

16 May 2003

Mr Bob Pilling
Food Standards Agency
Local Authority Enforcement Support Division
Room 411c, Aviation House
125 Kingsway
LONDON
WC2B 6NH

Dear Mr Pilling

**The Society of Food Hygiene Technology's Response on
Consultation Food Safety Act 1990 Code of Practice**

Thank you for the opportunity you have given the Society to review the aforementioned Code. Our general comments are provided below and in detail in the attached document.

The Society is supportive of the Code, especially the reduction of twenty codes into one which should provide a more streamlined framework for enforcement together with greater transparency.

The Society also supports the new format of the Code, including the inclusion of inter-authority matters, communications on food alerts, enforcement approach and the new chapters, etc.

Posting of the code on the FSA website has been a positive move and will allow for easier access to updates as and when they arrive in the future.

We have noted that the inspection frequencies have increased, particularly with regard to approved premises, which we assume is in line with increasing publicity associated with meat fraud and the associated risks.

The Society would also appreciate inclusion in any future consultation, should the Code be reviewed again, especially in light of changes to European regulations and HACCP training for caterers.

For your information, all SOFHT members were made aware of the consultation document and period and the draft code has been circulated to all Council Members. The Society's Council Members represent a broad church of opinion from food manufacturers, small businesses, supermarkets, consultants, trainers and suppliers of products and services to the industry. However, as a Society, we talk in a broader manner rather than merely from a particular technical or political viewpoint which we hope will assist you.

We have attempted to be as constructive as possible in our comments and appreciate that not all of our comments may necessarily be incorporated into the final document but hope you can include as many as possible. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact the Society, especially if any of our comments require clarification.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sedgwick". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S'.

ANDREW SEDGWICK
Chairman