



Charging for routine food safety inspections

Comment

A charge for each inspection visit would be very expensive for me, especially as the Local Authority retain the right to do this at any time and I don't get a say in how often this might be. I can see this becoming a revenue-generating activity for Local Authorities who have had their government budgets slashed. I am a sole trader, everything comes out of my own money and impacts directly upon my ability to pay my bills. If charges have to be introduced, I think there should be a sliding scale based on the business's turnover or size - large companies who make millions in profit could be charged more than the actual cost if necessary so that small businesses like me wouldn't have to pay. If I grow my business enough to end up paying more, I would be proud to do so, but small and new businesses need support.

A one size fits all fee is unfair to the very small/ micro business - a fee in principle is understandable. We all pay taxes to the council so have financed the various departments - some we use some we don't - If we have to pay for the ones we use we shouldn't have to pay for the ones we don't - not that that would happen....

Although I am for a charge for food safety inspections this must be alongside exemptions for small food businesses. An across the board charge could have severe implications for small start ups, home food producers (for example Country Markets), village halls and bee keepers to name a few.

An additional cost to a struggling village shop could cause it's demise and would certainly deter volunteer cooks.

An additional overhead. I cook from home and make bread to sell at the weekly Usk Country Market between Easter and Christmas. In order to attend the market I am required to be inspected and hold a Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering, which I am happy to do. However any additional cost would make my baking nonviable. The introduction of charges would most probably result in the closure of the market. Artisan and small food businesses often start as a one man band from a domestic kitchen when guidance is required, but financial resource is minimal at start up. The introduction of charges to such small businesses, bed and breakfasts, holiday accommodation, etc would act as a complete disincentive to trade. It should also be borne in mind that such activities often take place in rural areas as a way of supplementing other incomes.

another annual cost for us in an already tight cash flow business may mean we have to make a staff member redundant. Our EHO just turn up without making an appointment so we can't even budget for this extra cost. We have to budget for everything in our business.

Any such costs would be prohibitive for small traders and have a devastating effect on producers in Country Markets/W.I./Farmers Markets etc. These producers play an important role within rural communities. Producers are usually small and often infrequent traders.

As a Church (charity) this would have a huge financial affect on our fundraising, and provision of refreshments at various Church events. Many people supply food for these events and it would be very impractical for their premises to be inspected.

As a member of Chobham Country Market which comes under the umbrella of Country Markets Ltd I am a sole producer. Markets are non profit making co-operatives with each member being a sole producer. Should this charge become mandatory each cook within our market would have to pay the charge which would make our market unviable. My profit for the last year was about £300 once my expenses were deducted which would be completely obliterated should I be required to pay the suggested fee. For big business this fee is a drop in the ocean, but not for me. The market depends on food producers to be viable so the charge could mean the end of the market for us all, craft, plants and vegetable producers being affected too. The Market is not just a selling place. It serves the community of our village by being a meeting place for people to both shop, have a coffee and a chat. It is greatly appreciated by all.

As a micro business our cash flow is highly variable. An inspection at the wrong time could mean not paying wages, or being unable to trade as we can't afford event fees. The suggested price is no problem for larger businesses, but could be the difference between a smaller business staying afloat or closing.

As the main outlet for my rare Breed Pedigree Pork is via Country Markets, there would be a risk of the cooks/bakers not continuing if charges were made and the Markets closing. This along with having to pay the charges for any inspection would severely damage and possibly end my business.

As we are a group of five businesses in the group this is likely to increase overheads and business costs, mainly because of our business expansion in the near future. We are the largest employer in a rural area supplying to over 320 other rural businesses. The FSI team has always been willing to assist with our developments from planning stage to launch, additional costly visits by the FSI involves costs in our development. This would have a dramatic effect on our customers overheads, in ensuring that all premises and staff training was constantly updated and revisits.

At present the EHO gives excellent advice and service to help me to be safe and keep on top of regulations. If I had to pay for this service I would stop using it and this could lower my food safety standards. It would, of course, increase my costs and the charges to the public.

Discourage people from starting a food business. In case of Country Markets Ltd prices would need to be increased to cover the expense of inspection and make good uncompetetive. Loosing a valued local food outlet. Many of whom sell specialist/ local goods not available in supermarkets.

Having just started my business - I wouldn't be able to afford to pay to have a premises checked. This would stop me for being able to have a local cafe and catering business, and I wouldn't be able to contribute to the local community both offering a food service as well as somewhere for the locals to come for a chat.

I am a little country woman in a little country cottage making preserves. I live near the bread line, I work part time and the income from my micro business pays to keep my car on the road. No car, no part time job either! May be it is just a paying hobby, but I am determined to be independent and not rely on handouts to live. I have

I am a new business with relatively large set up costs and considerably small net income. if this charge was to go ahead it could easily take up too much of my profit and not make it viable for me to carry on. so much for encouraging small business!!

I am a sole baker producing cakes and savouries for Country Markets within Gloucestershire and therefore a very small producer. My annual turnover is approx. £6,000 pa with a profit of approx. £2,000 pa so a £300 cost per inspection would effectively put me out of business especially if there was more than 1 inspection per year. I can see the logic of applying a cost for larger businesses who employ staff and have a larger turnover however for someone who only produces 40-50 cakes per week it will have a major impact on the viability of my business. There are a large number of small scale producers like myself selling hand made food which is locally produced.

I am Chair of the management committee of a village hall in mid suffolk, a registered charity. The hall is used occasionally for the serving of food. Our turnover is less than £6,000 a year and most of our income is from lettings. A charge of £300 would represent 5% of our income. To put this in context we charge regular users £7.50 a session so we would need to let the hall for an extra 40 sessions or increase fees. We exist to provide low cost facilities for the community and introducing a charge for such a low risk venue in a small village would put yet more pressure on us to remain viable.

I am concerned about charities and similar voluntary groups which put on catering / sell cakes, teas and coffees etc as an adjunct to or part of their fundraising activities.

I am just in the process of becoming a trader. With the costs of permits, pitches, insurance, equipment and ingredients this extra charge could financially cripple me and stop me from being able to start my business.

I am writing on behalf of Minchinhampton Country Market which is a member through Gloucestershire Country Markets Ltd of Country Markets Ltd based in Chesterfield. We are a co-operative social enterprise. We have 24 producers who produce plants, vegetables, cakes, savouries, preserves, honey and craft items. We hold a weekly market in a local hall and our annual takings are approx. £24,000. The market committee retains 10% to cover expenses and the balance of approx. £21,600 is returned to the producers. During the past year we have had 6 producers providing cooked items (cakes, savouries and preserves). I estimate that during the past year these "cooks" have generated £9000.00 gross income for the market of which £8100.00 has been returned to them - an average £1350.00. This does not represent profit. It is reasonable to assume that at least 50% of this is their costs. If each of these marketeers had to pay an annual fee of £300 for registration and permission to trade then it would render their operation uneconomic and unviable. If the "cooks" were driven out of the our market then the whole market would be forced to close as we could not cover our cost. This would mean that our other producers would have no local outlet for their products and a valued local amenity would be lost.

I only have 2 double B & B rooms, this expense would be huge to me.

I privately cook for friends. I would have to stop if any form of inspection or fee were to be introduced.

I would never have been able to afford to start up with a £300 fee for my first inspection. I've worked from home and have moved premises 4 times in the last 5 years, this would have cost me £1,200! As a very small producer, trying to turn a passion into a business this would have been detrimental to my ability to start up and also an obstacle that would get in the way of growth through expanding premises. It really goes against entrepreneurship. It also deters people from registering in the first place and would lead to poorer hygiene standards which is counter productive!

If the charges were levied, then our business would never have started 3 years ago. We are a small, very rural 8 acre farm, and we were barely even able to afford food for ourselves when we started our food production business. We now employ 13 people in an area of high rural deprivation in Gloucestershire's Forest of Dean! So, with charges, no business. Now we could afford to pay, but many small and charitable businesses would close or never start. It would mean the end to regional specialities, to food tourism - key for this area of the Wye Valley/Forest - and in many cases the loss of income so increased need for centralised support for low income rural dwellers.

If this idiotic suggestion was carried to its fullest extent it would affect village community life. Much of life is shared and settled with a good cuppa and a biscuit. Being able to make a very small profit for producing excellent produce is a very satisfactory target. What about village fetes and after church services?

In a highly regulated and capital intensive sector (meat production/processing) the margins are already tight making it very difficult for small producers to compete. They need support from govt agencies, not extra financial burden which they will by and large be unable to pass on to their customers.

It is not clear whether the regulations apply to the regular serving of tea and biscuits after Meeting for Worship, or other less frequent occasions such as during business meetings (monthly), learning occasions and parties (annually), where food (homemade or bought) is provided by volunteers for buffet. Annual certification for our ten sites of Meeting for Worship in England would be an appreciable extra cost as well as inconvenience for the inspectors (who would have to show up on Sunday to see us in action) and the custodians of our premises. The EU regulation 852/2004 is totally unclear about the scope of the regime. Finally, we have a principle to support sustainable living, which implies supporting small local businesses supplying local produce. It is not in our members' or the public interest for the costs, and hence prices, of such businesses to be raised. Inspection could be paid for from the public purse on the grounds that encouraging local produce has sufficient benefit to the wider community in reducing CO2 and pollution that the cost should be spread further than just the small producers and their small community of consumers.

It would be yet another additional cost to our bottom line, also I am concerned that we are targeted by our EHO's as we are regarded as a high risk food producer and we get at least two visits a year so it would be considerably more than £300 that we would be charged. Also as we grow we need more interaction with the EHO's and they will only discuss things on site - would this cost us more?

It would be yet another burden in an already cost sensitive marketplace which would have to be passed on. As a small retailer these costs make a tremendous difference. It seems to me to be just another 'Tax' on small business. We pay more than enough in rates for the local authority to be able to continue as before. I have no problem with inspections but fail to see why I should pay for them. I expect they will start off infrequently and get more frequent as the authorities realise the income that can be gained.

It would put the business at serious risk and I believe the knock on effect to premises in the food industry would comply less with the mandates, as, the pressures on the business would become even more affected. Recently SMB's have had to swallow the cost for Pensions, allergen labelling, nutritional labelling, rat increase and the hike in the national minimum wage... these stealth taxes are not sustainable for most. The corporates can take this on, but small businesses can't. You will put people out of business.

It's prohibitively expensive for those retailers who are classified from the outset as very low risk. Why should someone declared low risk be charged the same as a shop or restaurant classified high risk. Our EHO visit lasted 30 mins as we are very low risk - that does not justify a £300 fee! Food handlers should not ever be charged for advice which after all is usually required to ensure the safety of the public. Charging extortionate fees will only put people off asking for that advice.

None as we only sell our own veg produce, and are not a food processor, so are not required to have these inspections. N.B. We were told this by a hygiene officer who rang us up shortly after we first registered our agricultural business 14 years ago, and I think it is important that this non-requirement continues to exist for farmers/growers.

Not Sure. It seems extraordinary when as a country we have worked so hard to encourage small producers, to be eco conscious, miles aware, slow food aware, growing organically and with so many good things coming from this movement that someone somewhere should suddenly think that its an excellent idea to penalise those same small producers.

South Yorkshire Country Markets has a long history of individual artisan food producers from their homes who are part of a co-operative industrial provident society formed to enable sales direct to the public through a network of small local market operations. Individual turnover per member is typically small producing each week not much more than £50-60 per producer. The individual food producers are low risk rated by the low degree of contact by EHOs but they are required to register as food businesses. We are not opposed to inspections but the level of charges outlined would most likely see most of our members withdraw and make the organisation unviable. As with much food regulation the regulations and charges do not (and I am sure not intended to affect) work with small local artisan producers such as we are. The imposition of such a charge is likely to impede the role of not just us but a wide variety of other local producers at a time we should be encouraging access to local food supply.

There are two main areas I am concerned with. 1 Schools. If charges of £300 are applied to schools this would be another drain on their greatly diminished budgets. If food is supplied by an outside agency and they were charged, the cost would also eventually passed on to the schools or parents. 2) Small outlets such as Country Markets, Church Halls and charity events. This proposal will close our local country market which is already struggling with rent increases and having to restrict it's opening. Many other small food outlets will have similar problems. We are in danger of being taxed and then charged again for services (which has happened in many other areas of council provision.

To cover the fees my prices would have to go up and it is difficult to stay competitive with companies as it is. Small producers would stop producing it would certainly affect the local economy

We are a church and a charity and provide monthly lunches, mainly for the elderly and those who live on their own. If we had to pay £300 we would have to stop doing this as we simply couldn't afford it and those who now enjoy sharing fellowship over a lunch would have to go without.

We are a small bed and breakfast and make well below the VAT threshold. If this became a regular charge it would seriously jeopardise our ability to continue. Where will it end, what about people who have lodgers, church fetes etc. This just appears a money making initiative.

we are a small charity, all of our money goes to help people who are isolated and in food poverty, a charge would mean that we would run a whole month of our charity making no money.

We are a very small business. I am guessing that the fee would be a set fee and not in proportion with the size of the catering business? I run three separate catering businesses, would I have to pay individually for each inspection? If this was enforced or introduced it could force smaller catering businesses to either go under or not register at all!

We are a voluntary run village hall and a charge for inspection of the kitchen would be detrimental to the money raised for the upkeep of the hall. We are registered and apply the rules of self-assessment.

We are due to see a significant increase in our business rates which will have a detrimental effect on our business. This additional charge will not only impact on any investment we might want to do in our people and premises but also on our prices to the customer. As a mandatory requirement that we are inspected to then be charged is unfair. Small businesses have to juggle many challenges & costs and if these additional charges come in it means small businesses will be lost from our local communities.

£300 charge is over 10% of our weekly turnover. The EHO tends to visit every 18-24 months but we receive no notification of this, some months it may well be very difficult to find the money for this

£300 for each visit would be huge considering I am a small farm (under an acre) and would impact my business massively. Prices would have to increase, I would lose customers which could potentially put me out of business

£300 is a big cost to a small business like ourselves

£300 is a lot of money to fork out for a small business - also if we have to spend £300 would this mean arranged appointments so the spot checks would go?

£300 per year would be almost 10% of my net income from producing jams and marmalades and it would render my business no longer viable.

£300 would be 1/3 of my annual earnings!! I rarely earn a proper hourly rate so this would be a huge hit to me. It would make it difficult to trade and make a profit.

£300 would be a large amount to find, so in the long run couldn't run my business. THE END.

300 is a lot of money to my small business

A £300 charge for a hygiene inspection represents approximately 12 months of profit for me and would therefore make my ongoing business totally nonviable.

A bigger squeeze on earnings where costs of everything have risen and my income hasn't a charge of £300 for each inspection would have a devastating effect on our small one morning a week Country Market Stall. I fear it could be the end.

A charge of £300. Is ridiculous. This is a function of the local authority which is paid for by council tax. You cannot charge again for a service. This would close the country market and other similar businesses. This would be of great detriment to the local economy and very backward thinking.

A charge would most likely close all Country Markets as they are co-operatives, this means they are individuals who group together to make the sale of their goods more viable. Most producers of preserves and baked goods make very little income, probably only a few thousand pounds a year and for many it is only a profitable hobby. A charge would be very detrimental possibly leading to the end of an organisation in operation since 1917.

A hike of 50% - 80% in certification fees Our annual SA inspection looks at hygiene, record keeping, pest control products used etc and this could be a cross compliance factor. IE we are exempt from local authority inspection as we already get an independent inspection annually. We are already registered with local council as a low risk (primary production) food business and have been since we started 35 years ago.

Additional charges add to pressures already squeezing bottom line. Inflation, drop in value of the pound, increasing supplier costs.

Additional charges on the level of those proposed would render our business unviable as we would have to increase our sale prices to unacceptable levels, thereby causing our customers to go elsewhere for their purchases.

Additional cost on what is already a super tight and expensive element of the business.

additional costs of any form would greatly effect commission members would have to pay their local Markets causing increased prices to customers which would drive them away and eventually close the Markets altogether depriving many people the privilege of obtaining fresh home made produce made from locally sourced ingredients including organic vegetables

Additional outgoings from a very small business to pay for service that is provided for free and would not cost £300.00 plus to implement!

All country markets are small and could not be sustainable with these charges.

All dough people enjoy the products I carefully produce at home, I will be forced to close and withdraw my services to the Country Market in the future because of very little turnover.

All members would stop producing and therefore Country Markets Ltd would stop trading. As originally we were the WI Market, the public would no longer be able to enjoy home cooking, as provided by Country Markets Ltd

An increase in food prices. We have to maintain profitability.

Another burden of cost that is inappropriate for a small business

Another charge on top of charges for audits imposed by retailers

Another charge that we cannot afford on top of high rates and competition

another cost in an already high cost industry. Our cash flow is already very tight

Another cost we don't need!

Another tax burden

As a church running a Senior Citizens Luncheon Club and a regular coffee morning we would have to put our charges for the meals up.

As a cooperative of small independent producers and caterers we could not continue to exist

As a Country Market with 'occasional cooks' we would probably not be able to continue. Most of the questions appear not to apply to us but we have done our best to answer them

As a hobby beekeeper I pack and sell my local Welsh honey via a local market. The £300 would prohibit my selling of honey as it would cost more than I make from selling my product. Much local UK producers will suffer, whilst we import product of unknown purity. R.I.P. UK producers.

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As a home producer of preserves, I would cease to trade. I do not make any profit

As a home producer who supplies small quantities of food products for sale at my local Country Market; to pay for a registration or inspection would not be worth me continuing as the maximum I earn is between £50-100 in a month!!!

As a Member of Country Markets we operate as co-operative groups of home producers serving our local community via weekly markets with our own produce, home baking, preserves etc. Our takings are small so the proposals to charges would cripple our continued operation. We could not as individuals or as the local groups sustain the suggested set up charges and the threat of regular visits/payments at these costly rates. Further a flat rate charge to affect all groups big or small is unfair and is a penalty.

As a member of the Country Markets (which grew out of the WI Markets) I am an amateur producer. We are nearly all country women, who use (often our own) fresh produce for home-made preserves; we do traditional baking. Although profits are small, our satisfaction comes from the pleasure of cooking good healthy food, and of sharing the results with our many customers.

As a member of the Country Markets I only produce a very small amount which is sold once a week at the local WI Market. The ladies who bake do so to supply local people with home cooked cakes, pies etc. This not only gives us a hobby but also provides the local community with a meeting place one morning each week. If the charge for inspection is brought in we will have to close as we could not afford £300 most of us as occasional bakers do not even make a profit of £300 a year. Maybe £5- £10 per week if we are lucky. This would deprive us of a hobby and also the local mainly elderly people would be without an community meeting place and reasonably priced home cooked produce. That would be a very negative outcome so I must strongly object to this proposal.

As a Micro producer, these proposals would make my business non-viable.

As a one man business the proposed charges would render my business unviable.

As a small Artisan Baker my turnover is limited and the costs would give me an unsustainable overhead.

As a small business coping with living wage hikes and low economies of scale, further charges would damage my ability to grow and develop and offer more local jobs

As a small business I can't afford these costs, it would be that I would have to reconsider what I do, possibly finish cooking.

As a small business the financial impact would be great.

As a small business working from home the amount of monies proposed is far too high for me to afford. it is a struggle to manage anyway.

As a small country market our food producers could not afford this and it would be likely to result in closure of the weekly market. This would impact on a lot of elderly customers who rely on the market for home made food but also for social interaction.

As a small farm gate provider we would probably have to close

As a small food producer/caterer working with tiny profit margins, and operating more as a service to the community, it would possibly put me out of business to the detriment of the local community. I produce food for our country market with a small profit margin - the market provides a focus for the town, attracts visitors to the town and provides a service for the local people (in particular the elderly).

As a small non profit cooperative (Country Markets), these proposed charges would significantly affect our ability to continue. These charges would affect the majority of our cooks and no doubt these cooks will decide that it is totally unacceptable and will seriously question our future.

As a small producer at my local Country Market the proposed charges would so reduce profitability that I would be forced to cease production. This, in turn, would affect the viability of the market as a whole.

As a small producer of baked goods and preserves, I would not be able to afford these large fees and would have to stop baking. I feel this would also affect all other Country Market members and our organisation may have to close down.

As a small producer the fee incurred would be more than the sales I could make. It would have an enormous impact on my input so much that I would no longer be able to be involved. The only other option would be to significantly increase prices which would impact the community as mainly older folk support the markets as a social activity as well as getting produce and would not be open to such price increases .

As a small producer, £300 would be an onerous charge for a compulsory visit.

As a small quantity producer it would not be viable to carry on producing my individual cakes and preserves.

As a small scale cider producer it would have a huge impact on my business, being exempt for duty means I may make some money in the early years

As a small scale producer selling at a local co-operative I would cease to produce food for sale - it would not be cost effective

As a social economic enterprise serving the community a charge would seriously weaken our Country Market.

As a Society , it would not be able to function , because the cost to the individual cooks would far outweigh their overheads and selling prices

As a startup market trader our revenue currently all goes into paying for materials, ingredients, overheads and our living wage. We make very little profit. £300 for an inspection would seriously disrupt any capital we had managed to save for growth. This is a potentially debilitating proposal for small businesses such as ours

As a very small business, I would be forced to increase my prices.

As a very small Country Market in West Sussex (head office in Chesterfield) we would have to close. Our market has only 8 regular producers of cakes, savouries, jams, chutneys and knitted items. We open for 3.5hours on a Friday. There is very little surplus money once the producers have been paid . What is left over goes in rent.

As a very small producer I would be unable to pay for the inspection and would be unable to trade

As all producers for Country Markets are individuals each would have to pay this fee. In some cases the fee would be more than the producer earns from the Market. If we were to lose producers then ultimately the Country Market itself would not be viable. A valuable service to communities would be lost forever.

As an artisan running a micro business all additional expenses greatly affect my profit. A charge as suggested would probably put me out of business. Compare £300 being virtually nothing for a business turning over £100K, with a business turning over only £10k.

As an occasional producer for a co-operative my profits are small and this sum would represent approximately 8% of my profit making my continuation unviable. I would simply stop producing the food which serves the community and allow a small profit. I foresee that the society and market I belong to would close for a similar reason so there would be no market for me to attend. Nationally this would affect our three hundred markets and seven thousand members who would all lose out. We are already struggling to recruit members prepared to work for probably far less than the minimum wage, because the business is as much a social outlet, and service to the community organization as a vehicle for making a profit. Many of our older members continue to come along to help and sell a couple of jars of jam in order to be part of the co-operative. Whilst we aim at the highest standard of hygiene, it is understood that the social side is as important as the ability to make a small profit.

As cooking for the Country Market is a hobby it would stop me participating. My sales for each week equate to a maximum takings of less than £5000.00 a year with a profit of no more than £1000.00.

As I am a member of the Country Markets and have my own private small business that would mean having to pay twice, which would be totally crippling for me, and totally not worth trading.

As I am a shareholder in a Country Market and cook a small amount each week for the local community only the charge would be prohibitive and I would no longer be able to produce for the market.

AS I AM A SMALL TIME PRODUCER IT WOULD NOT BE ECONOMICAL FOR ME TO HAVE TO PAY FOR INSPECTION

As I cook only once a week for a local Country Market, it would not be viable for me to continue. This market serves the local community and many of the customers are elderly and live on their own. Regular customers rely on this market for quality home cooked food.

As I only cook in my home kitchen for country markets, which open for one day a week a charge of this magnitude would make it too costly for me to carry on cooking as the amount I cook would not cover this charge. I should think this also applies to a large number of other country market members.

As most of our food producers are retired women living on pensions who could not afford these charges and would not be willing to pay them we would cease selling home made food in local cooperatively run markets. In the past 2 years the inspection process has been tightened up considerably with the requirement for SFBB files and food diaries. While this has been burdensome it has meant that there have been appropriate hygiene improvements made in kitchens.

As our Market only operates once a week, a charge would have an effect on our profit and force us to close.

As part of a small market that serves the local community and only trades for 1.5 hrs each week, it would mean it would have to close.

As part of the Country Market Organisation, more costs would actually mean that the market (that provides a regular, local outlet for local producers to meet and sell their homemade produce) would close. We are not professional cooks - we cook what is requested for our local (mostly elderly) customers - further changes will affect them.

As this is a small market each producer would not be able to afford to pay the proposed sum. The effect would be that the market would close.

As a very small business, it would be impossible to continue.

As we are an intentionally small business producing and selling handmade food, the proposed charge would be very large against our turnover, hence we would think twice about continuing to trade.

As a member of a co-operative of small producers I cook for a weekly market. £300 would be the equivalent of my sales for around 6 weeks. Whilst I understand the need for registration this level of fee would make it unviable for me to continue. We are all small producers in our market and the fee would certainly threaten its future. We would find it very difficult to recruit more producers too.

At Country market we are all small producers of food and this is done in our homes. We do not do this too make massive profits but to share our home produced goods with others. A charge for inspections would seriously harm the ethos of the markets and make prices prohibitively too high.

At Country Markets we are self employed/home cooks and mostly only cook one or two days a week. This would certainly impinge on our costs and may lead to the demise of Country Markets

At the level proposed, we would struggle because we are a small scale, community enterprise.

Bankruptcy

Being a member of "Country Market's" this would have a huge impact on any profit made.

Being a member of a Country Market which is only open for 1 1/2 hours once a week, the charge of £300 for registration of each member would not be viable. It would mean the closure and the loss of another village amenity.

Being a member of Country Markets these charges would terminate trading.

being a small producer any extra charges could close me down

Being an occasional Baker, I could not afford the proposed charges and therefore would not continue producing.

Belonging to a Country Market, which is only open once a week for one and a half hours, and the amount I produce would make the cost of £300 untenable. The overall effect of such an individual sum, would mean closure of the market and the loss of a village amenity.

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Belonging to a local Country Market Association, very little profit is made by each individual. If the charge is made compulsory it would not be worth while for us to continue.

Blaby Country Market would likely close.

Business would become unviable.

Business would cease

Business would cease.

Business would close , unable to meet the additional costs.

Business would close down due to cost

Catastrophic

catastrophic

Catastrophic

CATASTROPHIC, COUNTRY MARKETS LTD COMPRISES SHAREHOLDERS WHO PRODUCE BAKING AND PRESERVES IN THEIR OWN HOME ON A SMALL SCALE AND SELL FOR A SMALL PROFIT. IN RHOS ON SEA EVERY BAKER WOULD LEAVE THE MARKET AND THE MARKET WOULD CLOSE DOWN.

Catastrophic. 10s of producers whose sole production is to maintain a business with a £20K pa turnover. That's a new overhead of over £3K ie over an extra 15% - not sustainable hence "catastrophic".

Cease producing

Cease producing

Cease to produce for the market at our local town

Charges would be the end of the markets, as producers are all amateur volunteer cooks, who provide a service to the local community. Every producers holds a current hygiene certificate and they all comply with strict food production and packaging rules. Any other costs could not be factored in the sale price of goods

Chipping Norton Country Market would be forced to close. Small producers mostly pensioners earn less than £ 300 in a whole year

Close down as I'm sure a lot of small individual business would as the charges are prohibitive.

Close it

Close it down

Close.

CLOSURE

Closure

Closure

Closure

CLOSURE

closure

Closure - we are 10 occasional cooks not running a business - Country Markets produce local food for local people, thereby reducing food miles. They promote regional food and crafts, many of which are unique or unusual, thus helping to preserve, and sometimes revive, traditional foods and crafts.

Closure after 40 years of farmers market due to financial hardship.

CLOSURE as this charge would have to be passed on to customers. As a small one man business this sort of charge would not be feasible.

Closure given the additional costs involved

Closure of business

Closure of cooperative

Closure of the Chipping Norton country market.

Closure small Country Markets eg. held in villages could in no way absorb such a large fee

Closure. Waste of homegrown food when gluts occur.

Comes directly off the bottom line

Completely unaffordable. We are a non profit making organisation.

Cook small batches of biscuits and cakes for Country Markets. This would kill off all Country Markets. We are not churning out hundreds of products daily with several staff and a wide range of equipment used - just the producer a mixer or a food processor a few baking trays and an oven

Cooks profits would be so low it would not be viable. We are a small market trading for only 4 hours per week. We are fully registered with the LA

cooks would certainly look at their profits and would quit the market. we are a small market group opening fo 4 hours per week and fully registered with the local authority.

Cost implications of £300 on the cafe's kitchen plus £300 for the approved kitchen which supplies food to the cafe - can be the equivalent of 4 days takings. Also concerned for smaller domestic kitchen set ups e.g. Country Markets which could be put out of business by introducing this charge as they do not have large enough profit margins to cover this.

cost of my products would have to be increased to include this expense, therefore the customer suffers. I could not sustain this extra cost.

Cost to individual small producers would be prohibitive and result in the failure of our business.

Costs would be passed on to users of the nursery

Costs would be passed to customers through increased retail pricing resulting in loss - subsequent closure - of business.

Could not afford to be part of the Country Market.

Could not afford to carry on

Country Market cooks/bakers could not afford this payment and in the long term I believe it will close Country Markets

Country Market could not stand the cost and so would close.

Country Market producers would probably not survive.

Country Market would close - would not be able to support this cost . Nor I personally

Country Markets are a co-operative and a non profit making organisation so would not be able to finance such inspections

Country Markets are groups of individuals who get together once a week/month to sell the items they produce in own their homes - the people who cook for the Markets do not make huge profits and in some cases barely break even on what they produce - not including their electricity and gas charges for what they make. A £300 levy would put most of these small producers in a position where they would have to stop doing it, and as well over half the Market income is from small food producers the markets would close if the cooks left. This levy would effectively shut down the Nationwide Country Markets community. Market producers and their customers rely on the regular events to keep in touch in their retirement. In so many towns this is an essential community activity.

Country markets are Nationwide. Our branches run as a Co-operative and are non profit making. This charge would probably mean that a very high percentage of our branches would close!!

Country markets are small non-profit making social enterprises providing a meeting place for both shareholders and customers. They provide a great service to the local community. These charges would lead to their closure-a great loss as they could not afford to pay additional costs. This would also apply to other social organisations such as the local scouts.

Country Markets are very small businesses and £300 could not only cause difficulties but may even close us down if inspections occurred too often

Country Markets are weekly Markets, usually for a couple of hours only. Any additional costs as indicated could not be borne by our members as income generated only gives a small margin of profit and this is certainly not sufficient to pay for these visits. Consequently our Country Markets would close and no longer would we supply the local town or village with our home produced items. Certainly a loss to the community, both young and especially to older people who frequently rely upon our weekly opening for a nourishing meal.

Country Markets could not stand such a huge fee. We are only a small business making baked foods and preserves in our own homes and then selling them directly to the public at a 3 hour session once a week.

Country Markets in general would struggle and i have no doubt that Dorchester would be forced to close as our funds could not cover the additional outgoings.

Country Markets is a cooperative enabling even individual producers of small quantities to sell their goods. Like many of our members it would not be worth continuing if I had to pay £300.

Country Markets is a co-operative of home producers of food etc. Individual producers sell on average less than £75.00 worth of food per week. Their gross takings per year is less than £3,000.00. If they had to pay £300.00 per year to register etc. they would give up and Country Markets would cease to exist.

Country Markets Ltd encompass a group of thousands of domestic cooks and producers. If each individual cook selling perhaps £10 of goods per week had to pay the fee, our business would not be viable. Many people would be significantly disadvantaged because they could not afford or justify this cost. Another outlet for high quality, local food would be lost.

Country Markets Ltd is a well organised organisation already ensuring its producers are up to date with current food safety standards. Each small domestic producer must hold an up to date Hygiene certificate and be registered with their LA. If inspection charges were introduced to these small domestic producers it would become uneconomical and they would cease to produce. It would kill off the small artisan producers.

Country Markets mostly only trade once a week or some only once a month and make very little profit for some individuals this is less than three hundred pounds. We provide good inexpensive fresh home cooked food and our buyers are mainly elderly pensioners who would otherwise buy mass produced supermarket, additive and sugar full prepared meals. With cuts in meals on wheels services we provide nutritious food for them in appropriate sized portions. This is a service to the community and would be a tragedy to force our cooks to stop . This would also have a detrimental effect on charities who raise money by offering cake sales as a means of raising money several times a year.

country markets would cease to exist

Country Markets would disappear altogether if this charge came in. We are a cooperative with individual producers - lucky to make £300 in a year. We also have to pay for the Hygiene Certificate.

crippling, it is hard to cover rent as it is.

Depending on the severity of the charges / fines. If they were reasonable and within a limit. This would definitely be a cost to us.

Depends on the charges applied.

Destruction of the business and it would cease trading.

Destruction of the business. It would cease trading.

Devastating as our profits are minimal to non existant already.

Disaster

Disastrous, it would be about a 6th of our annual profit just for one inspection

Disastrous. Would mean closure of the company.

Don't know

Don't make much more than £300 profit so would cease to trade

Dramatically reduce production and profitability. All Country Markets are small social Enterprises, long established traditions and CANNOT sustain these charges. They would have to close down...Bankruptcy

Dramatically reduce production and profitability Country markets are small social enterprises and could not be sustainable with this charge

Dramatically reduce production and profitability. All Country Markets are small social enterprises and cannot sustain these changes

Dramatically reduce production and profitability. Small social enterprises, such as Country Markets, cannot sustain these changes and would mean these markets would have to close.

Dramatically reduce the amount of produce and affect the profit . Country Markets are small social enterprises not sustainable with charges.. I personally could not afford these charges as I do not make £300 per annum. I bake for pleasure and a service to others.

dramatically reduced production and profitability. Small enterprises could not be sustainable with these charges

Each country market throughout the country runs independently. If the charges were introduced it would mean, in some cases, that markets would cease trading.

even lower profit margin than current, already living on 'below poverty line' income.

Extra costs taken from an already small profit. If imposed would consider closing operation.

Extra expense for running the Market ,we serve a community with real food .

Farnham Country Market would close after 58 years of trading

Financially, it would close us down, with an enormous loss to the local communities, most of our customers are retired and appreciate the friendly welcome they receive as well as the decent food.

Finish our business

For a micro business deemed low risk by our Environmental health inspectors £300 would be a huge amount to pay. Ridiculous for same charge to be made for micro and large scale businesses. There would be a serious risk of corruption if charges in any form were introduced. There is no way you could feel confidence in an inspector insisting on a follow up visit if money was changing hand. There would also be a risk of visits not being thorough enough if they were being controlled by profitability.

For charity fund raising as we do at our Church and in our village it would make it completely unviable and fund raising would come to an end.

Go out of business

Greater overheads!

Harder to make a profit

Have an impact on profits. At the moment we have a good relationship with EHO, this action might decrease this

Have to increase cost of food. reduce competitiveness less sold Less tourism

Have to stop trading

High cost wasted time possibly stop trade

Horrendous financial implications. We are a non-profit making organisation run by a majority of elderly pensioners. They sell their home-made, home-cooked food once a week for a few hours to local communities. They all hold up to date hygiene certificates. A small commission from sales covers the cost of rent. It is a community event which a lot of local people rely on most of those are also elderly.

I am a cake baker for one of Country Markets Ltd markets, making a limited number of cakes to sell each week. Paying £300 for a kitchen visit would take most of my profit for the year. Most of the bakers in my market would be in a similar position and it would mean the market would stop trading, thus ending 70 years of a market founded by the WI.

I am a home hobby crafter and when attending my local Country Market, about once a month, I also cook cakes and savoury goods to sell alongside my craft items. The charges suggested are significantly higher than I make from sales there for the whole year! It would not be worth my while continuing and likely others would feel the same. This would ultimately lead to the loss of the "handmade" community and also a loss of interaction in the local community where we provide a very worthwhile shopping and social service. To take away the possibility of the patrons buying homemade and healthy food when they may be unable to cook for themselves and the chance to talk to someone would be a real shame.

I am a member of Country Markets and cook once a week for a market that is only open for 90 mins a week. Charges would mean that the market would close as it would be uneconomic for our cooks.

I am a member of Country Markets Ltd this is a cooperative society and I am a very small food producer who sells their goods through Country Markets. Additional business charges would make it non viable to continue as it is only a paid hobby. At Country Markets we give a service to the local community providing fresh home baked food, adhering to all food safety requirements and checks currently, and this service is vital to the local people who use us every week.

I am a member of Country Markets which (is a Co-operative). I think the suggested £300 to be charged for the privilege of having ones kitchen inspected is outrageous. As an individual producer the profit that I make is so small that I would be on a hiding to nothing after all the expenses are subtracted. We would find it pretty difficult to attract new producers and therefore the market would have to close.

I am a micro business and charges would simply put me out of business I cannot afford such charges

I am a one man band that makes jams, etc to sell at our local market. It is more of a hobby than a business. There is no way this fee would be viable I dont even make £300 profit in a year! If small traders like myself are taken out of business, small town and village markets will not survive and this will impact on visitors to our towns, etc.

I am a producer for the local Country Market and it does not make enough to be able to afford this food inspection charge. Country Markets are co-operative social enterprises providing high quality home made produce in our towns. They are an asset to any town. Local people have the chance to make a small profit if they become producers and customers enjoy purchasing home baked, home grown food. It is also a social place for people to meet each week. Our more senior customers would really miss us if we had to close due to routine inspection charges.

I am a producer of a small amount of baked goods (shortbread and cakes) for Rayleigh Country Market and if the charge were to be introduced I would cease to produce as the cost of the charge would outweigh the small profit made on these items. I know that other small producers at the Country Market would be in the same position and if we had nothing to sell, the market would close and this would be a tremendous loss to the local community in Rayleigh (Essex). We provide a friendly and popular hub for local people to meet, have a coffee etc and buy a homemade cake to take home - all at a very reasonable price. The majority of customers are elderly and enjoy the service we provide, giving them an opportunity to leave their homes, meet and socialise with others - invaluable for those who might otherwise be lonely and housebound.

I am a small business with market stall these charges would crucify me as I am trying to build my business up. I have a cleared kitchen at home that has been passed by the local authority.

I am a small home cooking producer selling locally in country markets. This charge would render all small home cooks like myself not viable.

I am a small producer of vegetables and it would not be worth me producing as it would be too much to pay for little I produce

I am a small producer operating from my own home and charges would put me out of business. Everything I produce is for community events so would have a knock-on effect.

I am a small scale beekeeper. I only cover my costs on a good year, £300 and extra paper work would make it difficult or impossible to continue my beekeeping with a negative impact on pollination of crops in my area and the enjoyment it brings to me and the people who enjoy my honey

I am a small scale beekeeper. I only cover my costs on a good year, £300 and extra paper work would make it difficult or impossible to continue my beekeeping with a negative impact on pollination of crops in my area and the enjoyment it brings to me and the people who enjoy my honey

I am a sole trader, so I would have to stop producing and sign on the dole. This would also affect the business that I supply, as they would not be able to source a similar product. I also cook for Country Markets and they would have to close.

I am a very small business and these charges are excessive. I run on a very small profit margin and I simply couldn't afford it

I am a very small home based business, I barely turn enough over to feed the family how would paying for inspections help us? I have a 5 star rating so why would you need to visit every year - how much would change in 12 months

I am a very small homemade confectionery business, I would be unable to afford a re-inspection and as a consequence would have to close my business. My business enables me to work whilst staying at home to being up my children. Mine and my family life as it is will be compromised.

I am Chairman of Avon Country Market Limited. We are a co-operative of local producers who bake for a weekly market in our own homes. Often this is a launch pad for caterers who move on to bigger things. A £300 charge would be prohibitive for these small bakers who often make less than £100pm. (Any charge would be a disincentive to bake) It would cause the markets to close, remove the option for small start ups, take away Customer choice to eat artisan, additive free baking and leave us with just the big factory producers. This charge is a dreadful idea and takes no account of the small producer. I understand that the Local Authorities are under financial pressure but Central Government Policy is no excuse for destroying small businesses.

I am not a business. I have a vegetable patch which grows more than I need and the surplus is offered for sale at the local Country Market. A fee for producing food would cost more than any sales would return so I would stop supplying. The greater effect would be the further destruction of 'the British Way of Life'. Get this - I would not offer surplus food to my community if I have to pay more than I get in return.

I am only part time when fruit is in season and fruit related products and only make 500 pounds a year

I am part of a cooperative (Country Markets). The cooks all use domestic kitchens and such high charges we mean that we would all go out of business.

I am part of an amazing organisation that brings together local people to sell homemade food to other members of the community. It is held on a weekly basis and plays an important role in the life of our town. It is a regular meeting place for all ages where they can buy good homemade food at reasonable prices in a warm and welcoming environment. We are all volunteers the imposition of these charges would force us to close and deprive the community of a well loved resource .

i AM RUNNING MY SMALL SOLE TRADER CAKE BUSINESS ON A VERY LOW PROFIT AS IT AT THE MOMENT SO IT WOULD MAKE THINGS EVEN HARDER

I bake at home for a Country Market Stall at a local popular Farmer's Market. I make very little money for this, my main motivation is to keep the stall going for the benefit of the community, and to produce high quality home made goods. If I had to pay £300 to have my home kitchen inspected I would stop producing, as would most of the members.

I bake bread, savouries & make soup for a local Country Market and farm shop. If a fee of £300 per inspection was levied it would not be worth my while cooking the little food I do and I would have to stop. I was considering trying to expand my outlets but the proposed fee would be too big a barrier to entry.

I bake for the Country Market Cooperative and a charge would make this unsustainable and it is my belief that it would completely close ALL the Country Markets as we make very small profits. I think this would be a great loss as most country markets are a meeting place for many elderly people in the community. They are more than just a place to buy goods.

I believe it would destroy our business

I belong to a local Country Market. Traders are very small scale producers who quite simply could not afford to pay for the EHO visits and registration. Adding the cost of these onto prices would make them prohibitively high for our customers. The Country market would in all probability cease to exist.

I belong to a society Country Markets Ltd. Formerly WI Markets. We are mainly women baking at home. Baked goods are packed at home and sold at a market, usually in a village hall once a week. We specialise in good home baked and cooked food. Everyone has to have a basic hygiene certificate,. (I have the intermediate) and keep a record of ingredients, allergens etc. We make a small profit so to charge £300 would make it unprofitable.

I belong to Country Markets Ltd. We are a co-operative of small producers some of whom only produce £10 to £20 worth of baked items a week. The additional costs involved would stop our bakers providing a valuable service to customers who enjoy truly home baked cakes, pastries and preserves. Individual producers could never recover the costs as prices could not be increased to cover the cost. The introduction of a charge would sound the death knell for our organisation which has been in existence as a co-operative since 1919.

I belong to Country Markets many of whom are struggling to survive. This could be the final nail in the coffin for them. I bake for them and other similar events and make very little profit. We sell good quality goods made with natural ingredients and no artificial additives or preservatives. It is a real kick in the teeth for the "little man". The fee being suggested is an absolute disgrace and plain greedy.

I could not afford to go carry on

I couldn't afford the visit so would have to stop trading

I couldn't afford to maintain my business. My annual profits are under £8000. The inspection charge would be crippling.

I immediately would stop trading. As one of the hundreds of thousands micro businesses it wouldn't be worth my while to give the profit of HALF A YEAR to food inspectors. It is the councils responsibility to encourages small businesses, not to strangle them.

I make preserves from food I grow in the garden and from fruit and vegetables bought at the market. They are prepared at home in my kitchen. My overall annual turnover was just under £1000 in 2016. Any inspection would completely wipe out my annual profit, and in any case is very unlikely to coincide with my occasional weekend production sessions. It would be just an inspection of a household kitchen with nothing relevant happening.

I only produce plants but can see that these charges would have a detrimental effect on the overall services on offer to the public/shoppers and ultimately would close the market.

I produce honey, i have very few hives so my turnover is very low and profit margin and I would have to withdraw my services to country markets instantly. I have a food hygiene certificate.

I run a small cake business and once I have paid my insurance and tax bill I am left with very little. Not even enough to solely live off. If this cost was implemented, I would definitely have to cease trading.

I run a small food business trading at local markets and events in Cornwall. Bringing in this charge would destroy my business along with a number of others in the county.

I sell a small amount of home made food at a monthly country market. The proposed cost of the food inspection is out of proportion and very much excessive considering the amount of food I sell on a yearly basis. It would not be worth my while to continue operating, therefore I will stop

I sell insufficient to cover the charges, I would stop trading!

I set up my business in 2014 and I had a very limited budget to do so. If there had been a charge of £300 I would not have had the money and been unable to start trading. I am now 18 months into making and selling jams and chunteys on a part time basis and it would make me question if carrying on building my business would be viable. It is a crippling charge that small businesses such as myself cannot afford to pay. Please reconsider the charge and think of ways of supporting small businesses like myself. I also volunteer at a local sports club doing cricket teas. This club could not afford these costs and food would no longer be offered ending a very long village tradition. How sad.

I simply could not afford to carry on trading; although not retired, I have reached the point in my life where I do not wish to struggle with business expansion, vying against competitively priced imports of food, flowers and plants. It is yet another nail in the coffin for small producers who are able to supply good quality produce to consumers in a local area. The sweeping suggestion for a one-size-fits-all inspection fee is ridiculous - there is no comparison between the work involved in inspecting a high street takeaway versus our small weekly country market.

I trust that this survey is completely confidential. I am a one-woman artisan baker trying to supply my customers with quality bread that meets the criteria of The Real Bread Campaign. My t/o is +/- £40k pa I cannot expand my business as I care for my elderly mother (and I don't claim any carer's benefits nor do I use any resources such as support groups that are available). I earn well below the minimum wage per hour myself but I pay occasional helpers £8.00 per hour for unskilled or semi-skilled labour (e.g. washing up or picking orders at unsociable hours). To earn even the minimum wage myself I should add about 50p average to the cost of every loaf or other baked item that I sell but I want my bread to be affordable to everyone (not just well-off people). The proposed changes might just be the straw that breaks the camel's back, as far as I'm concerned. That could put three people (myself included) into a situation where we are all claiming benefits.

I will go out of business

I would cease baking as a small producer of Country Markets who sells on one morning a week.

I would cease baking for my local market.

I would cease producing & it would make it very difficult for all small suppliers to continue producing

I would cease producing.

I would cease to provide produce.

I would cease trading

I would cease trading.

I would close down as the cost would outweigh the benefit of operating as I am a small scale producer of home baked goods

I would find my income considerably reduced as would my profitability and the production of goods. Our country market is a small enterprise and as well as selling our goods we are a social gathering place for a lot of elderly people in our small country town and could not sustain this service with these changes

I would give up as I only bake a few cakes for Country Markets, formerly W.I. Market

I would go out of business. I'm a home Baker. I don't make enough to cover these charges.

I would have to cease as I only produce rolls, cakes, veggie pies etc for a monthly café market where I run a stall - I have many regulars. The cost of £300 would prohibit any trading.

I would have to cease selling my produce from my allotment at the country market morning and stop jam and chutney production as it would be totally unviable to cover costs

I would have to cease trading as I couldn't afford the inspection fees.

I would have to cease trading.

I would have to cease trading; I have a very tight profit margin

I would have to close

I would have to close down. It's bad as it is. I couldn't afford to pay it. I don't earn a wage yet

I would have to give up. It would cost too much in proportion to the profit I make. My baking would not be viable. I do not make much now.

I would have to stop baking, charge too much for small business. I couldn't afford to pay it

I would have to stop.

I would have to stop. I don't produce enough cakes to be able to absorb that cost.

I would imagine the Country Market might close as profits made would not cover the cost.

I would make no profit from selling food. Unlike a big food business I could not add the cost to the cakes I sell. I would have to add about £1 to each item I sell, which my customers would not pay. Our Country Market would be forced to close, because cooks couldn't afford the cost. A source of local home cooked food would be lost.

I would need to increase my prices to recover the cost of the inspection. If I couldn't do this, the existence of my business would be threatened.

I would not be able to afford to continue if charges were introduced as I have a very small profit margin.

I would NOT be able to carry on baking for the Country Market if these charges were imposed. I am a tiny producer who earns under £70 per month after overheads such as ingredients, packaging and energy costs are accounted for. So one visit per year would wipe out my small profit for 4 to 5 months. Essentially this charge would stop me baking at all.

I would not be able to continue - the charge would be more than my turnover.

I would not be able to continue

I would not have the small and I mean small income even

I would only sell fresh produce and it would no longer be worth making preserves, indeed it might prejudice those sales also.

I would personally give up baking for the public

I would probably have to close and look for alternative work.

I would shut down

I would stop producing baked goods for the market, which is the main part of its business

I would stop producing bread, cakes, and jam to sell at our local Country Market

I would stop selling my honey and small amount of strawberry jam due to the cost involved should I have a visit.

I would struggle to pay this fee.

I wouldn't bake anymore. It wouldn't be worth it.

I wouldn't be able to trade at the country market as my business does not make enough money to contribute to charges for inspections.

I wouldn't mind paying something like £50 but £300 is too expensive. I think it would discourage small businesses.

I/We would cease trading.

If a £300 inspection charge was introduced I would have to cease selling, as would all our members in the market.

If charges are introduced to register my business it would not be worth while continuing to cook for Country Markets. I also run a small celebration cake business from home and I would have to bake a lot of cakes to make enough money to justify the £300 charge for an inspection. I think the current system works very well with WODC controlling local food hygiene and businesses. Food inspections are paid for by tax payers.

If charges were introduced the business would fold. We are small producers and could not absorb the cost of inspections if we had to pay the sort of money that is being proposed,

If charges were introduced the local Country markets would cease trading as any charge would be unaffordable. Producers make very little profit from selling their cakes, pies, jams and pastries plus surplus fruit and veg in the summer, so they would not be able to continue this valuable local service. All food producers have the correct Food and Hygiene certificates. These could be sent to the local authority and this should be enough to ensure food safety.

If charges were introduced, it would mean any profits made from my business would be negligible, and as such I would have to consider closing down.

If charges were to be introduced it would drive Country Markets out of business

If introduced a financially viable business.

If introduced I would be unable to sustain c.f.: / a financially viable business.x

If these charges were introduced, our Markets would be forced to close because of lack of funds. We provide a social service enabling local people to get together as well as selling our produce and this would also disappear.

If these very high charges were made, then many of our Country Markets that serve their communities would have to close and would be of considerable detriment to our communities.

It would close most of the country market would close.

Elimination

I'm running a micro business with a marginal profit, additional costs might stop me producing or selling.

In the last Financial Year my net profit was £1,027. To be required to pay £300 for an inspection would make the whole exercise unprofitable and I would cease trading. That would be the reaction of other suppliers to the local Country Market and a valuable local asset would be lost. The small artisan baker would be lost for good and the Country Market organisation would be lost too.

In the weekly Country Market I work at the cost of registration would mean the Market could close as there is so little profit. The Market is seen as a service to the community.

Increased costs would affect business viability as we have no way of recovering even part of this

Individual Country Markets could not sustain this charge. They just don't earn enough. We provide a valuable service to the local communities where we are set up.

Individual people cooking at home could not absorb the extra cost nor increase their prices to the local customers and would make the enterprise uneconomic

Individual small bakers bring their goods to the Country Market. Currently their home premises are inspected as is the premises in which the market is held. A charge for these inspections would put the bakers out of business as many only bring in a small quantity of home baked goods each week.

Introduction of charging for food safety inspections would mean the closure of Country Markets as the individual cooks will not be able to afford it. It would be the loss of income for the cooks.

It could put us out of business for good

It is a very large amount to charge for small businesses.

It is likely to cease trading.

It is unclear from the proposals how the 'home-based' micro producer is to be regulated, if at all, as all references appear to be for 'businesses'. Of the 15-18 regular food providers to the weekly market probably all but 2 produce only for this market and average just £20 a week in turnover. Whilst providing food for sale to the public it is hard to see this activity as a 'business'. Whilst consumer protection and safety is rightly paramount any significant regulatory charge for this type of producer can only make this activity unviable.

It will lead to the closure of the Country Markets as we could not absorb the costs incurred
It will make small business' unviable.

It would almost certainly cease. £300 to inspect a Country Market Food Counter is ridiculous: this is an excessive amount to charge for what would be a very quick visit.

It would be catastrophic as individual members do not create a huge amount of income within each local market (which is part of Country Markets Ltd), as we operate on a community cooperative basis. £300 would stop most members from baking, as the cost could not be met from their profit.

It would be difficult to justify paying this sum on a small turnover with small profit margins such as ours.

It would be forced to close

It would be very detrimental to our markets. Most of our food producers cook for a weekly market in their homes on a small scale. The £300 charge for their kitchen inspection would hardly make it worthwhile. Losing our cooks would mean a great loss in our cooperative markets leading to closures, not only affecting cooks but also plant and craft producers.

It would be virtually impossible to fund this from our limited country market resources (Alford co. mkt, as we are a small mkt with a limited number of members) and might result in us having to give up completely.

It would cause the business to be less profitable and possibly lead to the business closing.

it would cease to trade

it would cease, dont even take that money in total for a year,

It would certainly create a barrier to entry for the majority of small/ micro businesses. Not such a bad thing if standards can be maintained. However if the programme is not 'policed' properly, then companies will still be able to trade without having been regularly audited - therefore whats the point?? If you are going to make a charge, then ensure that you have enough fully qualified auditors to ensure the programme is robust

It would close

It would close

It would close as I only produce small quantities of food for sale through my local Country Market. There would be no point in me paying £300 and so the Market would lose a producer and as all the producers are small it would lose them all so the Market would close. The Country Market provides a valuable service to the local community producing varied products in small quantities for customers that want a home produced product but are not able/willing to cook it themselves. The Country Market also provides a social meeting place for many single/elderly people that appreciate the one to one service they receive. By introducing a charge for food safety inspections the producers for the Country Market would not be able to justify the cost as many only make a few pounds each week. Country Markets gives them a purpose/routine and social life which as many are older single people is very important for their mental health. Local Authorities might find that they increase their social care costs by charging for routine food safety inspections.

It would close as my contribution to Alcester Country Market is "pin money" only

It would close down our co-operative in the first year as this charge would be unpayable on the profits we make. I thought this government was trying to encourage small businesses not put them out of business.

It would close down. I do not make much more than 300 pounds in a year. As Country Markets we are a regulated co-operative and cook in domestic premises and I have never had any complaints about the quality of my cooking. The goods are sold closely wrapped and no contamination can occur. For

It would close for sure - we have a very small turnover

It would close it as not enough profit is generated to afford this

It would close U.S. Down.

It would close us down - no one could afford it, we run as a co-operative

It would close!!!

It would close.

It would close. We are a very small operation just making a few cakes and our profits are a few pounds per week. It would take years of profits just to cover the cost of the inspection so we would have to shut. In any event we were inspected already (for free) last year so it is unclear what benefit this would bring to anyone.

It would completely close our business down as the people who make the goods could not afford the charge. This would have an impact on the local community and its people.

It would cost the business money which is best used in making sure all staff are trained and well briefed

It would cripple my small, one man produce and sell direct to end line customer.

It would depend on the charge levied, if it is higher than £50 per visit every 3 years then this would have a negative impact on my business as my profit margins are small.

It would destroy Country Markets Hygiene certificate level 2 adequate

It would destroy it

it would discourage new artisan producers and inevitably result in the closure of the business. Small country markets do not have the means to cover such proposed charges

It would extra cost to the business that would eat into our little profit we make.

It would have significant impact on the my business and if annual fees were imposed I would probably have to stop trading.

it would have to close

It would have to close . as a non profit making organisation that is only open one day a week there would be insufficient income to be able to pay the fees.

It would have to close as we are a co-operative of very small-scale producers.

It would just not make the country market viable.. The market is opened for three hours once a week, and not open for the full year. a part time baker from home it just would not be viable for me..

It would kill the Country market I belong to . None of the drop down options apply to us. And we are against the charges for inspections

It would make it unprofitable and would not be worth me carrying on.

It would make my business unprofitable and I would be forced to stop.

It would make my profits smaller as a small supplier of cakes etc it would have a massive impact on my producing cakes it would actually prevent me from supplying cakes to be sold on at country markets etc.

It would make our produce too dear We would have to put up our prices

It would make the country market financially unviable so would have to close.

It would make the small production I have non-viable.

It would make us unviable as our society is a mutual and therefore is non profit making. We would be unable to pass on or absorb any of these charges as our customer base is elderly and shrinking. Implementation of any extra official charges will ensure that a little more of Britain's rich heritage ie. the village market, will be decimated and will destroy the atmosphere that tourists come for. I can understand the desire of the council to offset charges but this will be a retrograde step, please think again.

It would mean many of the Country Market cooks having to stop trading.

It would mean that I would no longer be able to produce food for the Country Market that I am part of, as I don't earn enough to cover the costs involved. We keep our costs down as low as we can to help the customer which means we usually have a VERY small profit margin and obviously can't bulk buy like the large businesses.

It would mean that Social Enterprises such as the Country Market's , would have a serious decline in members, Products been available for our customers. For me personally I would not continue to prepare and sell goods. As such a cost would be beyond me due to the amount of goods I sell per annum to a) re-coup such an expense and b)the amount suggested and the proposal is beyond my income. To a large company it isn't much. But to an a small business/micro business etc it is a huge amount. It might as well be £50,000.00!

It would mean the end of Country Markets which perform a very useful community service.

It would most likely be the end of the business as it is small and this would make it financially unviable

It would not be viable for me to still trade. A small concern cannot afford this. Lots of small catering people would have to cease.

It would not be worth continuing my business if these charges were introduced as I am only producing on a small scale, I do not earn enough money from the business to fund this charge.

It would not be worthwhile to continue

It would not be worthwhile trading.

It would not impact my business specifically as I am a registered business and receive visits for my premises. However, selling through Country Markets I meet many wonderful suppliers and we have a huge membership of customers - to introduce this would mean we would lose many suppliers (some elderly) who make amazing products but will fear such a radical change - this puts the life of CM at risk.

It would not make a viable thing as it would take away any small profit that we can make in a year.

It would obviously be another expense to put through the accounts, and have a subsequent impact on profit/takings

It would place non-organic producers under some limited obligations

It would probably close a valuable community provision which brings together local older people on a weekly basis.

It would probably close down

It would probably close us down. Country Markets run as a co-operative and all monies raised from sales of goods is returned to the producer apart from a commission which is used to pay for premises etc. We are not individually "business people", but private ordinary citizens who come together for our mutual benefit. We also provide a service for local residents who enjoy a social time as well as being able to buy home made, home grown and hand crafted goods. This would be lost if the proposed changes go ahead!

It would probably make it too expensive to trade

It would put an end to our local monthly market

It would seriously affect our business as our profits are minimal and may mean we have to close or increase our prices which may mean loss of customers and inevitably close.

It would seriously impact on the profitability of my small business unless, the charge is a tax deductible fee!

It would shut me down instantly - margins are so small that it would make it totally unsustainable. I grow and produce for small local markets, so it would make it untenable.

It would simply be unaffordable.

It would stop trading altogether

It would wipe out any profit made as I only bake and make preserves for a weekly market, run as a cooperative, that takes on a good week £200 - 240, before expenses.

It would wipe out any profit made as I only bake and make preserves for a weekly market, run as a cooperative, that takes on a good week £200 - 240, before expenses.

Likely to shut down as we cannot afford the payment.

Limit our ability to trade, and costs would cripple

Loss of producers, lack of produce to sell and loss of business. This may result in the closure of many small Country Markets providing local home made and home baked produce.

Lower disposable income to spend on implementing food safety initiatives

Make business unsustainable

Make it far less viable.

Markets would close as individual cooks would not be able to afford any charge. Markets have operated over the last years providing food individually made for specific dietary requests for customers who are not able to buy this food at supermarkets. Any charge for kitchen inspections would make the food too expensive for our customers.

Markets would close because of the expense

Members of our local community would lose a very important hour a week of social companionship alongside the opportunity to buy local fresh produce in small quantities Our market is about more than profit and is vital for lonely elderly people

Most members of Country Markets have very small turnovers per year and a £300 fee would be prohibitive. Also many members are retired individuals producing cakes/etc once a week for small individual markets around the country and would not wish to be in all the administration of registering etc. I as an individual would cease trading.

my business is too small to cover the cost

My business is very small and any additional charges have a big impact on the profitability of my business. Forcing this cost on to a small business is scandalous and could easily be taken up by the huge multinationals in the country.

My business is very small value at present although I would like it to grow. I produce preserves from my own produce and sell locally - reducing food miles and waste. I support local markets. These small markets offer a considerable social benefit in rural locations. I turnover less than £2500 per annum on this business so that a charge of £300 would be a considerable burden and probably I would give up.

My business would close

My business would close

My business would close at the first inspection.

My food/produce is so small scale such that what we earn will not cover the £300 cost.

my home made cakes would not be able to compete price wise with those of large manufacturers.

My outlet would most likely shut down

my profit will be cut dramatically and the business will close

My small business (I produce home made nut butters for small scale selling at local markets) which I currently run as a side operation to my unrelated full time work would be completely unprofitable and I would be unable to continue.

N/A

No profit, depending on charges

no profit, or lack of enthusiasm to bake etc. due to most funds going towards rent, inspections and anything else outgoing before we make any money back, therefore letting customers down.

None personally but unfair for other small producers who would require it

Not acceptable - very little profit made.

Not applicable

Not applicable

not viable I am eighty two years old I like the social side and what I sell pays for my petrol

obviously it would impact on profitability and therefore the provision of jobs in the business could be affected

one more business expense to be absorbed on top of all the others.

only a very small business it would not be viable if charges were brought in

Our account could not survive a £300 charge. We would close instantly in Ivybridge

Our bakers would not be able to afford to pay for inspections, so we would all go out of business.

Our business works on very low margins. If this cost were introduced it would make the business unviable.

Our costs have risen by £29,000 this year compared to those of 2015-2016. we ca not afford any extra costs to our business.

Our Country Market cooks could not afford this and the Llandeilo Country Market would probably close.

Our Country Market in a church hall for just 1 hour a week would close down if each amateur cook was charged the proposed £300 for an inspection of their private kitchen! On average it takes 6 months to earn £300 before taking into account cost of ingredients, electricity, transport costs And time. Our (mainly elderly) customers would lose out greatly if the market closed.

Our Country Market is already struggling to earn sufficient to cover administration costs, so any additional charge would probably mean we would have to close

Our Country Market would close as producers would be unable to pay £300 and our regular customers would have nowhere to buy locally produced food containing no preservatives etc

Our Country Market would no longer be able to continue if these charges were brought in. Our producers make very little profit due to competition from the large supermarkets and we couldn't possibly cover the increased costs. Our customers would lose a very important community asset.

Our food producers work in their own kitchens on a very small scale. They only produce a few cakes and savouries once a month and make very little money doing it. A £300 charge for home kitchen inspection would mean they could not afford to carry on and there would be no food for sale at our market. This would lead to customers no longer coming to the market and we would have to close.

Our local Country markets could not afford to carry on

our organisation, Countrymarkets, would not be able to afford these charges as we are small weekly traders. We would most certainly have to close down, which would be a great loss to the community which we have served for many, many years.

Our profit margins have dropped so low that this added charge will force me to close my business.

Personally, I would go out of business and that would have an effect on the co-operative to which I belong, decreasing the range of products and decreasing income.

Possible closure.

Possible ending of business as it would be too expensive for small individual members to sustain

Potentially huge expense relative to the modest amounts of money we make which would be a disincentive to continue in business.

Price rises would have to be passed onto the customer. Simple economics shows higher prices = lower demand. Less profit, less chance of the premises staying open.

Prices to customers would need to be increased to meet the additional expenditure.

Prices would have to rise more than our customers are willing or able to pay probably cease trading as I only produce a small quantity of goods so a charge would make it economically unviable

Probably not be able to continue to trade.

Probably stop cooking

Producers of cakes and preserves make very little profit if any and have a low turnover. If these charges come into force I will have to withdraw from Oswestry Country Markets. Our customers are regulars and prefer homemade cakes and produce. The older generation love to come to our market, have a cup of tea and a chat. These people would certainly miss out through no fault of our own.

Profit margins are already very small and any more added expense would mean the business would become unviable.

Quite simply we would cease to trade as the charge is prohibitive. Furthermore this would be an extra tax charged by the local authorities when they already have that via the Council Tax. In short the proposed £300.00 charge for visits is a charge to subsidise inefficient local authorities with no regard for the effect it will have on the small trader.

reduce producers and profit these changes not viable for small concerns

Reduce production and profitability Ours is a small social enterprise unable to sustain such charges

reducing profit ,already very small

Rochester country market will not be able to afford the fees hence will shut down. which means i will not be able to sell to my customers, be out of business and not afford to make my financial contributions towards my family

sales would be down as we would have to increase prices

Several hundred country markets across the country would almost certainly have to close. Each market is supplied by a number of home cooks, some only making a few items each week. None would be able to continue operating with this level of expense. This would deprive the public of the chance to buy high quality home cooking and local produce.

Severely restricting

Significant cost to business

Significant erosion of profitability for a very small home-based producer.

Small business being burdened with excessive costs and red tape

Small businesses such as Country Markets would close as they have a number of people cooking in differing private homes. They could not afford to pay as income would be less than outlay

Small businesses would be forced to close.

Small individual and artisan producers will not be able to pay that high flat fee for inspection therefore not be able to continue small scale artisan and specialized baking in comparison to large industrial style food retailers.

small local producers selling homemade home grown or home crafted items to local customers. Charges applied would mean many could not afford to absorb the extra cost and our customers would also not pay the increases therefore home producers would leave and markets would close. It really is that simple.

Small market food Producers would not continue in business as additional charges would not make it viable for some.

Small markets and businesses would not thrive. The market would not be able to bear the brunt of the charge, and the cost dispersed amongst the individuals affected would mean those individuals would no longer produce due to smaller profit margins.

Small volume producers can not afford such a high charge nor be able to pass on the cost to customers. This is unrealistic approach to ensure safety of 'home cooked/home made/home grown' produce.

Some country Markets are very small concerns with only a few producers. £300 would almost certainly make many no longer viable, especially when trading is only one session per month.

Stripping too many weeks profits to warrant production for each year.

Terminal! Small local producers could not absorb this high cost. It is disproportionate and damaging to small local markets Country Markets (nationwide) offer local food produce from local members under careful regulation Further regulation with the implied cost is simply overwhelming and would result in a great loss to the community

that fee is more than I often take in an average weeks trading. if I had to pay this fee each time I requested a visit that would over a months wages out the window.

That is a huge charge, which as a small producer would greatly impact on my income.

The £300 would close many markets. We have a core amount of elderly ladies who rely on our markets

The added costs might well make the business unviable. Small business's would not be able to pay an annual fee

The additional cost would have to be factored in when reviewing our prices.

the burden of additional costs would need to be absorbed - by the retailer? by the customer?

The business (a branch of Country Markets) would have to close down. We simply cannot afford the costs; Country Markets are often a vital source of shopping for frail or elderly people who visit because they see the same, friendly and familiar faces week after week. We offer a lifeline of friendship as well as good, wholesome food. These kind of food suppliers have been in small towns and villages for decades and are a part of our country culture. We do not want to lose that.

The business (Country Markets) is composed of individual producers of food and craft items all of whom have turnovers of under £1000 per annum. The proposed charge for inspecting the kitchens of those who cook (cakes and other bakery items, pies and quiches) would devastate the business and we would be forced to stop, disappointing the many loyal customers.

The business (Non-profit making and staffed by volunteers) would be forced to close.

The business is barely viable as it is. If I were not able to make good use of surplus produce by turning it into a processed foodstuff (such as chutney) then turnover and profit would be reduced and waste would be increased.

The business would cease to trade and so would many Charity events.

The business would cease. We cook at home and take our produce each week to a village hall. Our weekly turnover is on average £250 per week We supply local people who walk in There are 2 of us that cook small amount of savouries and if your suggestion goes ahead that means £600 which is totally out of the question as our profits are so small.

The business would close down.

The business would close. I purchase the ingredients and bake fruit bun-loaves, and during the course of the year (twelve months), I am unlikely to cover the cost of half the suggested fee of £300.00 for an inspection by our local authority. The, and every, local authority are paid by us all as residents in any area, and closing us down is not good for any community.

The business would no longer be viable

The business would not be able to afford the extra cost of inspection and would probably cease trading

The business would not be able to afford these expensive changes

The capacity of the Country Market is far too small to absorb the cost that would be levied and make the business not viable

The charge would be larger than the income I receive from the small amount of baking I do for Country Markets. I also cater for Parish events which are charitable events where I am not paid to do the work.

The charges envisaged would mean the closure of many small businesses, giving less choice for customers wishing to purchase high quality fresh locally sourced food

The charges for Country Markets is excessive as only a percentage of sales is taken for the running costs. Country Markets are non profit making. All members have to take hygiene courses at our expense.

the charges would mean that country market would not be able to trade. country market are too small to be able to pay that amount of fee.

The cost could not be covered by individual producers, the cost too great. Producers would leave the markets, and subsequently they would close as would have no food producers.

The cost is disproportionate for small scale/hobby type activities eg Beekeepers

The cost of the inspection and of my time would be passed on to the consumer

The cost would be disproportionate to the size of our business and would threaten our viability as a business.

The cost would lead to an excessive cost on the business which would lead to closure of many small, independent businesses

The cost would rise and it wouldn't be worth doing

THE COSTS ARE TOO LARGE TO ABSORB

the costs of the product should be increased, and administration costs

The Country Market nationwide would have to close

The country market only operates one hour once a week. Each Cook will not be able to afford to be charged for an inspection every year so therefore will not be able to operate and the business will be forced to close putting customers out of touch with cooks they have known and trust to produce home cooked wholesome fresh food. It is not fair as a small cook to go up against the larger food outlets who have the money. This charge must NOT happen to small businesses

The Country Market outlet opportunity and social support will simply close very quickly. This level of payment is way beyond the income level of this type of baking outlet. catastrophic.

The Country Market trades for 2-3 hours a week. The average producers sell approx £40 worth of goods, the market takes approx 15% commission not all goods produced sell because of limited trading time, so the profit is very little. Our market would be forced to close, the charges are out of proportion. Our market at Chipping Norton supports the community, especially the elderly, who love to visit us, have a cuppa and a chat. The Town Hall receives £44.00 per market in rent.

The Country Market would be closed down completely causing a great loss to this old market town which was founded in the 12th century as a market town. The majority of the market is not food, being plants and cards and flowers etc. This would be a very serious loss to the community being the only reason that some of the older residents get out at all. Thursday is the high point of the week when the Country Market is open. There have been no incidents of illness caused by unsafe food. YOU SHOULD CONCENTRATE YOUR INSPECTION ON SALAD PRODUCTS. There was a recent study in the U.S.A. which found that a huge number of cases of gastroenteritis were due to badly washed and bagged salad products. Nothing to do with small food producers who have their neighbours health uppermost in their mindset.xx

The Country Markets are a co-operative, which takes a small commission from each members' sales to cover the cost of the venue and expenses only. No market to absorb large charges for Hygiene inspections and the individual members could in no way recoup the charge through their turnover.

The Country Markets would close in many areas of the country

The effect of these charges would mean I would cease producing for Oswestry Country Market

The effect on business especially the smaller retailers will be catastrophic. Does the council not get enough of their pound of flesh from us all, people with businesses that rely on turnover of a food product are at the sharp end of a very short stick at present what with business rates and rents and all the other overheads. The Priory Meadow Christmas market is already being slowly eroded with huge hikes in rental fees for sites, we try to bring people to Hastings to spend a bit of money and time and yet again and again the powers that be see it as just a damn moneymaking scheme.

the effect on my business would be huge as I am only a small home baker for country markets and could not afford that annual cost

the effect on my business if charges are introduced would be for my business to close down. I would not be able to justify the cost of the charge

The effect on myself as a small producer for a Country Market the proposed charges would mean it would just not be viable and I would cease producing.

The effect would be dire financially. We would not be able to continue trading as a farmers market after 40 years of doing so.

The effect would be that our market would be unable to continue providing the service that is so much appreciated by our customers. Not only do we provide good quality food for them to take home and enjoy, but also a weekly outing to a local venue, where they can enjoy meeting and chatting to friends. I believe small businesses such as ours are better checked by a Local Authority EHO.

The expenses of running the farm of free-range outdoor grown pigs are extremely high. The production of high quality products is expensive. Meeting all the EU standards is expensive and at the end of it all not very much left as a profit. So small producer trying to make a difference in the world of massive corporate food manufacturers suffers already. The last thing we need is to spend money for inspections.

The food service industry is low margin and already facing the hardship of living wage and pensions. The additional burden will damage the business viability. As a food enterprise and someone that helps food business get off the ground this move will be a significant deterrent to new start ups.

The food sold in our market is sourced from a number of local people who cook from home. An individual charge would mean we would lose all our cooks and the market would close. In fact all Country markets would Close, Many have been serving their local communities for over 50 Years

the immediate and absolute effect on my business association will be to terminate our ability to trade. We are small traders and crafters and the prohibitive food inspection charges will put us out of business as we cannot afford these additional charges when we already pay for these departments thru taxes and charges both locally levied as well as collected centrally

The impost of a £300 charge would be excessive, and one clear option would be to close the Windlesham Country Market which has been running successfully as a village/community facility since 2000. Robin Bell Founder member and former treasurer

The introduction of a charge would make it not financially viable.

The Majority of Country Markets would be forced to close if this were introduced. We provide a valuable service to the public of high quality home baked produce and crafts. Baking is not something that is passed down from generation to generation any more so home baked produce is not readily available. Don't close out the home bakers, they provide a very valuable service.

The market expenses would be increased. Worse, most market producers are small; they have already told us they would not continue. Consequently the market would close; it could not continue on the basis of crafts, plants and flowers and some veg.

The market would cease to trade due to the costs

The market would close.

The markets would close, we are a non profit making organisation, we would not be able to afford the charges. The local customer would loose their choice of fresh locally produced food.

The new registration would close many of our smaller markets. Lindfield would close due to our funding situation.

The organisation would cease operations

The producers which belong to Country Markets currently pay a commission to cover all running costs - this would have to be increased and to absorb the increase prices to our customers would have to be raised. This might deter customers from shopping with us, which in turn could mean us having to close.

The small co-operative which is each local Country Market could not bear the cost of paying £300 for inspections and would have to close down collectively putting out of business each small producer. This would equally apply to individual producers who turn over only a few hundred pounds a year and would force them out of business.

The weekly takings for cafe at our Country Market are less than £70. An Inspection charge o £300 would mean that the cafe would not be viable . Our weekly Country Market is well supported by the residents of Aylsham and visitors to the town. Our cafe is an integral part of our Market and provides a place where customers can meet and chat. Without the cafe a part of the social life of Aylsham would be lost.

There is no doubt that the small market at Hagley would close immediately, as no member generates sales of £300 in one month, and some not in 6 months.

There would be a cost to our business (not for profit) and also to our partner schools who already see school food as an area which is putting a strain on stretched school budgets.

There would be no business. We are a small cooperative of local producers of freshly prepared products. The imposition of such charges would cause untold difficulty and would result in the closure of our monthly market business. The loss of such products from the market reduces customer choice in buying our products.

these charges could put small producers out of business. Where premises are shared this could have a knock on effect which would also put non-food producers out of business

This action would completely close down the home bakery production with the result in closing Country Markets down altogether. It would also mean that all the Voluntary baking, Jam making etc that is done for Charity will not take place thus subjecting a whole host of charities to Lose the monies which they rely on for a lot of their day to day running. People who contribute to do these activities do so as a hobby and could not sustain these Charges

This astronomical added expense would be too great for the business to stand

This charge seems excessive for a small business like myself

This cost would be added to the increase cost of feed (predicted to be up by 10% this year as a result of the weakened pound), plus an increase in the cost of buying in stock (up 5% from last year as a knock-on from increased feed prices) and a rise in the living wage. Do you think many businesses can survive all these increase costs?

This imposition would make a huge difference to our viability as an organisation...profit margins are already very low , and as we are a small social co- operative group this would be the death knell and we would have to close ,as £ 300 is unsustainable for our individual members having their kitchens inspected .

This is a charity senior luncheon club run by volunteers, and a basic charge is made for each meal, this charge only covers the price of food and cost of insurance and hire of church hall. Any further cost we would possibly be unable to serve the old folk of Countesthorpe with a community meal

This is a huge charge for many small businesses and for local and small groups, this would be completely out of the question. We run a monthly lunch club for the elderly and there is no way that we could afford to pay this.

This is a prohibitive cost for small businesses. It would force prices up and likely put small businesses out of production. A large annual fee for inspections makes small catering, market traders, small producers business models impossible. I am strongly Against the changes. A small annual charge to contribute towards inspections is a good idea. But I have heard £300 as an annual figure which is untenable for small business.

This is another unnecessary tax on small independent retailers, & will further reduce profits.

This is the responsibility of the local authority to which organisations pay business rates, licence fees etc. A charge such as £300 per business would see many close down.

This would be a huge chunk of takings gone

This would close most of our country markets as we are very small plus small business

This would could make Country Markets Ltd unviable as shareholders would have to increase their prices which would make goods uncompetetive. Also discourage people from even starting out.

This would represent a financial hardship for individual members who produce small amounts of food in their domestic kitchens. Country Market membership is falling throughout the UK. This would further exacerbate our problems.

This would very dramatically reduce profitability. All Country markets are small social enterprises and cannot sustain such high charges

To cease trading. Probably the case for all small traders, home cooks, voluntary organisations, clubs, etc

Too large a charge for any small producer

Total closure of the Chipping Norton market.

total collapse

Total devastation

Turnover is too small to absorb the cost, so business would close.

Ultimately unable to afford and cease trading.

Unable to provide products, it would not be cost effective to pay the fee

Unable to trade

UNFORTUNATELY WE WOULD NO LONGER BE ABLE TO TRADE AS WE ARE A VOLUNTARY SMALL LOCAL COMMUNITY MARKET, SERVING OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY.

Very detrimental and may spell beginning of end.

We already pay for SALSA etc etc

we are a charity and it feels all authorities want their share - nothing is free

We are a cooperative and it would cripple our business as margins are very tight.

We are a cooperative business, non profit making. our Country Market would close.

We are a cooperative of amateur cooks, crafts people and gardeners who hold a small, a once-weekly market stall which makes very little profit. Our margins having been hit hard in the last few years and there has been a marked decline in trade. Any charge such as this would wipe us out. We would have to cease trading. The cost would also prove prohibitive to the individual home/hobbyist cooks who supply only small amounts of baked goods and preserves each week.

We are a co-operative of local producers and bakers. Our profit is very small and introducing a fee of £300 would make it impossible for most individuals to continue. Country Markets would then be unable to continue.

We are a co-operative social enterprise and as such have very little scope for added costs

We are a co-operative with a lot of small producers who would be penalised by a fee for an inspection. All of our producers have a hygiene certificate and are updated on any new regulations that apply via our registered office .

We are a Country Market in Longfield, Kent, which benefits the local community. We are a co-operative and are open for an hour once a week and sell home made food etc and a cup of coffee or tea to the local, mainly older, community. They come in for a chat and it assists an isolated, mainly female, aging generation. If we had to pay the charge we would cease to operate.

We are a Country Market offering home cooked cakes and savouries for sale. Most of our lady cooks are retired and just earning pocket money. Charging £300 for a kitchen inspection would be prohibitive. It would close down a local community gathering event. Bureaucracy gone mad!

We are a group of like minded producers who struggle to make a profit and this additional charge may well be the final burden to result in even more of our producers deciding not to continue.

We are a non-profit making organisation who meet once/week for a couple of hours to sell our home grown/baked produce. Our income is just enough to cover the cost of a few hours rent & sundry expenses. The majority of our members are pensioners & do not generate another income.

We are a non-profit making business who meet once per week for a few hours to sell our home-made, home-cooked home-grown produce. Our income is just enough to cover the cost of a few hours rent and sundry expenses. The majority of our members are pensionable and do not generate another income.

We are a non-profit making organisation who meet once a week for a few hours to sell our home made, home cooked, home grown produce. Our income is just enough to cover the cost of a few hours rent and sundry expenses. The majority of our members are pensionable and do not generate another income.

We are a small 2-person home business with a very low income, who registered with the local authority and had an inspection, played by the rules to ensure that we were able to produce food to sell at local markets to ensure that good quality, safe, locally produced food was available for the local population. If charges were introduced then we would not be able to afford to pay for the inspection, therefore would be out of business, resulting in a detriment to the local community as a result of less locally produced food.

We are a small business of just myself! We don't take enough to withstand a £300 fee

We are a small cooperative which provides a social meeting place and a opportunity to buy preserves, cakes etc, and freshly made savouries. Rhos on Sea has a high level of single elderly people many of which rely on our ready made meals. If we had to pay £300 each to have our kitchens inspected all our producers would quit. We only have one market a week and it is on a sale and return basis. The produce stall is the mainstay of the market and without it the market would not be able to pay the rent on the church hall and the whole market would close.

We are a small Country Market and meet every Friday morning, open from 10.00 a.m. until 12 noon, two hours only each week. To levy this charge on our Bakers would mean would put an end to our market as the charge is too high for each baker to find. The turnover is too small.

We are a small Country Market cooperative that trades for 2 hours about 18 times a year. The charges would negate the small profits we make and the business might have to close.

We are a small country market selling home grown/made produce in small quantities, often as more of a hobby than a profit making enterprise. Charges would prohibitively impact the cost base and create such a price hurdle that these hobby producers would cease completely. This would kill our community market, localism out of the window!

We are a small enterprise and could not be sustainable with these extra costs

We are a small group of people, who meet once a week to sell our goods. We are non-profit making and just about make enough per week to cover the costs of a few hours rent, and a few other sundry expenses. We produce home-grown, home made and home cooked goods to sell to the local community. Many of our customers are elderly and lonely and rely on our Market as a place they can meet their friends for a cup of tea and purchase their home-made cakes and individual savoury meals.

We are a small market trading one morning a week with a small number of members.

WE are a small organisation that bakes as individuals for our local market, providing home made cakes to our community and those who can no longer cook for themselves. My profit is negligible and I would be forced not to bake. I make approximately £10 Profit each week without this cost.

We are a small town Market, a member of Country Markets Ltd. As a co-operative of VERY small scale producers, based in domestic kitchens and selling for just one and a half hours once a week, we operate on extremely small margins. If we had to find extra charges this would mean increasing the commission taken from producers, and many, if not most, would consider it not worth continuing. We all have food hygiene qualifications and are hugely appreciated by our customers who enjoy real home cooking. No producers = no Market, and another service lost for a small town.

We are a small voluntary local market organisation and sell our home made goods, once a week in a community hall. This sort of cost to our group would actually cause us to close. Leaving our loyal customers who like to buy produce from us which does not contain any preservatives or chemicals, just natural home made/grown produce with no choice but to buy commercially made products at large supermarkets.

We are a society of artisan bakers who produce for local markets. This action would completely destroy our organisation originally set up by The Women's Institute. We provide a valuable local service for those unable to cook, such as the infirm or elderly. This action would prove disastrous for ourselves and our dependant community. I represent 9 local cooks.

We are a socio-economic organisation running on a not for profit basis. The small size of our enterprise means that we would have to increase the commission charged to producers, most of whom are likely to find their participation would no longer be worthwhile, leading to the closure of the market.

We are a struggling small business, charges of this magnitude are another nail in the coffin

We are a very small Country Market and could not possibly afford to pay for this inspection

We are a very small country market which does not have the funds to pay the charge for inspection. It would mean closer for our market which provides a valuable service to the community which does not even have a local shop

We are a very small manufacturer, margins are tight and cash flow is even tighter. We would struggle to pay this fee most months so it could get us into debt.

We are a village hall with limited funds and would find it very difficult to meet any charges for the inspection of our kitchen.

We are already inspected by the council. That is why we pay council rates. A paid inspection would be charging us double

We are already registered and regularly checked by our local council and food standards so how can this help? Visits are time consuming, expensive and worthless as the job is already done

We are cheese makers so there will be lots of bills

We are domestic producers working as part of a cooperative. Our bakers do not produce goods on a large enough scale to afford to pay for regular inspections. The markets would be forced to close, or continue their business illegally.

we are only a small Country Market. So cannot afford the £300 charge.

We are only small business.it lot money.

We are small country market affiliated to CM Ltd and operate under their strict rules of hygiene, packaging etc and keep us up to date with new regulations. We open one morning per week and average takings are £300. The fee of £300 per visit would cancel out one morning's takings. Possible effect of this would eventually result in closure.

We are Tavistock Country Market and have a weekly stall on Tavistock Pannier market selling home baking and preserves. A member of Country Markets (formerly the WI stalls). The value of trade is not great enough for £300 to be affordable. The amount of profit made by very hard working members of this co-operative is not enough to support the fee and our stall would probably have to close. We have big problems attracting new producers of goods to sell as it is. The market (our customers) would not stand an increase in prices to cover our costs and we already control our outgoings very carefully, so there is no slack to pay additional costs.

We cannot afford this charge as we are a small local cooperative, using produce from our gardens, and have a weekly market in the village hall. We can only just pay the charge for the hall and the accountant, so more charges on top of this will put us out of business.

We could not afford to pay this charge as our turnover is so small.

We could not carry on trading

We couldn't afford to pay very much.

we do not produce in the country market bracket enough of an income to pay the fee, therefore we would have to close

We don't make enough money to pay for the inspections as we are only a small part of the farmers market.

We have a very small profit margin and this would be another charge which further puts our business into jeopardy. No doubt the charges would increase year on year.

We have not even started training yet, this would be yet another financial blocker that could cripple our business before we even get off the ground.

We hold our Market one morning a week in the Town Hall Wadebridge, Cornwall where we have one cook who has taken all the necessary hygiene requirements to cook, having gone through a lengthy course including a kitchen inspection. If she has to pay £300 an inspection our Market would close, affecting not only her but producers of crafts, plants etc. This idea would ruin us and upset a lot of our loyal and regular customers.

We may close down

We might have to close down

We produce cakes and preserves for Oswestry Country Markets with only a small profit margin and none of us can afford £300 per inspection. Therefore production would cease immediately with the loss of a valued service to the community.

We provide the occasional tea to other WI's and to our members in our Village Hall. Our members prepare cakes at home and we prepare sandwiches at the hall - so if this were introduced we would be unable to offer anything as it would be prohibitive to charge all members or the WI itself.

We rely on the support of our EHO to help us as a small business comply with the law. A fee of £300 per visit would not be acceptable

We run and produce on such a small scale, the scale at which is the future of local food.. but we couldn't afford to pay for inspections or an over regulated system. The future of food. In this world is entirely dependent on locals been able to sell produce to locals..

We will have to close

We would be forced out of business. Myself and about 13 other food producers belong to our local branch of Country Market Limited. We do not earn a lot of money because we cook in our own kitchens and trade for for 1hr 30 mins a week. A lot of local people use our market during this time. It is part of the local community.

We would be unable to continue to sell out products as we would not have any kind of business to sell if this charge arose

We would be unable to continue.

We would cease business. We belong to a co-operative as individual producers. Each producer cannot afford this sum of money. Some of our members produce small amounts of food to take to market . This may not be on a regular basis.

We would close

We would close down - very few of our bakers make a profit of over £1000 pa the level at which HMRC will tax. Could we not be classed as a hobby business.

we would close,no way we could afford these charges

We would close. Small cooperative, very little profit so each producer would not be able to afford this. Affects those in our coop who are not food producers as well. Small businesses should be encouraged not penalised. Soon there will only be the big supermarkets. This reduces choice and produces monopolies. Danger of losing craft, cooking, balking, etc skills. food produces more likely to cut corners, break hygiene rules, etc.

We would find it very difficult to continue trading.

We would fold

We would go out of business as we are a not for profit business, the producers of our cooperative make the small profit. The business only takes a percentage as administration costs.

We would go out of business immediately. Our profit last year was £34, so we could not afford to pay for inspections.

We would go out of business.

We would have to cease our valuable service to the local community. Many elderly people rely on us to provide home cooked fresh food.

We would have to cease trading . We are a micro business

We would have to cease trading as we wouldn't be able to afford the charges

We would have to close

We would have to close

We would have to close because as Country Market producers we do not earn enough to pay £300. We would be working for nothing in effect.

We would have to close down. We run on a very small turnover and would be unable to sustain our position as a meeting point in Oakham, where the Country market has been in operation for over 50 years, not only for selling baking, but as a meeting point for many elderly and lonely people to come every week for companionship.

We would have to close. Each Country Market is a co-operative with each producer contributing to a service for home-made and hand-made goods. We are such relatively small operations where our markets exist, it would certainly not be feasible for each producer to pay this suggested fee.

We would have to close. The Oakham country market is run on a very tight financial tightrope, as a co-operative. We also serve as a local meeting place for many in the town and we could not afford to pay this charge, so would have to close, robbing Oakham of an institution which has been in the town for over 50 years.

WE WOULD HAVE TO CLOSE. WE ARE THE COUNTRY MARKET SECTOR OF THE WOMENS INSTITUTE WHO MEET ONCE A WEEK FOR 11 MONTHS OF THE YEAR IN OUR LOCAL CHURCH HALL SELLING HOMEMADE CAKES. PIES ETC JAMS. SURPLUS GARDEN PRODUCE AND CRAFT. WE DO NOT MAKE ENOUGH TO ASSIMILATE AN EXTRA £300 A YEAR IT WOULD BE THE END. WE ALREADY HAVE OUR FOOD INSPECTED, OUR DOMESTIC KITCHENS PASSED AND TAKE A FOOD HYGIENE CERTIFICATE.

We would likely stop producing food - as a very small business producing food on domestic premises as an added value offering for guests in our 2 holiday cottages, we do this on a cost recovery and not profit making basis, so any charge for inspection to allow us to provide that service would come directly from our income for the holiday cottage rental, making it non-viable.

We would most likely go out of business

We would no longer trade

We would not be able to afford to pay so therefore would have to cease trading

We would not be able to continue

We would not be able to hold charity events, as the cost would make it more than we can make at any event. This charge could lead to annihilation of The Country Markets!!!

we would not be able to provide fresh preserves, cakes, vegetables and craft to the public. we do have some streaked rules in place already that we abide to.

we would not be able to provide fresh preserves, cakes, vegetables and craft to the public. we do have some streaked rules in place already that we abide to.

we would not be able to raise money for charity

We would not be able to trade due to the cost

We would not make enough money to make it effective as we only make a small amount of profit. We are Farnham Country Market formerly W.I. Market.

We would pay, as we would want to show how we are doing a good job. Currently graded 5

We would probably cease trading.

We would probably have to massively increase charges. We are a church organisation.

We would probably not be able to continue.

We would seriously face closure. We are a member of Country Markets, operating in Dorchester, Dorset. We are a co-operative, selling a variety of home produced goods to the local community. We only trade on one day a week for 2.5 hours and operate on very tight margins. In fact, at present we would be unable to find an extra £300 to cover the cost of an EHO inspection. To meet such a figure producers' commission would have to be increased. This increase would have to be passed on to our customers and we would probably lose some of them as a consequence.

We would stop selling to the public; reduce our output and probably look at alternative sources of income. Local people would lose out on their choices for meat, and we would shut up shop.

We would stop trading

We would struggle to pay for it and the money would be better spent on staffing or developing the business.

We wouldn't be able to afford it, as we are very small scale and it would close us down

We wouldn't be able to afford these charges- we are a new, small business.

We wouldn't be able to trade as a Country Market. Costs would be too high.

Well, I suppose it depends on how often they are carried out, of course. I think that the first visit should be free, but the costs recouped by charging for subsequent visits - "innocent till proved guilty!"

Whilst I welcome a visit from the E.H.O. the introduction of fee would place a huge financial burden on me and my small Artisan Preserve business.

with the introduction of such a large cost which would have to be passed on to the customer and with rising ingredient costs due to brexit and world trade prices i would have to consider is my business viable.

Working as an individual the costs as proposed would result in me ceasing to trade. I grow fruit and buy citrus fruits from which I make jams, marmalades and chutneys.

Would affect profitability, we would have to cut down on what is produced because of increases to costs transferred to customers. In order to remain competitive, we have to be very aware of any increases that will have an adverse affect on sales. Country markets are such a small social enterprise, the struggle to remain operative is hard enough to maintain customer interest and this charge would damage their popularity. We want our Country Markets to survive.

Would cease to trade

Would close

Would close down

Would deter new cooks joining. Would wipe-out smaller markets completely would finish altogether as it would not be worth me doing it.

Would go out of business

Would have to stop baking.

Would look to save money else where.. Most likely cancel pest control.

Would make it even more difficult to survive

Would make it non viable

Would make no profit

Would not be able to continue at Country Markets

Would not be cost affective, as I cook once a week for "Country Markets", as a hobby/social. I do not earn the £300 proposed charge for a EHO visit. This will lead to the closure of many markets, which would be a shame as elderly and young mums use this as a social occasion as well as buying good quality baked items.

Would not be worth doing.

would not be worthwhile continuing with my business due to financial impact

would probably shut down our Country Market

Would push up the price of my produce to make it undesirable. One man business' such as mine work on very tight margins and the cost would be prohibitive.

Would put heavy financial burden.

wouldn't be able to continue baking for Country Market

Yet another additional and un-necessary cost on a small co-operative food business

Yet another cost to our sector when we are already struggling with under funding

Yet another cost would be added that will increase prices administration etc all costs that should be paid by business taxes. It will also discourage new businesses.

Yet another nail in the coffin, the EHO are mostly incompetent and are of little use to anybody.

Yet another overhead that we can ill afford

Yet more expense = less income.