

ENFORCEMENT  
OF THE LAW



## Enforcement of the law

Local authorities are responsible for enforcing food hygiene laws. To do this, enforcement officers may visit your business premises to inspect them. These officers might come on a routine inspection, or they might visit because of a complaint. They have the right to enter and inspect your premises at any reasonable time and will usually come without telling you first.

### Enforcement action

When they think it is necessary, officers can take 'enforcement action' to protect the public. This can include:

- > taking samples of food
- > inspecting your records
- > writing you a letter asking you to put right any problems
- > serving a formal legal notice that sets out certain things you must do, or forbidding you from using certain processes, premises or equipment
- > recommending a prosecution in serious cases

For more information, see the 'Food law inspections and your business' booklet at [food.gov.uk/food-law-inspections](http://food.gov.uk/food-law-inspections)