



# Food Business Registration and Approval



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All food businesses need to register with the local authority for the area they operate in by law. This should be done at least 28 days prior to starting your business.

[Register your food business](#)

This can also be used to update us of any significant changes to your food business.

**Who needs to register?**



**How much does registration cost?**



**How long does a registration last?**



**Do I also need a licence?**



**Who needs to seek approval?**



**What happens next?**



**Can you refuse my registration?**



**Where can I find further information about starting up a new food business?**



## Covid-19 and food inspections

Once you have completed your online registration you will receive an automatic response confirming your registration with Hertsmere. We will process your registration and you will receive an 'Awaiting Inspection' rating (only applies to relevant businesses).

Food Delivery companies are currently accepting an 'Awaiting Inspection' rating to register a new business.

It is important to remember that you only begin to trade once you have everything in place. Whilst you do not need to wait for your inspection once registered, you must ensure you are ready and legally compliant before trading.

We will inspect businesses as soon as we can, but currently there are delays due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Further information in regards to starting up a food business can be found on the [Food Standards Agency website](#). You can also [email](#) the Environmental Health Commercial Team for advice on Food Safety.

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[↑ Back to top](#)



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