

Food Hygiene Rating (Wales) Act 2013 –
Delegated Authority
21 May 2014

Equality Impact Assessment

Food Hygiene Rating (Wales) Act 2013 – Delegated Authority

Contact: Emlyn Jones, Public Protection Manager

Updated: 21 May 2014

1. What type of proposal / decision is being assessed?

<Please select proposal type>

2. What is the purpose of this proposal / decision, and what change (to staff or the community) will occur as a result of its implementation?

To seek members approval to delegate additional powers to the Head of Planning and Public Protection who will then delegate downwards to the relevant officers, in relation to the introduction of the Food Hygiene Rating (Wales) Act 2013 and associated Regulations. In Wales there was an existing voluntary food hygiene rating scheme, this new Act creates a statutory duty on food businesses in Wales to display their Food Hygiene Rating System sticker. As existing Food Safety Officers have undertake inspections under the voluntary scheme the new mandatory scheme will not change their inspection work expect to check that Food buisnesses are displaying their score. The community should benefit from being able to see the displayed score for the premises in order then can make an informed choice regarding the food premises they wish to use.

3. Does this proposal / decision require an equality impact assessment? If no, please explain why.

Please note: if the proposal will have an impact on people (staff or the community) then an equality impact assessment **must** be undertaken

No	The proposal within this report is to seek members approval to delegate powers in order that the local authority can execrcise its statutory duties to comply with the new Food Hygiene Rating (Wales) Act 2013. However below I have include for your information extracted information from the Equality Impact Assessment within the Bill Draft Regulatory Impact Assessment, for full document please see link; Food Hygiene Rating (Wales) Bill http://wales.gov.uk/consultations/healthsocialcare/food/?lang=en
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4. Please provide a summary of the steps taken, and the information used, to carry out this assessment, including any engagement undertaken

(Please refer to section 1 in the toolkit for guidance)

Currently, the voluntary scheme requires ratings to be published on the FSA national website. The requirement for the mandatory display of hygiene ratings at the food business premises will reduce inequalities in Wales for those people who do not have access to the internet (30 percent of people in Wales). Having a food hygiene rating displayed at food establishments that can be easily seen by the consumer is an effective way of ensuring that all have equality of access to information. The equality of access to information also has a positive impact on age discrimination as 73 percent of people aged over 65 do not use the internet and are more vulnerable to food borne disease (according to Consumer Focus Wales).

The mandatory scheme is not considered to have a significant impact on disability; however, consideration of the positioning of the food hygiene rating Sticker provided by local authorities will need to comply with existing requirements in this area. The training needs of food business operators during the transitional period from a voluntary to a mandatory scheme will have disability impacts for example the choice of venue to deliver the training.

To meet impacts on race equality, the delivery of the mandatory scheme will require consideration of a variety of languages as part of the development of training and promotional material. For the enforcement of the FHRS, where inspections need to be carried out in languages other than that of the inspecting officer, the local authority need to make a provision in advance of the planned inspection. These arrangements are already in place under the voluntary scheme.

5. Will this proposal / decision have a positive impact on any of the protected characteristics (age; disability; gender-reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation)?

(Please refer to section 1 in the toolkit for a description of the protected characteristics)

There is no evidence to indicate a differential impact for Gender and Gender Reassignment, Religion and Belief and Non-Belief, Sexual Orientation, Pregnancy and Maternity or Civil Partnerships.

6. Will this proposal / decision have a disproportionate negative impact on any of the protected characteristics (age; disability; gender-reassignment; marriage and civil partnership;

pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation)?

There is no evidence to indicate a differential impact for Gender and Gender Reassignment, Religion and Belief and Non-Belief, Sexual Orientation, Pregnancy and Maternity or Civil Partnerships.

7. Has the proposal / decision been amended to eliminate or reduce any potential disproportionate negative impact? If no, please explain why.

No	This is a statutory duty upon the local authority, however as advised above existing arrangements are already in place under the current voluntary scheme.
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8. Have you identified any further actions to address and / or monitor any potential negative impact(s)?

Yes	Keep under review the needs of different languages spoken by Food Business Operators and ensure that Officers are updates of existing arrangements in place to assist them with any languages issues.
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Action(s)	Owner	By when?
Communication - Languages	Glesni Owen	01 July 2014
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9. Declaration

Every reasonable effort has been made to eliminate or reduce any potential disproportionate impact on people sharing protected characteristics. The actual impact of the proposal / decision will be reviewed at the appropriate stage.

Review Date:	6 months
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Name of Lead Officer for Equality Impact Assessment	Date
Glesni Owen	21 May 2014

Please note you will be required to publish the outcome of the equality impact assessment if you identify a substantial likely impact.