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19th July 2012

Fay Buckle
Health and Social Care Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Dear Ms Buckle

RE: Food Hygiene Rating (Wales) Bill

Further to our evidence session on the above topic; FSB Wales would like to provide clarification on its position around some aspects of the Food Hygiene Rating (Wales) Bill.

Firstly, FSB Wales welcomes the serious consideration given by the committee to our evidence, particularly around the need for businesses to be supported in order to improve their rating and the importance of consistency in applying food hygiene ratings to food operators across Wales.

The Committee requested further information regarding the make-up of FSB Wales members involved in the focus group. For obvious data protection reasons, FSB Wales does not disclose the names of individuals or companies involved, however a list of their local authority area and hygiene rating is enclosed. Please note thirteen participants have current food hygiene ratings, a further five do not as they are involved in business to business trade. A consultant to the hospitality and tourism industry was also included, who is an FSB Wales member. All apart from the consultant were selected at random without reference to their food hygiene rating.

FSB Wales would like to clarify its position on the evidence base for the inclusion of business to business trade within the proposed mandatory scheme. FSB Wales recognises that business to business trade already complies with food hygiene regulation and that the introduction of a mandatory food hygiene rating scheme would not increase the regulatory burden. However, FSB Wales is not aware of any evidence that suggests that business to business traders on the whole perform poorly in terms of food hygiene and that the introduction of a mandatory rating scheme would lead to better outcomes.

FSB Wales believes that before a new scheme is introduced to an additional category of food operator, evidence should be compiled that assesses the current state of affairs and should be published for public debate. It is our assertion that the Welsh Government should not assume that legislation is the best course of action without recourse to evidence that suggests that it is so.

I hope you find the comments of FSB Wales of interest and I would be happy to clarify any issues further should the Committee require it.

Yours sincerely



Iestyn Davies

Head of External Affairs

Federation of Small Businesses Wales



Federation of Small Businesses Ffederasiwn y Busnesau Bach

The UK's Leading Business Organisation
Mudiad Busnes Arweiniol y DU

Food Hygiene Rating (Wales) Bill

Focus group participants

FSB Branch	Food Hygiene Rating
Conwy	3
Gwynedd	Business to Business
Conwy	5
Flintshire	3
Conwy	4
Powys	0
Conwy	3
Powys	Business to Business
RCT	Business to Business
Pembrokeshire	5
Ceredigion	3
Neath Port Talbot	4
Swansea	5
Swansea	5
Cardiff	5
Blaenau Gwent	Business to Business
Neath Port Talbot	Business to Business
Cardiff	4
Swansea	Consultant
Participants	19