

REPORT ON FOOD SAMPLING BY DISTRICT COUNCILS IN NORTHERN IRELAND IN 2015	6th June 2017
TO: ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE	
FOR INFORMATION	

Linkage to Council Strategy (2015-19)	
Strategic Theme	Resilient, Engaged and Health Communities
Outcome	To provide Information on Food Sampling by District Councils in Northern Ireland in 2015
Lead Officer	Food, Health & Safety and Consumer Protection Manager
Cost: (If applicable)	N/A

Background

Those who make and sell food must ensure that it is safe, of good quality, and honestly labelled. Sampling of food by Council's Food Team for microbiological examination at the NI Public Health Laboratory and chemical analysis by the Public Analyst is essential in protecting consumers from harm and being misled.

Between 1st January 2015 and 31st December 2015 there were 8149 sample details entered onto the United Kingdom Food Surveillance System (UKFSS) database from Northern Ireland and includes samples taken by Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council and the legacy councils prior to LGR.

The sampling work outlined in the report is targeted towards key priority areas to protect the public and make best use of resources. It is therefore not typical of food generally and it is encouraging to see that 57% of all samples taken were satisfactory.

Of the 43% that uncovered problems, action was taken to address the issues that came to light, ranging from advice to prosecution.

A copy of the report on Food Sampling by District Councils in Northern Ireland 2015 can be provided to members electronically if required by contacting Head of Health & Built Environment.