

Agency welcomes healthy pub progress

Friday 19 March 2010



The Agency today welcomes progress made by companies representing more than five thousand UK pubs to help their customers make healthier choices.

The chains: Whitbread, Punch Pub Company, Marston's Inns and Taverns, Greene King and JD Wetherspoon, all made their first commitments to healthy eating in February 2009 and were asked by the Agency to review and extend them each year.

The first review is now complete. Progress highlighted supports the Agency's priorities to reduce salt and saturated fat, providing healthier choices and more information for their customers.

Examples include:

- Salt levels have been reduced by all the pub chains, with many products now meeting FSA 2010/2012 targets.
- All companies are working to reduce saturated fat levels in their products; for example by changing the ingredients and recipes and using healthier cooking techniques such as rotisserie cooking.
- Companies are looking to provide portions which meet their customers' needs; for example ensuring the portion sizes and nutritional content of their children's menus are appropriate and offering more choice, such as 'light bites', for adults.

Each company has now set itself further targets for the forthcoming year.

Clair Baynton, Head of Nutrition at the FSA, says: 'It's very encouraging to see so many parts of the UK pub industry making such good progress in providing healthier food choices to their customers. Eating out is nowadays a regular part of most people's lives so it's important that healthy options should be available whenever possible.'

'The Agency looks forward to seeing these companies continue to make further progress.'

The Agency is currently working with 44 companies, each of which has produced a commitment document that is available via the link below.

The documents set out actions the companies have carried out, or are planning, towards healthier catering. These cover procurement, menu planning, kitchen practice and consumer information. The commitment work covers the breadth of the catering sector and includes workplace caterers, foodservice suppliers, pubs, coffee and sandwich shop, and restaurants chains.

Related links

[Healthy catering commitments](#) Read the commitments made by caterers

<http://www.food.gov.uk/news/newsarchive/2010/mar/pubprogress>

Healthy catering commitments

Wednesday 24 March 2010

Since 2008, the Agency has been working with more than 40 major UK caterers to provide healthier choices for their customers when eating out.

The companies involved cover the breadth of the catering industry and include many well known restaurants, pubs, coffee shops and sandwich chains. In addition the Agency is working with workplace caterers – as for many people, the food they eat in the workplace forms a large proportion of the food they eat out of the home – and with two of the UK’s largest catering suppliers.

The activities of each company are captured in a commitments document, which has sections on procurement, menu planning, kitchen practice and consumer information. The commitments vary according to the type of business and food served and provide an overview of what each company is doing to support the Agency’s priorities to reduce salt, saturated fat and energy intake; to promote healthier options and to provide consumers with more information. The documents are updated once a year, when each company sets out the progress it has made and the plans for the following year. This is a rolling programme of work with companies in each sector publishing their documents together at different times in the year. You can find out more about the companies involved and the commitments they have made below.

If you are interested in joining this work, please contact Samantha Hanna on tel: 020 7276 8979 or by email: samantha.hanna@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk

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Commitments from restaurants and pub chains

[Burger King](#) – is a global chain of hamburger restaurants, committed to selling the best burger on the high street. Established in 1954, the company has over 11,800 restaurants in 74 countries worldwide and around 650 restaurants in the UK, serving up to 1.8 million customers a week across the UK and Ireland.

[Domino's](#) – is the UK’s leading pizza delivery operator, specialising in the delivery of delicious made-to-order pizza. In 2008, Domino’s Pizza sold just under 37 million pizzas from over 550 stores in the UK and the Republic of Ireland.

[Greene King](#) – operates over 700 pubs, pub restaurants and hotels. These range from community locals to characterful Inns. In each of these we aim to provide our customers with great quality and value food and drink.

[JD Wetherspoon PLC](#) – serving great food, award-winning ales and top-quality brands in almost every town across the UK. We serve food to over 300,000 customers daily, and whether a delicious curry, a family meal or a traditional breakfast, we are committed to sourcing the best ingredients, where possible from the UK.

[KFC](#) – is a leading quick service restaurant with over 750 restaurants in the UK. We are dedicated to serving customers with innovative, great tasting products that offer great value. KFC is a subsidiary of Yum! Brands Inc.

[McDonald's](#) – has proudly run its business in the UK since 1974, serving over two million customers every day. Today the business operates over 1,200 restaurants in the UK, of which over half are owned and run by local franchisees. McDonald's believes passionately in providing high quality food, using the best quality ingredients and working with trusted suppliers.

[Marston's](#) – is the UK's leading independent brewing and pub retailing business operating five breweries across England. Marston's Inns and Taverns is the managed arm with over 500 pubs and bars including Pitcher & Piano, Bluu and Que Pasa bar groups.

[Mitchells & Butler](#) – is the leading operator of managed pubs and pub restaurants in the UK, offering good value food, drink and entertainment in around 2,000 businesses across the country.

[Nando's](#) – opened its first restaurant in the UK in 1992 and is famed for its legendary Portuguese flame-grilled PERi-PERi chicken. Delicious bastes in varying degrees of spiciness allow you to choose how hot you want your food. Nando's have over 200 restaurants across the UK and serves over 500,000 meals a week.

[PizzaExpress](#) – first opened in 1965 and operates over 370 restaurants in the UK. Every PizzaExpress restaurant has an open kitchen where dedicated pizzaiolo chefs hand-make delicious pizzas using great quality ingredients.

[Pizza Hut](#) – is UK's leading family restaurant with over 700 restaurants across the UK, providing customers with the perfect 'get together' to enjoy great tasting food at value for money prices.

[Punch Pub Company](#) – is the managed house division of Punch Taverns, consisting of 835 high quality pubs across the UK, serving an average of nearly 635,000 meals a week.

[Subway chain](#) – is the world's largest submarine sandwich franchise, with over 1,400 stores in the UK and Ireland.

[The Restaurant Group](#) – operates over 350 restaurants and pub restaurants predominantly in leisure locations and airports, serving over 33 million meals annually. Its brands include Frankie and Benny's, Chiquito & Garfunkel's.

[Tragus](#) – operates well recognised brands such as Cafe Rouge, Bella Italia and Strada. With over 270 restaurants across the UK, we serve meals to around 20 million delighted customers every year.

[Whitbread](#) – is the UK's largest hotel and restaurant company operating market-leading businesses in the budget hotels and restaurant sectors. Its brands include Premier Inn, Beefeater, Table Table, Brewers Fayre, Taybarns and Costa Coffee.

[Wimpy](#) – is a franchised casual dining chain with over 165 restaurants in the UK. Serving freshly cooked food all day and offering everything from breakfast to delicious desserts.

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Commitments from coffee shop and sandwich chains

[BB's Coffee & Muffins](#) – is the fifth largest coffee focused food operator in the UK and has 184 predominately franchised stores across UK and Ireland (148 UK, 36 Ireland) with nearly all products made freshly each day in the store.

[Caffè Nero Group Ltd](#) – was founded in 1997 and is currently the largest independent coffee retailer in the UK, with over 390 Caffè Nero stores. Its aim is to provide a European style coffee house experience offering premium espresso-based gourmet coffee, authentic Italian food products and a relaxing atmosphere in every store.

[Camden Food Co.](#) – is a little oasis for healthier eating on the move. It is about fresh, quality food with healthier choices for a balanced approach to eating right. Camden Food Co. operates 10 sites and serves around 33,000 commuters a week.

[Costa](#) – is the UK's biggest coffee chain shop with over 870 shops in the UK offering food that goes best with coffee serving around 1.8 million customers a week.

[EAT](#) – is a family-owned company dedicated to quality food. Owned and run by the founders, Niall and Faith MacArthur, who both like good food and service. In February 2009, 100 EAT shops are trading around the UK.

[Greggs](#) – is the UK's leading bakery retailer specialising in sandwiches, savouries and other baker-fresh food on the go. Greggs has over 1400 shops throughout the UK. It employs 19,000 people and serves over five million customers per week.

[John Lewis Restaurants](#) – is the largest department store retailer in the UK, with 27 shops throughout the UK. It serves in excess of 8 million customers per year in its customer catering outlets.

[Pret A Manger](#) – first opened in 1986 and operates 193 shops in the UK. Every Pret shop has its own kitchen (except for one or two of the tiny ones) where they make their sandwiches and salads fresh every day.

[Sainsbury's](#) – is a leading UK food retailer and serves 400,000 customers per week across 240 in-store cafés. Sainsbury's café is committed to providing its customers with healthy, safe, fresh and tasty food.

[Starbucks Coffee](#) – since 1971 the company has been committed to ethically sourcing and roasting the highest quality Arabica coffee in the world. There are now over 700 stores across the UK and Ireland. Starbucks welcomes around 2 million customers a week in the UK.

[Upper Crust](#) – specialises in serving freshly prepared baguettes baked throughout the day. Sixty of the Upper Crust outlets in the UK, run by the company SSP, serve 200,000 travelling customers each week.

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Commitments from suppliers to catering businesses

[3663 First for Foodservice](#) – is the UK's leading foodservice wholesale distributor, providing more than 30,000 schools, hospitals, hotels, pubs, restaurants and other catering outlets with ambient, frozen, fresh, chilled and speciality food and beverages.

[Brakes](#) – is the leading supplier of chilled, frozen and ambient foods and non-food products to caterers across the UK.

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Commitments from catering businesses and foodservice providers

[7 Day Catering](#) – is one of the UK's leading independent contract catering companies with over 150 clients in the B&I and education sectors. The company ethos is to provide fresh, quality, authentic, homemade and healthy menu choices.

[Accent](#) – is an independent fresh food company which is committed to using the finest fresh ingredients from quality local suppliers, to provide healthy eating in Business and Industry, Independent and State Education, operating 41 sites serving 15,000 meals per day.

[ARAMARK](#) – is a service partner to organisations across a range of sectors, including business and industry, judicial, education, healthcare, offshore and defence. We employ over 12,500 employees to deliver tailor-made foodservice and refreshment solutions.

[Artizian](#) – provides fresh food to clients in restaurants, cafés, coffee bars, licensed bars, and through reception, office and hospitality services. It has a growing national portfolio of 20 units, serving approximately 5,000 meals each day.

[autograph](#) – Autograph Foodservice (part of the Rentokil Initial Group) offers dynamic business and industry catering solutions throughout the UK, and currently operates 170 diverse contracts.

[BaxterStorey](#) – as the UK's leading independent contract caterer, BaxterStorey offers a catering service that focuses on delivering a quality product to its customers using fresh ingredients prepared by well trained and motivated teams.

[Charlton House](#) – is an independent caterer with 150 contracts in its portfolio, including business and industry clients, prestigious venue catering and commercial restaurants. It serves about 200,000 meals per week.

[Compass Group](#) – leading foodservice company Compass Group UK & Ireland provides food and support services to clients and customers in the workplace, at schools and colleges, hospitals, at leisure, and in defence, offshore and remote locations.

[Elior UK](#) – is a creative foodservice company, whose operating companies supply catering and related services to over 1,000 clients throughout the UK, in the private sector for business and industry, education and healthcare; as well as contracts for heritage sites, the travel sector, sporting venues and in retail.

[Harbour & Jones](#) – is an independent caterer. It currently operates 23 contracts over 19 sites, serving approximately 7000 meals per day it encourages the creativity of its chefs and food is freshly prepared on site daily.

[ISS Eaton](#) – specialises in the provision of workplace dining – whether this is in staff restaurants, general hospitality or fine dining. The company operates across 95 client sites nationwide.

[ISS Mediclean](#) – provide the catering in around 90 restaurants and coffee shops for staff and visitors within hospitals all over the UK..

[Olive Catering](#) – is an independent contract catering company operating 75 contracts across business, independent schools and further education colleges throughout the UK serving over 15,000 meals every day.


[Sodexo](#) – provides food and facilities management services to over 2,300 locations in the UK and Ireland, with clients ranging from those in business and industry, healthcare, education and defence, to a wide ranging leisure portfolio including sporting venues, visitor attractions and prestigious events.

[Vacherin](#) – is an independent caterer specialising in the central London business and industry market. It currently looks after 25 contracts for 20 clients, representing a total potential daily market of almost 10,000 customers.


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