

 The Scottish Government

School Meals in Scotland

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The Scottish Government

Structure

- ❖ Background
- ❖ Legislation
- ❖ Uses of data by the Scottish Government
- ❖ Picture of FM across Scotland
 - Primary
 - Secondary
- ❖ Other provisions i.e. drinking water & breakfast clubs
- ❖ Summary

The Scottish Government

Background

- SG conducts an annual survey of FM across Scotland since 2002
- Survey takes place in January/February
- Results based on local authority and grant aided mainstream schools only
- Statistics on meals provided, free or paid as well as registration and entitlement

The Scottish Government Legislation

- The Schools (Health Promotion and Nutrition) (Scotland) Act 2007
 - Places health promotion at the heart of schools' activities
 - Ensures food and drink served meet nutritional requirements set by Ministers
 - Ensures local authorities promote uptake and benefit of school meals

The Scottish Government Legislation

- The Nutritional Requirements for Food and Drink in Schools (Scotland) Regulations 2008
 - Commenced in primary schools on 4 August 2008
 - Commenced in secondary schools on 3 August 2009
 - Duty to provide free drinking water at all times commenced in both sectors on 4 August 2008

The Scottish Government

Uses of data

- Benchmarking performance of different local authorities on uptake
- Calculating distribution of grant support to local authorities
- Registration is widely used as an indicator of deprivation, which can be linked with other indicators like attainment & attendance

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Uses of data

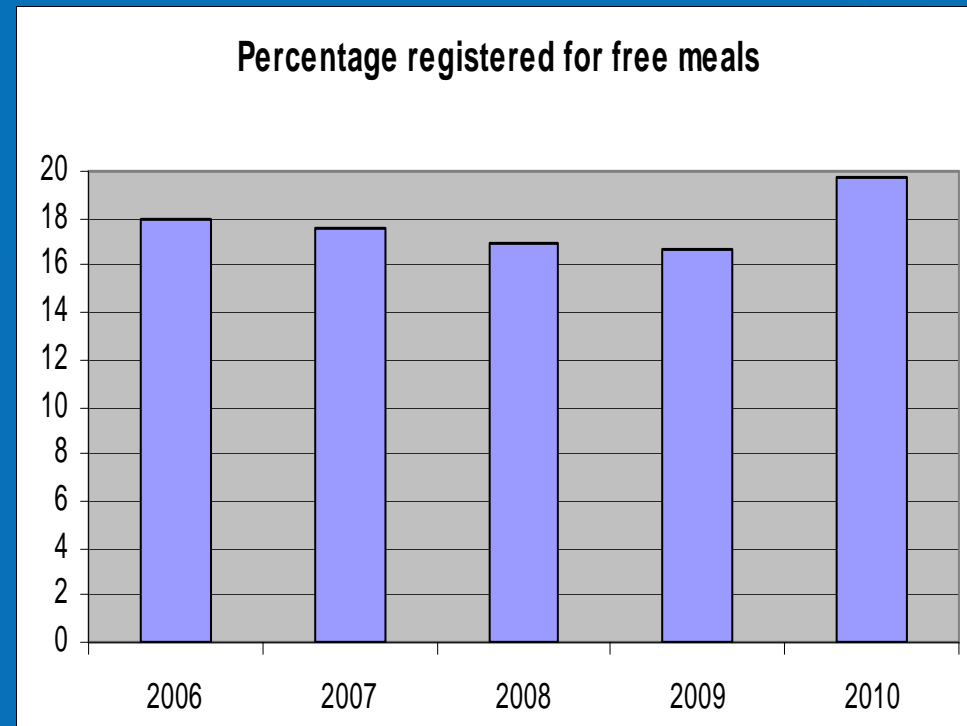
- Used to support government healthy eating initiatives



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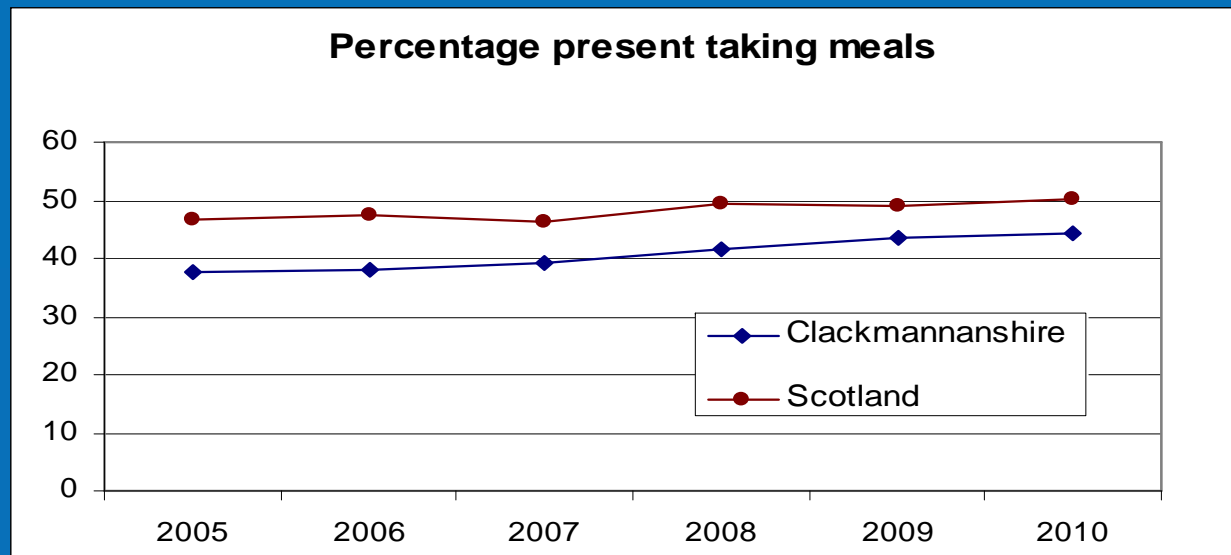
Picture of FM - Primary

- General decrease of registrations from 2006
- Increase in 2010 due to eligibility criteria extension
- Now includes parents on maximum tax credits of both working and child tax and a low annual income below £6,420





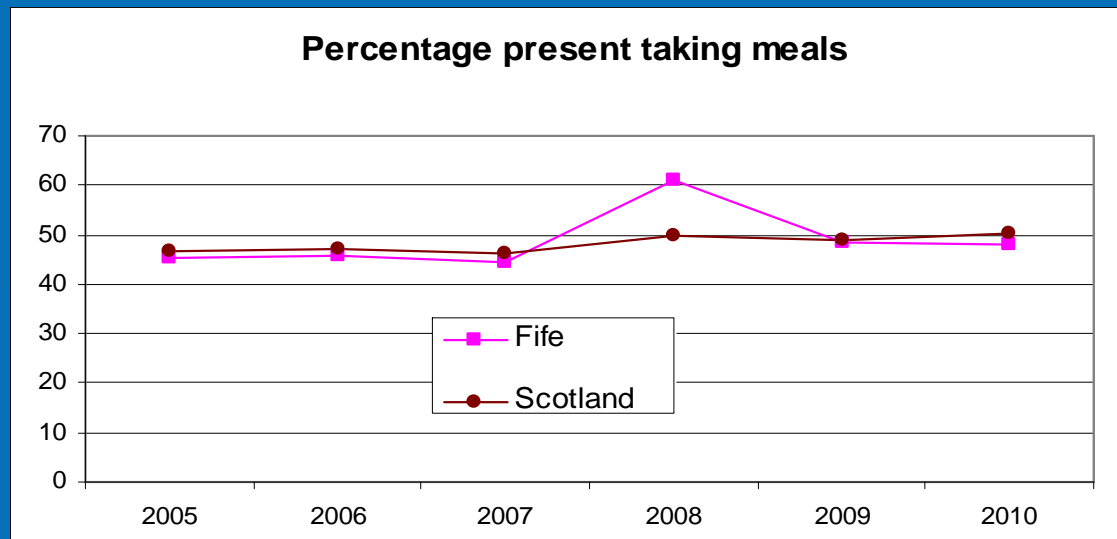
The Scottish Government Picture of FSM - Primary



- Improving uptake in Clackmannanshire although still below Scotland overall
- Little evidence of a big jump as a result of extension of eligibility



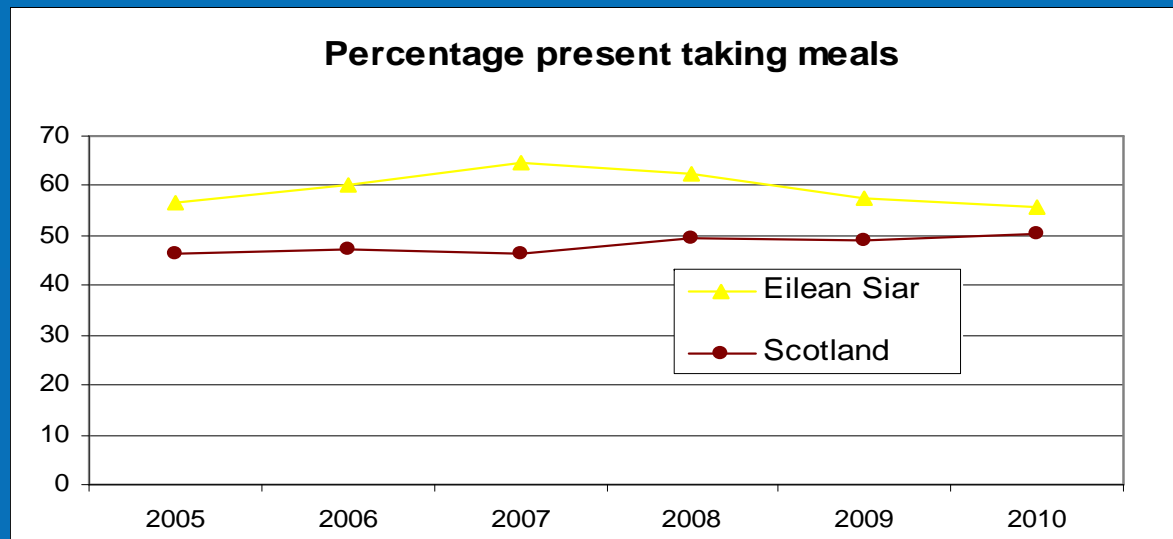
The Scottish Government Picture of FSM - Primary



- Effect of trial meals in Fife in 2008 for P1-P3
- Decreasing uptake since 2008 but higher than pre-trial period



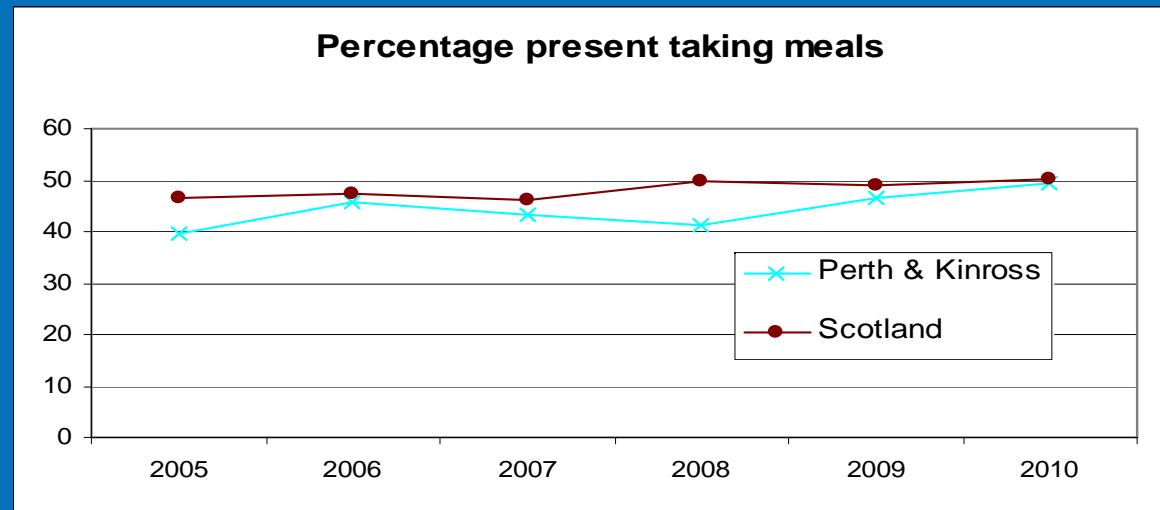
The Scottish Government Picture of FM - Primary



- Decreasing uptake rate in Eilean Siar in recent years but still higher than Scotland overall



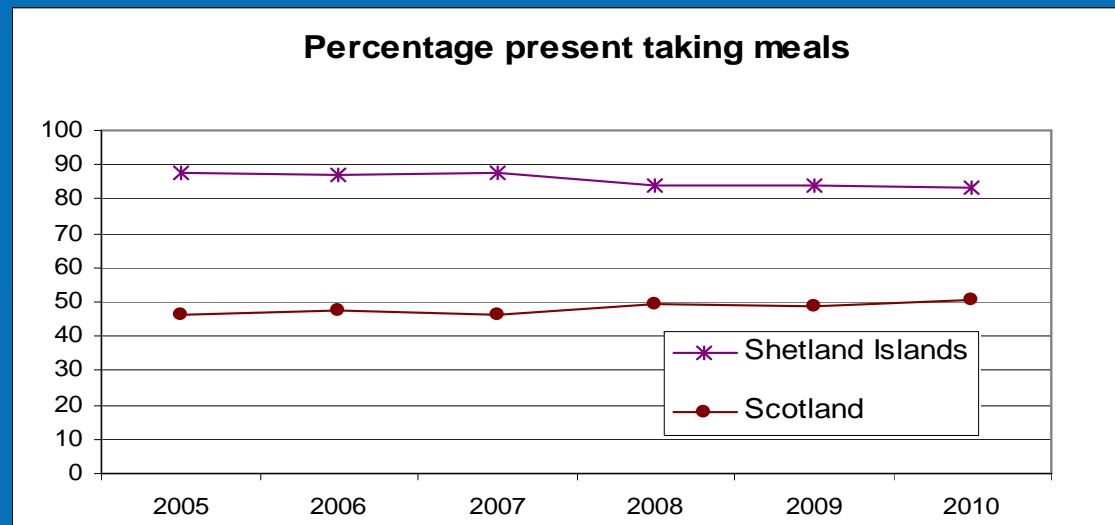
The Scottish Government Picture of FM - Primary



- Improving uptake in Perth & Kinross, almost close to Scotland overall
- Evidence of effect of extended eligibility



The Scottish Government Picture of FM - Primary



- Higher uptake in rural and more sparse settlements, for example Shetland Islands
- No clear evidence of extension in eligibility

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Picture of FM - Primary

- Trials local authorities, 2007/08
 - All schools in five local authorities (East Ayrshire, Fife, Glasgow City, Scottish Borders & West Dunbartonshire) took part in a six month trial, whereby all pupils in P1-P3 were entitled to free school meals



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Picture of FM - Primary

- Entitlement eligibility extension, August 2009
 - Eligibility was extended to include parents or carers in receipt of both maximum child and working tax credit and annual income below £6,420. Led to overall 17,000 additional pupils across all sectors.

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Picture of FM - Primary

- Uptake higher in rural than urban areas
 - Percentage uptake highest in remote rural areas (57 per cent) and low in urban areas (47 per cent) in 2010



The Scottish Government Picture of FM - Primary

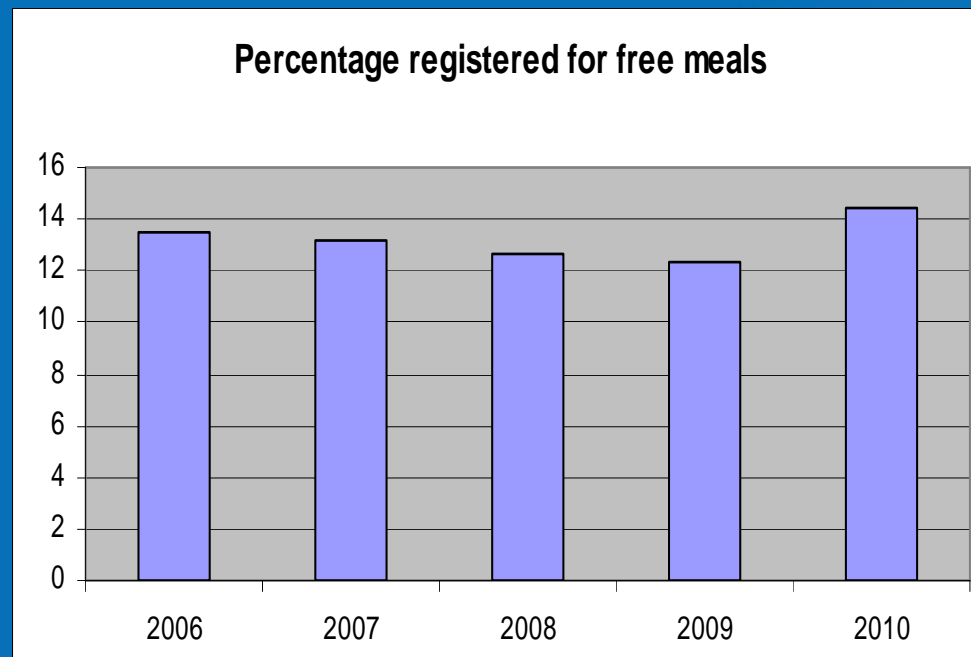
- General decrease in uptake then steady increase
 - From 2003 until 2007 primary uptake decreased from 50 to 46 per cent. This was followed by a steady increase back to 50 per cent in 2010



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Picture of FM - Secondary

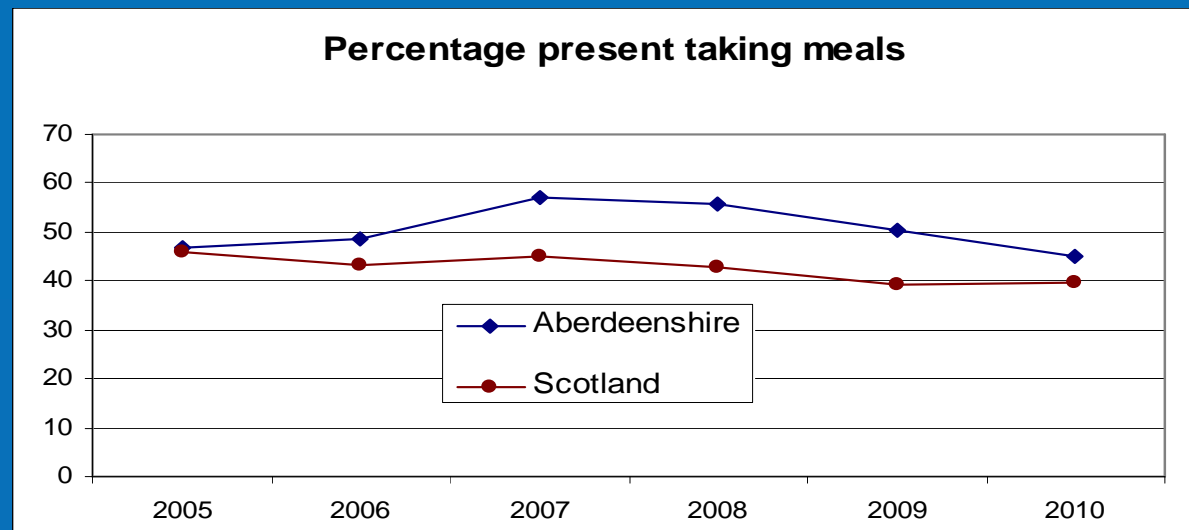
- Decrease in registrations from 2006 to 2009
- Sudden increase in 2010 due to extension of eligibility criteria
- Entitlement now includes parents or carers in receipt of both maximum child and working tax credit and annual income below £6,420





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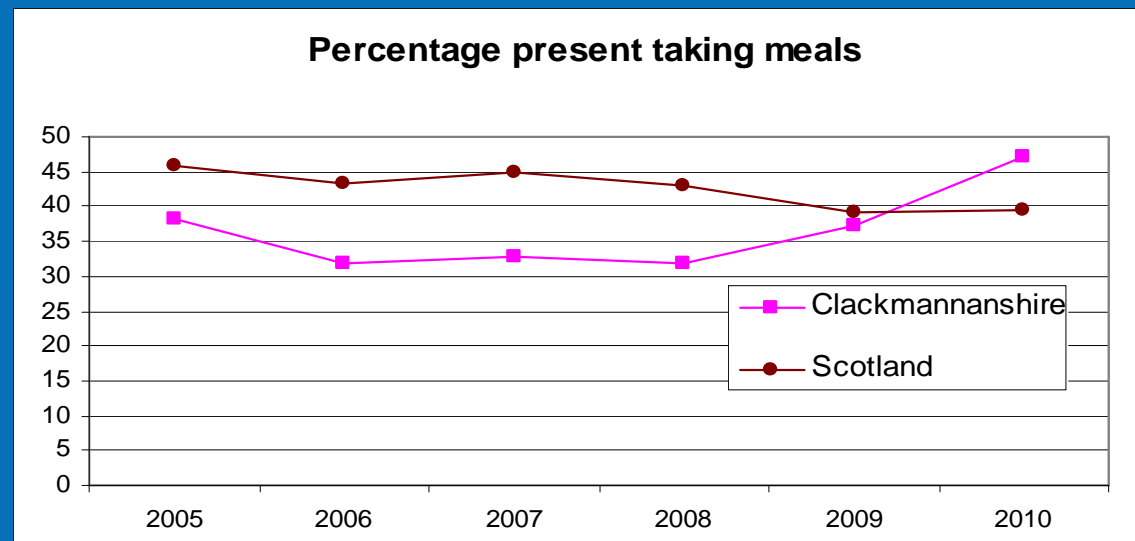
Picture of FM - Secondary



- Decreasing uptake in Aberdeenshire secondaries in recent years
- Uptake generally above Scotland overall



The Scottish Government Picture of FM - Secondaries

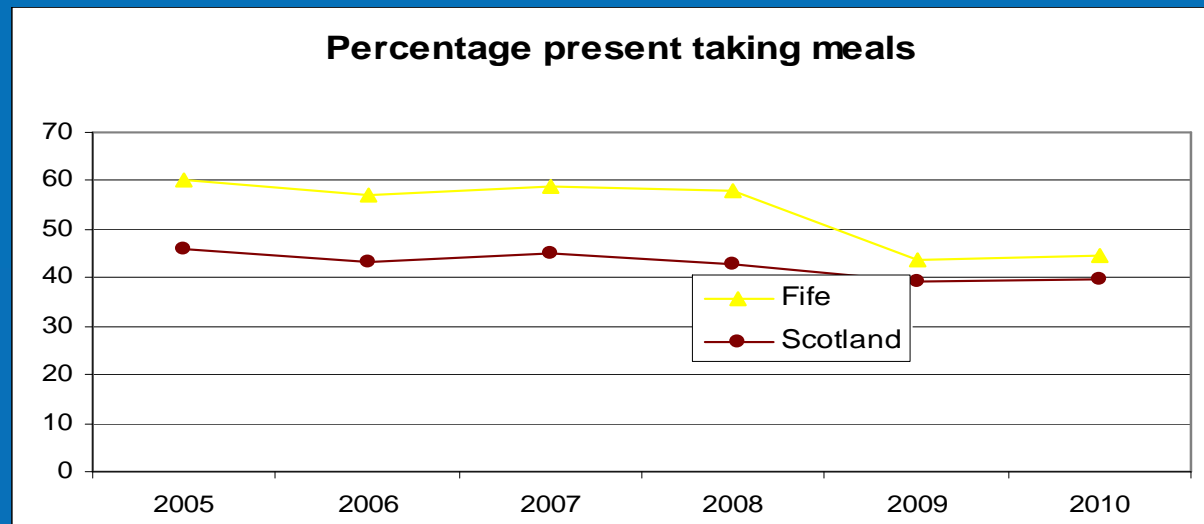


- Positive improvements in Clackmannanshire
- Strong evidence of effect of extension of eligibility



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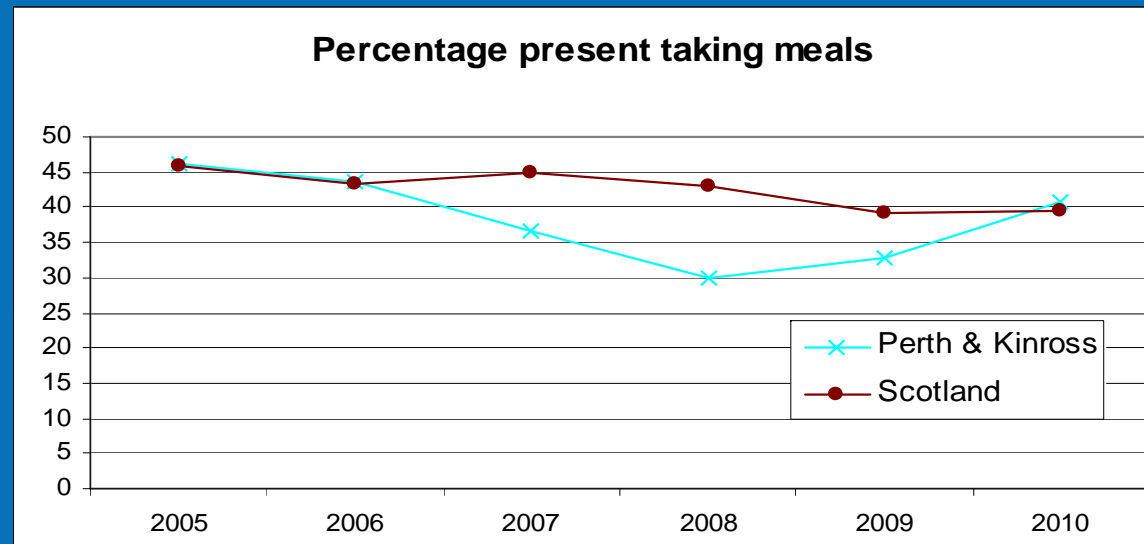
Picture of FM - Secondary



- Decreasing school meal uptake in Fife with a sharp drop between 2008 and 2009
- Little evidence of any effect regarding extension in eligibility



The Scottish Government Picture of FM - Secondary

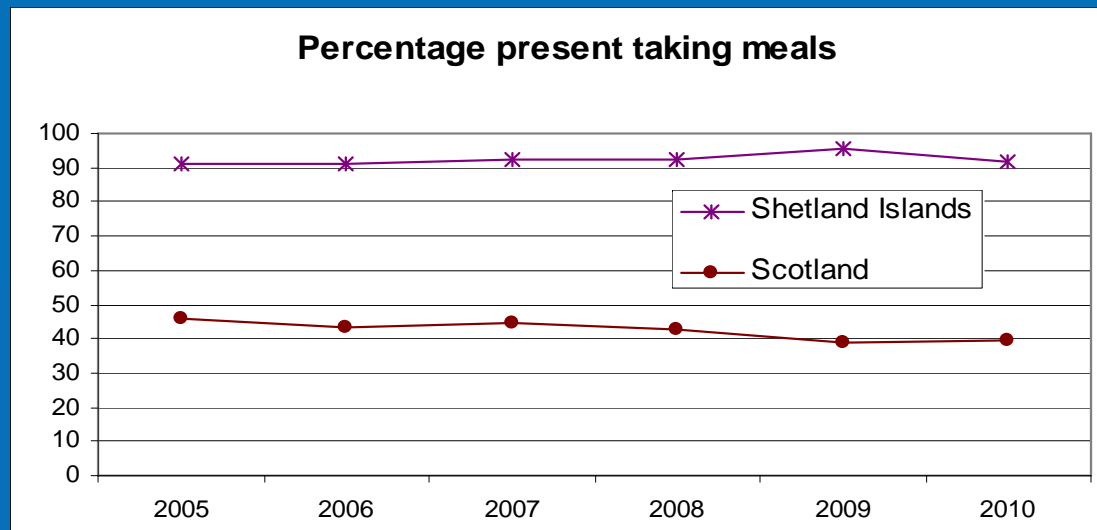


- Positive improvements in Perth & Kinross
- Lowest meals uptake rate in 2008
- Just slightly above the Scotland overall by 2010



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Picture of FM - Secondary



- High uptake evident in Shetland Islands with 96 per cent taking meals in 2009
- Percentage uptake always above Scotland uptake

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Picture of FM - Secondary

- General decrease in uptake since 2003
 - Due to transition to new healthy food and drink requirements – these are important for short and long term health of pupils
 - Decreased from a high of 51 per cent in 2003 to 39 per cent in 2009

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Picture of FM - Secondary

- Uptake higher in rural areas than urban
 - Percentage of pupils taking meals highest in remote rural areas (56 per cent) and low in large urban areas (28 per cent) in 2010

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Other provisions

- Cheap vans outside schools
 - Cheap vans outside schools are another source of school meals, and they do in some cases lower the uptake rates especially in large urban areas
 - There is no legislation against cheap vans and the decision to restrict them rest with schools and local authorities

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Other provisions

- Cheap vans outside schools
 - Angus, Renfrewshire, East Renfrewshire and most recently East Dunbartonshire have taken steps to restrict fast food vans that trade near schools during lunchtime

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Other provisions

- Anonymised system for free school meals
 - HMIE is monitoring how schools and local authorities provide access to anonymised systems.
 - It is important that schools take whatever steps they can to ensure there is no stigma attached to the receipt of free school meals

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Other provisions

- Anonymised system for free school meals
 - There is a statutory obligation to ensure anonymity for free meal recipients under the Schools (health promotion and nutrition) (Scotland) Act 2007

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Other provisions

➤ Drinking water

- This at first glance appears to be an obvious provision
- Refers to adequate supply of drinking water for pupils and staff, which is readily accessed within the dining room and available during periods of learning

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Other provisions

➤ Drinking water

- In 2010, 95 per cent of all schools had free drinking water available to staff and pupils at all times

➤ Breakfast clubs

- It is up to local authorities to decide if and how to provide breakfast club services
- In 2010, 36 per cent of all schools provided breakfast club service to pupils

The Scottish Government Summary

- ❖ General decrease of registration for free meals across both sectors until 2009 when extension in eligibility was introduced
- ❖ Effect of trial local authorities in comparisons especially in 2008
- ❖ General decrease in school meal uptake since 2003 in secondary due to transition to new healthy food and drink requirements

The Scottish Government Summary

- ❖ Higher uptake of meals in rural areas than in urban areas due to fewer alternatives in rural areas



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Thank you

Any Questions??

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