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Dear Jonathan

I write to request your support in seeking to change the current food hygiene law in England, which does not require mandatory display of food hygiene rating stickers in food businesses.

At a recent meeting of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee we were informed that the Food Standards Agency introduced a national food hygiene rating scheme to allow consumers of food in the UK to easily see whether the restaurant, takeaway, school, retailer, supermarket or mobile food trader, etc. They want to purchase food from is compliant with food hygiene regulations. If a food business has a 5 rating, the consumer can be reassured the food served at that establishment is likely to be safe to eat. At the other end of the scale, they could choose to avoid food businesses where the rating is a 0 or 1. It was agreed I should write to you in my then capacity as Chairman to ask you to raise the matter in Parliament.

The other benefit of the food hygiene rating scheme is that the food business operators themselves are able to see how their competitors rate, and, as they want as many customers as possible, this is a driver for compliance with good food safety practices and therefore a higher rating.

I am both surprised and disappointed that, while in Wales and Northern Ireland, food businesses **MUST** display their ratings in a prominent position such as a front door or window, whatever their rating is, at all times – in England this is not the case. Food businesses in Wales and Northern Ireland who do not display a sticker or display the wrong rating are issued with a fine.

I urge you to campaign for an alignment of all UK legislation which requires all food businesses in England to display their food hygiene rating sticker, as I firmly believe this will lead to safer food and a more informed, and therefore better, choice for all consumers.

Best regards
Ian

Councillor Ian Johnson
Woking Borough Councillor



2005-2006
Sustainable Energy
2007-2008
Promoting Sustainable
Communities Through
the Planning Process
2008-2009
Tackling Climate Change



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