

ANGUS COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENTAL AND CONSUMER PROTECTION COMMITTEE – 7 AUGUST 2001

FOOD CONTRACT MONITORING-2000/2001

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Abstract

This report informs the Committee of the results of the work being done to check on the supply of food supplied under contract to Angus Council's Education & Social Work premises (Schools and Residential Homes)

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Committee note the contents of this report for its interest.

2. BACKGROUND

During the period 1 April 2000 to 31 March 2001, some 48 food samples were taken by Angus Council's Trading Standards Service from Education and Social Work premises to check for compliance with the Council's contract specifications, and for compliance with legal requirements.

These samples were submitted to the Public Analyst in Dundee for analysis at a rate of 4 per month (2 each from Education and Social Work premises).

3. RESULTS OF ANALYSIS

Of the 48 samples taken over the year: -

- 75% were found to meet both legal and contract specification requirements.
- 2% failed to meet statutory requirements.
- 21% breached contract specifications
- 2% failed for other reasons.

The types of foods sampled ranged from scampi, sausages, mince and pies to haddock, lamb, bacon, cheese and yoghurt.

One sample of steak sausages contained preservative in excess of the permitted maximum and this matter was referred to the Environmental Health Section for further investigation.

Ten samples (mostly meat) breached the Council's contract specifications in relation to proportions of fat content or connective tissue.

One sample of cooked ham was supplied as an alternative food, when no specific contract specification had been drawn up with which it could be compared.

Those samples, which did not comply with the Council's specification, were followed up by the Client Department. The Client Department charges the supplier with the cost of the analysis as a penalty for the failure, and takes the matter up with the suppliers management to ensure there is no recurrence.

The Client Department has the option of cancelling the supply contract if there is a major breach or if minor breaches are not corrected to their satisfaction.

This monitoring work has proved to be worthwhile in keeping the suppliers on their toes. It is important that they know their supplies are being sampled and analysed in a random manner.

It also highlights any potential problems with our local food producers who supply our Education and Social Work Department; and ensures standards of quality are maintained.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications in respect of this report.

5. HUMAN RIGHTS

There are no Human Rights issues raised by this report.

6. CONSULTATION

The Chief Executive, The Director of Law and Administration, The Director of Finance, The Director of Education and The Director of Social Work have been consulted on the contents of this report.

No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 other than any containing confidential or exempt information were relied on to any material extent in preparing this report.

S R Heggie
Director of Environmental and Consumer Protection

JM/HA
11.7.01