

Mr. Dilwyn Williams  
Chief Executive  
Gwynedd Council

**SENT BY EMAIL**

11 April 2018

Dear Mr. Williams,

**RE: FOOD STANDARDS AGENCY AUDIT OF FOOD LAW  
ENFORCEMENT SERVICE: GWYNEDD COUNCIL  
Follow-up Audit Visit 28 February 2018**

In February 2016, Gwynedd Council was subject to a full audit of its food law enforcement service by the Food Standards Agency (FSA), which identified 34 recommendations for improvement. An action plan, prepared by the authority, to address these recommendations was subsequently agreed.

A further visit was carried out on 28 February 2018 to assess the authority's progress in delivering against the recommendations arising from the audit. I would like to take the opportunity to thank your service managers and officers that facilitated and participated in this visit.

The attached audit action plan has been updated to indicate the progress the authority has made towards addressing the recommendations. Auditors confirmed that effective action had been taken to implement 14 of the 34 recommendations and that some progress in addressing a further 14 recommendations had been achieved.

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In respect of the of the outstanding recommendations, the FSA has concerns that the authority has not made any progress in these areas. Two of these recommendations are fundamental to the effective planning and delivery of food official controls. During the visit it was noted that the financial and staffing resources allocated to the service has been reduced. This reduction in resource is likely to have a significant impact on the authority's ability to meet its statutory obligations set-out in the Food Law Code of Practice (the Code) or to fulfil its duties under the Food Hygiene Rating (Wales) Act 2013.

The authority's Service Plan, which is an important document for ensuring statutory requirements and national priorities are addressed and delivered locally has not been subject to approval at Member, Member forum or suitably delegated senior officer level. Service Plans and associated reviews should be approved at the relevant level in the interest of local transparency and accountability.

You will recall that Richard Bowen, Director, FSA Wales (Interim) wrote to you on the 29 November 2017 and 25 January 2018 regarding the authority's shortfall in the delivery of planned food hygiene interventions. I am also aware that on the 10 October 2017 the Communities Scrutiny Committee considered a report on the FSA's Audit of Gwynedd Council's Food Law Enforcement Service. The report specifically highlighted concerns at paragraphs 2.7 and 2.8 regarding the authority's inability to comply with the Code due to the level of resource available to the service.

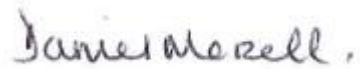
The FSA previously raised concerns about the authority's performance in delivering its food law enforcement service in October 2014, resulting in senior FSA officials attending a meeting of the relevant Scrutiny Committee of the Council. At that time the FSA was assured that action would be taken and follow-up activity confirmed this had been the case.

Such is the FSA's concern about the authority's direction of travel that Richard Bowen and I would like to meet with you, the Head of Environment Department and the relevant Cabinet Member to discuss this further. Please could you advise me of some dates when it would be convenient for this meeting to take place.

Please note I have copied this letter to your service head and managers with responsibility for food hygiene and food standards services who have been in communication with officials at the FSA regarding this matter.

If you would like to discuss the content of this letter or require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me by telephone on 02920 678902 or email at: [daniel.morelli@food.gov.uk](mailto:daniel.morelli@food.gov.uk)

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel Morelli". The signature is written in a cursive style with a trailing comma.

Daniel Morelli  
Head of Local Authority Support and Audit

cc. Dafydd Wyn Williams, Head of Environment Department  
Gareth Jones, Senior Manager Planning and Public Protection  
Alun Evans, Public Protection Manager

Richard Bowen, Director, FSA Wales (Interim)  
Craig Sewell, Auditor, FSA Wales  
Jamie McMeeking, Auditor, FSA Wales  
Rebecca Jones, Auditor, FSA Wales