

Freedom of Information Request

Thank you for your email of 26 April 2012 in which you have requested information regarding food safety inspections. Specifically, you have requested the following:

“Can I have a list of the premises in Croydon borough (name and address) that have failed food safety inspections between January 1, 2011 and March 31, 2012?”

Can I have the reason they failed and the outcome of what they did to rectify the problem?”

Your request has been considered under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and I can confirm that this information is not available as such, because there is no “pass” or “fail” in relation to inspections.

There is a risk based approach. Premises are inspected/rated according to a risk rating system, which is contained in The Food Standards Agency (FSA) Code of Practice. All food businesses, including Restaurants, are inspected and given scores for various aspects of their business, such as food safety, structure and cleaning, and confidence in management.

We take action according to our findings, having regard to our enforcement policy and professional guidelines etc. This might include advice, guidance, letters, notices or even legal action such as prosecution for food hygiene offences. However, there is pass or fail definition.

These ratings are in the public domain. We participate in the National Food Hygiene Rating Scheme, which means that the scores are sent to the FSA and are converted into a rating from 0 to 5 (0 being “urgent improvement necessary” and 5 being “very good”). Ratings can be seen on the FSA website at the following link:

<http://ratings.food.gov.uk/Welcome.aspx>

The only caveat is that some premises will not be on there yet, if they have not had an inspection since the scheme was introduced. – I have just checked and at the moment there are 1973 premises on the FSA website, out of a total of 2880 on our database.

No two inspections are the same. We send hundreds of letters, serve notices etc asking businesses to take action to remedy any problems found. We revisit where necessary, to check that these problems have been rectified. If we close a premises using our legal powers then we will not let them reopen until matters have been addressed.

If you are dissatisfied with the way the council has handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act you may ask for an internal review. This should be submitted to us within 40 working days of this response. You can do this by outlining the details of your complaint by:

Email: information@croydon.gov.uk

Writing: Complaint Resolution Team
London Borough of Croydon
Taberner House
Park Lane
Croydon, CR9 3JS

Any requests received after the 40 working day time limit will be considered only at the discretion of the council.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely

Information Coordinator