

**Title: Food operators get
'Serious about Food Safety'**

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FOR RELEASE: Immediate

More than twenty food service and catering businesses in the Timaru district are currently preparing the paperwork to sign up to a new food industry initiative – a Food Control Plan – showing their commitment to producing safe food.

David Armstrong, Environmental Services Manager of the Timaru District Council, said the Food Control Plan has been developed by the New Zealand Food Safety Authority to help food businesses manage their food safety risks and meet their legal obligations. They are designed to be flexible and allow more innovation than the current legislation allows. At this stage, Food Control Plans are voluntary but if the proposed Food Act is passed, they will become mandatory for most food businesses.

“Operators with approved Food Control Plans must demonstrate good practice in all areas of their process including for example, preparation, storage, display and cleaning. The plan is supported by our team of Environmental Health Officers who have been trained in the new system and are available to offer guidance and support. Officers perform regular verification visits to ensure the Food Control Plan is appropriate for a business and that it is being followed properly.

“We expect that more businesses will soon follow suit and sign up for a Food Control Plan “

Consumers can identify a business with an approved Food Control Plan by the new 'Serious about Food Safety' sticker displayed in their window.



Ends

For more information follow the link - Food Control Plans – available on the homepage of New Zealand Food Safety Authority's website www.nzfsa.govt.nz, or contact the Timaru District Council.

For further information, contact:

**Neville Cross
Communications Officer
Timaru District Council
DDI 03 687 7233**

This Media Release has been prepared by
Communications
Timaru District Council

Email:
nevillec@timdc.govt.nz

2 King George Place
Timaru

P O Box 522
Timaru
New Zealand

Telephone 03 687 7200
Fax 03 687 7201
Website:
www.timaru.govt.nz