

District Council Chief EHO's  
Group Chief EHO's  
NIFLG Members  
CIEH NI Centre  
LACORS

14<sup>th</sup> December 2007

Reference: **ENF/NI/07/054**

Dear Colleagues,

**Re: FOOD STANDARD'S AGENCY SECOND SIMPLIFICATION PLAN**

I am pleased to say that the FSA published its second Simplification Plan today. The Plan is available on the FSA website at:  
<http://www.food.gov.uk/foodindustry/regulation/betregs/simplify>

All simplification measures in the Plan are designed to ensure that we maintain our statutory objective of protecting public health and consumers' other interests in relation to food and drink but in ways which avoid unnecessary burdens. We believe that making regulations easier to understand and enforce increases compliance and therefore improves consumer protection. All our stakeholders including consumers, enforcers and businesses will benefit.

Our second Plan reports on progress in generating the £195 million savings promised in the first Plan and on new initiatives identified since. We now estimate total simplification savings of up to £448 million have been made since 2005, £232 million for the private sector and £216 million for the public sector. The Plan also reports on further planned simplification measures.

The results of three studies highlighted in last year's Plan are also reported on: a review of the forms businesses are required to complete by the FSA; a review of FSA guidance for businesses; and the sector specific study which looked at the concerns of small-scale butchery and craft bakery businesses to do with hygiene approvals and labelling. Separate reports on the review of FSA guidance and the sector specific study are also available from the link in the first paragraph above.

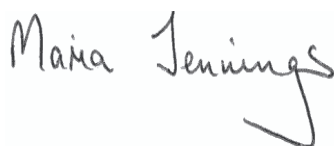


I would like to thank you all for your input into our simplification programme, which could not have developed without your support and contributions. Unnecessary burdens can only be reduced or removed if we are told about them and suggestions are always welcome.

The best way to make a suggestion for FSA-led legislation as well as to other departments, is to use the Better Regulation Website which will enable you to track the progress of your suggestion online **[www.betterregulation.gov.uk](http://www.betterregulation.gov.uk)**

If you would prefer to discuss ideas or suggestions for simplification you can also contact us directly and we will be happy to answer any questions. In the first instance please contact Chris Harvey on 0207 276 8630 or via email [chris.harvey@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:chris.harvey@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk)

Yours Faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maria Jennings". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end of the name.

Maria Jennings

Head of Consumer Choice and Trading Standards