list

From: Christine Green
Date: 1 March 2006
Phone: 01224 285165

Country of Origin of Beef in the Food Service Sector – FSA response to SEERAD Consultation

1. The Food Standards Agency recognises the importance of consumers receiving clear information about the foods that they buy. One of the key aims set out in our Strategic Plan for 2005/10 is to make it easier for consumers to make informed choices.
2. As such we welcome the opportunity to consider and provide comment on the SEERAD proposal to extend country of origin labelling for beef to the food service sector.
3. The consultation document suggests that the current position is not clear cut either about consumer interest, or the extent of consumer confusion about the source of beef served in the food service sector. This reflects the outcome from our annual consumer survey that indicates there is no high level of demand in Scotland for Country of Origin labelling. Further to this we also sought advice on the consultation proposal from our Scottish Food Advisory Committee. I have attached the minute of their discussion for information – please note that it is still in draft form and has still to be finalised by the Committee. Following a detailed discussion in January there was no unanimity of opinion, however, their majority view was that the issue had no food safety or general health aspect and, as such, they considered that the Agency should adopt a neutral stance.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

6th Floor, St Magnus House, 25 Guild Street, Aberdeen, AB11 6NJ

Tel: 01224 285165 Fax: 01224 285168

E-mail: Christine.Green@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk



4. In relation to the specific point of labelling veal as well as beef, it would seem logical to treat it in an equivalent manner to existing "origin" labelling for beef.
5. Having also consulted our other Agency offices our overall view is that there is no compelling argument either for or against a legislative approach. This is particularly the case as caterers already have the ability to provide this information on a voluntary basis. A final point is the issue of any resource that might be required to enforce such legislation. We would naturally wish to ensure that, if such a route is taken, it would have no detrimental effect on the scarce local authority enforcement resource, and on their food safety and standards work in particular.

Christine Green
FSA Scotland

Copied to:

Christine Cogger, FSA
Christine Green, FSAS
Alison Taylor, FSAS
Hilary Neathy, FSAW
Anne-Marie Chambers, FSANI
Stephen Airey, FSA
Joanne Fullick, FSA
Pendi Najran, FSA
Theresa Ekong, FSA
Alette Addison, FSA
Andrea McCloskey, FSANI
Alison Black, FSAW
Stephen Knight, FSA
Chris Standish, DEFRA
Isla McLeod, OSSE
Susan Pryde, FSAS



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



6th Floor, St Magnus House, 25 Guild Street, Aberdeen, AB11 6NJ

Tel: 01224 285165 Fax: 01224 285168

E-mail: Christine.Green@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk

**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: *FOOD STANDARDS AGENCY*

Postal Address: *ST. MAGNUS HOUSE, 25 GUILD STREET
ABERDEEN, AB11 6NJ*

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