

Examiner's report

Qualifications Framework

Stage 2: Food

Oral Examiner's Report May 2024

General Feedback

For the first time in a number of years there was a substantial cohort of candidates sitting this exam.

It is of benefit to all Food Services that the numbers of qualified & capable Officers entering the profession are increased.

Both CTSI and the candidate's Food Services are to be commended on this increase in numbers.

The Food Oral exam again saw potential Food Officers with a range of abilities present themselves for the examination.

The majority of candidates had excellent knowledge of food legislation and detailed knowledge of food information and labelling.

However, the Food Oral exam is, by its very nature, an examination of the practical application of that knowledge. Candidates only having knowledge of food law, albeit in detail, but lacking practical experience did not fare well in this cycle's exam.

There were a substantial number of candidates who obviously lacked any real enforcement experience and failed to make proportional enforcement decisions, despite in some cases prompting by the examiner.

These candidates either failed or just scraped a pass mark.

Of greater concern to the examiner were those candidates, again, even after being prompted by the examiner, failed to decide on criminal sanctions where they were merited (such meat products with serious and substantial deficiencies found or large amounts of foods sold a week or more after their "Use By" dates)

The reluctance of some of these candidates to entertain criminal sanctions led to some of them attempting the use of advice, or of civil sanctions where no civil sanctions were available.

Again, these candidates scored poorly.

By contrast, there were candidates who possessed both the experience and the knowledge of all the sanction available to Officers. They could also apply them appropriately.

These candidates scored well.