



The University Caterers Organisation

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**TUCO Scottish Regional Meeting**  
**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2024 at 11:00 am**  
**Falcon Foodservice Equipment, Stirling**

**MINUTES**

<b>Attendees:</b>	Ian Macaulay [Chair]	Edinburgh
	James Adams	Ayrshire College
	Andy Anderson	APUC
	Watson Bell	St Andrews
	Christie Bone	Glasgow
	Michael Croy	St Andrews
	Matt Gilmour	Glasgow
	Judith Hoyle	TUCO
	David Kerr	Strathclyde
	Louise MacFarlane	APUC
	Calum MacLachlan	Aberdeen
	Steven McKay	St Andrews
	Sarah McLoughlin	TUCO Academy
	Nicola Mellor	TUCO Category Manager
	Robert Myler	Forth Valley College
	Graham Paterson	Strathclyde
	Pam Watson	Glasgow
	Lawrie Wilkinson	Fife College
<b>Apologies:</b>	Gareth Davies	Forth Valley College
	Thomas Day	Heriott Watt
	Lee Murdoch	Edinburgh Napier
	Michael Robinson	Dundee and Angus
	Laura Shaw	Strathclyde

**1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies**

Ian welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies are as above.

**2. Presentation by Alan Cumming of Falcon Foodservice Equipment**

**3. Minutes of the Last Meeting**

These were taken as read.

## 4. Procurement Update

**Convenience Retail** is in the final stage of working party evaluations led by Kim Ashley. Final tender working party meeting to sign off award recommendations week commencing 27<sup>th</sup> May. Agreement due to go live 1<sup>st</sup> July.

**Fruit and Veg** we are anticipating a force majeure increase on potatoes in June. Increases will affect fresh, prep and frozen products. Due to adverse weather conditions, potato crops have been extremely poor within the UK. Around a quarter of the UK crop has not been lifted and written off. Due to low volume and poor quality, growers are reporting UK supply will be short by approx. 1m tonnes. Further information on the Potato market can be viewed on the TUCO website under the Fresh Fruit & Vegetable pages.

**Alcohol** new framework was awarded on 15<sup>th</sup> March. There are six lots on there with 8 out of 13 suppliers being able to supply to Scotland.

**DipChem** New agreement to start 15th August 2024. Members are advise to either call-off prior to the expiration of the current agreement on 15th July or put extensions in place to cover supply until the new agreement is in place.

**Digital Menus** there has been an award made to Ten Kites which started on 1<sup>st</sup> April for a period of 2 plus 2 years-

TUCO Online members have access to a free base module (i.e. web template or allergen page) + implementation paid for by TUCO (regardless of how sites). There is already an active integration with Procure Wizard which powers TUCO Online which means Ten Kites will consume the API and automatically build new Menu items using the recipe data received. Demos can be arranged if this is of interest.

**Contract Review Meetings** are being held for Catering Light and Heavy scheduled for first week in July. Annual price reviews scheduled for August.

**Meat and Poultry** Owen Talyor and Altham's price reviews in June, Brakes and Bidfood in August.

**Vending Preparation for tender renewal is underway as current DPS expires 30th September.**

Andy asked whether this will include Reverse Vending and will it be a DPS?

**Action: Natalie**

**Greenhouse Gas Calculator** - this is a DPS. A new supplier has been appointed, Edinburgh Innovations.

Sarah mentioned that we have a challenge in picking CO<sub>2</sub> so Andy suggested contacting DEFRA.

**Foodwaste Management Services** – this is a DPS and LeanPath have come on board.

**EPOS** – Fidelity are now on Lot 2 and review meetings will be held week commencing 17<sup>th</sup> June.

**Kitchen Equipment Maintenance, Deep Cleaning & Ventilation Ducting Services** - Annual contract review meeting will take place in week commencing 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2024

**Sandwiches** will be in its last year of extension until July 2025. New pricing is coming in on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2024.

#### Procurement AOB

*New Product Development* – samples which are free of charge to members are on the website.

*MSC* - TUCO have now made accreditation free of charge to its members.

*Mini-Competitions* – Ian asked whether they are mini, agile or fast? Aberdeen have used the resources available for mini-competitions. Calum would have liked to have a checklist of things to have ready before going into Further Competitions to make the process faster and ensure all is covered. Nicola clarified that Calum was referring to a complex DPS ITT and not a mini-competition

Ian asked the chefs for their opinion on this. Pam feels that there are challenges using some smaller SME's and the levels of compliancy on some of the frameworks is limiting and can impact what can be sourced or provided to customers. Andy asked members to remember that they still need to follow the procurement process even if this is deemed onerous.

Pre-prepared foods/Street Food options tend to come from a concept supplier rather than a distributor and TUCO have the “Catering Innovations and Concepts Solution” framework for this

*Sandwiches* – There was an action on APUC to explore a Regional Sandwich Contract.

**Action: APUC**

#### **5. APUC Framework Report (Louise)**

**Fruit & Veg** – this is the first year of the new framework being live. Price increases have come in but there has also been savings on some items. The pricing window is open in June for new pricing in July.

**Fresh Butcher Meat** – Aberdeenshire Larder entered Liquidation at the end of February and are no longer on the Framework Agreement. The next pricing window opens at the end of June, with any potential new pricing going live at the start of August.

**Fresh Bakery Products** – This new Framework went live on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2024, for a period of 3 years (with the option to extend for a further 12 months). This updated framework has a new lotting structure: Lot(s) 1B – 1E cover Bakery Products and Lot(s) 2C and 2E cover Specialist Bakery Products. APUC received no bids for Highlands and Islands, despite undertaking pre-market engagement in this area. There is a new supplier on the Framework, Saltire Patisserie, who were awarded a place on Lot 1D (Bakery Products; Edinburgh, Lothian & Borders). Pricing is fixed for the first 6 months, and the window for new pricing will open mid-July. Any approved pricing will go live at the start of September.

**Dairy** – Will expire in October 2025, and pre-market engagement will begin towards the end of the year. There have been discussions with other public sector bodies on how they approach this commodity. Engagement with smaller, local dairies will be important for this re-tender. Pricing on this Framework is fixed for 6 months, with the next window opening mid-September, and any new potential pricing going live on 1<sup>st</sup> November.

**Fresh Fish & Seafood** – Will expire in September 2025. Work on the re-tender will begin at the end of the year. Pricing for this commodity is still extremely volatile (for example, Salmon is 45% dearer than this time last year). The next pricing window opens at the end of June, with any potential new pricing going live at the start of August.

#### Procurement AOB

*Border Control Checks* – Red Sea – not as much disruption as was originally envisaged.

*Fruit and Veg* – Price of apples has increased. The supply of onions is starting to go up again as is strawberries as the UK supply increases. Sugar beet supply has been affected by the rainfall. At the moment there are 235 suppliers who have undertaken assessment.

*Deposit Returns Scheme* – this has been delayed until at least October 2025.

## 6. TUCO Academy and Sustainability Update

All the Academy Legislative training delivered online as a webinar is now completely free of charge for Full and Associate members: Levels 2, 3 and 4 Food Safety

- Levels 2 and 3 HACCP
- Levels 2 and 3 Allergens

Full Members can also have face-to-face legislative training free of charge you just need to email an enquiry to the foundation info email: [info@tucofoundation.org](mailto:info@tucofoundation.org)

We ended last year on 97 courses and 995 attendance and in the next few weeks will have delivered over 2,000 courses.

We also recently ran a very successful Manager Essentials course with six modules including motivational, feedback and dealing with conflict. This will be running again in September this year and February next year.

Development Days include:

- Visual Merchandising in Edinburgh
- Food Photography (the meeting was asked if there would be interest in running a course in Scotland and there was a positive response.)
- A cooking class with Cyrus Todiwalla
- 'Made in Hackney' – cookery classes around Korean and West African food

Webinars:

- 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> July - Nudging and Menu Engineering
- Global Food Trends – Charles Banks in January with the launch of the new trends document.

Our Winter Conference will be held in Manchester on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at Manchester University with a social event in the Manchester Museum on the same day, the theme of the sessions will be based around 'Wellbeing'.

This will be followed by a study tour of the Manchester market food courts.

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The Menus of Change Leadership Conference will be held in the USA in June. Other tours available are:

- Taste Festival in London (13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> June)
- World of Coffee in Copenhagen (26<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> June)
- NACUFS Louisville, Kentucky (15<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> July)
- LWC Tour Northern Italy (2<sup>nd</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> September)

Other upcoming tours will include:

- Sandwich Study Tour with Food To Go in Dublin
- Innovative Burgers
- Nigerian and African Street Food
- South West Sustainability Tour including Royal Agricultural University

Ian reminded members that the leaflet has now been circulated for the TUCO summer conference giving details of the programme, and would strongly recommend the significant range of options provided by the Academy which can be considered a key part of staff learning, development and retention.

## 7. TUCO Board Update

The Board had discussed the Skills Gap within the membership.

Matt Tebbit from Reading had now joined the Board.

We are looking at driving the Board Strategy.

Finance is in a strong position to allow us to set up the TUCO Foundation, which is the charitable arm of TUCO, which should allow much better member benefits. We are looking at how this can be beneficial to members' financial constraints when it comes to travel and attending courses.

Amanda Pettingill will be stepping down as Chair of the Audit Committee when she takes over as Chair of TUCO.

LEAs are now making up 12% of our total income.

Graham also asked members if they would be interested in a form of Mentor Scheme from more established TUCO members which it was confirmed should be explored and the Scottish Region supported.

## 8. Any Other Business

As there was no further business, the meeting was duly closed.

## 9. Date for Next Meeting

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2024 at the University of Aberdeen.