

*These notes refer to the Food Hygiene Rating Act (Northern Ireland)  
2016 (c.3) which received Royal Assent on 29 January 2016*

# Food Hygiene Rating Act (Northern Ireland) 2016

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## **EXPLANATORY NOTES**

### **COMMENTARY ON SECTIONS**

#### ***Section 5: Right of reply***

This section allows operators of food business establishments to make a written reply to the establishment's rating to the district council, for publication alongside the rating on the Food Standards Agency's website. The purpose is to provide operators with an opportunity to explain to potential customers any actions that have been taken to improve hygiene standards or any particular circumstances at the time of inspection that might have affected the rating. The text of the reply may be edited by the council (for example, to remove any inaccurate or defamatory remarks) before sending to the Food Standards Agency for publication on its website. The Food Standards Agency must publish the right of reply within 7 days of receipt or within 7 days of publishing the rating.