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## **LACA Spring Update**

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**Anita Brown  
National Chair**





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MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

NATIONAL CHAIR



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NATIONAL VICE CHAIR ELECT & BOARD MEMBER FOR SOUTH EAST



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IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR



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# LACA

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## BOARD MEMBER FOR EAST OF ENGLAND



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## BOARD MEMBER FOR WEST MIDLANDS



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## BOARD MEMBER FOR EAST MIDLANDS



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## CHAIR OF MEMBERS GROUP & BOARD MEMBER FOR SOUTH EAST



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## BOARD MEMBER FOR SOUTH WEST



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# Keeping in Touch

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National Steering Group (NSG) - monthly

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LACA Board - quarterly

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Chair's call - weekly

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FGS Global - weekly

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Department for Education (DfE) Calls - monthly

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Vice Chair – Regional Co-Ordinator remit

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School Food Reference Group – LACA

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All Party Palimentary Group (APPG) School Food

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LACA Business Director Call - weekly



# Social Media Content

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## LACA - The School Food People

LACA members sit at the heart of school food delivery, representing over 3,300 different organisations and individuals.

Food and Beverage Services  
Chester, Cheshire • 1,814 followers



## LACA

1.7K likes • 1.7K followers



**LACA**  
@LACA\_UK

LACA - The School Food People. Representing 3,300 different organisations providing 3 million lunches in 22,000 schools everyday 🍴👩🍳👨🍳

📍 Nationwide 🌐 [laca.co.uk](http://laca.co.uk) 📅 Joined November 2009

5,794 Following 7,926 Followers



362  
Posts

1,029  
Followers

1,205  
Following

LACA

📍 laca\_uk

School

LACA - The School Food People 🍴  
Representing 3,300 different organisations providing 3 million lunches in 22,000 schools everyday 👩🍳 👨🍳



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# Chair's Priorities

Due to the current cost of living crisis, it has been agreed by NSG and the Board to continue moving forward with the 'If not now, when?' campaign, as funding continues to be the focus of what we are all trying to achieve.

Therefore, my main objectives for the coming year will be as follows:-

1. Prioritise and continue with the **'If not now, When?'** campaign, the focus being the differences in funding across the four nations
2. Focus on delivery and launch – **"The sums don't add up"** campaign
3. Campaign to increase UIFSM and FSM, which should actually link with the current inflation rates
4. Continue the focus with Government, on offering FSM to all families who are in receipt of Universal Credit
5. Visit all regions, to offer updates and provide any help or support we can.
6. Champion all that LACA has achieved and is continuing to achieve, on a political stage and also with the support for all the teams and frontline staff.



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Regular member surveys support LACA's campaign to highlight the issues and extreme pressures being experienced by all school food providers.

This feedback from our members supports our continued to work with the Government, media and the wider industry.

Increasingly LACA are now the "go-to" organisation for media to get real time, accurate data to understand and demonstrate the current pressures on the school food industry and also for us to share the great work you, our members and Partners, are committed to every day.

Details and reports can be found in the Members Section of the LACA website

[LACA Research Reports | LACA](#)





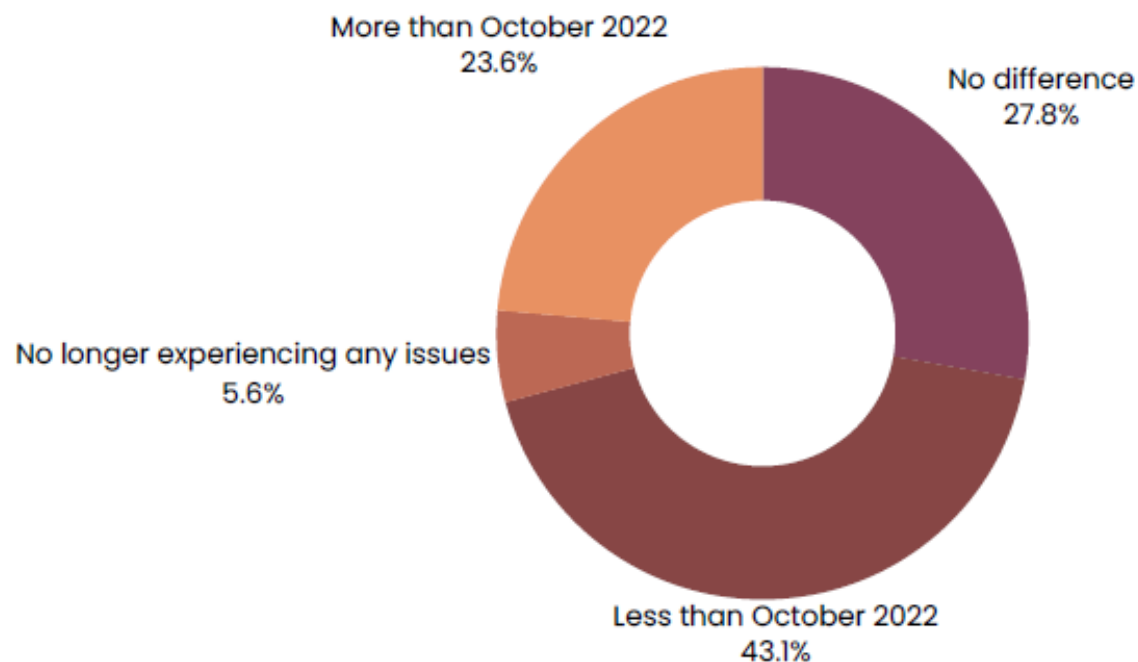
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# What did you say?

**94%** of survey respondents are still experiencing food shortages and substitutions from their supply chain.



We asked how this compared to **October 2022** with **51%** of respondents saying the situation had not changed or had worsened.







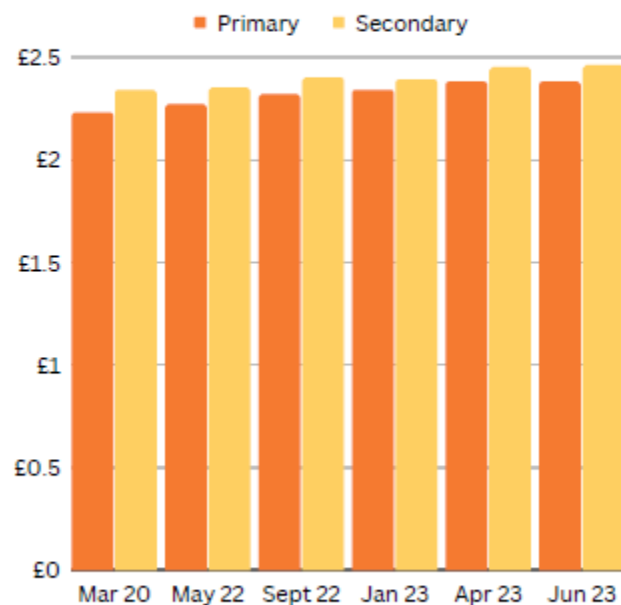


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# Meal prices

We asked our respondents to provide the selling price of the 'paid for meal / meal of the day since March 2020 in their primary schools and secondary schools.

Date	Primary	Secondary
March 2020	£2.23	£2.32
Sept 2022	£2.32	£2.40
January 2023	£2.34	£2.39
April 2023	£2.38	£2.45
June 2023	£2.38	£2.46
Sept 2023	£2.52	£2.51



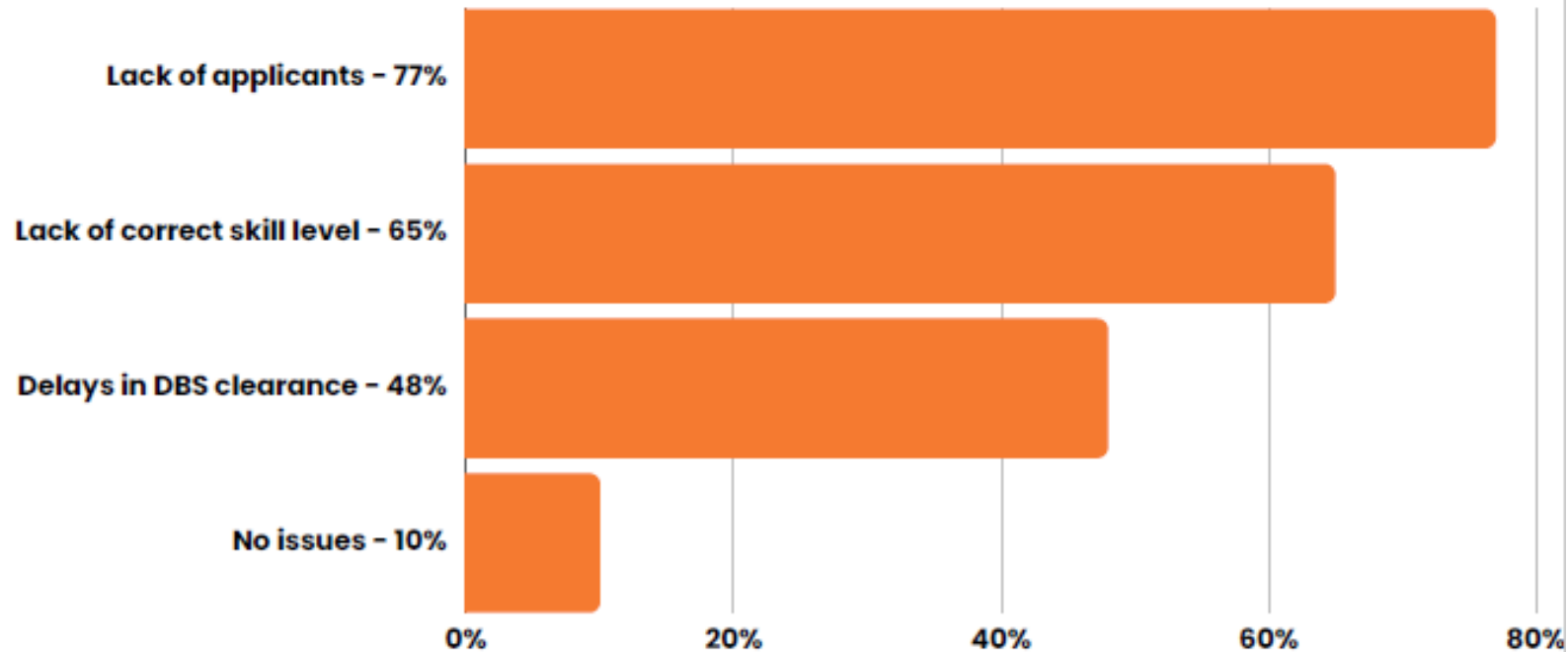
On average, the price of a meal has **increased by 10.6% since March 2020** with further increases expected.



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# Recruitment

## Are you experiencing recruitment challenges?



Over **90%** of respondents said that, **compared to October 2022** the situation had not changed or actually got worse.

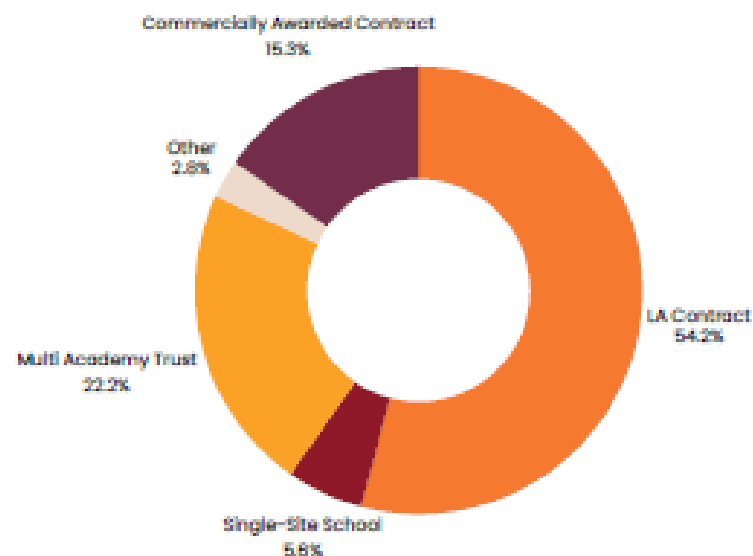
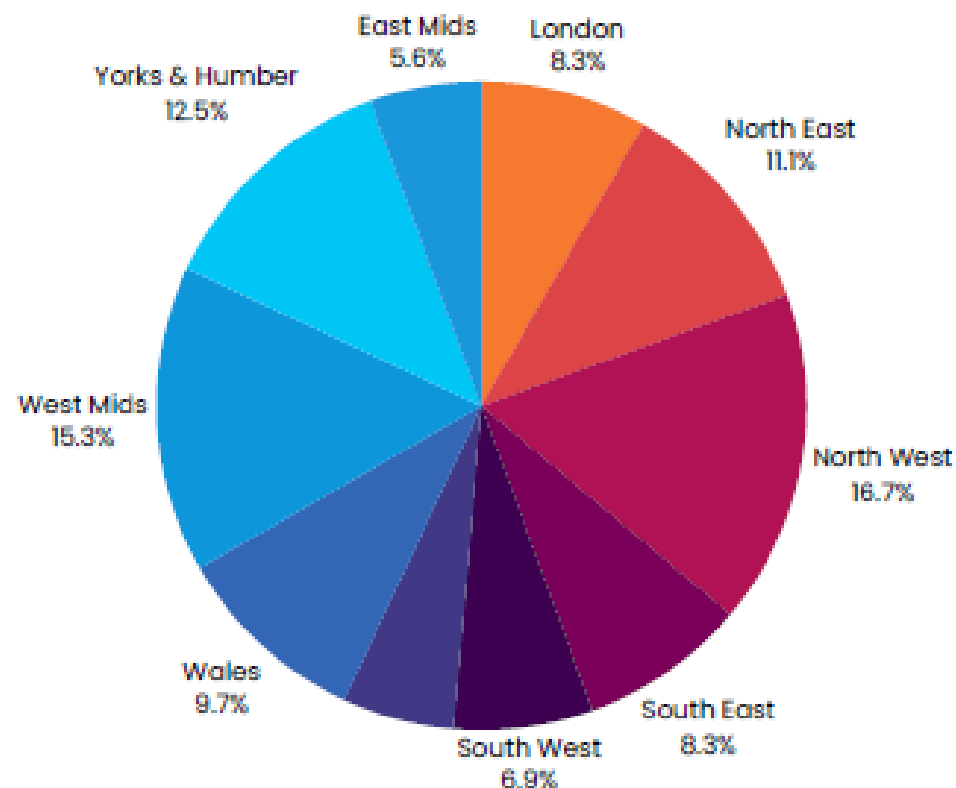


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# What are members telling us?

74 respondents across the LACA membership ranging from single-site providers, LA's and large commercial providers from England & Wales completed the survey.

**These respondents provide services across more than 7,880 schools feeding over 1.4 million pupils every day.**

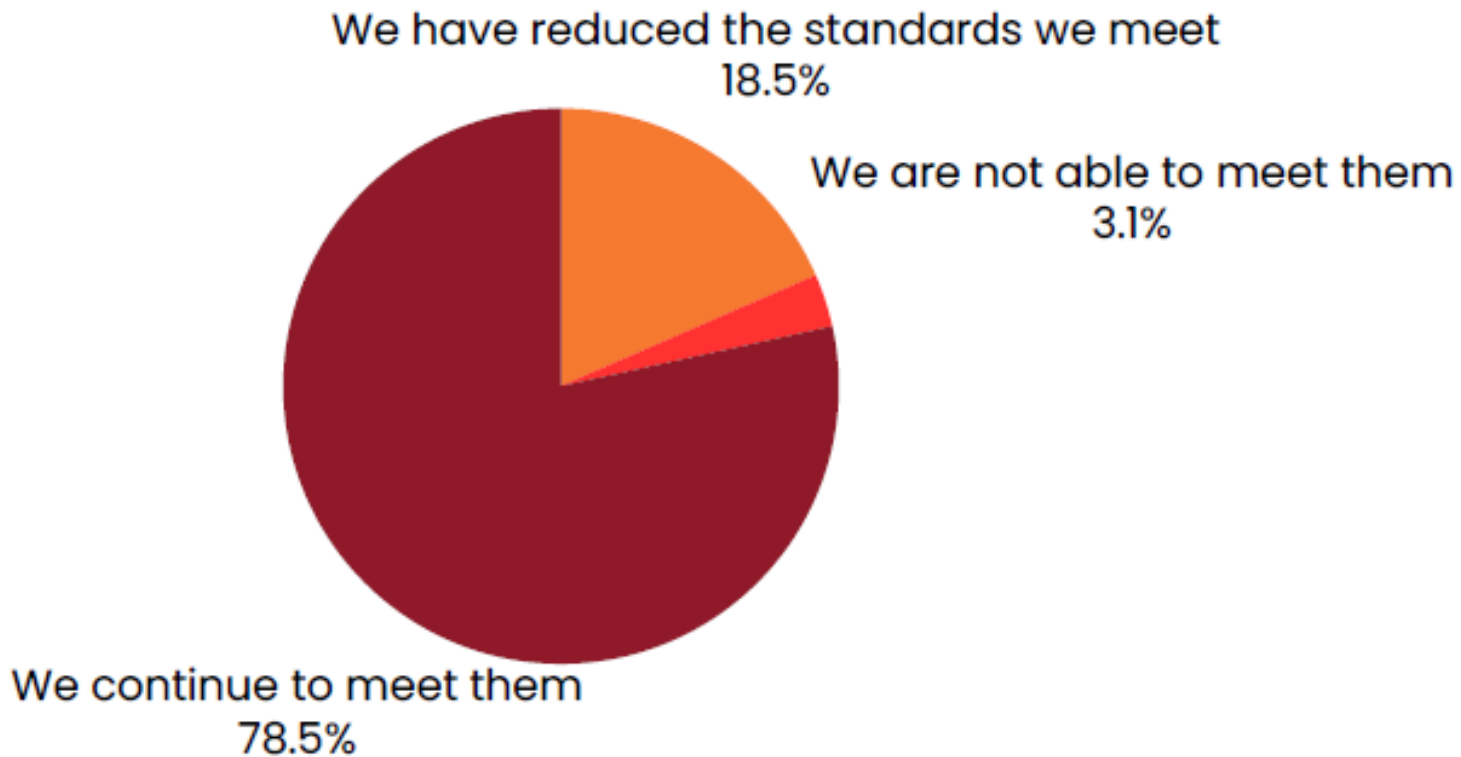




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# School Food Standards

**We asked, how has the rising cost of food affected your ability to meet the mandatory School Food Standards over the last 12 months?**





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# Campaigning

**THE SUMS DON'T ADD UP!**

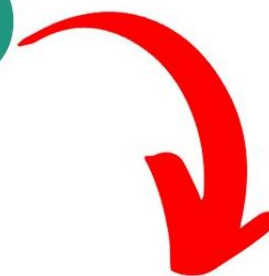
LACA campaign plan: Increasing awareness of the school meal funding gap across the 4 nations



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# Funding Allocations

## SHORT CHANGED



SCOTLAND  
£3.30



WALES  
£2.90



N. IRELAND  
£2.60



ENGLAND  
£2.53

# LACA

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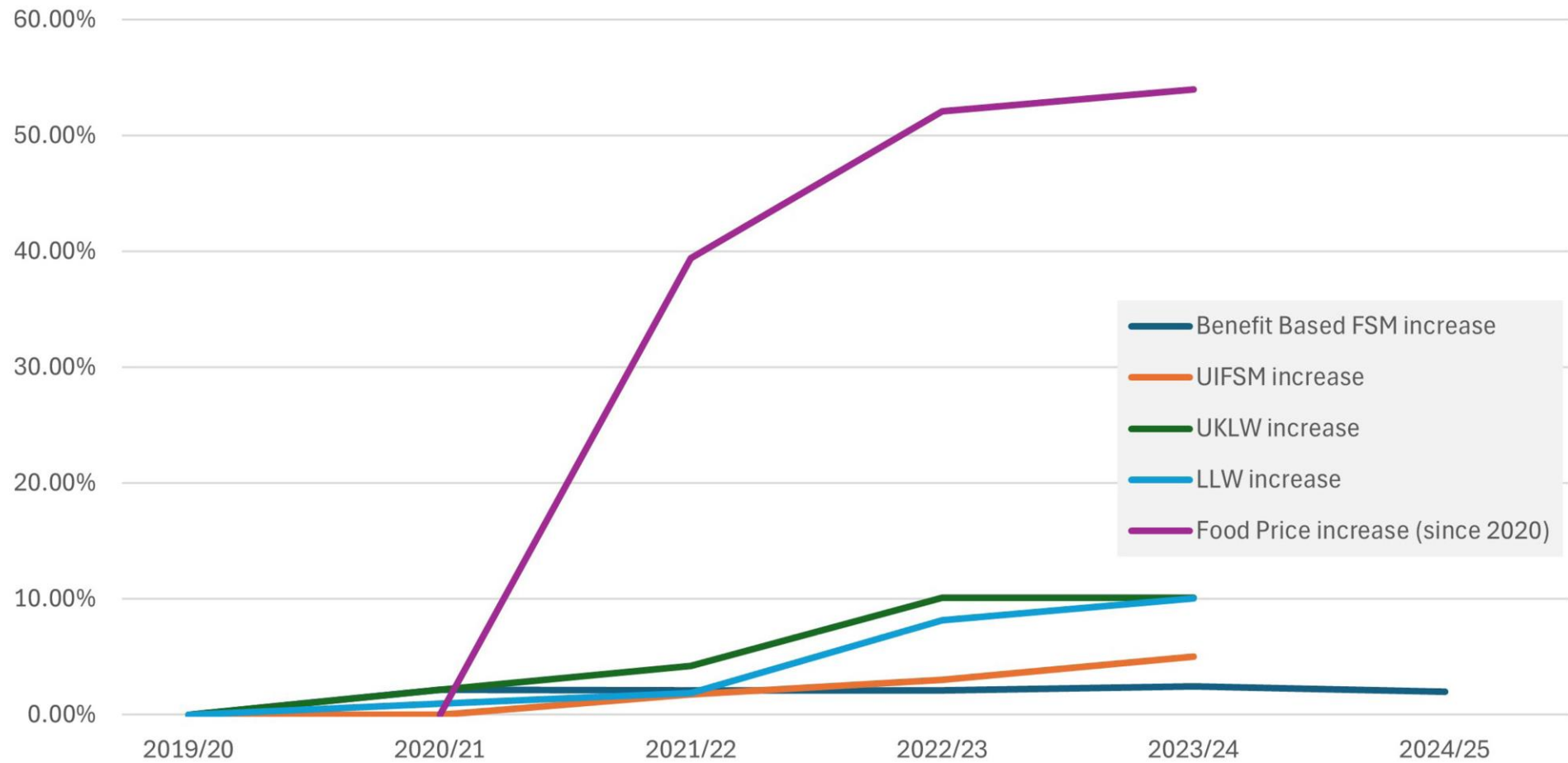


Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2024 – House of Commons





# Funding Comparisons and Food Prices 2019-2024





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# The LACA Great School Lunch 2024

During the event at the House of Commons LACA had three core aims to highlight and discuss with MPs:

1. More funding to deal with the increased cost of food prices and of staff, the current situation is unsustainable, many caterers, particularly smaller and medium sized companies will find it difficult to continue operating, threatening thousands of jobs. LACA are calling for a minimum free school meal value in England of £3.00 per meal (index linked).
2. An extension of free school meals for all children whose parents are entitled to Universal Credit
3. For funding for school meals to be ringfenced to ensure funding follows the child. The budget is currently issued to schools who do not always pass the full amount to the caterer to provide school meals.



# Signed supporters

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## LACA Partner Support





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# Competitions

## LACA School Chef of the Year



## LACA Finishing Touches



PROMOTING  
CULINARY TALENT  
2023





# Membership Services

## Free to members



### School Workforce Development

School catering workforce development guidance on how to use the professional standards



### LACA Allergens Guidance and Risk Analysis Process

LACA have developed guidance for managing allergen requirements, including a process for analysing individual pupils.



### Meal Analyser

LACA have teamed up with the University of Edinburgh Business School, LM3 and ASSIST FM to produce a carbon calculator (Meal Analyser) specifically aimed at the school food sector.



# Membership Services

## Discounted for members



### Safeguarding your Catering Service

LACA, the school food people, has partnered with environmental health consultancy LBA Safety to provide members with a virtual food safety management system.



### LACA Menu Checking Service

Use the service and include the LACA Menu Checked logo to assure your customers the food you serve is legally compliant



### LACA Buying Group

Our framework agreements to offer value for money and all our framework agreements are EU-compliant and member-led.



### E-Learning Courses

LACA have secured a number of elearning courses through Highfield Learning at a reduced rate for LACA members.



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# Membership Services

## Regional Activities

LACA is organised around a regional structure.

Meetings both social and learning based together with market expos provide regional activities where local arrangements support access to events. There are opportunities to join regional committees and contribute to the organisation.



## National Activities

LACA continues to organise a schedule of events and webinars throughout the year, providing attendees with valuable opportunities to maintain industry knowledge and access the latest product development.

The annual Main Event offers the largest industry specific exhibition, with key note speakers representing Government and industry. A spectacular awards evening celebrates industry success and Finishing Touches highlights the amazing craft skills in the sector. NSMW features serving school lunch in the House of Commons, highlighting the service to MPs. The annual School Chef of the Year competition is a particular highlight.

The Chair's regular e newsletter will keep you up to date with current issues and this is supported by regular 'School Caterer' magazine.

***“The full advantages of membership stretch across the whole year”***



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# Diary dates

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April ..Spring Seminar, Cannock

Thursday June 6<sup>th</sup> D Day Celebrations

## **Main Event & School Food Show 2024**

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July – Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2024  
Birmingham Hilton Metropole





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**Thank you for your  
time, any questions?**

Anita Brown

LACA National Chair

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