	safe food Research
Research Administration Manual	Section: Part 1
Type of Research: Commissioned and Non-commissioned Research	Sheet No.: Page 1 of 6
Process: To be completed by safe food Specialist	Issue No.: 1.1
	Issue Date: 26/08/15
Form Type: Tender Information Document	Issued By: Director Food Science



RESEARCH TENDER CALL

TENDER INFORMATION DOCUMENT

Project Reference No.: 06-2015

Project Title:


“A study of current food-pathogen attribution trends and the proportion of foodborne illness acquired in the home”

1. *Objective/Knowledge Gap*

This project is comprised of two distinct components. The first examines current trends in the attribution of foodborne disease to foods. The second element examines current data on the proportions of foodborne disease acquired inside and outside the home.

The specific objectives are:

- To assess the available data on foodborne illness and attribution to specific foods, both on the island of Ireland (IoI) and abroad, in order to identify recent trends;
- To examine the extent to which data available from other countries may be relevant to the IoI;
- To assess the currently available data on the proportions of foodborne disease acquired in the community and in the home and to review the methodologies used;
- To determine the applicability of these methodologies to the IoI context and to identify gaps in the currently available data.

	safefood Research
Research Administration Manual	Section: Part 1
Type of Research: Commissioned and Non-commissioned Research	Sheet No.: Page 2 of 6
Process: To be completed by safefood Specialist	Issue No.: 1.1
	Issue Date: 26/08/15
Form Type: Tender Information Document	Issued By: Director Food Science

2. **Background**

safefood employs a robust evidence base to underpin communications advice to consumers, with the aim of positively influencing domestic food safety behaviour.

We know that consumers perceive the home to be the least likely source of food poisoning and that their behaviour does not correlate with knowledge of food safety. Our research shows that people reporting on their behaviour over-estimate the frequency of actions undertaken to prevent food poisoning e.g.: handwashing.

The overall contribution of domestic food preparation to food borne disease is difficult to quantify, mainly due to under-reporting and the difficulty in ascertaining the vehicle for infection in sporadic cases of illness. Estimates of up to 50-80% home-acquired for *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter* infection have been reported¹.


Recent years have seen developments in the methodologies available for attributing foodborne illnesses to their source. The information yielded assists in the accurate assessment of the risks associated with specific pathogens in specific foodstuffs, and allows for the monitoring of trends in source attribution over time.

3. **Approach**

This will be a desk-based study, involving a review of the literature on the origin of foodborne illness, and on trends in source attribution data for foodborne illness. The methodologies available for the assessment of both will be reviewed and the applicability of the data to the island of Ireland context will be examined.

4. **Technical Specification**

- (a) Scope of research
- (b) Literature review
- (c) Qualitative and quantitative work
- (d) Analysis
- (e) Data handling and Reporting
- (f) Quality assurance

	safefood Research
Research Administration Manual	Section: Part 1
Type of Research: Commissioned and Non-commissioned Research	Sheet No.: Page 3 of 6
Process: To be completed by safefood Specialist	Issue No.: 1.1
	Issue Date: 26/08/15
Form Type: Tender Information Document	Issued By: Director Food Science

(a) Scope of the research

The project will focus on currently available data from the IoI, as well as other regions, such as the wider UK, EU and U.S.

(b) Literature review

The contractor must carry out a robust literature review exploring the two components of the study. This should include peer-reviewed publications and also a full search of the grey literature including government and other organisation reports.

(c) Quantitative research

The contractor will gather data on food-pathogen attribution, and on the methodologies currently available for these studies.

The researcher will assess the data for current trends and analyse the relevance of the data to the island of Ireland.


The researcher will also gather the most up-to-date data on the contribution of illness acquired in the home to the overall burden of foodborne disease, as well as examining the methodologies used and the applicability of the data to the IoI.

(d) Analysis

The contractor will provide explicit details of the methods for all of the analysis.

(e) Data Handling and Reporting

- The contractor is responsible for collating all results and a final report will be submitted to **safefood**.
- All forms, documentation and electronic files must be retained by the contractor until further notice from **safefood** in case of issues arising after the completion of the research.

	safefood Research
Research Administration Manual	Section: Part 1
Type of Research: Commissioned and Non-commissioned Research	Sheet No.: Page 4 of 6
Process: To be completed by safefood Specialist	Issue No.: 1.1
	Issue Date: 26/08/15
Form Type: Tender Information Document	Issued By: Director Food Science

(f) Quality Assurance

- The contractor will use validated methods where applicable and provide explicit details of the analytical methods.
- **safefood** will visit the contractors during the course of the research to assess how the work is being carried out.

5. **Proposed Activities/Deliverables**


- Literature review examining attribution of foodborne illness to specific foods, both on the IoI and elsewhere.
- Analysis of recent trends in food-pathogen attribution.
- Examination of data in the IoI context.
- Literature review examining the currently available data on the proportions of foodborne disease acquired in the community and in the home.
- Review of the methodologies used and the relevance of the results to foodborne disease data on the IoI.
- Identification of any gaps in available IoI data.

6. **Evaluation of Tenders**

Tender bids will be evaluated according to the quality of proposals and applicants using the following criteria:

Quality of the proposal:

- ✓ Anticipated deliverables;
- ✓ Research method and facilities;
- ✓ Value for money;
- ✓ Potential for application;
- ✓ Work plan, including the overall timeframe.

	safefood Research
Research Administration Manual	Section: Part 1
Type of Research: Commissioned and Non-commissioned Research	Sheet No.: Page 5 of 6
Process: To be completed by safefood Specialist	Issue No.: 1.1
	Issue Date: 26/08/15
Form Type: Tender Information Document	Issued By: Director Food Science

Quality of Applicants:

- ✓ Experience in subject area; both qualitative and quantitative research;
- ✓ Quality Assurance and Quality Control measures in place.

7. Duration of Project


It is anticipated that the duration of the project will be 6 months. A detailed timescale of research should be submitted by each applicant.

8. Tender Application Forms and Guidelines

The Tender Application Form and associated Guidelines can be downloaded from www.safefood.eu. They can also be obtained by emailing research@safefood.eu, quoting the project reference number **06-2015**. Alternatively please contact **safefood** as per the details below.

Clodagh Flavin
Research Coordinator
safefood
7 Eastgate Avenue
Eastgate
Little Island
Co. Cork
T45 RX01

Tel: +353 21-2304117
Fax: +353 21-2304111

	safefood Research
Research Administration Manual	Section: Part 1
Type of Research: Commissioned and Non-commissioned Research	Sheet No.: Page 6 of 6
Process: To be completed by safefood Specialist	Issue No.: 1.1
	Issue Date: 26/08/15
Form Type: Tender Information Document	Issued By: Director Food Science

References

1. Eves A, G. Bielby, B. Egan, M. Lumbers, M. Raats, M. Adams Food hygiene knowledge and self-reported behaviours of UK school children (4–14 years) British Food Journal, 108 (9) (2006), pp. 706–720.
2. Batz M.B., S. Hoffman and J.G. Morris Jr. Ranking the disease burden of 14 Pathogens in food sources in the United States using attribution data from outbreak investigations and expert elicitation Journal of Food Protection 75(7) (2012), pp 1278-1291.