

**ALMR Press Release**

# **ALMR Slams Silly Scores**

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December

## **Release: Immediate**

Leading pub and bar group the Association of Licensed Multiple Retailers (*ALMR*) has today slammed the Food Standards Agency's (FSA) plans to roll out its Scores on the Doors food hygiene scheme. The group has accused the Government of adding to pubs' already substantial red tape woes by doing nothing other than confusing food hygiene law.

Commenting, *ALMR* Chief Executive Nick Bish, says:

"We're disappointed that the FSA has decided to press ahead with the rollout of this ridiculous scheme. What is it actually trying to achieve? Food outlets are either complying with hygiene regulations or they're not. The FSA would do far better to leave local authorities to focus on tackling those that are not.

"If we are going to go down this route, at least they have chosen to make the display for the scores voluntary. Nevertheless, a six-tier system will just make the whole thing confusing and unclear, which defeats the whole object of the exercise. How will a customer differentiate between premises that have four stars or five stars; what is the subtle distinction in cleanliness standards.

"As with so many well intentioned initiatives, the result is pointless red tape and overzealous regulation. It is the smaller operators who will be hit most because fundamentally it's a diversion of effort and expense from serving the customer."

<<ENDS>>

## Notes for editors

- *ALMR* is the only national trade body solely dedicated to representing the interests of pub and bar operators, and to providing them with business support and advice. It has almost 100 member companies, operating over 15,000 outlets.
- The FSA's announcement on Scores on the Doors can be found online at <http://www.food.gov.uk/news/newsarchive/2008/dec/scores>

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