

Food Sampling

The service carries out routine informal sampling of food in accordance with a sampling plan, Figure 3. This includes regular sampling of private water supplies in accordance with the Private Water Supplies Regulations.

Figure 3 - Sampling Plan

A Objectives

The Council will carry out sampling of foodstuffs to ensure that food intended for human consumption that is produced, stored, distributed, handled or sold within the District is without risk to the health of the consumer.

The objectives of the programme are:

To provide a co-ordinated food sampling programme for Selby District.

To provide analytical results which are used as a tool to improve food safety standards both within the District and nationally.

To identify foods and food businesses where a risk is posed due to microbiological or physical contaminant.

To provide evidence for enforcement action where necessary.

To ensure that private water supplies are risk assessed and potable.

B Delivery of Plan

The sampling programme assists in the delivery of the Food Safety Service Plan and the Council's Enforcement Policy.

Sampling of food will be carried out in accordance with the food sampling programme and the criteria specified in the Selby District Council Food Safety Quality Management System. Sampling of domestic private water supplies will be carried out according to the Private Water Supply Regulations.

The programme will be reviewed in March of each year, or as and when new legislation or guidance is produced regarding food sampling activities. Statutory Codes of Practice will have a significant contribution.

The Authority will maintain a service level agreement with Public Health England (PHE) for the microbiological examination of food samples. The Public Analyst will be used as necessary to analyse food for contaminant and fitness. Analysis of private water supplies samples is procured from Alcontrol laboratories.

Routine sampling activity will be focused on premises where an authorised officer considers that there is a higher risk due to the nature of the business or concern regarding the adequacy of controls operating in the business. Sampling will also be carried out in response to complaints or infectious disease investigations where the authorised officer feels that this is appropriate.

The Authority will participate in any national sampling initiatives co-ordinated centrally by the Food Standards Agency and sampling programmes that are centrally co-ordinated by PHE or the North Yorkshire Food Liaison Group, subject to the availability of resources.

Where sampling results are considered to be unsatisfactory the relevant authorised officer will take appropriate informal or formal action based upon the risk to public health and in accordance with the Council's Enforcement Policy and Food Safety Quality Management System.

C Sampling Plan

Private water supplies will be risk assessed and sampled at a frequency prescribed in the above Regulations. The sampling frequency will vary in accordance with the Regulations.

Formal sampling of food will be carried out where necessary in response to food complaints or suspected offences. The service also participates in local and national food sampling initiatives, where resources permit. .