

Introducing...

Elaine Doyle recently joined the FSANI communications team in Belfast. Her job includes getting the Eat Safe message across to caterers and the general public in Northern Ireland.



Elaine has a BSC Hons degree in Communication Studies and before joining the FSA, she worked in marketing for Translink. She is also a member of the Chartered Institute of Public Relations (CIPR).

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**FOOD
STANDARDS
AGENCY**
NORTHERN
IRELAND

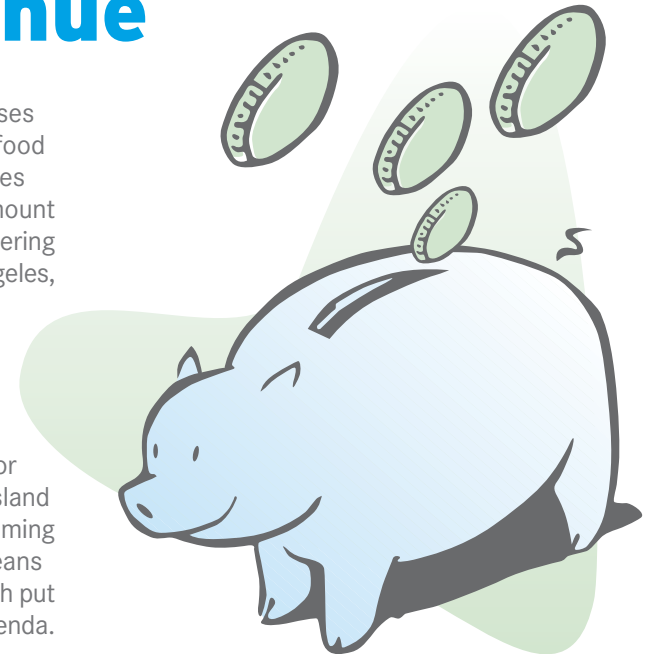
Hygienic Caterers Mop Up Extra Revenue

Recent research has shown that businesses who are recognised for having excellent food hygiene standards have reported increases in revenue of up to 5.7% – a significant amount in a marketplace as competitive as the catering sector. This research, carried out in Los Angeles, says that these catering establishments were given an 'A' rating in their hygiene inspection, which is roughly equivalent to having an Eat Safe award.

With acute gastroenteritis being blamed for 1.5 million days of lost work time on the island of Ireland per annum, consumers are becoming familiar with the Eat Safe concept as a means of identifying catering establishments which put food hygiene at the top of the business agenda.

"In Northern Ireland more businesses are realising the benefit of being able to tell their customers, and their potential customers, that safe food is a priority," says Trevor Williamson, FSANI's Head of Food Hygiene, and Eat Safe Project Manager in Northern Ireland.

He continued, "The Eat Safe logo is now recognised by consumers and the catering trade as a reliable standard to measure excellent hygiene in food preparation.



Catering businesses can reap financial rewards by being recognised for having excellent food hygiene standards.

The wider the recognition of the Eat Safe logo, the more benefit there is to both the consumer and the caterer alike. This applies right across the range of foods available, whether in the form of sit down meals or sandwiches to go – everyone should be assured that their food has been prepared in hygienic conditions."

Stocking Up - Over to you

Over the past few weeks, we have been receiving enquiries about purchasing branded merchandise for Eat Safe businesses. We are now investigating the possibility of sourcing a company to supply some specific products. However, no one knows your business needs better than you, so we want you to tell us about the types of Eat Safe branded merchandise you would purchase for your business, e.g. napkins, glassware, paper cups, etc. Please send your suggestions to Elaine Doyle by email:

elaine.doyle@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk
or by post to **Food Standards Agency
Northern Ireland, Unit 10 a-c Clarendon
Road, Belfast, BT1 3BG**, by 31st October 2005.



Example of possible branded merchandise for Eat Safe businesses.

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: Kenny Shields



Kenny Shields, Senior Environmental Health Officer at Craigavon Borough Council has had a successful career in the Environmental Health Service for the past ten years. Since the start of the Eat Safe scheme, Kenny has had a high level of involvement in making Craigavon Borough council stand out for their enthusiasm and proactive promotion of the scheme. Kenny takes some time out of his busy schedule to speak to the Eat Safe Now! Team.

Kenny, give me a brief overview of your career to date.

I graduated from University of Ulster Jordanstown in 1995 with a degree in Environmental Health. Since then, I worked in all Environmental Health core functions including eight years as Food Officer. I started my career in Lisburn Borough Council (now Lisburn City Council) and I gained more experience in food control with the

Eastern Group before moving on to Ards Borough Council as food officer. I have been with Craigavon Borough Council since 2001.

How many Eat Safe accredited premises are in your area?

22 premises throughout the Borough. The first two awards were presented in 2003 and the Scheme has been gaining in momentum ever since.

Tell me what the Food Team at the Council are doing to promote the Scheme.

Proprietors are made aware of the scheme during inspections and various training seminars. The Food Team are very proactive in trying to involve all food proprietors in the scheme as it brings great benefits to the Borough.

How do you feel catering businesses are responding to the Scheme?

As with any new initiative, it takes time to introduce and implement and it appears the implementation pace of the Eat Safe scheme is working well. We are pleased with the high commitment from the catering sector in the Borough and the food team is looking forward to seeing the expansion of the scheme to other sectors of the catering industry. These premises have been working towards meeting the stringent criteria of the Award by investing in staff training, improving the structure of their premises and implementing a food safety management scheme.

How important is the Eat Safe Award Scheme to Craigavon Borough Council?

Very important! The Mayor has always been keen to promote the Award and to present the Awards to the successful proprietors. Councillors are also kept informed of the scheme in reports to the Environmental Services Committee meetings.

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

Proprietors in the Borough see it as important in terms of marketing their business and helping to maintain high standards. The Award provides recognition of the commitment from the staff and they see it as an innovative and practical way of promoting their commitment to food hygiene and safety to their customers. Feedback has been received of increases in business activity and it has also been noted that customers have seen the publicity of the Award in local papers.

What benefits do customers receive from the Eat Safe Scheme?

Customers benefit as they have confidence that a catering establishment takes hygiene issues seriously and also that their meal has been prepared in premises that operate to high standards.

Stop Press!

FSANI welcomes Larne Borough Council to the Eat Safe Scheme. The council was recently awarded its first Eat Safe Award for the Ballycarryout in Ballycarry Village. Well done!

Competition Time!

To celebrate the growing success of the Eat Safe scheme, the FSANI are offering all Eat Safe Now! Readers the chance to **win a meal for two** in any Eat Safe restaurant. All you have to do is answer the following question: **How many of Northern Ireland's district councils have Eat Safe businesses within their area:**

- a) 12 b) 24 c) 29

(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 14th October 2005 and we will announce the winner in the next newsletter.

Healthy Hygiene Standards at Antrim Area Hospital



Antrim Borough Council were recently awarded their first Eat Safe for the Loughview Restaurant at Antrim Area Hospital.

Sharon McQuillan, Lead Environmental Health Officer, Antrim Borough Council said, "When we eat out we expect food to be prepared hygienically. The Eat Safe Award Scheme gives consumers reassurance that the very highest standards are being met in award-winning businesses. My congratulations to staff at Loughview Restaurant for their hard work in achieving the first award in the Borough and I hope their success will encourage other food premises owners/managers in the Borough to consider seeking this accreditation."

Above: Receiving their Eat Safe Award from Gerry McCurdy, Deputy Director, FSANI (centre) are Mary Stanley, Geraldine Ward, Valerie Dunlop, Violet Davidson, Elaine Coulter, Sharon Perry and Alan Stewart from the Loughview Restaurant at Antrim Area Hospital.

Gerry McCurdy, Deputy Director of the Food Standards Agency Northern Ireland added his congratulations, "The Eat Safe Award Scheme is clearly proving to be a success as 24 of the 26 Northern Ireland district councils now have at least one catering establishment with an Eat Safe Award."

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. It is, however, proposed to widen the scope of the Eat Safe Award scheme again in the near future. We hope to have more details of this for you in the next edition of Eat Safe Now!

News from Scotland

FSA Scotland is powering ahead with the Eat Safe scheme with 30 businesses having now received the Eat Safe award.

Peter Midgely, FSAS Eat Safe Project Manager said: "The scheme is successfully expanding throughout Scotland, as it is in Northern Ireland. Scottish consumers can eat out and be sure that their food has been prepared in conditions which are over and above the legal food hygiene requirements."

Feedback from our Eat Safe recipients tells us how proud staff are to be given recognition for their efforts. Preparing food in an environment of an excellent standard matters to them too. Feedback from caterers makes our job here really worthwhile when we see the difference the award makes to businesses."

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 Promotion Update

As previously reported in this magazine, a series of promotions were being developed to raise awareness of the Eat Safe scheme across Northern Ireland. A competition is being planned for the coming weeks to run in the Northern Ireland local press, offering winners a meal voucher to the value of £50.00, to be used in any Eat Safe restaurant. This voucher will be provided to the winner by FSANI and once redeemed, should be returned to our office and you will be reimbursed up to £50. If you haven't already received it, a letter is on its way to every Eat Safe award holder with further details on this competition.

Eat Safe Restaurants

RESTAURANT

CO. ANTRIM

The Academy Restaurant, UUC - School of Hotel, Leisure and Tourism, 17 Ballywillan Road, Portrush
Antrim Dining Room, UUJ - 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
Bushfoot Restaurant - 50 Bushfoot Road, Portballintrae
Bushmills Inn - 9 Dunluce Road, Bushmills
Café DC, UUJ - 686 Shore Road, Newtownabbey
Caffe Italia - 36 Hill Street, Belfast
Caffe Uno - 15 Lombard Street, Belfast
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
Edenmore Golf & Country Club - 70 Drumnabreele Road, Magheralin
Elms Halls of Residence - Queens Elms, 78 Malone Road, Belfast
The Factory - 10-14 Gresham Street, Belfast
Footprints Trading Ltd - 84A Colindale, Dunmurry, Belfast
Hagues Lounge - 34-36 Chapel Hill, Lisburn
Hampton Café - 14 Enterprise Business Park, Lisburn
Harry Ramsdens - Yorkgate Shopping Centre, Belfast
Kentucky Fried Chicken - Albertbridge Road, Belfast
King's Head - 829 Lisburn Road, Belfast
La Cuisine Catering Co. - 648-652 Antrim Road, Belfast
La Cuisine Catering Co. - 21-23 Carrmoney 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
McDonalds - 290A Antrim Road, Newtownabbey
McDonalds - 1 Hillsborough Road, Lisburn
McDonalds - 5 Longwood Road, Newtownabbey
Moira Drive Thru - 15 Main Street, Moira
Mount Charles Island Restaurant - Island Civic Centre, Lisburn
O'Brien's - Unit 3 St Georges Market, May Street, Belfast
OJ's Restaurant, North East Institute - Ballymena Campus, 2-52 Trostan Avenue, Ballymena
Paul Connan Ltd - 2-4 Donegal Place, Belfast
Pizza Hut - 44-48 Dublin Road, Belfast
The Pheasant - 410 Upper Ballynahinch Road, Annahilt
The Plough - 3 The Square, Hillsborough
The Point - 88 Bridge Street, Lisburn
Rendevous - Unit 4, Rawdon Court, Main Street, Moira
Safeway Café - 219 Shore Road, Belfast
Subway - 8 Callendar Street, Belfast
Taylor's Fish & Chip Shop - 25 Sloan Street, Lisburn
Tuck Inn - 1 Main Street, Armoy
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
Annies - Unit 7, Mall Shopping Centre, Armagh
Aruna Café - 42 Main Street, Moira
Bennetts Bar - 4-6 Mandeville Street, Portadown
C McKeever & Sons - 28-29 Woodhouse Street, Portadown
Cookery Nook Coffee Shop - 41 High Street, Portadown
Craigavon Civic Centre - Lakeview Road, Craigavon
Debenhams - Rushmere Shopping Centre, Central Way, Craigavon
Esquires - Rushmere Shopping Centre, Craigavon
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
Mr Chips - 4 Mill Street, Gilford
Number 7 Restaurant - 12-14 Rushmere Shopping Centre, Craigavon
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

RESTAURANT

CO. ARMAGH (Continued)

The Embankment - 1 Derrymacash Road, Craigavon, Lurgan
The Shopper Restaurant - Rushmere Shopping Centre, Craigavon
Superbites Takeaway - 29 O' Fiaich Square, Crossmaglen
Time Piece Restaurant - Dunnes Stores, High Street Mall, Portadown
The Head of the Road - Tartaraghan Road, Portadown
The Meal Machine - 1 Kernan Shops, Lurgan Road, 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
Aylesfort House - 44 Newry Road, Warrenpoint
Bangor Bay Inn - 10-12 Seacliff Road, Bangor
Boyd's Stores Ltd - Hill Street, Newry
Café Rigmarole - 61b Main Street, Waringstown
Canal Court Hotel - Merchants Quay, Newry
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
Pit Stop - 26 Bridge Street, Kilkeel
Oasis Restaurant, Ulster Hospital - 700 Upper Newtownards Road, Dundonald
Ricks Restaurant - Unit 7 Carryduff Centre, Church Road, Carryduff
Sodexho, E Volve - 1 Castle Park Road, Bangor
Sodexho, East Down Institute - Market Street, Downpatrick
Scribbles - North Down & Ards Institute of Further & Higher Education, Bangor
Subway - 5 Bridge Street, Banbridge
The Bank Bar - Trevor Hill, Newry
The Cuan Licensed Guest Inn - 6-12 The Square, Strangford
The Frying Squad - 9 Balloo Road, Bangor
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
City Hotel - Queen's Quay, Derry
Cohns, UUD - UU Magee Campus, 23 Northland Road, Derry
Gallery Restaurant - 11 Church Street, Coleraine, Co Londonderry
Gardeners 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

Bar 10 - 10 Royal Arms Mews, Omagh
Compass Catering - Tyrone County Hospital, 16 Hospital Road, 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
The Courtyard Restaurant - 56A William Street, Cookstown
The Otter Lodge - 26 Dungannon Road, Cookstown