

Introducing...

Kathryn Baker has recently joined the Food Standards Agency Northern Ireland's Eat Safe Team as a Senior Food Hygiene Officer in the General Food Hygiene Unit.



Kathryn qualified as a Environmental Health Officer at the University of Ulster and before gaining a post at Wokingham District Council in Berkshire where she worked for two years. Kathryn returned to Northern Ireland working as a Lead Food Officer for Ards Borough Council for four years. She joined the Agency after spending four years as a Senior Environmental Health Officer for the Eastern Group Environmental Health Committee.

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**FOOD
STANDARDS
AGENCY**

**NORTHERN
IRELAND**

Eat Safe at The Cuan



Eat Safe Award holder Peter McErlean shows off The Cuan's famous seafood

The Cuan Licensed Guest Inn in Strangford, Co. Down was recently presented with the prestigious Eat Safe Award from the Food Standards Agency Northern Ireland (FSANI), in conjunction with Down District Council.

Gerry McCurdy, Deputy Director, FSANI said, "It is very encouraging to see more businesses in the area achieving the Eat Safe Award. I would like to offer congratulations to those involved, as making the grade for the Eat Safe award involves ongoing commitment to food hygiene right across a catering business. The award is designed to enable caterers to let their customers know that they put hygiene at the top of their list of priorities."

He continued, "The standard set for the award is high, and we would also like to thank the Environmental Health team at Down District Council for their efforts in identifying businesses that meet the Eat Safe standard during their

programme of inspections. We would also urge other food businesses to strive for the award. Any interested parties can find additional information, and a full list of all the restaurants that hold the Eat Safe award, on our dedicated website, www.eatsafe.gov.uk "

Peter McErlean, proprietor of The Cuan said, "Our motivation was to implement a series of processes that would ensure that our customers would enjoy the best produce in its best condition. In receiving the Eat Safe Award, The Cuan has not only met its legal obligation to food safety but has gone significantly beyond this. This achievement sets a new standard province-wide and we hope other establishments will follow suit thus continuing to improve the experience of eating out in Northern Ireland. I would like to commend my staff on their thorough and consistent approach to achieving this Eat Safe Award and maintaining the high standard which it sets."

Eat Safe Criteria Change

The Eat Safe assessment criteria has changed slightly as all catering businesses are now required to meet higher food hygiene standards in respect of food safety management systems based on HACCP principles, due to the introduction of the new food hygiene legislation on 1st January 2006. This shouldn't affect any current Eat Safe award holders. In addition, training in the application of the HACCP principles will also be included in the criteria.

Training does not have to be achieved by sitting a formal training course. Where businesses are coached on their relevant HACCP tool, this requirement would be met by demonstrating that they fully understand the requirements by implementing them in full.

For more information on the criteria change, please email northernireland@eatsafe.gov.uk or telephone (028) 9041 7737

What is Eat Safe?

Eat Safe is an award scheme which promotes excellence in food hygiene. It is given by EHOs to restaurants that operate to standards above those currently required by law.

Eat Safe Advocate: Jackie Barr



Department, food safety and nutrition, housing, environmental protection, health and safety and public health.

How many Eat Safe accredited premises are in your area?

There are currently 11 premises throughout the Borough. The restaurant at the Causeway Hospital was the first premises in the Borough to gain Eat Safe status.

Do you have any special promotional methods for the Eat Safe Scheme or is it a case of your EHO's considering Eat Safe on inspection of catering premises?

EHOs consider Eat Safe on each inspection on merit before recommending that the establishment be put forward for inspection under the award criteria. Additionally, Coleraine Borough Council promote the Eat Safe Award through the Council website. Feedback from catering businesses currently in the scheme has shown that holding the award has helped bring great benefits to their business, which in turn helps the Borough. However, I do feel that Coleraine, and many of the other Northern Ireland councils could be more proactive in getting a better response on the scheme from caterers.

How important is Eat Safe for your Council?

Eat Safe is the only hygiene award we encourage our food businesses to attain. Coleraine Borough Council is committed to promoting tourism and improved food hygiene standards in our Borough, and where necessary actively promoting the Eat Safe Award.

How do catering businesses benefit from having an Eat Safe Award?

Both businesses and consumers alike can reap great benefits from this award. Businesses should use the attainment of the award as an advertisement to customers that they take the utmost care in the hygienic preparation and cooking of the food they serve. This is why we encourage all award holders to make the most of the merchandise provided by the Food Standards Agency Northern Ireland, for example, placing their certificate somewhere customers can see it and also putting the Eat Safe stickers in their windows to attract customers.

What benefits do customers receive from the Eat Safe Scheme?

Consumers are given the opportunity to make an informed choice about the premises they choose to eat in and the Award gives them the assurance that the food they eat in an Eat Safe premises has been prepared in a safe, clean environment.

Do you feel that there is room for expansion of the Scheme?

I believe that the range of businesses that the award is available to is sufficient but I believe that more publicity and awareness building is necessary. If the profile of the award is raised then businesses would be encouraged to attain the necessary standards and reap the rewards available.

Jackie Barr, Principal Environmental Health Officer at Coleraine Borough Council stops to chat to the Eat Safe team about how important she feels the Award scheme is to both catering businesses and consumers

Jackie, tell me how did you get to where you are today in your career.

From a young age, I always had a great passion for food and towards the end of my school education, I became very interested in food hygiene. I decided to leave Donegal, where I grew up, and pursue my studies in Dublin. I qualified as an EHO at the Dublin Institute of Technology and moved to England where I worked for five years at Tendring District Council. I returned to Northern Ireland to work for Coleraine Borough Council and in 2004, I was promoted to the my current post.

What are your main responsibilities as Principal EHO?

I am responsible for managing all core functions with the Council's Environmental Health

Competition Time!

Congratulations to Issue 7 competition winner **Julie-Anne Caughey** from Ards Borough Council who correctly identified that 24 out of the 26 district councils have Eat Safe businesses in their area.

For another chance to win a voucher offering £50 off a meal in an Eat Safe restaurant, have a look at the question below:

How many Eat Safe businesses are there in Northern Ireland?

a) 96 b) 139 c) 173

(Quick tip: the answer is in this newsletter!)

Please send your answers by email to esther.chartres@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk

or send them by post to:

Esther Chartres,
Food Standards Agency Northern Ireland,
Unit 10 a-c Clarendon Road,
Belfast, BT1 3BG.

All answers must be received by Friday 28th April 2006 and we will announce the winner in the next newsletter. Good luck!

The Eat Safe Team NEEDS YOU!

Calling all councils and food businesses - FSANI need your press releases! The Eat Safe website can be used as another promotional vehicle for award holders. All award holders are listed by county and full contact details are given for each premises. We can put your press releases and any relevant pictures on the website which will allow an infinite number of people to find out all about your business. For councils, putting your Eat Safe release on the website shows just how committed your EHOs are to the Eat Safe Award Scheme. All press releases or media enquiries on Eat Safe should be forwarded by email to elaine.doyle@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk or you can telephone Elaine on (028) 9041 7743

Carson's Catch an Eat Safe Award

Carson's Catch in Millisle became the latest business in the Borough of Ards to achieve an Eat Safe award and was recently presented with the accolade by Mayor of Ards, Councillor Terry Williams.

Carson's Catch has been given recognition that its standards of hygiene, cleanliness and food safety meet the stringent requirements for the quality food standard, Eat Safe, introduced by the Food Standards Agency Northern Ireland and administered locally by Ards Borough Council's Environmental Health service.

Eat Safe is designed to promote excellence in food hygiene in catering businesses across Northern Ireland. The kitchens come under close scrutiny, but in order to pass inspection, other areas from toilets to staff rooms must also meet the required high standards of hygiene. An assessment is also carried out of food safety risks and the controls in place to minimise them.

Owner of Carson's Catch, Alan Carson said, "I'm so proud to have been given this great accolade as it recognises the hard work put in by my staff and I, into making this restaurant one of the best in the province. We have a well established reputation far and wide for being one of the tastiest around and now we can boast to being one of the cleanest!"

Speaking about the award presentation, Kathryn Baker, FSANI, said, I am delighted that this



award has gone to such a deserving winner as Alan and his team. The Eat Safe scheme is proving to be a big hit in Northern Ireland as we currently have 173 award winners and this number is ever-increasing. Food businesses are seeing that an award like this makes a real difference to their balance sheets as customers are becoming more and more aware of the importance of food safety and hygiene."

"Any catering business which achieves the award has effectively gone above and beyond the standards required by legislation and has systems in place to meet the demands of the Eat Safe inspection programme," said Julie McAvoy, Environmental Health Officer, Ards Borough Council. "We don't expect large proportions of catering businesses to qualify for the award so we're delighted that Carson's Catch has done so and will now be able to offer its customers additional reassurance that hygiene, cleanliness and food safety are top priorities."

News from Scotland

Representatives of more than 50 Eat Safe Award establishments from across Scotland gathered to celebrate their success at the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall in November. The event – the first formal presentation of Eat Safe

Awards in Scotland – was attended by the Deputy Minister for Health and Community Care, Lewis Macdonald MSP, and compered by Scottish TV's Sarah Heaney.

Glasgow Royal Concert Hall – itself an Eat Safe Award recipient – was the ideal venue for the ceremony, during which the first 56 Eat Safe establishments in Scotland officially received their awards.

Speaking at the ceremony, the Director of FSA Scotland, George Paterson, said he was delighted with how well the scheme had been

received in Scotland to date. He said: "To have passed the milestone of over 50 Eat Safe Awards in Scotland in a relatively short period of time is a fantastic achievement and is testament to the positive and supportive way in which the scheme has been received by both the catering industry, Scottish Environmental Health Services and the general public.

"The ceremony provided us with a great opportunity to celebrate the success of the scheme so far, while encouraging even more establishments to work towards receiving the highly sought after Eat Safe Award. Throughout the country, there has been real enthusiasm for the Eat Safe Award and we have received very positive feedback from catering businesses, their customers and local authorities."

Is My Business Eligible for Eat Safe?

Since the Eat Safe award was launched, there has been significant demand for the scope of the scheme to be expanded. Initially the award was limited to restaurants where the public could buy and consume food on the premises. This has now been expanded to catering operations to which the public has access. The scheme is therefore open to:

- HOTELS
- RESTAURANTS
- CAFES
- PUBS SERVING FOOD
- TAKEAWAYS
- COFFEE SHOPS
- IN-STORE RESTAURANTS
- MOST HOSPITAL CANTEENS
- SOME WORKPLACE RESTAURANTS (WITH PUBLIC ACCESS E.G. DURING 'FACTORY TOURS')
- CATERING COLLEGE RESTAURANTS

Guesthouses, B&B accommodation, schools, day care nurseries, workplace restaurants to which the public do not have access, nursing/residential homes are not eligible for inclusion at present.

The Food Standards Agency is considering an expansion of the scope of the Eat Safe Award to include a wider number of catering establishments, as part of a review of all awards schemes, later this year. Details are still being finalised on this but we will let you know about this closer to the time, when firm details are available.

Looking for an Eat Safe Restaurant?

Check out the Eat Safe Award Finder at:

www.eatsafe.gov.uk

for a current list of all the Eat Safe restaurants in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Eat Safe Restaurants

RESTAURANT

CO. ANTRIM

The Academy Restaurant, UUC - School of Hotel, Leisure and Tourism, 17 Ballywillan Road, Portrush
Antrim Dining Room, UUC - 686 Shore Road, Newtownabbey
Bagel:bagel - 60 Donegal Street, Belfast
The Ballycarry Out - 11 Main Street, Ballycarry
Bar Burgundy - 15 Market Square East, Lisburn
Barnaby's - 153 Ballyrobert Road, Ballyclare
Bayview Hotel - 2 Bayhead Road, Portballintrae
Bentra Sandwich Bar - 686 Shore Road, Newtownabbey
BHS Restaurant - 24-26 Castle Place, Belfast
Burger King - 56 Donegall Place, Belfast
Bushfoot Restaurant - 50 Bushfoot Road, Portballintrae
Bushmills Inn - 9 Dunluce Road, Bushmills
Café Vaudeville - 25-29 Arthur Street, Belfast
Café DC, UUC - 686 Shore Road, Newtownabbey
Caffe Italia - 36 Hill Street, Belfast
Caffe Uno - 15 Lombard Street, Belfast
Carrick Dining Room - University of Ulster, Jordanstown, 686 Shore Road, Newtownabbey
Celebs - 35 Dublin Road, Belfast
Classic Cuisine - 24-26 Greenvale Street Ballymena
Conversations - QUBPEC, Stranmillis Gardens, Belfast
Corr's Corner - 315 Ballyclare Road, Glengormley
Devenish Complex - 37-9 Finaghy Road, North Belfast
Drumadoon House - 236 Frosses Road, Cloughmills
Dunluce Dining Room, UUC - School of Hotel, Leisure and Tourism, 17 Ballywillan Road, Portrush
Elms Halls of Residence - Queens Elms, 78 Malone Road, Belfast
Eurest - BT Services Division - 5 Lanyon Place, Belfast
The Factory - 10-14 Gresham Street, Belfast
Footprints Trading Ltd - 84A Colinnmill, Dunmurry, Belfast
Fountain Bar and Restaurant - 16 Fountain Street, Belfast
Gateway Restaurant - Moyle Hospital, Gloucester Avenue, Larne
Grapevine Restaurant - Whiteabbey Hospital, 95 Doagh Rd, Newtownabbey
Hampton Café - 14 Enterprise Business Park, Lisburn
Harry Ramsdens - Yorkgate Shopping Centre, Belfast
Hilton Hotel - 3 Lanyon Place, Belfast
Holiday Inn Express - 106 University Street, Belfast
Kentucky Fried Chicken - Albertbridge Road, Belfast
Kentucky Fried Chicken - Bow Street Mall Foodcourt, Lisburn
King's Head - 829 Lisburn Road, Belfast
La Cuisine Catering Co. - 648-652 Antrim Road, Belfast
La Cuisine Catering Co. - 21-23 Carrmonee Road, Glengormley
La Patisserie - 1 High Street, Ballymoney
La Tasca Restaurant Ltd - 8 Odyssey Pavilion, Queens Quay, Belfast
Lagan Valley Hospital Restaurant - 39 Hillsborough Road, Lisburn
Loughview Restaurant - Antrim Area Hospital, Bush Road, Antrim
Malone Golf Club - 240 Upper Malone Road, Belfast
Marks & Spencer Café - 1 Sprucefield Shopping Centre, 157 Hillsborough Road, Lisburn
McDonalds - 290A Antrim Road, Newtownabbey
McDonalds - Connswater, 2 Connswater Link, Belfast
McDonalds - 1 Hillsborough Road, Lisburn
McDonalds - Kennedy Way, Belfast
McDonalds - 5 Longwood Road, Newtownabbey
Mount Charles Island Restaurant - Island Civic Centre, Lisburn
Musgrave Park Hospital - 221 Stockmans Lane, Belfast
Oasis Café - Seven Towers Leisure Centre, Trostan Avenue, Ballymena
O'Brien's - Unit 3 St Georges Market, May Street, Belfast
OJ's Restaurant, North East Institute - Ballymena Campus, 2-52 Trostan Avenue, Ballymena
Oxford Exchange - 1st Floor, St. Georges Market, Oxford St, Belfast
Parliament Building Member Restaurant - Parliament Building, Stormont, Upp. N'ards Road, Belfast
Paul Connan Ltd - 2-4 Donegal Place, Belfast
Pizza Hut - 44-48 Dublin Road, Belfast
The Mug & Bean - 85 Wellington Street, Ballymena
The Point - 88 Bridge Street, Lisburn
Quizno's Sub - 11 Botanic Avenue, Belfast
Slemish Restaurant - Braid Valley Hospital, Cushendall Rd, Ballymena
Spoons Restaurant - The Royal Group of Hospitals, Grosvenor Rd, Belfast
SSP UK Rail - Central Station, East Bridge Street, Belfast
Starvo's - 9 Whiterock Drive, Belfast
Subway - 8 Callendar Street, Belfast
Taylor's Fish & Chip Shop - 25 Sloan Street, Lisburn
The Red Panda - Unit 2, Odyssey Pavilion, Belfast
Tuck Inn - 1 Main Street, Armoyle
W5 Coffee Shop - Odyssey Arena, 2 Queens Quay, Belfast
Wysner's Restaurant - 16 Ann Street, Ballycastle
V2 Go - Kiosk 4, The Food Court, Castlecourt, Royal Ave, Belfast
Zen Restaurant - 55-59 Adelaide Street, Belfast

CO. ARMAGH

Alcove Restaurant - Seagoe Industrial Estate, Portadown
Annie's - Unit 7, Mall Shopping Centre, Armagh
Bennetts Bar - 4-6 Mandeville Street, Portadown
C McKeever & Sons - 28-29 Woodhouse Street, Portadown
Café Rigmarole - 61b Main Street, Waringstown
Cookery Nook Coffee Shop - 41 High Street, Portadown
Craigavon Civic Centre - Lakeview Road, Craigavon
Debenhams - Rushmere Shopping Centre, Central Way, Craigavon
Edenmore Golf & Country Club - 70 Drumnabreele Rd, Magheralin
Esquires - Rushmere Shopping Centre, Craigavon
Esther's Coffee Shop - 20 Armagh Road, Portadown
Harmony Café - 19 Carn Road, Portadown
Herron's Country Fried Chicken - 110 Market Street, Tandragee
Loughside Café - Lough Neagh Discovery Centre, Annaloiste Rd, Craigavon
McDonalds - Rushmere Shopping Centre, Craigavon
O'Brien's Sandwich Bar - Rushmere Shopping Centre, Craigavon

RESTAURANT

CO. ARMAGH (Continued)

P&G Family Foods Restaurant - 11 Brownstown Road, Portadown
Sodexho, Coca Cola - 1 The Green, Lambeg, Lisburn
Sodexho, Craigavon Hospital - Craigavon Area Hospital, Lurgan Road, Craigavon
Sodexho, Lurgan Hospital - Sloan Street, Lurgan
Sodexho, Marlborough House - Marlborough House, Central Way, Craigavon
Superbites Takeaway - 29 O' Faich Square, Crossmaglen
The Embankment - 1 Derrymacash Road, Craigavon, Lurgan
The Head of the Road - Tartaraghan Road, Portadown
The Meal Machine - 1 Kernan Shops, Lurgan Road, Portadown
The Plough - 3 The Square, Hillsborough
The Shopper Restaurant - Rushmere Shopping Centre, Craigavon
Time Piece Restaurant - Dunnes Stores, High Street Mall, Portadown
Woodview Restaurant - 3 Cloghan Road, Armagh

CO. DOWN

Abbey Restaurant - North Down & Ards Institute of Further & Higher Education, Bangor
Age Concern North Down - 24 Hamilton Road, Bangor, Co Down
Arna Café - 42 Main Street, Moira
Aylesfort House - 44 Newry Road, Warrenpoint
Bangor Bay Inn - 10-12 Seacliff Road, Bangor
Boyd's Stores Ltd - Hill Street, Newry
Canal Court Hotel - Merchants Quay, Newry
Carson's Catch - 53 Main Street, Millisle
Daisy Hill Hospital Restaurant - 5 Hospital Road, Newry
Graduate Restaurant of Newry Institute - Patrick Street, Newry
Lapamanzi - 47 High Street, Holywood
McDonalds Bangor - 45 Bloomfield Shopping Centre, Bangor
M.A. Quail - 15 Newry Street, Banbridge
Millars Fish and Chips - Unit 2, 48 Donaghadee Road, Newtownards
Moira Drive Thru - 15 Main Street, Moira
Mr Chips - 4 Mill Street, Moira
Pit Stop - 26 Bridge Street, Killeel
Oasis Restaurant, Ulster Hospital - 700 Upper Newtownards Road, Dundonald
Rendevous - Unit 4, Rawdon Court, Main Street, Moira
Ricks Restaurant - Unit 7 Carryduff Centre, Church Road, Carryduff
Sainsbury's - The Quays, Newry
Scribbles - North Down & Ards Institute of Further & Higher Education, Bangor
Sodexho, E Volve - 1 Castle Park Road, Bangor
Sodexho, East Down Institute - Market Street, Downpatrick
Subway - 5 Bridge Street, Banbridge
SuperValu - 16 Banbridge Road, Dromore
The Bank Bar - Trevor Hill, Newry
The Cuan Licensed Guest Inn - 6-12 The Square, Strangford
The Frying Squad - 9 Balloo Road, Bangor
The Old Inn - 13-15 Main Street, Crawfordsburn
The Pheasant - 410 Upper Ballynahinch Road, Annahilt
The Quays - 81 New Harbour Road, Portavogie
The Willows Training Restaurant - Ards College of Further Education, Victoria Avenue, Newtownards
Wards - 108 Main Street, Bangor

CO. FERMANAGH

Compass Catering - Erne Hospital, Cornagrade Road, Enniskillen
Courtyard Tea Room - Castle Archdale Country Park, Lisnarick
Erne Training Restaurant - Fairview, Dublin Road, Enniskillen
Gilleeces Traditional Takeaway - 120 Main Street, Lisnaskea
McDonalds Enniskillen - Cathcart Square, Dublin Road, Enniskillen
Subway - 33 Townhall Street, Enniskillen

CO. LONDONDERRY

Bannside Dining Room, UUC - 24 Cromore Road, Coleraine
Bannview Restaurant, UUC - 24 Cromore Road, Coleraine
Barmouth Sandwich Bar, UUC - 24 Cromore Road, Coleraine
Causeway Hospital - 4 Newbridge Road, Coleraine
Cohns, UUD - UU Magee Campus, 23 Northland Road, Derry
Gallery Restaurant - 11 Church Street, Coleraine, Co Londonderry
Gardiners Restaurant - 7 Garden Street, Magherafelt
Mandarin Palace - Queen's Court Lower Clarendon Street, Derry
McDonald's, Coleraine - 8 Riverside Park East, Coleraine
McGinley's Restaurant - 20 Buncrana Road, Derry
The Flying Clipper & The Erin Restaurant - NW Ins of F&E Education, Strand Rd, Derry
Thyme Out, UUD - UU Magee Campus, 23 Northland Road, Derry
The Water Margin - 1 Hanover Place, Coleraine

CO. TYRONE

Austins - 95-97 Main Street, Ballygawley
Bar 10 - 10 Royal Arms Mews, Omagh
Compass Catering - Tyrone County Hospital, 16 Hospital Road, Omagh
Fermanagh & Sth Tyrone Hospital - 1 Donaglan Rd, Omagh
Grapevine Restaurant - ETCFHE, Circular Road, Dungannon
Kyle Restaurants Ltd - Unit 18, Royal Arms Mews, Omagh
Strabane Community Project - St. Patrick's Hall, Barrack Street, Strabane
Suitor Gallery - 17 Grange Road, Ballygawley
The Courtyard Restaurant - 56A William Street, Cookstown
The Otter Lodge - 26 Dungannon Road, Cookstown
Timepiece Restaurant - 2 Irishtown Road, Omagh