

GUIDANCE FOR APPEALS FOR FOOD BUSINESSES

FOOD HYGIENE RATING

What is the purpose of the appeal process?

Following a hygiene inspection of your premises by a food safety officer, you will be told in writing, either at the time or within 14 days (this includes weekends and public holidays), what your food hygiene rating is.

If you think that the rating is wrong or unfair, in other words it does not reflect the hygiene standards at the time of inspection, you can appeal against this.

What should I do if I want to appeal my food hygiene rating?

It is a good idea to speak informally first of all to the food safety officer that undertook the inspection of your premises. You will be given their contact details when you are notified about your rating. This will help you to understand how your rating was worked out and to see if you can resolve the matter without having to appeal.

Following that, if you still think the rating given is wrong or unfair, you can lodge an appeal. To do this, you should complete the standard appeal form and send this to Armagh City and District Council's Senior Environmental Health Officer for food. You will be given their contact details when you are notified about your rating.

How long do I have to appeal?

You must lodge your appeal in writing (you can send an email) within 14 days (this includes weekends and public holidays) of being notified of your food hygiene rating. You will be told the deadline for appealing when you are notified about your rating.

If you do not appeal within this time, Armagh City and District Council will publish your food hygiene rating online at food.gov.uk/ratings.

What happens next and when will I know the result?

If you lodge an appeal, the following site food.gov.uk/rating will show that your food hygiene rating is 'awaiting publication'. The Senior Environmental Health Officer for food will review your case (in some circumstances a further visit to your premises may be required). You will be notified of the result within a maximum of seven days from the date that the appeal was lodged and your hygiene rating will then be published online at food.gov.uk/ratings.

What if I don't agree with the outcome of the appeal?

You can challenge Armagh City and District Council's decision by judicial review.