



Scrutiny  
Houses of Parliament

**Date:** 23 November 2022  
**Please ask for:** Christine Walker  
**Contact:** 03330 162 000  
**Email:** [christine.walker@eastsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:christine.walker@eastsuffolk.gov.uk)

Dear Sir/Madam

**Call for written evidence: Retained EU law (Revocation and Reform) Bill**

East Suffolk's Food and Safety team regulates over 2,800 food businesses and enforces health and safety in around 5,700 enterprises.

It is accepted that changes and updates are required to UK domestic law to assimilate retained EU law (REUL) to ensure the continued high standards remain within UK domestic law.

We would like to raise the following for consideration:

- There is a sunset date, currently 23 December 2023, by which time all remaining REUL will be repealed if not assimilated into UK domestic law. It will affect around 2,400 regulations including food safety and health and safety regulation.
- The work of the food and safety team is reliant on a large number of retained EU regulations, directives and decisions.
- The sunset date is less than 14 months away. This is a short timeframe for the relevant Government departments (for food - DEFRA, for health and safety – Department of Work and Pensions (DWP)) to review and assess every piece of REUL (570 for DEFRA and 208 for DWP) in order to ascertain whether it is suited for the UK and should remain on the statute book. If they do nothing the regulations will cease to be.
- The removal of all REUL by the end of next year threatens to cause significant disruption to us as a regulatory authority.
- As a regulatory authority additional resources will be required. Time will be needed to assimilate the layout and content of the new regulations, train officers, change procedures, update standard forms, notice templates, standard letters, websites and similar records.
- Businesses will need to be updated on any regulatory change. Time will need to be spent helping businesses understand the new regulations and the implications on them.
- Depending on changes to regulations a new regulatory burden may be created.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Yours faithfully

**Christine Walker | Lead Food Officer**  
East Suffolk Council

---

LEGAL ADDRESS East Suffolk House, Station Road, Melton, Woodbridge IP12 1RT

**POSTAL ADDRESS Riverside, 4 Canning Road, Lowestoft NR33 0EQ**