



STOCKPORT
METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council

Food Hygiene Rating Scheme (FHRS)

POLICY

April 2024 (revised)

Local Authorities have a duty to enforce the Food Safety Act 1990 within their boundary. Food hygiene inspections are undertaken in accordance with the Food Law Code of Practice.

Following an inspection an officer will, as per the current Food Law Code of Practice, determine a food hygiene intervention score which calculates when the next inspection will be due. The score is based on an assessment of the following criteria;

1. Food type and method of handling.
2. Method of possessing.
3. Consumers at risk.
4. Vulnerable Group
5. **Food hygiene and safety procedures compliance**
6. **Structural compliance**
7. **Confidence in management/control systems.**
8. Risk of contamination of food.

The Food Hygiene Ratings Scheme (the Scheme)

Stockport Council is committed to publishing food hygiene inspection results of Stockport food businesses by publishing a food hygiene rating. We participate in the Food Standards Agency's national Food Hygiene Ratings Scheme (the Scheme).

The Scheme aims to improve food safety and hygiene standards among businesses providing food and drink to customers living in, working in or visiting Stockport. The objectives of the Scheme are to;

- provide customers with access to information to let them to make an informed choice about where to eat in the district
- provide positive encouragement for businesses to improve their standards of food hygiene.
- promote transparency and consistency in food hygiene inspections

The Scheme applies to businesses which supply food directly to consumers (unless low risk food only and the business is not generally recognised as a food business) including restaurants, takeaways, hotels,, cafes, staff canteens, care homes, sandwich shops, delicatessen, schools and retailers.

Food Hygiene Rating

The Food Hygiene Rating (FHR) is derived from the scores for criteria 5, 6 and 7 above as these are under the control of the food business. In most cases, the business will be notified of its rating at the time of inspection and provided with a window sticker and/wall sticker. Notification will be within 14 days when not given at the time of inspection. In both cases, notification will be in writing. The rating is published at www.ratings.food.gov.uk and will stand until the next inspection due is carried out (between 6 months and 2 years later), the food business requests a re-visit to re-score (within 3 months of their request) or officers change the rating if standards deteriorate.

Use of The Ratings Stickers

Only one rating – the most recent one – can be displayed at any point in time. Any use of the stickers and other material that may be deemed as misleading the public (e.g. a false higher rating, continued display of an old higher rating, use of a rating after a change in business ownership) could constitute an offence under the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008. The stickers remain the property of Stockport Council and all rights are reserved.

Appeals

If a food business operator (FBO) is unhappy with the rating they may speak to the inspecting officer informally in the first instance. If the FBO still disputes the rating then they can lodge an appeal in writing within 21 days of notification of the score.

A formal appeal will be considered by a lead food officer or a designated deputy and the decision communicated to the FBO within 21 days of receipt. During this time the rating on the website will appear as 'awaiting publication'.

Right to Reply

This allows the FBO to tell people about the improvements they have made following the last rating visit. All comments will be vetted before they are placed on the website to ensure they are true.

Request for a re-visit

An FBO can request a re-visit for the purposes of re-rating if they have taken action to rectify the non-compliances identified at the time of inspection.

There is a non-refundable charge of £185, payable in advance, for this service and the re-rating visit will be carried out, unannounced, within 3 months of receipt of payment. We will not take payment until we have checked that applications provide sufficient information.

Following a re-visit for re-rating purposes, the business will be given a 'new' food hygiene rating based on the level of compliance found at the time of the re-visit. FBOs should be aware that the new rating could be higher, lower or remain the same as that at the initial inspection. The new rating will be published at www.ratings.food.gov.uk

Policy Review

Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council will maintain this policy under review to ensure the contents are still relevant and to take account of any changes to the Food Law Code of Practice and, or amendments to the Scheme.