

482/2014

REQUEST

From 13 December 2014, food businesses in the UK will have to follow new rules in labelling pre-packed foods and non-prepacked (loose) foods. This is part of the European Union Food Information for Consumers Regulation (EU FIC) coming into force.

I am happy to receive your response by email.

- What press releases / announcements have you issued relating to these new rules?
- What publicity (including, but not limited to leaflets and emails) have you issued relating to these new rules?
- Please provide internal emails (from 1st Jan 2014 to date) detailing discussions regarding the implementation of these new rules?
- Please provide details of internal meetings (from 1st Jan 2014 to date) and discussions regarding the implementation of these new rules?
- Please provide internal emails (from 1st Jan 2014 to date) detailing publicity and the publicising of these new rules.
- What training has taken place for council staff in connection with enforcement of these new rules?
- Provide a copy of the enforcement policy for these new rules.
- What information have you sent to any of your own departments (including Social Services, Adult Services, Education) about these new rules?
- How many press releases have you issued relating to these new rules?
- How many press releases have you issued in total from September 1st 2013 to date?
- Please provide evidence of how local food businesses are supported and prepared for these new rules, including any internal communications to support evidence of this process.
- Please provide any internal emails or minutes from meetings to support the decision making process in the development of any food standards projects.

RESPONSE

Further to your request for information received on 27 August 2014 I am writing to confirm that the Council does hold the information of the description specified in your e-mail.

I therefore list below the answers to your questions.

I would firstly like to advise that the responsibility for the Food Information Regulations fall between County and District Councils.

To date the following had been carried out.

- 1) No press releases as yet, this will possibly be done jointly with Trading Standards
- 2) No leaflets have been produced, these are usually made available by the government. We do have some materials that have been produced by County Council.
- 3) No internal emails have been sent in respect of this matter.
- 4) The new regulations have been discussed at Food Safety Team meetings and at County food liaison group meetings.
- 5) In Essex, there has been a project running for a few years in respect of allergens targeted at ethnic groups. This has involved a risk assessment being conducted at the time of the food safety inspection and the information given to Trading Standards who then assess if sampling is required to ensure that the business is compliant. As part of this project Trading Standards (County Level) have offered training to Local Authority food safety officers. All of the team at Tendring DC have received this training and taken part in the project.
Two Officers have attended training provided by the Food Standards Agency, but this was designed for Trading Standards, as at the time Food Safety Officers were not going to be the enforcing authority.
To date no training has been provided by the Food Standards Agency for Food Safety Officers
- 6) The general enforcement policy will be used.
- 7) We do not have the internal departments mentioned in your email as we are a district council.
- 8) Local Food businesses have been using Safer Food Better Business packs provided by the Food Standards Agency since 2004/5. Allergens are discussed in this pack. Officers give advice and support at the time of the food hygiene visit.

We have not been given any additional resources from the government to implement this regulation, at a time when resources are being removed .