

REQUEST	16484
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Could you please provide me with the food hygiene report for Rama Spice restaurant in Atherton? This has been rated 1 and was visited in a February this year.

Restaurant name and address:

Rama Spice
 138-140 Bolton Road
 Atherton
 Manchester
 M46 9LF

RESPONSE

I can confirm that an officer visited Rama Spice, 138-140 Bolton Road, Atherton, M46 9LF to carry out a food hygiene inspection on 5th February 2024. The business was rated '1' under the food hygiene rating scheme.

I am unable to release the detail of the report you have requested as it is exempt under Section 30 (1)(b) of the FOI Act which states that:

Information held by a public authority is exempt information if it has at any time been held by the authority for the purposes of:

Criteria Assessed	Intervention rating score
Compliance with food hygiene and safety procedures	<i>15 (major non-compliance)</i>
Compliance with structural requirements	<i>15 (major non-compliance)</i>
Confidence in management/control procedures	<i>20 (significantly varying record of compliance)</i>
Food Hygiene Rating 1	Intervention rating score- Food Hygiene rating- (Major improvement necessary)

Any investigation which is conducted by the authority and in the circumstances may lead to a decision by the authority to institute criminal proceedings which the authority has power to conduct.

This exemption is subject to a "public interest test". This has been considered and concluded that as the information could still be referred to in any future proceedings, disclosing the information could potentially prejudice any future investigations.

Our public interest argument is as follows:

Public interest arguments in favour of maintaining the exemption:

The information contained within the food hygiene inspection report could be considered in determining whether or not legal proceedings against the business should be instigated.

The information would form part of any prosecution file. Premature disclosure of this information could compromise the proceedings and prejudice the right to a fair trial.

Public interest arguments in favour of disclosure:

Disclosure would promote transparency and accountability in how the council carries out its regulatory function. Such transparency could help to improve food hygiene standards by promoting good practice and highlighting business that need to make improvements. It may also improve the standards of inspections and decisions taken by the council.

Disclosure of information about businesses which do not meet the required standards enables the public to decide whether or not to use their services.

Balance of the public interest arguments:

The Food Hygiene Rating Scheme provides the public with information about the hygiene standards in food premises. The rating is publicly available and therefore, to an extent, allows the public to make informed choices. This reduces the case for disclosure. We are therefore of the view that, in this case, the public interest falls in favour of maintaining the exemption.