**Food Heartland Network: Privacy Notice for Champion Applicants**

**Important Information About Your Personal Data**

The Food Heartland Network connects the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Council with agri-food businesses and support organizations to strengthen the local industry. As part of this initiative, we're recruiting Food Heartland Champions.

This notice explains how we collect, use, and protect your personal information when you apply to become a Champion.

**Legal Basis for Processing**

We process your information under the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR). Specifically, we rely on your **consent** (Article 6(1)(a) UK GDPR) to process your data for evaluating your application and managing the Food Heartland Network Champion program.

**Data Collection**

We collect only the information necessary to assess your candidacy and manage your participation in the Champion program. The information we may collect includes:

* Name
* Address
* Postcode
* Email Address
* Phone Number
* Business Information (Type, Address)
* Length of time working in the sector
* Access NI
* Convictions Data
* If you hold membership of or office of any political parties

We will also process questions about experience, motivation for applying to the program and any additional information you choose to provide in your application handling it in accordance with our legal obligations.

**Data Use**

We use your information for the following purposes

* Evaluating Champion applications
* Managing the Champion program (including communication and event invitations)
* Sharing information about relevant agricultural and food events/ training opportunities
* With your consent sharing information with other Council departments for program-related purposes
* Sharing application information with the selection committee which may include both internal and external stakeholders, to support the selection process.
* Sharing anonymized data in statistical reports (may be published)

**Data Sharing and Storage**

* We may share your information with third-party event organizers specifically for the Balmoral, Lurgan, and Armagh Shows, with your consent.
* We do not use data processors or transfer data overseas.
* Your information is securely stored on Council servers and retained in accordance with our Retention & Disposal Schedule. Partnership and membership details are currently kept permanently unless you choose to opt out.

**Your Rights**

* You have the right to ask questions about this process or withdraw your application at any time. For assistance please contact the Food Heartland Team:
  + Address: Craigavon Civic Centre, 66 Lakeview Road, Craigavon, BT64 1AL
  + Email: info@foodheartland.com
  + Phone: 0300 0300 900 Ext: 61884
* You can learn more about your data protection rights at the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) website (<https://ico.org.uk/>). If you are unhappy with how we handle your data, you have the right to file a complaint with the ICO.

**Data Protection Officer**

If you have any further questions or concerns about your data, please contact our Data Protection Officer at dataprotection@armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk

**Notice Updates**

We are committed to protecting your privacy and this notice will be updated periodically. We will inform you of any updates by posting them on the Food Heartland website to keep you informed of changes.