

58967 Processed Food in School Meals

I would like to request the following information regarding processed food used in school meals in your local authority's maintained primary and secondary schools.

For sake of clarity, processed foods are defined as "food that contains high fat, sugar and/or salt, and have a NOVA classification of 4:

Ultra-processed foods, including soft drinks, sweet and savoury packaged snacks, reconstituted meat and non-meat products and pre-prepared frozen dishes.

The NOVA classification considers these as formulations made mostly or entirely from substances derived from foods and additives such as colouring, artificial sweeteners, anti-caking agents and emulsifiers".

Please provide data for the most recent academic year for which records are available.

Number of processed foods in school meals by stating, as a percentage or volume if available, the proportion of processed foods (including all products such as reconstituted meat products and non-meat products, nuggets, burgers, etc.) used in school meals.

The City of Edinburgh Council holds a Bronze award for Food for Life Scotland accreditation, and the menus are analysed yearly and align to the Nutritional Requirements for Food and Drink in Schools (Scotland) Regulations 2020. We can utilise 25% processed produce to meet the standard, however we plan the menu to allow the catering teams to prepare the lunch offering on site, using fresh locally sourced ingredients.

Sourcing by Origin. Please state, as a percentage or volume if available, the proportion of processed foods used in school meals that is:

- (a) Produced in Scotland
- (b) Produced in the rest of the UK (outside Scotland)
- (c) Produced outside the UK, but in the EU
- (d) Produced outside the UK and outside the EU

If precise percentages are unavailable, please indicate whether any processed foods are sourced from each of these categories (e.g., "yes/no/unknown").

(a) to (d) Unknown

It is unknown whether any processed foods are sourced from each of these categories.

Regarding supplier, please indicate whether they are required under contract to source UK or Scottish-origin products only.

There is no requirement set by the City of Edinburgh Council, however suppliers undertake a robust tendering process under the Scotland Excel Framework. Prior to contract award, suppliers must demonstrate that their business ethics and sustainability procedure are aligned to Local Government goals and objectives. Working collaboratively with our suppliers is key to ensuring food production and consumption for our customers also supports service goals to drive forward and reduce climate change across the city.

Further information on food sourcing requirements through the Framework may be held by Scotland Excel. Their contact details are on their website at:

<https://home.scotland-excel.org.uk/contact-us/freedom-of-information/>