

By email: [REDACTED]

Our Reference: FOI 2368  
Date: 1<sup>st</sup> March 2019

Dear [REDACTED]

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

Thank you for your email to the Food Standards Agency (FSA) requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act).

Your request for information is as follows:

***I would like to know how many mobile food businesses (i.e. caterers, street food traders etc) that are registered per local authority in the UK. Please note that I am only interested in MOBILE hot food caterers and not fixed premises food businesses.***

The FSA does not hold the specific information that you have requested as there is currently no central register of food businesses,

The FSA does, however, hold information on the Food Hygiene Ratings given to businesses by local authorities and these are published at [www.food.gov.uk/ratings](http://www.food.gov.uk/ratings) and include the ratings for mobile caterers. These are defined as 'food establishments that comprise a kitchen or catering facility operating from a mobile unit such as a vehicle, trailer, stall, marquee or other non-permanent structure'.

The Excel file accompanying this email shows the number of records for mobile caterers published (as at 12/02/2019) on [www.food.gov.uk/ratings](http://www.food.gov.uk/ratings) for each local authority in the UK.

Please note that business registration data are not the same as the published food hygiene rating data. It may be, for example, that a mobile caterer is registered with their local authority but is yet to be inspected and no record or rating is yet published on [www.food.gov.uk/ratings](http://www.food.gov.uk/ratings). This means that the number of mobile caterer **ratings** published may differ from the number of mobile caterers **registered** with each local authority.

If you do require full data on registered mobile food businesses, you would need to request this from each local authority as they are required to hold a register of food businesses in their area.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me on the details provided in the foot of this letter. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are not satisfied with the way the FSA has handled your request for information, you should write within two calendar months of the date of this letter to the FOI, Complaints and Transparency Team, and ask for an internal review. They will arrange for the Complaints Coordinator to conduct the review. Their address is Food Standards Agency, Floors 6 and 7 Clive House, 70 Petty France, Westminster, London SW1H 9EX (email: [FCT@food.gov.uk](mailto:FCT@food.gov.uk)).

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the FSA. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF or through the website at: [www.ico.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.uk).

Yours sincerely

**[REDACTED]**  
**Food Hygiene Rating Scheme Manager**  
**Email: [REDACTED]**