

To: District Council Chief EHO's
Cc: Senior/lead food EHOs – District Council
Group Chief EHO's
NIFLG Members
LACORS
CIEH

08 October 2007

Reference: **ENF/NI/07/048**

Dear Colleagues,

2007 SURVEY OF HYGIENE STANDARDS IN FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS

You may recall that in 2005 the Agency carried out a baseline survey on food hygiene standards. Seventy three percent of local authorities across the UK participated, providing information on food hygiene standards from almost 5000 UK food premises. The Agency was very pleased with this result, and I would like to thank all of you who participated.

This survey provided a wealth of data from your inspections, which we currently cannot obtain by other means. The information you supplied in 2005 has been and continues to be used to assist us when we make decisions regarding enforcement practices and formulating policy. The results of the 2005 baseline survey can be found at <http://www.food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/premisessurvey05.pdf>, or by contacting the Agency help desk.

The Agency is repeating the survey this year to compare the results with the 2005 survey. We are doing this so we can assess the impact that the recent food hygiene legislation changes have had on UK food establishments. We would also like to see

the impact that Agency initiatives to improve legislative compliance like Safe Catering, Safer Food Better Business and Cooksafe have had.

Your participation was crucial to the success of the 2005 survey, and I would ask you to show the same spirit of collaboration again in 2007. In order for us to be able to measure any changes we need to achieve the same and hopefully a better response rate. Your participation in this year's survey will be acknowledged in the final report, where a list of all the District Councils that have submitted returns will be published.

For this survey we have contracted ADAS to assist in the collection and analysis of the data. The 2007 survey will be done on-line which will hopefully make it easier for you to complete. You still have the option to complete hard copies if you chose to do so.

You will need to download the guidance, and two questionnaires from the two links given in this letter. The first link is for the main questionnaire. We are again asking for information on 20 establishments according to a sampling plan outlined in the guidance. For statistical purposes we also require an estimate of the number of food establishments you have in your District Council according to type. We request this information in the second link. The deadline for responses is **30 November 2007**, although questionnaires can be filled in from inspections taking place from July to November 2007. We hope to publish the report of the survey by summer 2008.

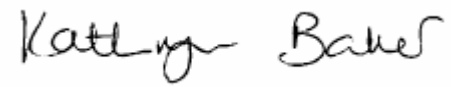
The main questionnaire and the guidance notes can be found at <http://web.adas.co.uk/fsa>.

The survey covering establishment numbers, which only needs to be completed once, can be found at <http://web.adas.co.uk/numbers>.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the ADAS helpline on 01902 743223 or me on 028 9041 7736.

Thank you again for your support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathryn Baker". The script is cursive and fluid.

KATHRYN BAKER
GENERAL FOOD HYGIENE AND INCIDENTS