

## News Release

# Consumer watchdog welcomes scheme to give public information about food inspections

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The Scottish Consumer Council welcomes the announcement by the Food Standards Agency of a pilot scheme to make hygiene inspection reports of food premises available to the public.

The SCC has actively campaigned for just such a scheme, based on the findings of its own consumer research. It strongly believes the scheme will benefit consumers and will increase public confidence in food safety.

Mary Lawton, the SCC Food Policy Manager said: *"The SCC has been campaigning since 2004 for information on hygiene inspections in Scotland to be made public.*

*People should know about the hygiene standards of food outlets and be able to make informed choices about where to eat or buy food. We have been working closely with the FSA in Scotland and have been part of the steering group involved in setting up this scheme. We are delighted that it is now being launched.*

*Food businesses that are well run have nothing to fear from such a system and the public has much to gain from finding out about this information. These measures will help to improve food safety and increase public confidence in food related businesses."*

Ends

About the Scottish Consumer Council

The Scottish Consumer Council was set up by the government in 1975 to promote the interests of consumers, particularly those who experience disadvantage in society. While producers and suppliers of goods and

services are usually well organised when protecting their own interests, individual consumers very often are not. The people we represent are consumers of all kinds: they may be council tenants, patients, parents, solicitors' clients, public transport users, or simply shoppers in a supermarket. We speak up for them by communicating with the professions, industry, business, local authorities and central government, using careful research and persuasive lobbying.