

East Lothian Council

FOI Ref: 2018/549677

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, Please tell me:

How many times have you had complaints after someone has had an allergic reaction to food or drink in a food or drink outlet in your area in:

- **2017-2018**
- **2016-2017**
- **2015-2016**

2015/16	Two
2016/17	Two
2017/18	Two

For each instance please let us know:

- *What reaction the person buying the food or drink had?*
- *Was it down to mislabelling or inadequate labelling?*
- *Was it down to contamination?*
- *What was the food or drink that was bought?*
- *What outlet it was bought from?*
- *The date it was bought?*
- *What was the ingredient missed off of/misrepresented on the food or drink's labelling?*
- *What action was taken by trading standards?*
- *Did the instance result in the death of the person who consumed food/drink?*

Although East Lothian Council (ELC) holds further information about these incidents, it is exempt from disclosure under Section 38(1)(b) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. This exemption relates to personal information. When information is released as the result of a freedom of information request it is technically released to the general public, and not just to the person or organisation making the information request. East Lothian Council is a small, rural authority and there have been so few incidents that we consider releasing further information would lead to the identification of the individuals involved.

As regards to the action taken, however, samples of food would be taken from the premises of the Food Business Operator (FBO) where applicable. During further visits to the FBO, allergen management within the company would be an area raised with the FBO. In addition, this is a matter that is routinely discussed when ELC officers carry out inspections.

None of the incidents resulted in the death of the person who consumed the food/drink.