

## Food sampling policy

Wyre Council recognises the important contribution food sampling makes to the protection of public health and the food law enforcement functions of the authority.

Officers from the Commercial Safety and Environmental Protection Sections of Environmental Health and Community Safety will be responsible for undertaking the food sampling functions of the council.

Wherever possible, food sampling activities will include current national, regional and locally co-ordinated programmes as well as samples taken as a result of:

- Complaints,
- Process monitoring,
- Inspections,
- Home Authority Principle activities,
- Special investigations,
- Imported foods.

The following factors will be taken into account when developing the Sampling Programme:

- Protection of the consumer through the enforcement of food legislation,
- Identifying foods that pose a hazard to the consumer because they contain significant levels of pathogenic bacteria,
- Assessing the microbiological quality of food manufactured, distributed or retailed in the area,
- Identifying contravention's and verifying compliance with food safety legislation, for example Food Safety Act 1990 and Food Safety and Hygiene (England) Regulations 2013,
- Helping determine whether advice or enforcement action would be appropriate where it is suspected that poor practices and procedures exist,
- Offering advice and guidance, if appropriate, on food hygiene matters.

Wyre Council will make provision to co-operate, and wherever possible take part, in all food sampling surveys it is requested to participate in. On occasions surveys may have limited relevance to the area as they involve foods not available locally (or in limited supply) or refer to types of food premises not sited in the area. In such cases we may have to limit the number of samples we submit to the laboratory or opt out of the survey entirely.