

## Members' Library Service Request Form

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Originator	Derek Oliver, Service Manager - Protective Services
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Document Title	Food Crime Surveillance 2016-17

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**REPORT TO:** Members' Library Service

**BY:** Service Manager – Protective Services

**SUBJECT:** Food Crime Surveillance 2016-17

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## **1 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to make Members aware of targeted food crime surveillance that was undertaken by the Environmental Health Service in 2016-17.
- 1.2 The surveillance was considered an important activity in providing public assurance in food offered for sale within East Lothian, as well as contributing to the international initiative coordinated by INTERPOL and Europol, Operation OPSON VI.

## **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That Members note the food crime surveillance undertaken within East Lothian and its positive outcomes for local consumers and the business community.

## **3 BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The Environmental Health Service undertakes food crime surveillance and investigations on a routine basis through the operations of its Business Regulation team.
- 3.2 OPSON is an annual joint Europol-INTERPOL operation targeting counterfeit and substandard food and drink, as well as the organised crime networks behind this illicit trade. The operation is supported by customs, police and national food regulatory bodies in addition to partners from the private sector. Since its first edition in 2011, the number of countries taking part in OPSON has grown every year.
- 3.3 Operation OPSON VI resulted in the seizure of 9,800 tonnes, over 26.4 million litres, and 13 million units/items worth an estimated EUR 230 million of potentially harmful food and beverages ranging from every day products such as alcohol, mineral water, seasoning cubes, seafood and olive oil, to luxury goods such as caviar.
- 3.4 Sixty one countries (21 EU Member States) took part in operation OPSON VI, which was carried out for the sixth time in a row and saw an increase in participating countries (57 countries in 2016). Each participating country implemented a national operational phase between 1<sup>st</sup> December 2016 and 31<sup>st</sup>

March 2017. More than 50,000 checks were carried out at shops, markets, airports, seaports and industrial estates.

- 3.5 Within East Lothian, the OPSON remit was to investigate chicken and lamb traceability and almond / peanut substitution in restaurants and takeaways. Both of these practices not only offer real potential for fraudulent activity with financial gain, where cheaper products are substituted and sold as a more expensive product but also have significant potential to cause harm, i.e. allergic reaction to peanut protein.
- 3.6 The OPSON day of action was 30<sup>th</sup> January 2017, where fifteen samples were obtained from six food businesses across East Lothian. Six lamb korma curries were sampled for meat speciation and the presence of peanut protein. Three samples of almond powder were obtained from the takeaways to test for peanut protein. Six additional samples were taken for the microbiological analysis for the accompanying rice dishes of the curries. Although analysis of the rice dishes was outwith the scope of OPSON, it was an efficient use of resource where the results would provide an indication of food safety preparation practices within the businesses.
- 3.7 Following on from Operation OPSON, the Environmental Health Service undertook a programme to sample ready-made value meals, with a focus on meat speciation and description. The aim was to sample food from six major supermarkets located within East Lothian. Fourteen different samples were obtained in total.
- 3.8 Thirteen samples were submitted for meat speciation; and 1 sample was submitted for fish species identification.
- 3.9 All meat speciation samples were analysed for the presence of the following DNA: chicken, beef, goat, horse, pig, sheep and turkey.

## RESULTS & OUTCOMES

- 3.10 Sampling undertaken within six food businesses across East Lothian as part of Operation OPSON VI:

MEAL SAMPLED	MEAT DNA	PEANUT PROTEIN SCREENING	RICE MICRO RESULTS
Lamb Tikka Massalum	Ovine (sheep)	<3ppm <b>Satisfactory</b>	N/A
Boiled Rice	N/A	N/A	<b>Satisfactory</b>
Lamb Rhana Gosht	Ovine and Bovine <b>Analyst suggests levels attributable to contamination</b>	<3ppm <b>Satisfactory</b>	N/A
Boiled Rice	N/A	N/A	<b>Satisfactory</b>
Lamb Korma	Ovine (sheep)	<3ppm <b>Satisfactory</b>	N/A
Boiled Rice	N/A	N/A	<b>Satisfactory</b>
Lamb Korma	Ovine and Bovine <b>Analyst suggests levels attributable to contamination</b>	>20ppm <b>Peanut detected</b> <b>Unsatisfactory</b>	N/A
Blanched Almonds	N/A	<3ppm <b>Satisfactory</b>	N/A
Boiled Rice	N/A	N/A	<b>Satisfactory</b>
Lamb Korma	Ovine (sheep)	<3ppm <b>Satisfactory</b>	N/A
Almond Powder	N/A	<3ppm <b>Satisfactory</b>	N/A
Boiled Rice	N/A	N/A	<b>Satisfactory</b>
Lamb Badami Korma	Ovine (sheep)	<3ppm <b>Satisfactory</b>	N/A
Almond Powder	N/A	<3ppm <b>Satisfactory</b>	N/A
Boiled Rice	N/A	N/A	<b>Satisfactory</b>

- 3.11 One sample was deemed unsatisfactory (highlighted in pink) owing to the significant presence of peanut protein in the food dish. The information displayed to consumers for this lamb korma dish stated that only almonds were used. Officers discovered that the business was using almonds, however it was being augmented a cheaper “Nut Mix”. Sampling analysis found that this mix was 100% peanut.
- 3.12 Warning notices within the premises and an amendment to the menu have since been implemented to advise consumers of peanut in products.
- 3.13 The presence of Bovine (beef) DNA in the lamb dishes was at a very low level that the Analyst commented that it was likely attributed to contamination as opposed to deliberate adulteration. Contamination can occur either at the processing and supply of meat stage or during preparation of the dish within the business premises.
- 3.14 Ready-meal sampling undertaken within six major supermarket retailers across East Lothian produced the following results:

PRODUCT	MEAT / FISH COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	DNA DETECTED	RESULT
Beef Lasagne	France	Beef	<b>Satisfactory</b>
Mince Round	Scotland	Beef	<b>Satisfactory</b>
Scotch Pies	Scotland	Beef & Chicken	<b>Satisfactory</b>
Beef Lasagne	Ireland	Beef	<b>Satisfactory</b>
Beef Lasagne	England	Beef	<b>Satisfactory</b>
Bolognese	Ireland	Beef	<b>Satisfactory</b>
Beef Lasagne	UK	Beef	<b>Satisfactory</b>
Cod Fish Fingers	Poland	Cod	<b>Satisfactory</b>
Moroccan Lamb	UK	Sheep	<b>Satisfactory</b>
Beef Lasagne	Ireland	Beef	<b>Satisfactory</b>
Steak Pie	Ireland	Beef	<b>Satisfactory</b>
Lamb Rogan josh	UK	Sheep	<b>Satisfactory</b>
S Giovanni Lasagne	Belgium	Beef & Pig	<b>Satisfactory</b>
Beef Lasagne	UK	Beef	<b>Satisfactory</b>

- 3.15 All fourteen samples were satisfactory and were consistent with their descriptions. This confirms that no deliberate adulteration had occurred and indicates that no unintentional contamination had occurred during the manufacturing process prior to sale.

#### 4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Recommendations will contribute towards the East Lothian Plan (SOA - Outcome 1 East Lothian has a growing sustainable economy).

[http://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/downloads/file/9787/the\\_east\\_lothian\\_plan\\_single\\_outcome\\_agreement\\_2013](http://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/downloads/file/9787/the_east_lothian_plan_single_outcome_agreement_2013)

#### 5 INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 5.1 The subject of this report does not affect the wellbeing of the community or have a significant impact on equality, the environment or economy.

## 6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Financial – There are no financial implications arising from this report.
- 6.2 Personnel – There are no staffing implications arising from this report as Environmental Health Officers and Food & Safety Officers undertake food crime surveillance as a matter of routine during business interventions.
- 6.3 Other – None.

## 7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

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