

Our Ref.: BS/3171/14(FC)

9<sup>th</sup> December 2014

Fao Dr. Kathryn Aiken,  
Clerk, Committee for Health, Social  
Services and Public Safety,  
Northern Ireland Assembly,  
Room 284 Parliament Buildings,  
Ballymiscaw,  
Stormont,  
BELFAST,  
BT4 3XX.

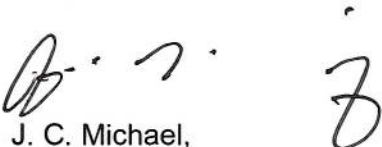
Dear Madam,

**The Food Hygiene Rating Bill**

Your letter dated 12<sup>th</sup> ultimo to this authority's Chief Executive in respect of the above matter refers. Following Council's consideration of the proposed Bill, it would ask the Committee for Health, Social Services and Public Safety to note and satisfactorily address its concerns –

- The Bill relates to the introduction of a mandatory food hygiene rating scheme for relevant Northern Ireland food businesses.
- As such the Bill represents a 'new burden' on both businesses and local government.
- The Bill is overly prescriptive as regards Councils (who are expected to undertake most of the work in respect of implementing the scheme) with deadlines set out in the Bill (and not as is more normal practice in associated guidance). The same approach is not followed in respect of the FSA(NI), the other scheme partner.
- As the Bill represents a 'new burden' on Councils and is overly prescriptive in its requirements in respect of Councils, is FSA(NI) intent on resourcing Councils to the extent required to undertake this additional work? There is no indication of this to date.
- The proposals as currently drafted don't represent a partnership approach as the proposed scheme is to be solely under the FSA(NI) branding and unlike the present voluntary schemes Council co-branding is not to be permitted. This unsatisfactory situation must also be addressed.

Yours faithfully,



J. C. Michael,  
Director of Borough Services.

JCM/hm