

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

Your request for information has now been considered and the Council's response to your questions is shown below.

You asked:

I would like to make a Freedom of Information request and ask you to supply me with information of your Halaal meat supplied to schools. I would like to know how the meat is sourced and procured, what Halaal standards are implemented and which Halaal monitoring authority is involved in granting certification. I would also like to know which schools are provided with Halaal meat and how the food is prepared and whether there are separate utensils and equipment used in the preparation of Halaal foods as opposed to other foods. Can you also confirm whether Halal meat is supplied by you to any other organisations or departments?

Halal meals are supplied to the following schools:

Ash Field: Charnwood Primary: Coleman Primary: Crown Hills CC: Evington Valley: Hazel Primary: Highfields Primary: Humberstone: Linden Primary : Marriott Primary: Mayflower: Medway primary: Mellor Primary: Northfield House Primary: Overdale Infant and Junior: Shenton Primary: Sir Jonathon North: Slater: Soar Valley: Sparkenhoe Primary: Spinney Hill Primary: St Barnabas Primary: Taylor Primary: The Lancaster School: Uplands Primary: Whitehall Primary: Wyvern Primary.

All foodstuffs and ingredients are sourced through Eastern Shires Purchasing Organisation (ESPO) contracts, which have stringent quality assurance procedures at the pre procurement stage. A key requirement is that bidders must have and maintain a documented quality assurance system which allows for full traceability of all products.

Halal meat products are currently supplied by The Punjab Kitchen of South Shields. The Punjab Kitchen holds the Islamic Certificate of Jurisprudence and is subject to unannounced inspections.

The Punjab Kitchen is inspected at least twice a year by Mufti Sacha who is the head of the Islamic Institute of Jurisprudence. The last inspection visit was in January 2013. All visits are unannounced.

Punjab Kitchen are BRC Global A accredited with full traceability. The company is supported by South Shields Mosque, and the Bolton Hospitals Muslim Chaplain.

All meat supplied to City Catering is sourced from HNC cutting plants and abattoirs, though the Punjab Kitchen is itself not HMC accredited. We also require our supplier to comply with third party accreditation eg ISO9001:200 and to meet standards set out in the European Halal

Development Agency Standard. Whole supply chain Halal Standard v1.0 November 2009 (or equivalent) to provide Halal assurance throughout the supply chain to ensure Halal products and processes are genuinely Halal.

All appropriate catering staff are fully trained in Halal matters and all production kitchens are issued with clear written guidelines relating to the production and service of Halal meals.

The legislation allows you to use the information supplied for your own personal use. Please be aware that any commercial or other use, for example publication, sale, or redistribution may be a breach of copyright under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 as amended unless you obtain the copyright holder's prior permission.

Not all the information that is supplied which is covered by copyright will be the Council's copyright, for example it may be the copyright of a government department or another Council. You should seek either the Council's consent or their consent as appropriate. The Council is willing to advise you of any such potential issues on request. In order to make a request to re-use the information please contact the Information Governance Manager using the details below.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request please write to:

Information Governance Manager

Information and Support

Leicester City Council

FREEPOST (LE985/33)

New Walk Centre

LEICESTER LE1 6ZG

e-mail: info-requests@leicester.gov.uk

Your request for internal review should be submitted to the above address within 40 (forty) working days of receipt by you of this response. Any such request received after this time will only be considered at the Council's absolute discretion.

You can also complain to the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner's Office

Wycliffe House

Water Lane

Wilmslow SK9 5AF

Telephone: 01625 545 700

www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk

Please be aware that the Information Commissioner does not normally consider appeals or complaints until the internal appeals and complaints processes of the public authority which is answering the request have been exhausted. You are therefore advised to complain or appeal to the Information Governance Manager before contacting the Commissioner.