

2015 UK Annual Report

Progress towards implementation of the Multi-Annual National Control Plan for the United Kingdom



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



Department of
**Agriculture and
Rural Development**

www.dardni.gov.uk

CONTENTS

Contact point	3
Executive Summary	4
Chapter 1 – Introduction and scope of the report	16
Chapter 2 – Effectiveness of official controls	18
Official controls in the food and feed sectors	18
Official controls in the animal health sector	57
Official controls in the animal welfare sector	97
Official controls in the plant health sector	109
Chapter 3 – National systems of audit	122
Food and feed sectors	122
Animal health and welfare sectors	129
Chapter 4 – Resources	133
Food and feed sectors	133
Plant health	134
Chapter 5 – Actions taken to improve performance of control authorities	135
Co-ordination in the food and feed sectors	135
Co-ordination in the animal health and welfare and plant health sectors	149
Chapter 6 – Actions taken to improve performance of business operators	164
Food and feed sectors	164
Animal health and welfare and plant health sectors	167
GLOSSARY	170

CONTACT POINT

All enquiries in relation to this report should, in the first instance, be directed to:

Contact: Andrea Cranfield

Food Standards Agency

Address: 1st Floor, Foss House, Peasholme Green, York YO1 7PR

Email: Andrea.cranfield@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk

Enquiries will then be forwarded either within the FSA or to another Department or Agency as appropriate.

1. Overall effectiveness of controls

Results of main performance indicators

Below is the UK's achievement against objectives in the following sectors, as set out in the Multi-Annual National Control Plan (MANCP) for the United Kingdom (UK). The achievements of the UK follow the strategic aims of the Competent Authorities responsible for delivering Official Controls.

Food and feed sectors

- Food establishments – at the end of 2015 all Local Authorities (LAs) in Wales and Northern Ireland (NI) were operating Food Hygiene Ratings Scheme (FHRS) and all but one of LAs in England was operating FHRS. In Scotland all LAs were operating the Food Hygiene Information Scheme (FHIS)
- FHRS information was available for approximately 455,000 food businesses which is an estimated 87% of businesses within scope of the scheme. This is a 2% increase on 2014 (85%). FHIS information was available for approximately 46,000 food businesses and is an estimated 87% of businesses within scope. FHRS in Wales is mandatory, and will be mandatory in NI from Oct 2016
- Meat establishments – during the year 96% of slaughterhouses (with or without co-located cutting plants) and 98% of standalone cutting plants were either Good or Generally Satisfactory in terms of compliance.
- During the year there were eight slaughterhouses (with or without co-located cutting plants) with a rating of Urgent Improvement Necessary; however as at 31 March 2016 there were no establishments in this category.
- During 2015/16 777 unannounced inspections were completed in England and Wales and 54 were completed in NI. FSS completed 86 unannounced inspections in Scotland.
- Dairy hygiene – approximately 55% of dairy hygiene inspection visits in England and Wales resulted in follow up checks. This resulted in the majority of non-compliances being satisfactorily resolved within agreed timescales. In England and Wales there has been a reduction of 3% in dairy farms and a 3% increase in inspections due to an increase in raw drinking milk producers. In Scotland there has been a reduction of 8% in dairy farms but a 4% increase in the number of primary inspections carried out.
- Egg production – during the year there was an increase in overall compliance rates in egg production premises in England and Wales (71% in 2014/15 to 79% in 2015/16). Whilst NI saw a significant increase in guidance letters issued, Scotland saw a significant decrease.
- Shellfish hygiene – during 2015/16 throughout the UK over 5,100 shellfish samples were tested, similar to the number tested in 2014/15.
- Organic operators – in 2015 there was a significant increase in unannounced visits to organic operators in the UK. A total of 1,058 unannounced visits took place compared to 262 in 2014. 6,118 announced visits were made to operators in 2015 compared to 6746 in 2014. Defra is confident based on the audit and assessment of the UK organic Control Bodies that they have effective control mechanisms in place to ensure satisfactory implementation of

the organic control measures. The increased unannounced visits were in part a reflection of the consolidation of increased additional visits required by legislation for Control Bodies to carry out.

- Feed establishments – a review of the first year of operation of the new feed delivery model provided positive results, with improved accuracy of data, 99.6% of planned feed inspections delivered and 95% of LAs engaged in the process. The second year of operation (2015/16) has built on this and the FSA continues to see positive results, including 98.9% of planned feed inspections delivered and 97% of LAs engaged in the process.
- Out of the total Approval and Scheduled inspections carried out by the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) in 2015, 5.1% of Commercial Feed Mills were fully compliant (10.3% in 2014), 15.9% of On-Farm Manufacturers were fully compliant (10.5% in 2014) and 31.7% of Distributors were fully compliant (24.6% in 2014)

Animal Health and welfare and plant health sectors

- Exotic disease – in GB, the Animal and Plant Agency (APHA) investigated 164 reports of suspected exotic diseases. In England, in January 2015 Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza was detected in a flock of broiler breeder chickens in Hampshire; in July 2015 High Pathogenic Avian Influenza H7N7 was detected in a laying hen flock in Lancashire; and an outbreak of Anthrax was confirmed in two cows in Wiltshire, in October. In addition, one case of European Bat Lyssavirus was reported in Daubentons bat in Wales in July 2015. All incidents were successfully resolved.
- Zoonoses - the UK results of the Salmonella National Control Programmes in the breeding chicken, laying chicken, broiler, and turkey sectors showed prevalence levels well below the EU reduction target levels.
- Animal welfare – in GB, overall welfare on-farm compliance was 95.7% (up 0.4% from 2014), for vehicle inspections (welfare during transport) was 99% (same as in 2014). In NI, overall compliance during welfare on-farm inspections was 91% (down 4% from 2014) and during transport 99% (down 1% from 2014). In the UK, no serious welfare at slaughter non-compliances was found on farms.
- Defra and the Welsh Government continued to implement their long term strategies to eradicate TB through a comprehensive suite of measures aimed at tackling all sources of TB infection. This includes tighter cattle testing and movement controls, improving biosecurity on farm and when trading, badger vaccination and badger control in areas where badgers are an important factor in spreading disease to cattle. Both strategies were endorsed by the European Commission as part of the UK TB Eradication Programme for 2015.
- Undercover filming inside two FSA approved slaughterhouses provided evidence of cruelty and breaches of welfare. The FSA took immediate action and commissioned Unannounced Inspections to all slaughterhouses in Great Britain in Feb – March 2015.
- Bee health – UK Bee Inspectors carried out an extensive surveillance programme visiting 6,548 apiaries and inspecting over 33,000 colonies across the UK. No exotic bee pests were found and recorded foulbrood disease remains stable, at relatively low levels.
- Aquatic health – the aquatic animal health status of UK remains high and the aquaculture sector remains free from the most serious diseases of aquatic

animals. Surveillance programmes on fish and shellfish farms were completed to target and statutory compliance remains at a high level.

- Plant health – the Plant Health Service met its surveillance and inspection targets, despite an almost 10% increase in the number of imported consignments that were declared and required control. An FVO fact-finding mission in July 2015 praised the UK for its excellent system for identifying and controlling new and emerging risks for plant health. The mission gathered information on the measures in place, including surveillance.

2. Information and trends on controls

Significant developments in relation to main priorities and risk assessment criteria and main trends in intensity and type of controls

- Strategic planning – the FSA strategic plan was refreshed in 2015. The plan for 2015-20 works towards food we can trust and was developed by looking at the future challenges facing the food supply, and what this could mean for FSA in terms of its role to protect public health, and consumers' interest in relation to food. The strategic outcomes are that:
 - food is safe and what it says it is; and
 - consumers can make informed choices about what to eat and have access to an affordable healthy diet, now and in the future.
- The FSS Strategy to 2021 which sets its vision to create a food and drink environment in Scotland that benefits, protects and is trusted by consumers. This establishes 6 strategic priorities:
 - Food is safe
 - Food is authentic
 - Consumers have healthier diets
 - Responsible food businesses flourish
 - FSS is a trusted organisation
 - FSS is efficient and effective
- Food Crime – as part of the development of the National Food Crime Unit (NFCU) in 2015, the practices in relation to intelligence analysis and the processing of food fraud reports were refined. During 2015, 641 intelligence reports were generated from the data submissions received by the NFCU. These figures highlight the consistent levels of food fraud reporting, and the increasing utility of the data received by the NFCU as it continues to raise its profile.
- In 2015, the FSA handled 45 cases originating from whistle-blowers (where this information originates from someone working within industry). This was considerably down on the previous years' 111, which may represent a natural adjustment following a spike in whistleblowing caused by the horsemeat incident.
- FSS established the Scottish Food Crime and Incidents Unit (SFCIU) in October 2015. The Unit has been put in place to provide leadership in the prevention, investigation, disruption and enforcement of Food Crime and in the management of Food Safety incidents nationally for Scotland.
- Imported food – during 2015 operational targets for controls on imported food at points of entry were met, including the additional controls required at points of entry under EU safeguard measures and Regulation (EC) No 669/2009.

- Food surveillance – the percentage of LAs using the UK Food Surveillance System (UKFSS) increased from 67% in 2014/15 to 70% in 2015/16. A total of 50,529 samples were placed on UKFSS in 2015/16.
- 51% of labelling checks reported via the UK Food Surveillance System (UKFSS) were non-compliant (3,355 out of 6,509) compared to 43% last year (2,981 out of 6,979). More focussed sampling and more consumer awareness and reporting may partially explain the increase in levels of reported non-compliance
- Animal health and welfare – following the introduction of the new Welfare of Animals at Time of Killing (England) Regulation 2015 the FSA ensured replacement of the old Welfare of Animals (Slaughter or Killing) Regulations 1995 (WASK) slaughter licences over a 4 month period (October 2015 to March 2016). This involved the issue of over 800 Temporary Certificates of Competence, over 4,500 Certificates of Competence and over 100 licences for on-farm slaughter.
- In Scotland, over 300 Certificates of Competence were issued under the Welfare of Animals at Time of Killing (Scotland) Regulations 2012 between November 2015 and March 2016 as part of the ongoing work to replace the old WASK slaughter licences.
- During the year, 3,653 horses presented for slaughter were tested for Phenylbutazone, of which 3,649 were compliant and 4 were non-compliant. This meant that the non-compliance rate was 0.1%. Due to the increasingly low level of non-compliance, the additional testing of horses sent for slaughter for Phenylbutazone ceased from 1 April 2016. No slaughter of horses occurs in Scotland.
- Overall in the animal health and welfare sectors the intensity and the type of controls remained relatively consistent over the past five years.
- Zoonoses – ongoing progress continued to be made in controlling Salmonella in the UK poultry sectors. A reducing contribution of Salmonella to the overall burden of food-borne zoonoses has been observed in the UK in recent years.
- Plant health – in the Plant health sector overall the same trades have remained a problem in terms of interception of plant pests, albeit with some improvement. The schedule of controlled import products was expanded to include Peppers (Capsicum). The inclusion of this plant product, in particular, led to an increase in the number of non-compliance notifications. During 2015 in England and Wales, there was a 13% increase in interceptions of plant pests and diseases in comparison to the previous year total. However, the overall non-compliance rate for controlled products was 1.3% (1,256 non-compliances out of 94,821 consignments subject to controls) which is similar to 2014.

3. Trend analysis of non-compliance

Statement of overall trends in compliance

- Based on collected data the overall level of compliance in all sectors, as in the previous years, was satisfactory when assessed against expectations.

Main types of non-compliance

Food and feed sectors

- Food hygiene and safety breaches
- Food labelling
- Feed quality assurance controls
- Imported food
- Food fraud

Animal health and animal welfare and Plant health sectors

- Business Operators: Record-keeping/documentation irregularities, accommodation hazards, staff training, feeding.
- Competent authorities: Inspection frequency.

Identified causes

- Criminal negligence
- Ignorance of the law
- Less stringent standards in third countries in the case of food imports
- Human error

4. Enforcement: action taken in cases of non-compliance

Statistics on enforcement/enforcement trends

- Food premises – There has been a small increase in the percentage of UK businesses considered to be broadly compliant for food hygiene, from 93.0% in 2014/15 to 93.5% in 2015/16. LA Enforcement Monitoring data (LAEMS) is published by the FSA, and can be found at the following link: food.gov.uk/enforcement/monitoring/laems/mondatabyyear/enforcement-data-2015-16
- Meat establishments – five premises in England were refused approval in 2015/16. All of these establishments were subsequently granted approval once the required improvements and remedial actions had been taken. No meat establishments were refused approval in Scotland.
- In meat establishments remedial action notices and hygiene improvement notices continued the downward trend. Remedial action notices decreased by 17% in 2015/16 (35% decrease in 2014/15) and hygiene improvement notices decreased by 6% (38% decrease in 2014/15).
- Dairy hygiene – in 2015/16 there was a significant difference in the number of enforcement actions undertaken in the UK. Whilst written advice increased by 2% from 425 in 2014/15 to 433 in 2015/16, hygiene improvement notices decreased by 38% from 66 in 2014/15 to 41 in 2015/16. From 2011/12 until 2015/16 there has been an overall 89% decrease in hygiene improvement notices, which demonstrates an increase in compliance levels.
- Animal By Products – two ABP plants had serious major non-compliances, both for operational issues. The first related to failure to address serious drainage issues at a collection centre; the second involved an ABP incineration site where carcasses were not incinerated without undue delay. Both operations were suspended until corrective actions were taken by the operator. In both cases, follow up visits were triggered to assess the effectiveness of actions taken.

- Aquaculture – in England and Wales there was an increase in Aquaculture Production Business' non-compliances (52, compared with 12 during 2014) related to the increase in the number of managed fisheries subject to statutory controls following outbreaks of KHV disease and failures to comply with conditions of confirmed designation. The Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas) fish health inspectorate's (FHI) efforts to improve engagement with the fisheries sector have resulted in a significant increase in the flow of intelligence from other government agencies and from stakeholders about failures to comply with statutory requirements. As a consequence the FHI has increased the number of unannounced visits to sites under confirmed designation which have identified a number of non-compliances.
- There was one serious major non-compliance identified in 2015 relating to issues with identification of Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSE) samples. The incident was investigated and re-training took place followed by enhanced inspections. The incident was downgraded to major following the incident based on the error being operator driven and not a system failure.

Fines imposed

- In GB in 2015/16 a total of £24,300 fines were imposed for food hygiene and food safety breaches by the courts following prosecutions taken by the FSA. In NI there were no fines imposed.
- In England and Wales 30 financial penalty notices and 20 warning letters were issued in 2015 for incomplete compliance with the requirements of the Salmonella National Control Programme in laying chicken flocks.
- In NI, fines totalling £15,750 were imposed for serious breaches of animal health and welfare legislation.

Convictions

- In 2015/16 there were 5 convictions in GB relating to meat establishments (7 in 2014/15) and 3 convictions relating to dairy establishments. There were no convictions in NI (1 in 2014/15).
- FSA continued to undertake investigations and referrals to the Procurator Fiscal on behalf of FSS for an interim period following the establishment of FSS on 1 April 2015
- There were 161 convictions achieved in the UK by LAs in England and Wales and DARD in NI (152 in 2014). There were no prosecutions in Scotland.
- The Cefas FHI undertook one successful prosecution of a business in 2015 arising from the illegal movement of live Pacific oysters from an infected area in contravention of the conditions of a confirmed designation due to the presence of oyster herpesvirus OsHV-1 μ var.
- With technical input from APHA Plant Health and Seeds Inspectorate (PHSI), Defra successfully prosecuted a UK company for using forged phytosanitary certificates for seed export purposes.

5. National Audit Systems

Food and feed sectors

- In England, during 2015/16 core and focused audits were carried out in 57 LAs and 22 follow up audits were undertaken. Four DARD audit programmes were carried out during 2015/16. A focussed audit programme by FSS to assess general delivery of official controls in Scotland was carried out during 2015/16. Nine LAs were selected for audit.
- Individual audit reports and related LA action plans are published on the FSA website. All reports can be found at: food.gov.uk/enforcement/auditandmonitoring/auditreports
- In Scotland, audit reports and LA action plans are available on the FSS website at: foodstandards.gov.scot/
- In the 2015 calendar year FSA Internal Audit completed and issued 7 audit reports in relation to Official Controls, these audits were designed to provide assurance to FSA management and Board that enforcement was effective, consistent, risk-based and proportionate. Internal audits carried out in GB on enforcement and OV flexibility were paralleled in NI.
- Defra internal audit carried out 3 full audits.
- The Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) carried out audits of the sampling procedures and processes performed by the APHA and the FSA. A list of recommendations has been produced which have been implemented. No evidence of significant failings was found.

Main summary of audit results

- LAs/DARD Units – there were 398 recommendations arising from these audits. Most recommendations arose from the audit of service delivery and business compliance in England and food and feed law enforcement service in Wales. Internal Audits – there were 40 recommendations arising from the findings by the Internal Audit team. Overall the results were satisfactory.

Main actions taken

- LAs/DARD Units – recommendations were agreed by the appropriate authorities, corrective action plans agreed with ongoing audit verification checks and/or site visits carried out.
- Internal Audits – as of March 2016, in England, Wales and NI, 16 of the 29 corrective actions agreed with management in the five reports issued in 2015 were reported to have been implemented.

Animal health and welfare sectors

- Nine full audits (3 in England, 2 in Scotland, and 4 in NI) plus 1 follow-up review in Scotland were carried out covering animal health and welfare and plant health sectors. In addition, Wales conducted an overarching review of compliance with Regulation 882/2004 including assurance mapping exercise, the results of which were fed into an audit needs assessment.

Main summary of audit results

- 18 recommendations were made
- Overall, the audit results were satisfactory.

Main actions taken

- In NI final reports of the audits were completed.
- In NI implementation of previously agreed Internal Audit recommendations concerning Trade, Certification and Animal Welfare were followed-up.

6. Resources

Significant developments in the allocation of funding for controls/control programmes and Control staff

Food and feed sectors

- FSS provided grant assistance to four LAs to assist in training of authorised officers to work within the food safety profession. In addition the annual LA training schedule delivered the Advanced (level 4) HACCP course to 40 officials.
- A new feed delivery model for regional delivery by LAs and central coordination by the FSA was put in place from 1 April 2015. The new delivery model aims to ensure ongoing support for the delivery of a risk based feed interventions programme which will guarantee funding reaches front-line services, the food chain is protected and the required level of assurance is provided to consumers, industry and government.

Animal health and welfare sectors

- No significant changes.

Plant health sector

- As a result of the additional funding for 2 years from 2013, the Forestry Commission employed a Cross Border Plant Health Liaison Officer, a Project Support Officer and an Assistant Economist to assist in the additional inspection programmes, contingency planning and financial impact assessments.
- Additional funding was available to maintain the number of PHSI inspectors in 2015/16 (110) in order to increase the number of inspections and the range of activities to improve import controls at UK borders.
- In the implementation of the All-Ireland Chalara Control Strategy in NI, four temporary inspectors were engaged from May to September 2015 to undertake inspection, sampling, and enforcement duties for Ash Dieback. This resource was supplemented in statutory implementation by full time Plant Health Inspectors from the Plant Health and Horticulture Inspectorate, Forest Service.

Significant changes in the Laboratories Networks / National Reference Laboratories (NRLs)

- No significant changes.

7. Actions taken to improve performance of control activities

Organisation

- During 2015/16 FSA Operations underwent further changes to better align its core functions and delivery. Additional changes during the year included the Local Delivery Division and LA Audit Team moving out of Operations and into the new Wales and Local Delivery Division. Also Operations Assurance incorporated a business transformation and intervention team within its division.
- Food Standards Scotland (FSS) was established on 1 April 2015 as the national food body for Scotland, with responsibility for those central Government functions previously carried out by the FSA in Scotland, including food and feed safety and standards, nutrition, food labelling, and meat inspection policy and delivery. In October 2015 FSS established the Scottish Food Crime and Incidents Unit.

Legislation

- The Food (Scotland) Act 2015 establishing FSS was received Royal Assent on 13 January 2015. This Act makes provisions as to its functions enabling amendments to the law in relation to food and enables provisions for animal feeding stuffs as well as provisions for administrative sanctions in relation to offences under the law in relation to food
- During the period under report the Government introduced a number of amendments to the UK plant health forestry and potatoes legislation.
- On 5 November 2015 England introduced The Welfare of Animals at Time of Killing (England) Regulation 2015.

Procedures

- The newly revised Food Law Code of Practice (England) came into force in April 2015. The Food Law Code of Practice (Scotland) and the Feed Law Code of Practice (Scotland) were reissued in Scotland in April 2015 following administrative changes to reflect the establishment of FSS. The Feed Law Code of Practice (Scotland) was updated in March 2016 to reflect the implementation of Earned Recognition in Scotland.
- Defra and FSA issued 37 Official Veterinary Surgeon Notes covering a variety of subjects from safeguard measures for fishery products to changes in import conditions live animals and animal products.
- The PHSI import processes were audited and re-accredited under ISO 17020.

Information systems

Food and feed sectors

- During 2015, 641 intelligence reports were generated from the data submissions received by the NFCU.
- In 2015, the UK issued a total of 338 RASFF notifications, although four were later withdrawn.

- The FSA salmonella in pigs' database was established and began its first reporting year in January 2015. This on-line application has been produced so that data on salmonella can be recorded by Official Veterinarians in slaughterhouses.
- The FSA has a dedicated RDM area on its website giving the risks on consumption of Raw Drinking Milk. The new RDM webpage was launched on 26 January 2016. The sale of raw drinking milk for direct human consumption is prohibited in Scotland.

Animal health and animal welfare and Plant health sectors

- The Cefas Fish Health Inspectorate working in accordance with the National Intelligence Model (NIM) introduced a new database for the storage and management of intelligence in 2015.
- In April 2015 DARD and The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) in the Republic of Ireland launched a web based smartphone "App" – TreeCheck.
- The Plant Health Inspection Branch in NI migrated the remainder of its non-arable plant health inspection data capture to a GPS enabled handheld system, in line with previous developments for Ash Dieback and Phytophthora ramorum. This system is facilitating enhanced management and spatial analysis of inspection and outbreak data through a Geographic Information System (GIS).

Training

Food and feed sectors

- During 2015/16, the FSA carried out various training for 95 officers including lead auditors, unannounced inspectors, and meat hygiene inspectors.
- During 2015/16, 219 courses were held and 3,709 LA officers were trained in England.
- During 2015/16, the FSA funded 26 training courses for 664 LA officers responsible for enforcing food and feed legislation in Wales.
- FSS held 2 level 4 HACCP courses during 2015/16 for 36 LA and 4 FSS authorised officers.
- A number of courses were identified by the NI Food Liaison Group and delivered throughout 2015/16 which a total of 135 officers attended
- Between April 2015 and March 2016 8 food training courses were provided to 115 inland and Port Health officers in England, Wales and NI. This is a specialist area of food policy where restrictions change quarterly in accordance with latest intelligence and enforcement.

Animal health and animal welfare and Plant health sectors

- Over 939 APHA and DARD veterinary and technical staff attended several induction and animal health and welfare training events.
- UK Plant, Bee and Fish Health Inspectors attended numerous training workshops and e-learning courses. In addition, 13 Bee Inspectors attended City and Guilds training and qualified from Level 2 Disease Management and Safe Use of Veterinary Medicines Modules. Two other Bee Inspectors passed their Level 3 City & Guilds Land Based Skills Assessors to deliver and assess

the above Disease Management course. Four members of Marine Scotland's FHI were undertaking a Post Graduate Certificate in Aquatic Animal Health from the University of Stirling.

Changes to UK Multi-Annual National Control Plan 2013 - 2018 (MANCP)

- The MANCP was extended to March 2018 in March 2016. The MANCP was also updated in 2016. The updated MANCP can be accessed at the following link: food.gov.uk/enforcement/regulation/europeleg/feedandfood/ncpuk

8. Actions taken to improve performance of Business Operators

Training

- Safer Food, Better Business (SFBB) – The FSA's Safer food, better business (SFBB) packs are reviewed every 3 years to reflect FSA policy changes, feedback from local authorities and other stakeholders.
- The latest review was undertaken in 2015/16 and all versions of the packs, Caterers, Retail, Chinese, Indian, Childminders' packs and the Care home supplement were reviewed and updated to reflect FSA advice along with other changes where it was felt it would improve ease of use.

Safety, quality and information campaigns

- The FSA ran a two phase England only campaign: in November 2015 '5 years of FHRS' focused on the success of the scheme, encouraging business to display their rating and consumers to 'look before you book'. In February 2016 the 'Where's the sticker?' campaign prompted consumers to be more active in looking for the FHRS sticker and to ask if they don't see one.
- The FSA's 2015 Food Safety Week included 'Chicken Challenge' and 'Summer eating' activities reminding consumers not to wash chicken and giving advice on food safety around barbecue cooking.
- The FSA ran 'Our Food Future' in February 2016, an event which not only brought together over 150 leading experts, but included over 6000 people online to discuss what everyone can do to get the best food outcome for people in the UK.
- FSS ran a Scottish-wide campaign in October 2015 encouraging consumers to spend a little longer looking at food labelling and increasing understanding of the importance of use by dates, colour-coded nutrition labelling, and storage advice and allergen information.
- FSS ran food safety campaign in December 2015 in a bid to reduce the number of people contracting food poisoning across Scotland in December. During 2015 APHA:
 - introduced a Science Blog on the GOV.UK website, to promote and communicate APHA's science. These blogs have covered a range of subjects including plant health controls, tackling bovine TB and E-Coli.
 - attended a number of industry shows to deliver key messages and collect customer insight in relation to management of animal and plant health.

- conducted a number of customer insight surveys to identify areas for improvement in the services delivered, including surveys with livestock keepers, bee keepers and private veterinarians.
- APHA was a leading partner in an industry led campaign to inform farmers about the possibility of Bluetongue virus disease incursion, and to make them aware of the signs and symptoms of the disease
- held TB stakeholders meetings (as part of the bovine TB controls campaign) to discuss new TB initiatives and policies, and biosecurity best practice.
- APHA PHSI, supported by Defra, the Scottish Government, the Horticultural Trades Association and Botanic Gardens Conservation International won a gold medal for the 'Beyond our Borders' garden at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2015.
- The Scottish Government facilitated a Plant Health Workshop during December 2015. Interactive sessions took place on two overarching Strategy themes; 1) Risk-based Decision Making and 2) Interaction and Communication. The workshop was useful in the development and implementation of the Scottish Plant Health Strategy¹.
- In December 2015 DARD facilitated a Chalara workshop with representation from both Defra and DAFM which produced options for the control of the disease.

Guides to good practice

- The FSA has created an area on their website where information on Raw Drinking Milk can be found by consumers, particularly information on the risks from consumption.
 - The Feed Law Code of Practice (Scotland) was updated in March 2016 to reflect the implementation of Earned Recognition in Scotland. Its issue was accompanied by the Earned Recognition Practice Guidance
 - During 2015 work continued on reviewing APHA guidance as part of the Defra Smarter Guidance Review project and transition to GOV.UK website. The aim of the project was to ensure Defra group content on GOV.UK meets customer needs including advice on how to request government services and comply with regulations. The focus was also on making guidance simpler, clearer and easier to understand.
- The UK FHIs attended several meetings with stakeholder groups, and had a regular presence at trade sector conferences and other stakeholder events to disseminate good practice and offer advice and guidance on legislative compliance. In addition, Cefas FHI engagement with stakeholders has been enhanced through various conduits including the Cefas Marine Science blog, and a dedicated Facebook page.

¹ The Scottish Plant Health Strategy was published in Spring 2016

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION AND SCOPE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The UK MANCP covers the period April 2013 to March 2018. This document is published on the FSA website at: food.gov.uk/news-updates/news/2015/13748/uk-multi-annual-national-control-plan
- 1.2 Each MANCP is prepared jointly by the Food Standards Agency (FSA), Food Standards Scotland (FSS), the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and its agencies, the Department of Health (DH), the Chemicals Regulation Directorate (CRD) of the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), the Scottish Government Agriculture, Food and Rural Communities Directorate (SG AFRC), the Welsh Government Sustainable Futures (WG SF) and the Department of Agriculture and Rural Affairs Department in NI (DARD). The plan satisfies the requirements of Regulation (EC) 882/2004 on official controls,² and:
- describes the roles and responsibilities of the competent authorities and associated bodies responsible for official feed and food, animal health and animal welfare, and plant health controls;
 - outlines how these authorities meet the requirements of Regulation (EC) 882/2004;
 - provides an overview of how these authorities and other bodies work together to safeguard public and animal health;
 - sets out the strategic objectives and planned control activities.
- 1.3 Regulation 882/2004 also requires Member States (MS) to produce annual reports on the implementation of their MANCP. This is the ninth annual report and has been prepared jointly by the departments and agencies mentioned above.
- 1.4 The scope of this report is consistent with that of the MANCP and covers control systems in the UK in respect of feed and food law, animal health and animal welfare rules, and plant health rules under Directive 2000/29/EC.³
- 1.5 The Commission's guidance on the content of annual reports on implementation of MANCPs has been taken into account.⁴

² Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council on official controls performed to ensure the verification of compliance with feed and food law, animal health and welfare rules. Official Journal L191, 28.5.2004, 1-52.

³ Council Directive 2000/29/EC on protective measures against the introduction into the Community of organisms harmful to plants or plant products and against their spread within the Community. Official Journal L 169, 10.7.2000, 1-112.

⁴ Commission Decision on guidelines to assist MS in preparing the annual report on the single integrated multi-annual national control plan provided for in Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council (notified under document number C(2008) 3756). Official Journal L 214, 9.8.2008, 56-65.

- 1.6 It should be noted that in the UK much of the data on official controls and associated activities is collected on a financial year basis (1 April to 31 March) rather than a calendar year basis. Accordingly, financial year data is often used in this report rather than data for a calendar year. The period for data presented is shown throughout the report and every effort has been made to ensure the same period is used from year to year. Additionally, responsibility for many of the control activities covered is de-centralised and the collection, validation and analysis of data at the centre are major exercises, given the number of authorities involved. As a result, analysis of data for the financial year 2015/16 is not always possible. Where this is the case, data for the 2014/15 period has been reported and has been indicated where appropriate.
- 1.7 It should be noted that whilst each year care is taken to ensure the accuracy of the data provided there may be instances where the data reported in previous years has been subsequently amended. This is in order to take account of improved systems of reporting, or of data entries being received after publication of this report.
- 1.8 Whilst care has been taken to ensure that the web links contained in this report are correct at the time of publication and submission to the European Commission, changes may occur.
- 1.9 This ninth report gives details of:
- the effectiveness of controls, including information about trends on controls and non-compliance, and about enforcement measures;
 - How audits were implemented and results of audits;
 - changes in the allocation of funding, in laboratory networks and NRLs and;
 - Actions taken to improve the performance of control bodies and of business operators.

CHAPTER 2 EFFECTIVENESS OF OFFICIAL CONTROLS

Official controls in the food and feed sectors

FSA Operations

2.1 During the year 2015/16 the FSA Board was updated on Operational activity through the FSA Resource and Performance Update at the FSA Business Committee. The Resource and Performance updates can be accessed at the following links:

- [Resource and Performance update September 2015 - 2015/16 Quarter one results and forecast](#)
- [Resource and Performance update November 2015 - 2015/16 Quarter two results and forecast](#)
- [Resource and Performance update March 2016 - 2015/16 Quarter 3 results and forecast](#)
- [Resource and Performance update May 2016 - 2015/16 Quarter 4 results and forecast](#)

FSS Operations

2.2 A performance reporting system for updating the FSS Board is currently under development, and the first annual report on performance will be presented in October 2016. Further information on the FSS Board can be accessed here: foodstandards.gov.scot/about-us/who-we-are/board/board-meetings.

UK Local Authority (LA) food law enforcement

2.3 LAEMS collates information on LA enforcement activity. The annual report from the LAEMS system can be accessed at the following link: food.gov.uk/enforcement/monitoring/laems/mondatabyyear/enforcement-data-2015-16.

2.4 There has been a small increase in the percentage of UK businesses considered to be broadly compliant for food hygiene, from 93.0% in 2014/15 to 93.5% in 2015/16. This continues the trend of improved compliance seen over recent years, from a level of 88.9% in 2010/11. The results suggest a small increase of 0.5% of food hygiene interventions from 402,475 in 2014/15 to 404,551 in 2015/16. Similarly, the results suggest an 8.9% increase in the number of food standards interventions from 117,877 in 2014/15 to 128,364 in 2015/16. This reverses an overall decrease by 6.0% during the five year period from 125,410 in 2010/11 to 117,877 in 2014/15.

2.5 The 2015/16 data indicates the total number of establishments subject to enforcement actions has increased by 5.4% from 181,877 in 2014/15 to

191,719 in 2015/16. The number of food hygiene enforcement actions increased by 0.7% from 167,338 in 2014/15 to 168,663 in 2015/16. The significant proportion of the overall increase was due to food standards enforcement actions, which increased by 58.6% from 14,539 in 2014/15 to 23,056 in 2015/16. This was primarily due to a large increase in written warnings (56.3%) evident across all countries from 14,324 in 2014/15 to 22,717 in 2015/16. This could be as a consequence of the implementation of the Food Information Regulations and new requirements on allergen information.

Meat hygiene

FSA

- 2.6 In 2015/16 the FSA delivered official controls in 987⁵ approved meat establishments in England and Wales with DARD providing official controls in 55 approved meat establishments in NI. As at 31 March 2016 this included:
- 292 slaughterhouses in England and Wales and 20 in NI
 - 48 game handling establishments in England and Wales and 3 in NI
 - 861 cutting plants (including market stalls) in England and Wales and 32 standalone cutting plants in NI
- 2.7 During the year FSA Operations and DARD continued carrying out inspections to approved meat establishments on an unannounced basis.
- 2.8 In addition internal audit arrangements were carried out by the FSA Internal Audit team and gave management and the FSA Board assurance that delivery of official controls was efficient and effective across a range of approved meat establishments. In NI, parallel audits on enforcement and OV flexibility were carried out by FSA.

FSS

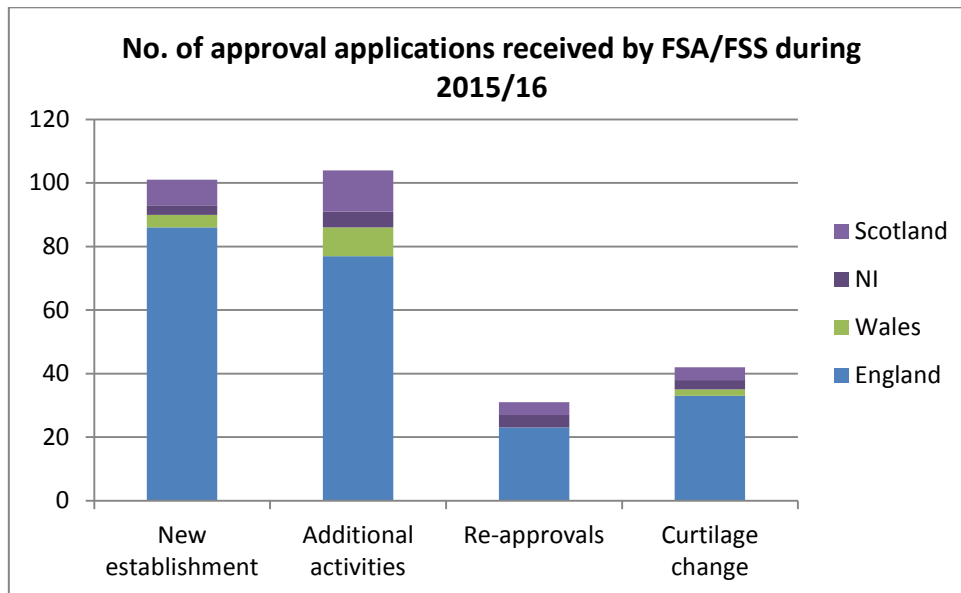
- 2.9 In 2015/16 FSS delivered official controls in 119⁶ approved meat establishments in Scotland. As at 31 March 2016 this included:
- 31 Slaughterhouses
 - 20 Game Handling Establishments
 - 68 Cutting Plants

Approval of meat establishments

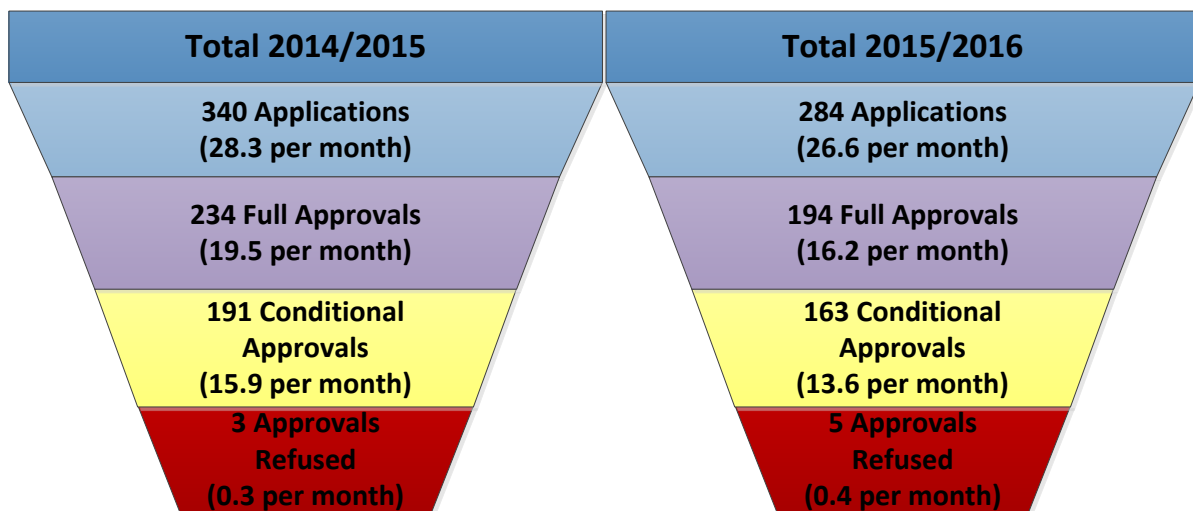
- 2.10 For the period 2015/16, across the UK the FSA/FSS received 284 applications for approval or approval related activity. There has been a significant decrease in the number of applications received in 2015/16 compared to 2014/15 (340). This decrease in approval applications is primarily due to an enhanced audit system which identifies all activities the FBO is undertaking, which has resulted in fewer requests for changes to approved activities/curtilage.

⁵ Approved premises may carry out more than one function

⁶ Approved premises may carry out more than one function



2.11 In 2015/16, the split of approval activity/outcomes in comparison with 2014/15 can be demonstrated as follows:



Refusals

2.12 Five premises in England were refused approval in 2015/16. All of these establishments were subsequently granted approval once the required improvements and remedial actions had been taken

2.13 No establishment was refused approval in Scotland in 2015/16.

FBO audits in meat establishments

2.14 2015/16 represented the first full year of data from a new style audit system introduced by FSA and FSS from August 2014.

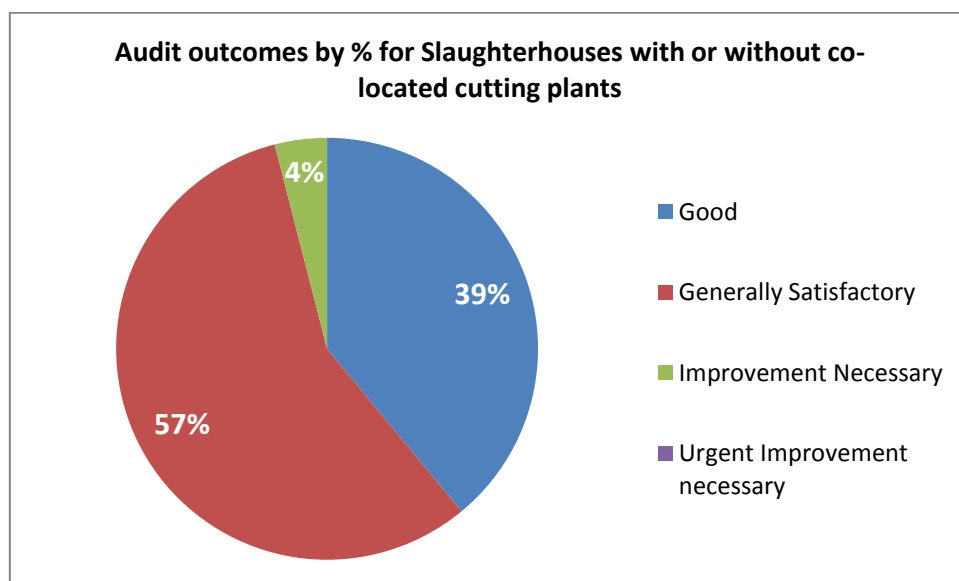
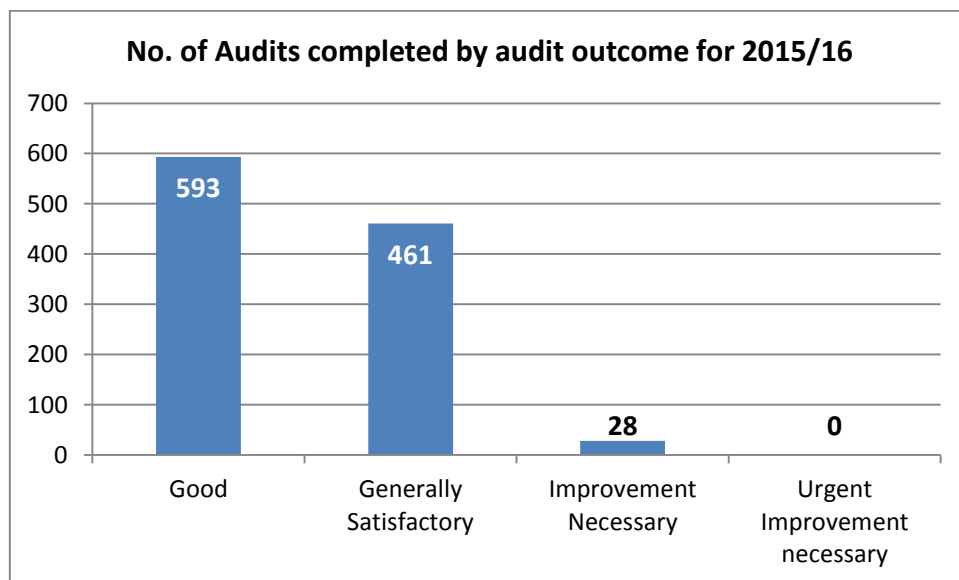
2.15 Official controls for meat in NI are delivered by DARD. Although audit functions are carried out using a slightly different delivery model in NI, the policy is the same across the UK. Audits of FBOs in NI are carried out by a small team of DARD OV's dedicated to that work area.

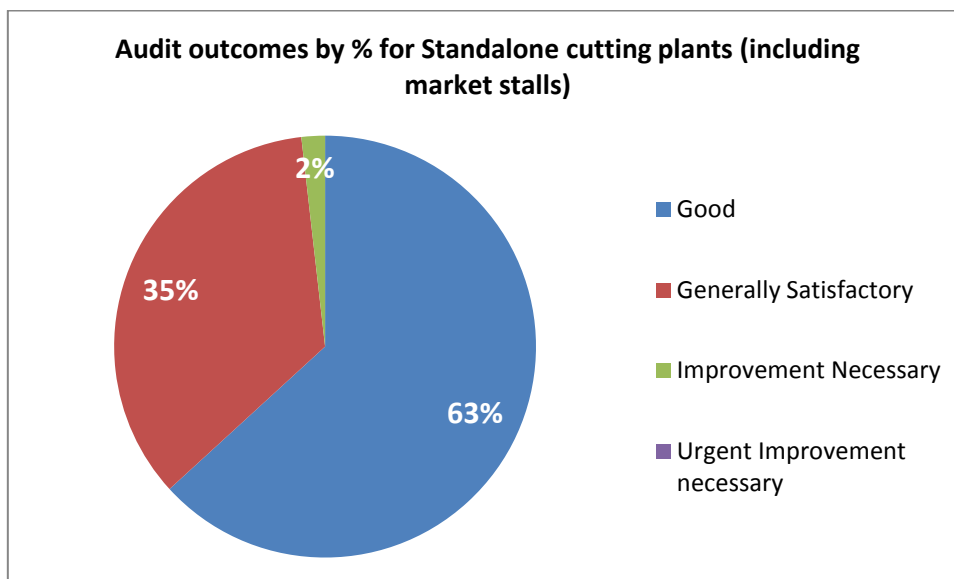
2.16 Where non-compliances are recorded against specific questions, these are categorised as minor, major or critical, depending on the nature and severity of the non-compliance. The number of non-compliances in all sections provides the outcome of the audit, which are:

- Good
- Generally satisfactory
- Improvement necessary
- Urgent improvement necessary.

Audit outcomes determine audit frequencies. Those businesses achieving good standards now benefit from less frequent audits.

2.17 The following graphs provide a breakdown of the proportion of UK businesses in each audit outcome based on the latest full FBO audits as at 31 March 2016:





2.18 The above data represents 1,082 audits for the UK that were completed in the 2015/16 financial year. The data should be considered in the context that any premises that were conditionally approved will not be subject to audit until full approval was obtained. Also slaughterhouses with or without a co-located cutting plant that had received a good rating in 2014/15 would not be subject to another audit for 18 months. Those businesses achieving good standards now benefit from less frequent audits. The following audit frequencies apply to slaughterhouse/co-located cutting plants and approved game handling establishments:

Audit outcome	Follow up partial audit	Full audit frequency
Good	0	18 months
Generally satisfactory	1 interim visit	12 months
Improvement Necessary	Within 1 month	3 months
Urgent Improvement Necessary	Within 1 month	2 months

2.19 An exception to the above timescales is if the establishment is approved for exporting to third countries in which case the maximum frequency until the next audit would be 12 rather than 18 months.

2.20 Standalone cutting plants do not have routine official attendance; they therefore have the following frequencies in place for full and partial audits.

Audit Outcome	Follow up partial audit	Minimum number of unannounced inspections during interim audit period	Full audit frequency
Good	0	1	12 Months
Generally Satisfactory	1 interim visit	1	
Improvement Necessary	Within 1 month	1	3 months
Urgent Improvement Necessary	Within 1 month	1	2 months

- 2.21 At the end of March 2016 96% of slaughterhouses (with or without co-located cutting plants) and 98.2% of standalone cutting plants were at least generally satisfactory in terms of compliance.

Urgent Improvement Necessary

- 2.22 Audit outcomes are based on an assessment across all areas providing a reliable indicator on standards. The FSA and FSS publish audit outcomes for all FSA and FSS approved meat establishments.
- 2.23 In January 2015 the FSA launched intervention protocols to complement the revised audit systems and provide a replacement for the former Cause for Concern arrangements.
- 2.24 During 2015/16 there were eight slaughterhouses (with or without co-located cutting plants) with a rating of Urgent Improvement Necessary; however as at 31 March 2016 there were no establishments in this category. The intervention protocol seeks improvements in compliance through education, advice and enforcement action⁷.
- 2.25 Publication of audits for approved meat establishments can be found at the following links: food.gov.uk/business-industry/meat/audit, foodstandards.gov.scot/food-safety-standards/regulation-and-enforcement-food-laws-scotland/audit-and-monitoring#meat

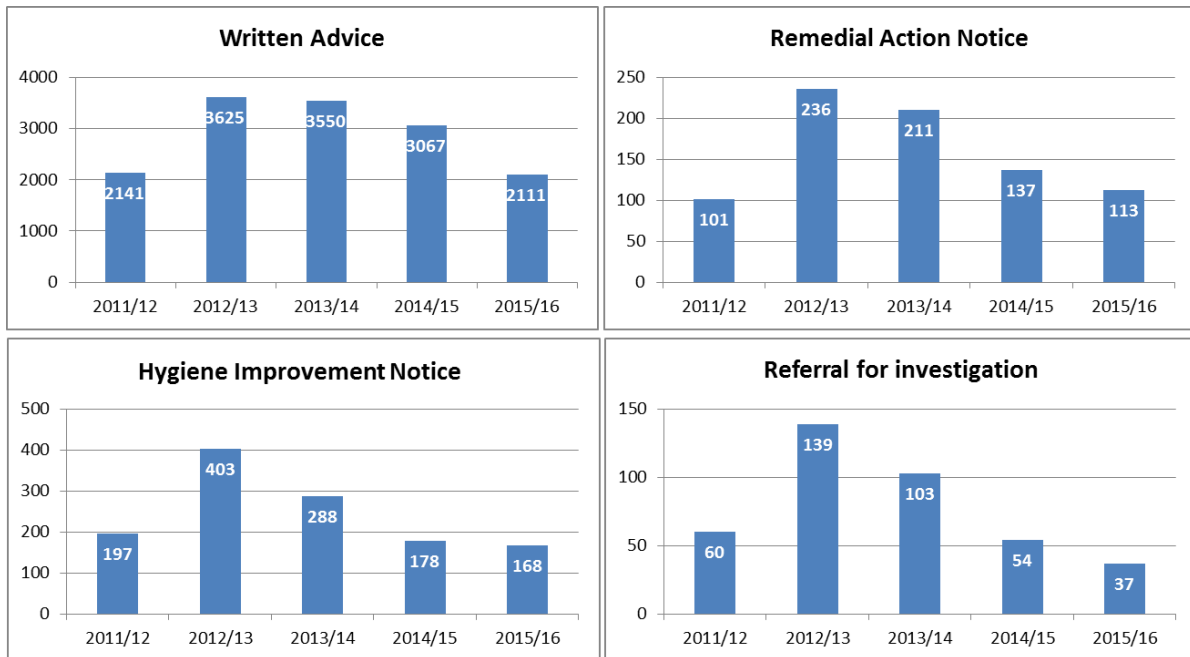
Unannounced inspections in cutting plants

- 2.26 Official auxiliaries in 2015/16 carried out announced audits in standalone cutting plants and ready-to eat (RTE) on a risk based frequency depending on the type of processes, throughput and the levels of compliance. Unannounced inspections by official auxiliaries in standalone cutting plants also take place between scheduled audits, with follow-up visits where enforcement action or monitoring is considered necessary. While FSS carry out similar visit schedules they also utilise trained Meat Hygiene Inspectors to undertake unannounced inspections in non-RTE premises.
- 2.27 During 2015/16 777 unannounced inspections were completed in England and Wales and 54 were completed in NI. FSS completed 86 unannounced inspections in Scotland.

Enforcement

- 2.28 The following graph shows the numbers and types of enforcements served by the FSA and FSS in slaughterhouses/game handling establishments and cutting plants in the UK over the last five years:

⁷ food.gov.uk/business-industry/meat/audit/intervention-protocol

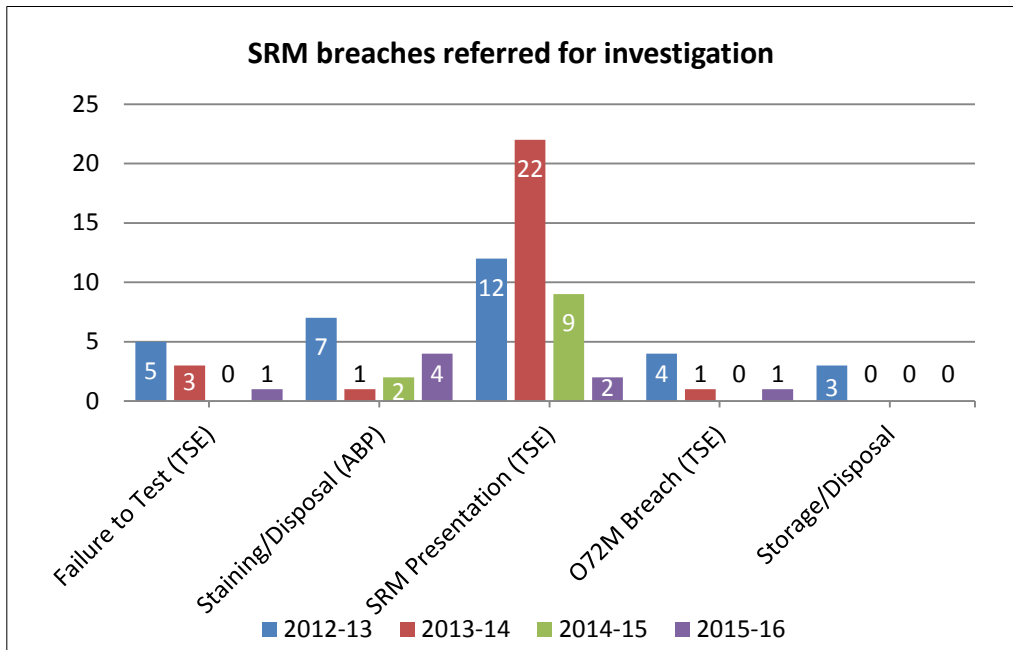


2.29 The above shows the continued downward trend in the enforcement action taken throughout the UK. The above shows the results for the UK cumulatively. For enforcement action in Scotland notices are served under Food Hygiene (Scotland) Regulations 2006. In addition to those enforcement actions highlighted above FSS also have Hygiene Emergency Prohibition Notices, of which in 2015/16 none were served and Welfare Enforcement Notices served under the Welfare at the Time of Killing (Scotland) Regulations 2012 of which 5 were served.

FSA - Specified Risk Material (SRM) controls

2.30 Since March 2014, the relaxation on Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathies (BSE) testing requirements within the UK has continued.

2.31 During 2015/16, 100% inspection of bovine and ovine carcasses for SRM removal at slaughterhouses was carried out. Verification and audit of FBO processes for removal, storage, staining and disposal of SRM was carried out in authorised slaughterhouses and cutting plants on a risk-based frequency. The following graph shows SRM breaches referred for investigation in the UK for the last four years. Two cases of non-compliance led to cautions, one file was submitted to the Crown Prosecution Service, no further action in one case, and the others are still under legal review. The 2015/16 data excludes Scotland, as they became FSS.



There were no SRM breaches in NI in 2015/16.

2.32 In September 2015 the FSA Board was provided with an update report on surveillance and enforcement of controls on SRM which is accessible at the following link: food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/fsa150907.pdf

2.33 During 2015/16 DARD initiated a consultation process with key stakeholders on the application for NI as a region, to be considered for negligible risk BSE status.

FSS - Specified Risk Material (SRM) controls

2.34 During 2015/16, 100% inspection of bovine and ovine carcasses for SRM removal at Scottish slaughterhouses was carried out. Three SRM breaches were referred for investigation and appropriate enforcement actions were carried out. Verification and audit of FBO processes for removal, storage, staining and disposal of SRM was carried out in authorised slaughterhouses and cutting plants on a risk-based frequency.

Testing of horses sent for slaughter for Phenylbutazone

2.35 During 2015/16, 3,653 horses presented for slaughter were tested, of which 3,649 were compliant and 4 were non-compliant, giving a non-compliance rate of 0.1%. The FSA has maintained a positive release system for horses that are tested – with only those with a negative test result entering the food chain. Due to the increasingly low level of non-compliance, the additional testing of horses sent for slaughter for Phenylbutazone ceased from 1 April 2016. No slaughter of horses occurs in Scotland.

Milk production hygiene

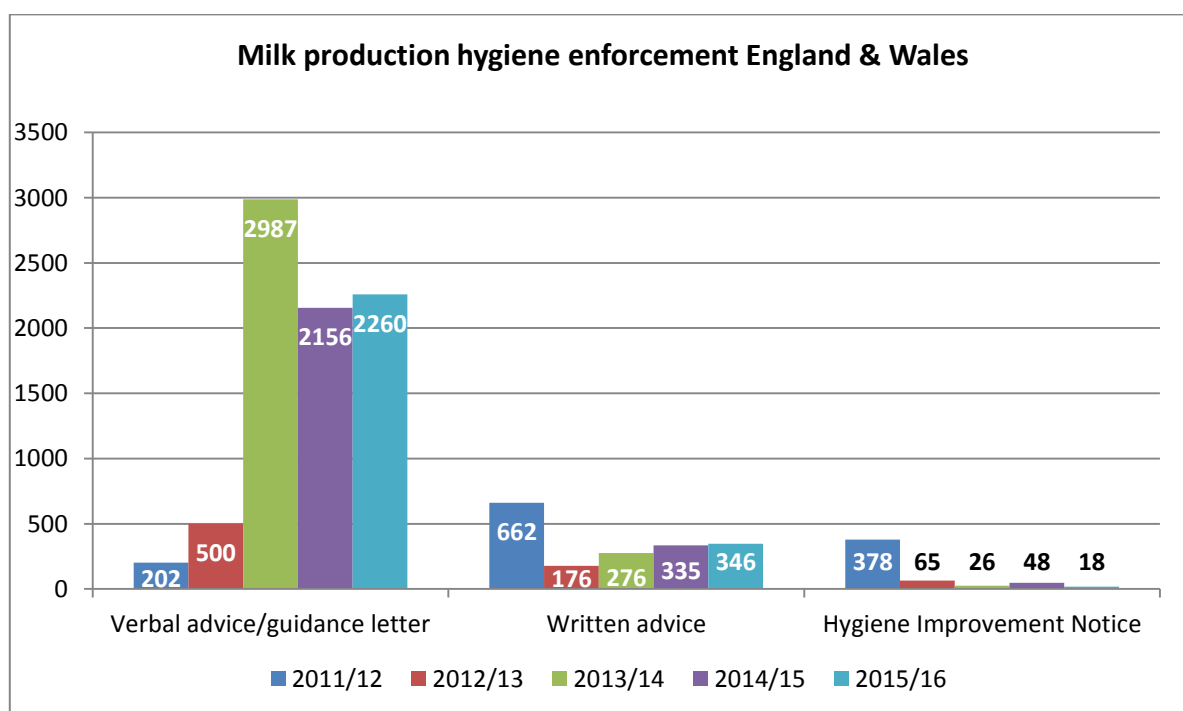
2.36 The number of milk production holdings as at 31 March 2016 in the UK is shown in the tables below. The table also sets out the combined number of

primary and secondary inspections (which took place as a result of non-compliance issues highlighted from the primary inspection) in 2015/16. Approximately 55% of visits in in England and Wales resulted in follow up checks, either via digital evidence of compliance provided by the holding, or physical visit by an FSA inspector. This resulted in the majority of non-compliances being satisfactorily resolved within agreed timescales.

	England & Wales	NI	Scotland	UK
No. of milk production holdings / milk processing establishments	9602	3368	986	13956
No. of primary inspections	1200	1615	251	3066
No. of secondary inspections	681	1048	17	1746

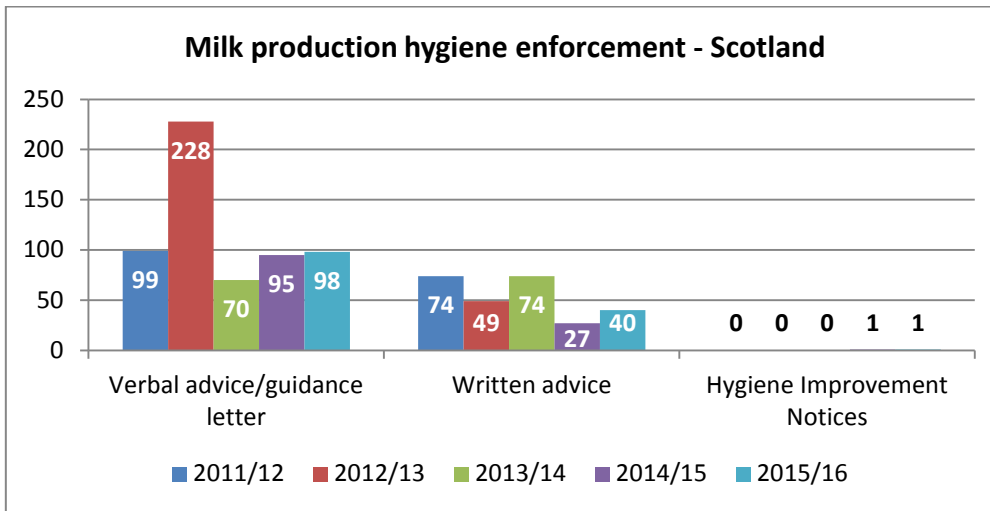
England and Wales

2.37 The FSA has direct responsibility for delivery of dairy hygiene inspections in milk production holdings in England and Wales. There has been a decrease in the number of dairy farms in England and Wales over the year (2.8%). There is a high percentage of Assured Dairy Farms (ADF) in England and Wales (91%) giving those premises a 10 year visit frequency.



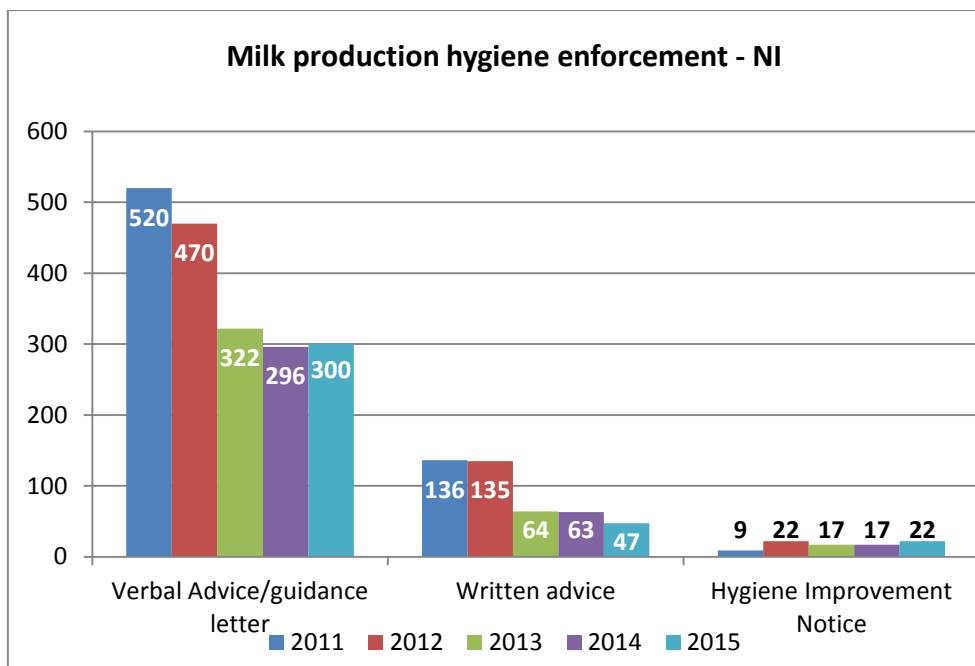
FSS

2.38 In Scotland inspections in milk production holdings are carried out by 32 individual LAs. Over the last year, there has been a reduction of 8% in dairy farms in Scotland but 4% increase in the number of primary inspections carried out. LAs consider dairy farms low risk and resource is directed towards higher risk establishments.



NI

2.39 In NI inspections in milk production holdings and liquid milk processing establishments are carried out by DARD. In NI Quality assured farms represent approximately 40% of the total number of farms (currently 1,321 out of 3,338).



Summary

2.40 The number of inspections and the extent to which problems were resolved after secondary inspection indicated that controls were effective throughout the UK.

2.41 A compliance rating system was developed and introduced in 2015, based on inspection outcomes; this provides improved management information and distinguishes further the actual significance of any non-compliance identified in relation to the risk for public health, and results in the premises being given one of four compliance ratings.

- 2.42 The main non-compliances noted related to failure to maintain hygiene standards – cleanliness of doors, walls and floors in the dairy, equipment cleanliness and cleanliness of roofs and walls in the milking parlour.
- 2.43 All Raw Drinking Milk (RDM) producers are subject to 6 monthly inspection visits and quarterly sampling and testing (cows) or LA sampling checks (other species) against criteria in the domestic legislation. In practice, this means enforcement officials visit production holdings quarterly. If the milk fails to comply with the microbiological criteria, this prompts an inspection visit and follow-up testing.
- 2.44 Establishments handling and processing high risk products, those with an unsatisfactory history of compliance and those where there is low confidence in management require inspections at least every 6 months. Official controls for RDM premises are comparable or more stringent than the general approach. The inspection compliance ratings outcomes are also published on the FSA website⁸ to provide consumer information and increase compliance in this sector.

Egg production hygiene

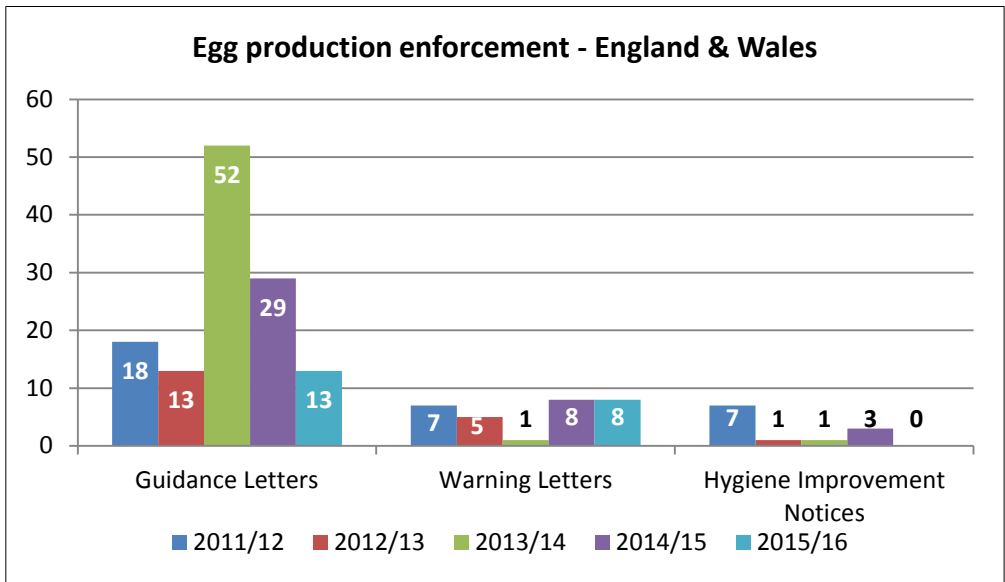
- 2.45 Inspections of egg production sites in England and Wales are carried out by APHA on behalf of the FSA to ensure compliance with the Food Hygiene Regulations. In Scotland, the SG's Egg and Poultry Unit carry out inspections on behalf of FSS. In NI this work is carried out for the FSA by DARD.
- 2.46 The following table shows the total number of registered egg production sites and number of inspection visits in the UK for 2015/16:

2015/16	England & Wales	NI	Scotland	UK
No. of registered egg production sites	1,333	273	320	1,926
No of inspections	353	98	55	506
No. of Inspections compliant	279	86	55	420
No. of Inspections not compliant	74	12	0	86

England and Wales

- 2.47 Inspections in England and Wales are prioritised according to a risk assessment and there is increasing historical data to inform that assessment. There have been noticeable improvement in compliance rates during 2015/16; this is also reflected in the number of guidance/warning letters issued during this year with no hygiene improvement notices being served.
- 2.48 The following charts show egg production enforcement across the UK over the past 5 years:

⁸ food.gov.uk/science/raw-drinking-milk-and-cream

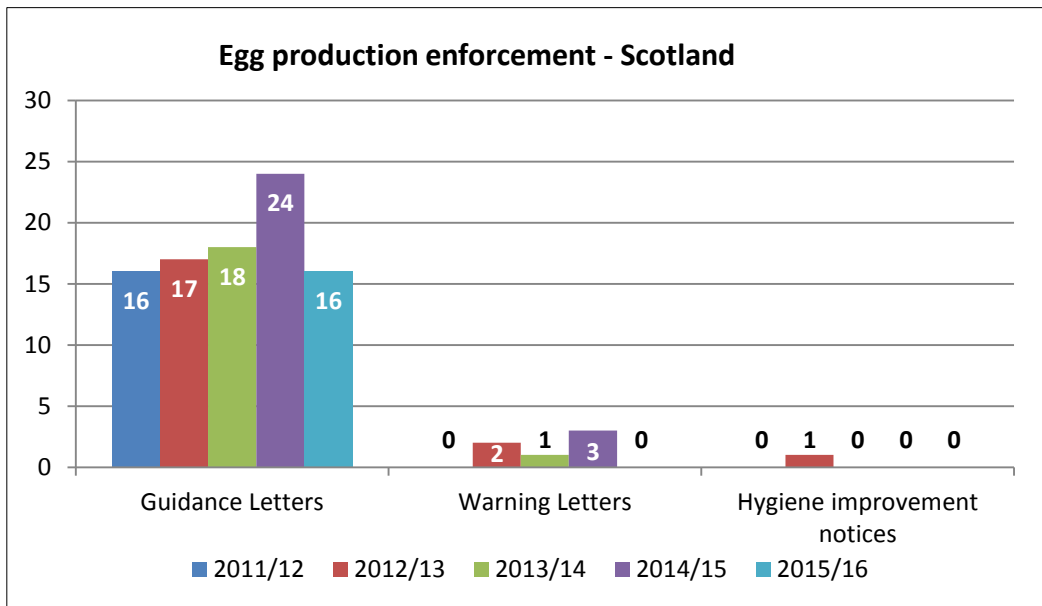


Year	No. of Inspections	No. of F/Up inspections	Guidance Letters	Warning Letters	HINs	Overall Compliance Rate
11/12	405*	40	18	7	7	74%
12/13	474	48	13	5	2	78%
13/14	493	63	52	1	1**	66%
14/15	477	74	29	8	3	71%
15/16	353	40	13	8	0	79%

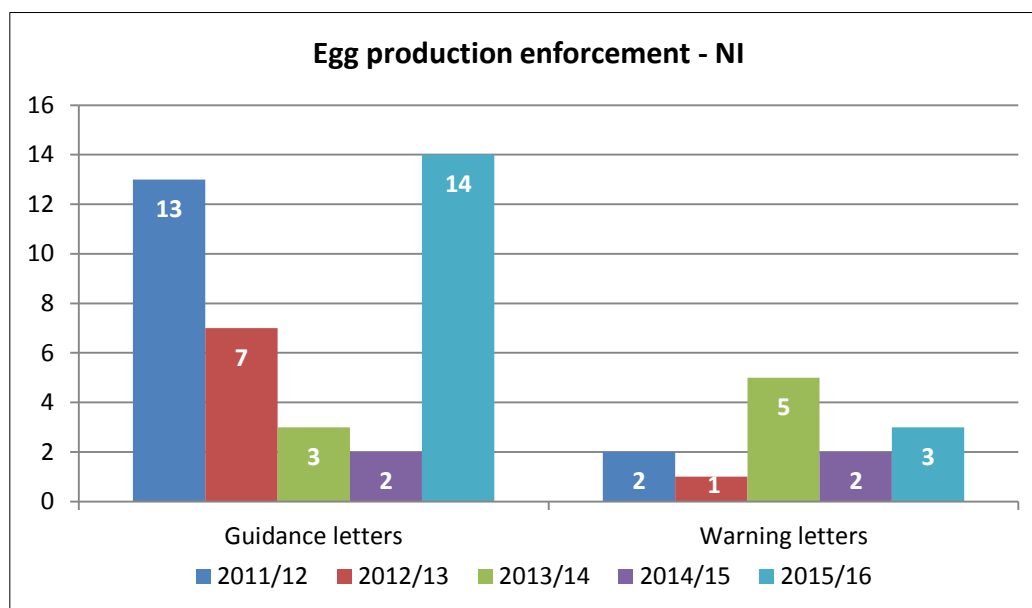
*In 2011/12 APHA did not undertake any hygiene inspections for the first 3 months

**During 13/14 APHA/FSA successfully prosecuted an egg producer under the hygiene regulations

FSS - Scotland



NI



Shellfish hygiene

England and Wales

2.49 In England and Wales between January and December 2015, 804 shellfish samples were received as part of the routine biotoxin monitoring programme. Of these, 34 samples exceeded the statutory limit for Lipophilic Toxins (LTs, the group of toxins responsible for Diarrhetic Shellfish Poisoning (DSP)), while no samples exceeded the statutory limit for Amnesic Shellfish Poisoning (ASP) or Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning (PSP).

FSS – Scotland

2.50 In Scotland, between January and December 2015, 3,012 shellfish flesh samples were analysed and a further 34 verification samples tested. During the year on 49 occasions representative flesh samples triggered closures of shellfish production areas (in some cases this resulted in closures of more than one production area), compared with 47 occasions in 2014. Of the 49 closures in 2015, 34 exceeded the statutory limits for LTs, 15 exceeded the limit for PSP toxins and there were no recorded ASP closures. On one occasion in 2015, an area was closed based on the level of Alexandrium in a water sample.

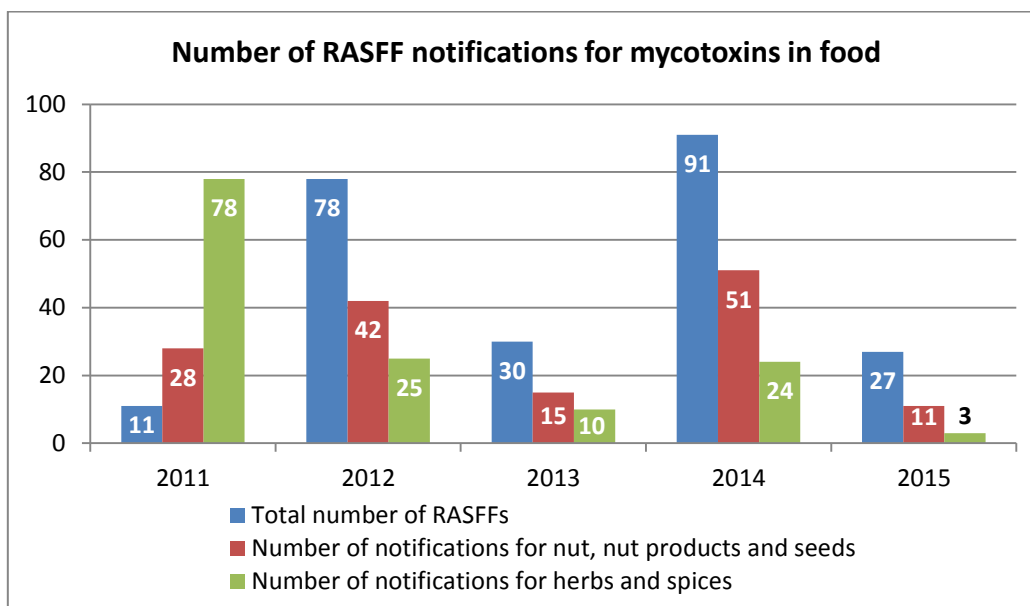
NI

2.51 In NI between 1 January and 31 December 2015, 431 shellfish samples were received as part of the routine biotoxin monitoring programme. 580 samples were received for phytoplankton monitoring and 281 reported for microbiological monitoring. 1 phytoplankton sample was rejected due to high silt content. On 8 July 2015, 3 representative monitoring shellfish beds and 11 associated harvesting shellfish beds were closed in Belfast Lough due to a regulatory breach of ASP limits. The beds were reopened on 22 July 2015 once two consecutive compliant samples were received. On 13 August 2015

1 representative monitoring bed was closed in Dundrum Bay due to prohibited microbiological result of 54,000 mpn/100g. The bed was reopened on 2 September 2015 once two consecutive compliant samples were received.

Mycotoxins

2.52 The number of Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF) notifications for mycotoxins in herbs and spices was lower in 2015 than in 2013 or 2014. Other instances where non-compliance were found included groundnut kernels and pistachios. The chart below gives the number of RASFF notifications for mycotoxins in food in the previous five years:



2.53 The majority of samples were compliant for mycotoxins. In cases of non-compliant samples that were reported, either a product withdrawal or a product recall was carried out based on a risk assessment. If appropriate, a RASFF was also issued.

Testing carried out under Regulation (EC) 1152/2009 and Regulation (EC) 884/2014

2.54 The table below illustrates the number of samples taken for aflatoxins as required by Regulation (EC) 1152/2009 and Regulation (EC) 884/2014, alongside the number of non-compliances. Commission Regulation (EU) 884/2014 was introduced on 3 September 2014 and consolidates into one regulation previous official controls governing the import of certain foodstuffs from certain non-EU countries due to contamination risk by aflatoxins. It repealed and replaced Commission Regulation 1152/2009, which required substantial amendments and extends the scope to include feed.

Testing carried out under Regulation (EC) 884/2014

2.55 The table below illustrates the number of samples taken for aflatoxins as required by Regulation (EC) 884/2014, alongside the number of non-compliances.

Product	Originating country	No. of consignments	No. with aflatoxin levels above the maximum
Roasted Almonds (not included in Regulation 884/2014 which repealed Regulation 1152/2009 on 3/9/14)	USA	n/a	n/a
Hazelnuts prepared or preserved including mixtures	Turkey	364	0
Mixtures of nuts or dried fruits containing figs, hazelnuts and pistachios	Turkey	15	0
Groundnuts	China	686	11
Pistachios	Iran	2	1

2.56 Overall the level of non-compliance is low and similar to 2014

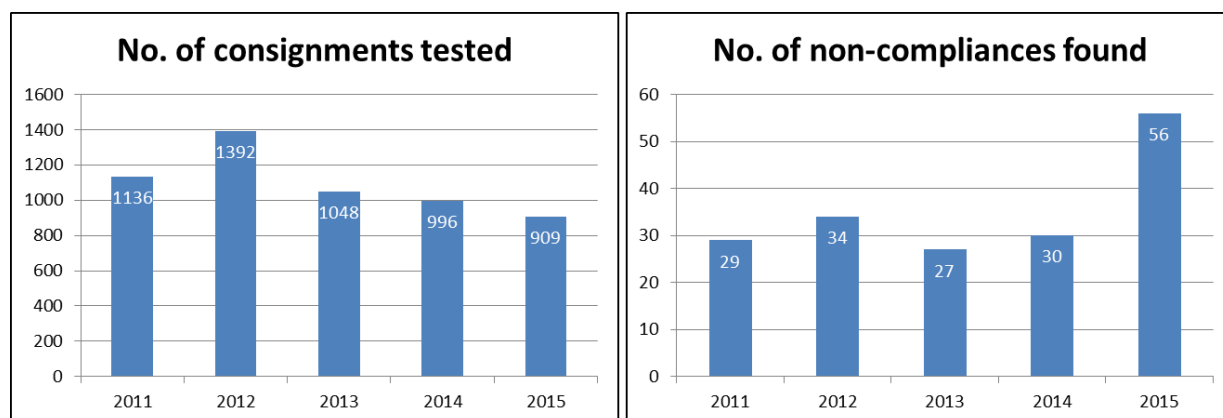
Import controls

2.57 During 2015 operational targets for controls on imported food at points of entry were met, including the additional controls required at points of entry under EU safeguard measures and Regulation (EC) No 669/2009.

2.58 In 2015, LAs and Port Health Authorities (PHA) undertook official controls on food imported from third countries to check for compliance with EU food law requirements, including controls required under EU safeguard measures and Commission Regulation (EC) No 669/2009 (as amended) on certain imported food and feed and for food contact materials from certain third countries where increased controls were required due to the risk to public health (under Commission Regulation (EU) 284/2011). The controls were applied on products listed under the relevant regulations including 100% documentary controls and the prescribed levels for identity and physical checks including sampling for analysis.

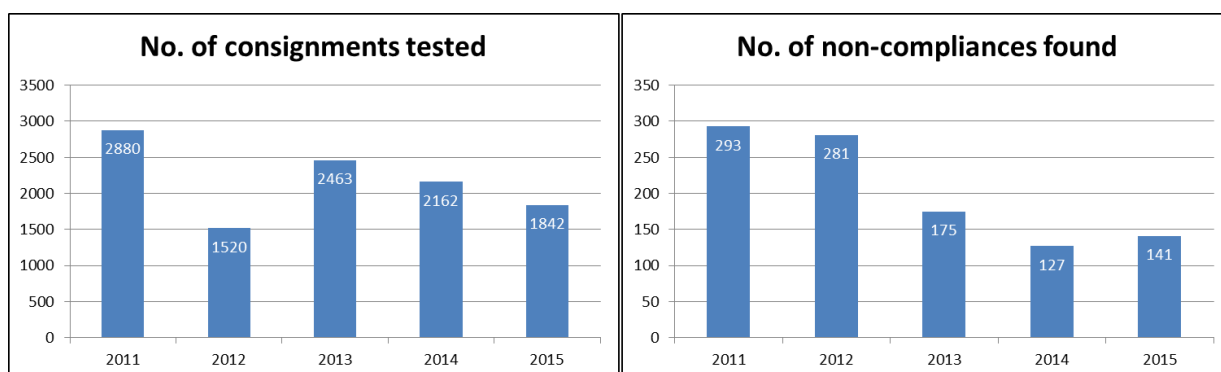
2.59 Under the EU safeguard measures 909 consignments were tested in 2015. The following graphs show the numbers of consignments tested and the number of non-compliances over the past five years. The increase in the non-compliance rate in 2015 can be attributed to an increase in Indian betel leaves failing laboratory checks due to Salmonella contamination.

EU Safeguard Measures



Regulation (EC) No. 669/2009

2.60 1,842 consignments were tested under Regulation 669/2009 in 2015. The following graphs show the numbers of consignments tested and the number of non-compliances over the past five years:



2.61 The results of the controls as required under Regulation (EC) 669/2009, EU safeguard and additional control measures in Article 53 of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 and Article 48 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 were sent to the Commission each quarter. Some measures were amended or revoked during the year and the levels of controls changed as a result.

2.62 The table below sets out imported food sampling activities under EU safeguard measures and Regulation (EC) No 669/2009 as amended⁹. The Commission has full details on their website of sampling activities under Regulation (EC) 669/2009:

Imported food sampling activities under EU safeguard measures and Regulation (EC) No. 669/2009

Decision/Regulation	Country	Product	Hazard	Consignments tested	Unsatisfactory tests
2007/642/EC	Albania	Fishery products (certain species)	Histamine	0	0
284/2011	China & Hong Kong	Melamine & polyamide plastic kitchenware	Formaldehyde & primary aromatic amines (PAAs)	147	3
1135/2009	China	Milk and Milk products and soya and soya products	Melamine	4	0
2011/884/EU	China	Rice products	Unauthorised GMOs	111	0
2010/381/EU, amended 2012/690/EU	India	Aquaculture fishery products	Certain pharmaceutically active substances	211	3

⁹ Note the statistics cover number of consignments tested, rather than number of consignments imported, because for some (not all) of these EU measures, that is all the UK needs to collect for the European Commission.

258/2010	India	Guar gum	Pentachlorophenol & dioxins	27	0
961/2011 amended, 284/2012 amended, 996/2012, amended, 322/214	Japan	Food, feed	Iodine-131, caesium-134, caesium-137	165	0
884/2014	Several	Groundnuts	Aflatoxins	247	50
Total in 2015				909	56

Amended Import controls 2015	New Import Controls in 2015
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bivalves from Peru (2008/866) Residue Monitoring Plans (2011/163) Betel Leaves from Bangladesh (2015/1028) Japanese food imports (Fukushima) (322/2014) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guar Gum from India (2015/175) Dried beans from Nigeria (2015/943) Pre-export checks for aflatoxins (2015/949)

2.63 Following continuous high frequency of non-compliance for the presence of Salmonella, in 2014, the Commission introduced Commission Implementing Decision 2014/88 which suspended all imports of betel leaves (paan leaves) from Bangladesh. In July 2014, this temporary suspension was extended until 30 June 2015 and then again to 30 June 2016.

2.64 On 18 June 2015, the Commission introduced Commission Implementing Regulation 2015/943 imposing a temporary suspension until 30 June 2016 on imports of dried beans from Nigeria. This followed a continued high frequency of non-compliance for the presence of pesticide residues. Most of the non-compliances were for the unauthorised pesticide dichlorvos, containing levels largely exceeding the acute reference dose, thereby posing a serious risk to human health.

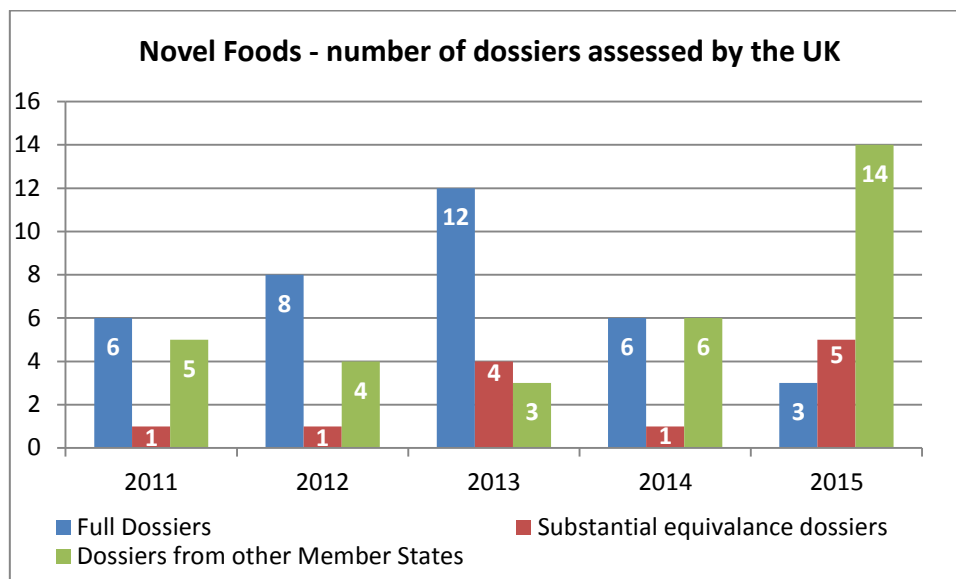
Genetically Modified (GM) foods

2.65 Where there is information available that there is a potential problem with the import of particular Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) then resources may be made available to LAs to target the problem. Otherwise there is little specific testing by LAs as GM foods are not considered a public health risk.

Novel foods

2.66 The graph below shows the number of dossiers assessed by the UK over the last five years:¹⁰

¹⁰ The figures reflect the numbers of applications assessed for each year and includes applications that have been carried over, where assessment is ongoing as reported in the Advisory Committee on Novel Foods Annual reports.



2.67 For the first time this year the dossiers handled by other Member States have overtaken the number handled by the UK. While the UK continues to receive a significant proportion of the dossiers considered in the EU, there has been an increase in the number of dossiers being considered overall in the EU during the transition to the revised novel food regulation and a centralised risk assessment process that comes into force in 2018. Similarly there has been an increase in substantial equivalence dossiers in this period potentially reflecting the growing market for some novel foods such as chia seeds.

Food contact materials

Controls carried out under Commission Regulation (EU) No. 284/2011

2.68 Controls were carried out by First Points of Introduction in accordance with the Regulation. In 2015 1,378 (100%) consignments underwent documentary checks, of which approximately 10% were subject to identity checks and physical checks (there were 1,539 consignments in 2014).

2.69 In total 13 consignments were rejected in 2015 (compared with 23 in 2014). 3 of these consignments were rejected due to a failure following physical checks, representing 2% of the total consignments that were physically checked (147). The remaining 10 of these were rejected on unsatisfactory identity and documentary checks.

2.70 Fewer consignments were rejected overall in 2015 compared to 2014 (0.8% of consignments compared to 1.5%). There has been a noticeable drop in the rate of non-compliance for consignments that underwent physical checks and failed on this basis (2% in 2015 compared to 7% in 2013 and 8% in 2014).

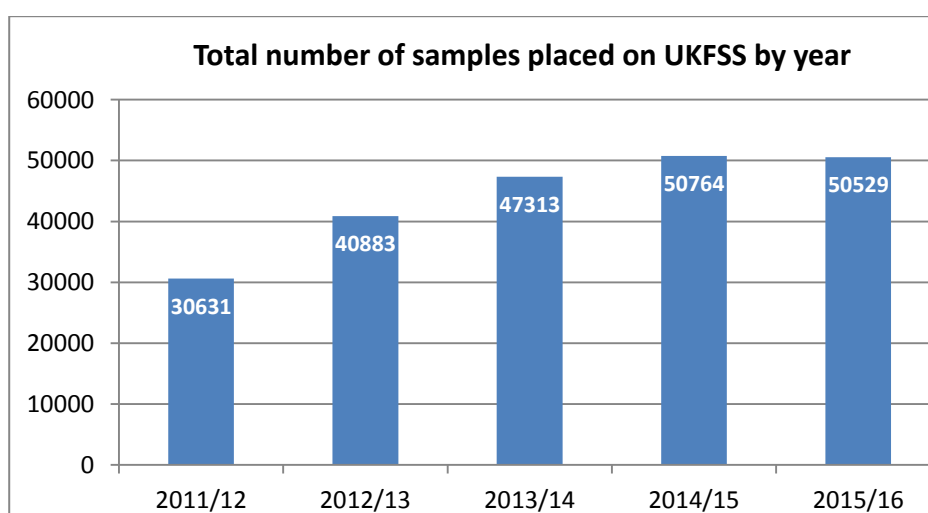
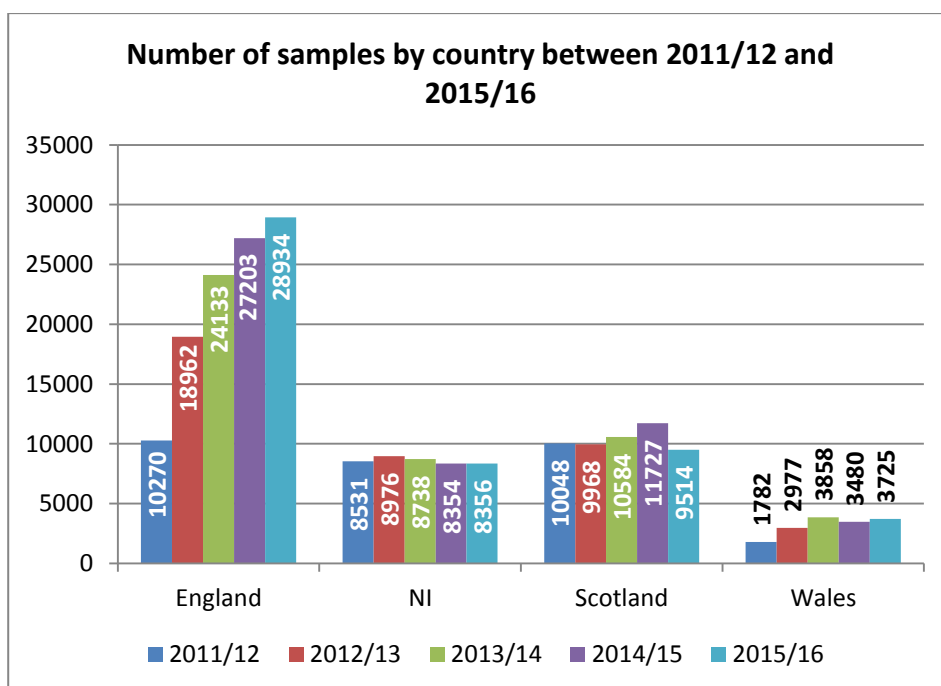
Food contact material Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF)

2.71 In 2015, two notifications from the UK were published in relation to food contact materials compared to seven in 2014. These related to the migration of formaldehyde in plastic kitchenware originating from China.

Sampling

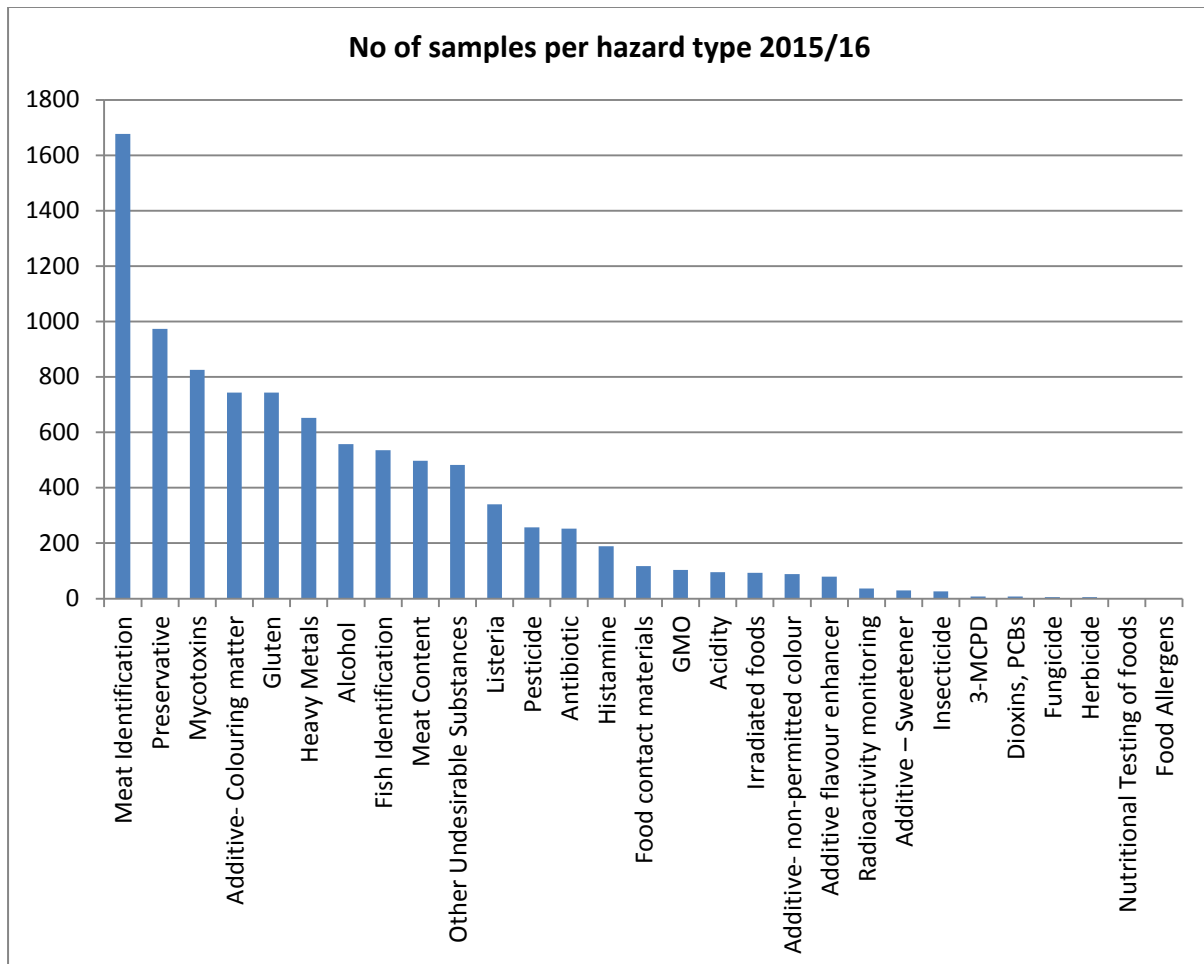
UK Food Surveillance System (UKFSS) coverage and test results

- 2.72 The UKFSS is a national database that centrally holds a record of all samples submitted for food and animal feed analysis by official control laboratories on behalf of LAs and PHAs.
- 2.73 The percentage of UK LAs using UKFSS has increased from 67% in 2014/15 to 70% in 2015/16. This comprises 100% of LAs in NI, 97% in Scotland, 95% in Wales and 65% in England. 90% of UK LAs carrying out food controls that involve chemical analysis of foods were using UKFSS in 2015/16.
- 2.74 The graphs below show the number of samples placed on UKFSS by country over the past five years and the total number of samples placed on UKFSS per year. In 2015/16 there was a 4% increase in the total number of samples compared to 2014/15. It should be noted that, as a result of an exercise carried out in early 2016 to cleanse post-2010 UKFSS data, all sample numbers have been updated.

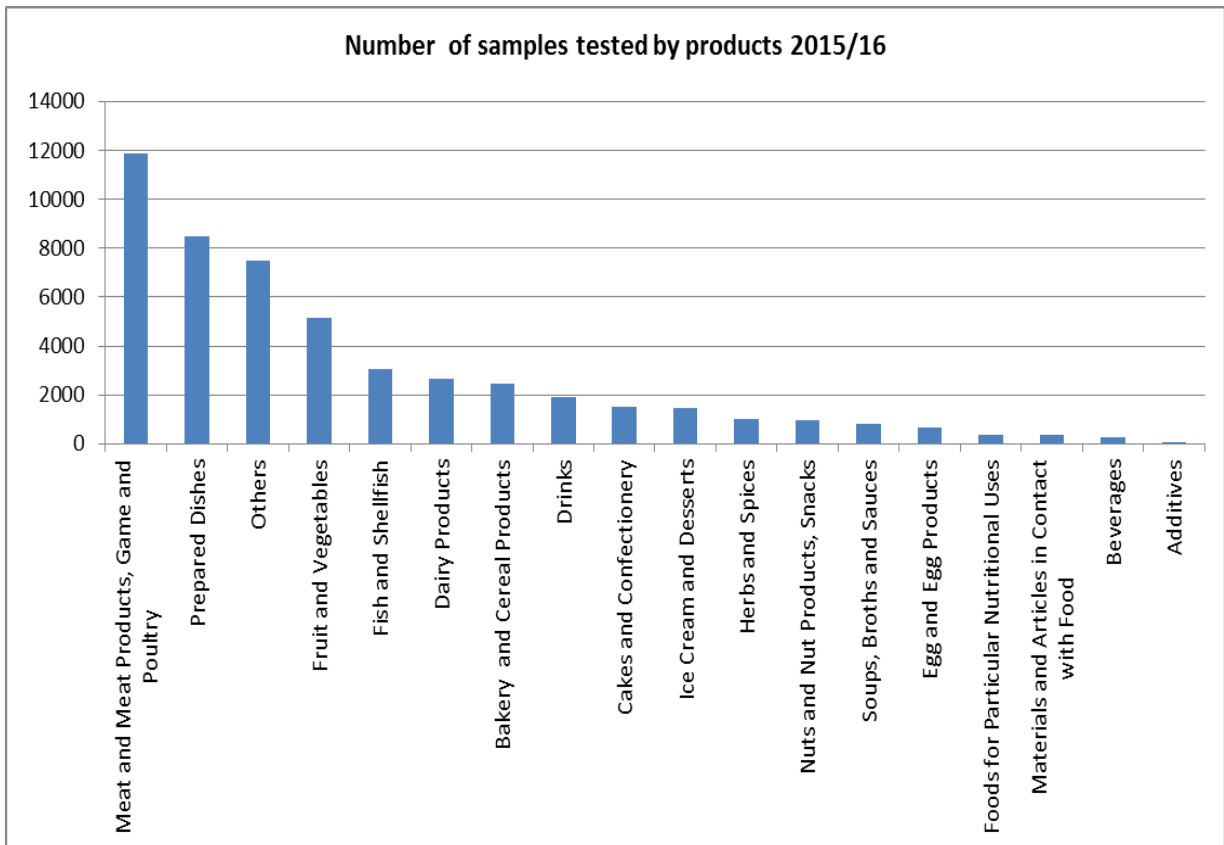


2.75 Further sampling information is available at:
food.gov.uk/enforcement/sampling

2.76 The following charts show food samples tested in 2015/16 for chemical analysis type and food type:

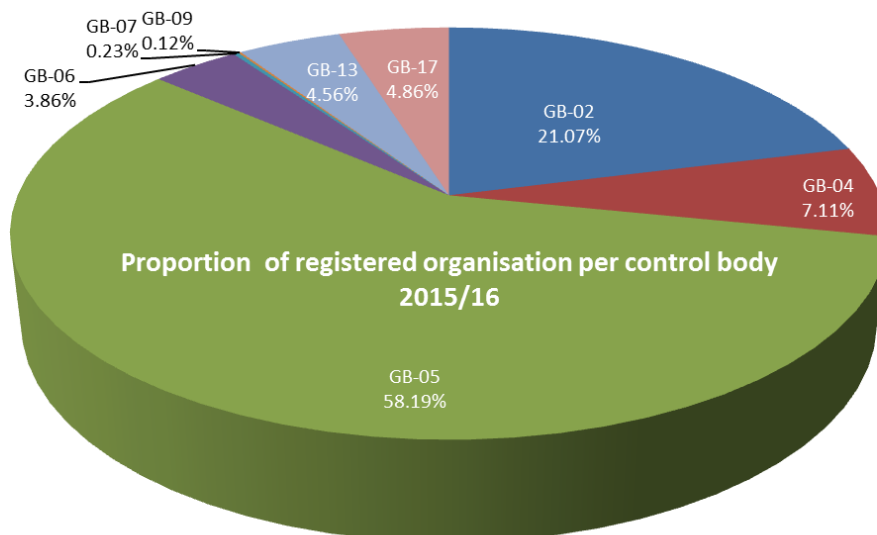


3-MCPD = 3-Monochloropropane – 1,2 – diol
PCB = Polychlorinated biphenal

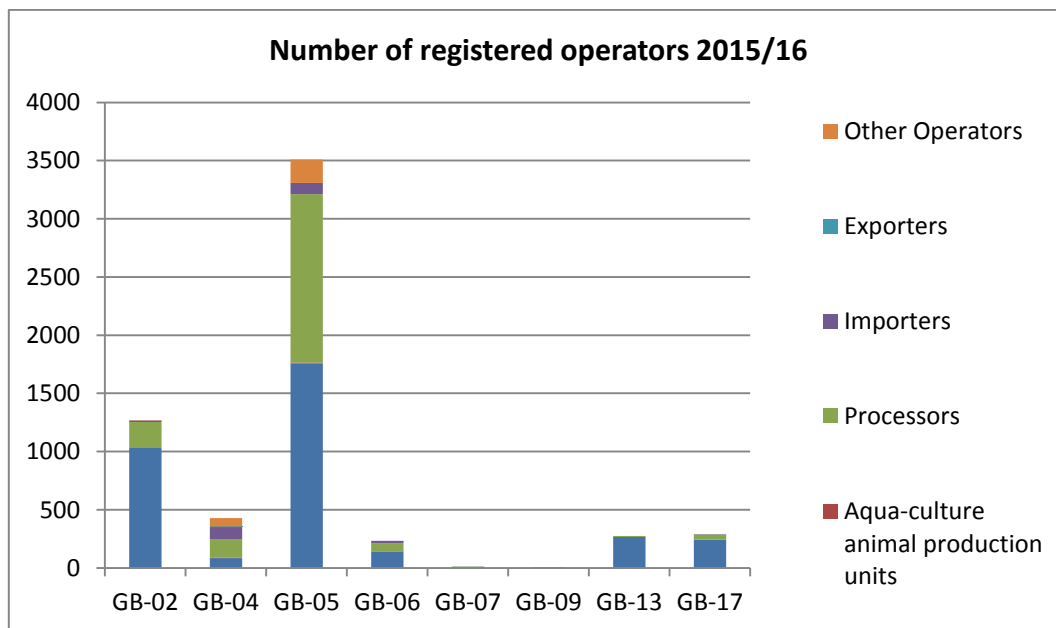


Organic products

2.77 There are eight private organic Control Bodies in the UK covering a number of registered operators. Below is the proportion of registered operators by each Control Body. Each CB has a code number to indicate that it is approved to certify to the EU Organic Standard. The full code is GB-ORG-XX (numbers as below).



2.78 The following graph shows the registered operators operating in the six different areas:



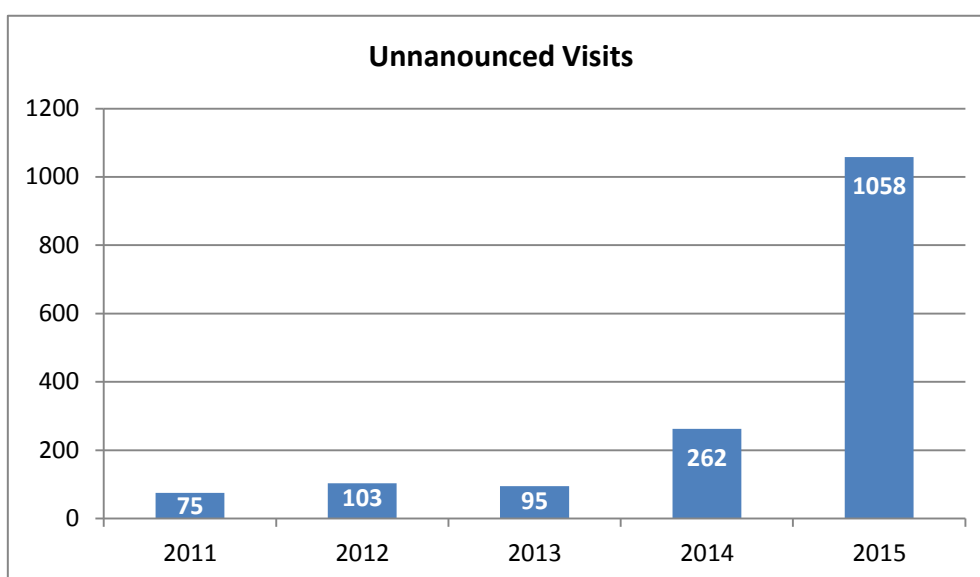
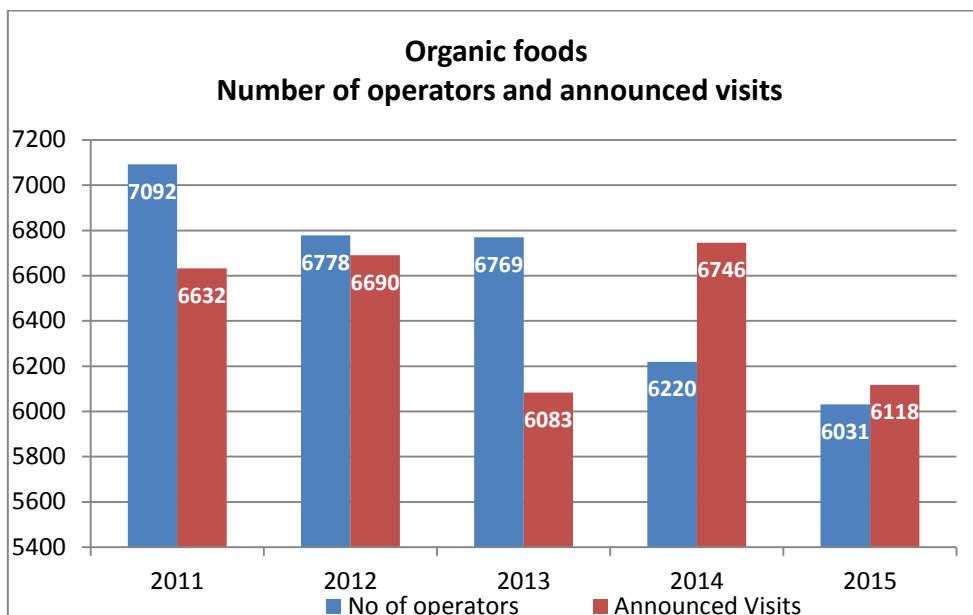
2.79 All but a small number of organic operators certified by one Control Body who were due an inspection in the 2015 calendar year were inspected by their respective Control Bodies at least once during the year.

2.80 One Control Body was not able to inspect all operators in 2015. The Control Body attributed its inability to inspect all operators to the fact it assumed control responsibility for the operators some months into 2015. The operators had transferred to the Control Body following cessation of organic control functions by the operator's previous Control Body.

2.81 The results show that all Control Bodies undertook both announced and unannounced inspections and that, where appropriate, some operators received more than one inspection.

2.82 Additional visits were announced or unannounced depending on the circumstances. They were to follow up from the annual inspection in order to check that non-compliances/irregularities of a significant nature had been satisfactorily closed or to further investigate an issue. In addition to these, further visits were carried out as spot inspections, either to investigate a complaint, as a result of suspicion of non-compliance/irregularity, or as random checks for compliance throughout the year. In the majority of cases and where relevant, this involved an inspection of the facilities.

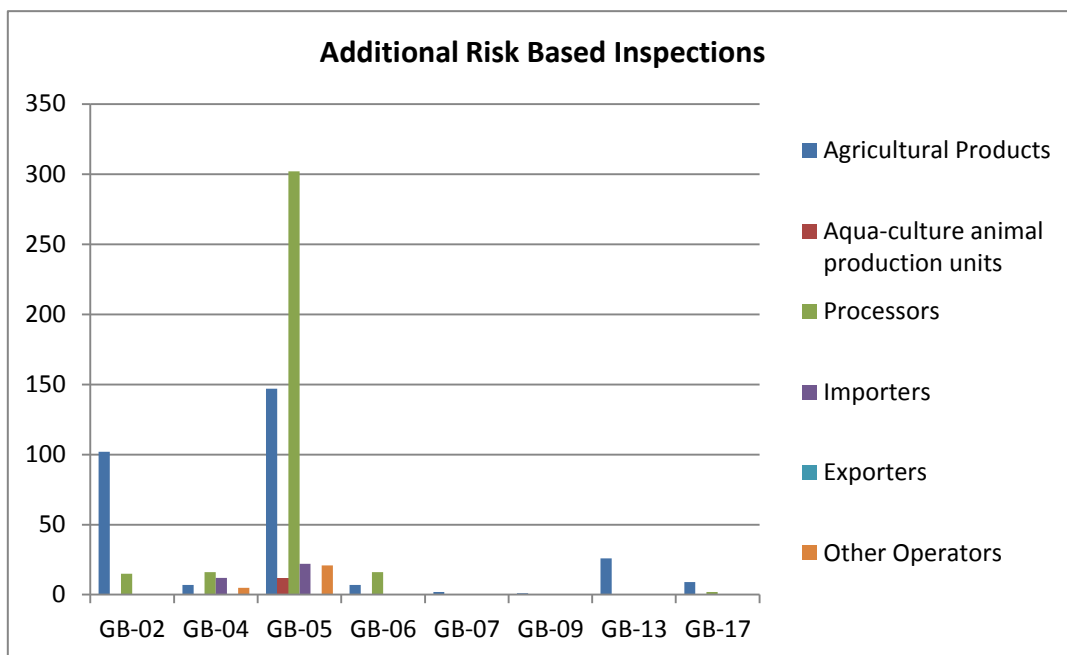
2.83 There were 6,118 announced inspections and visits to the registered organic operators in the UK and 1,058 unannounced inspections and visits. The graphs below show the breakdown of announced and unannounced visits in more detail:



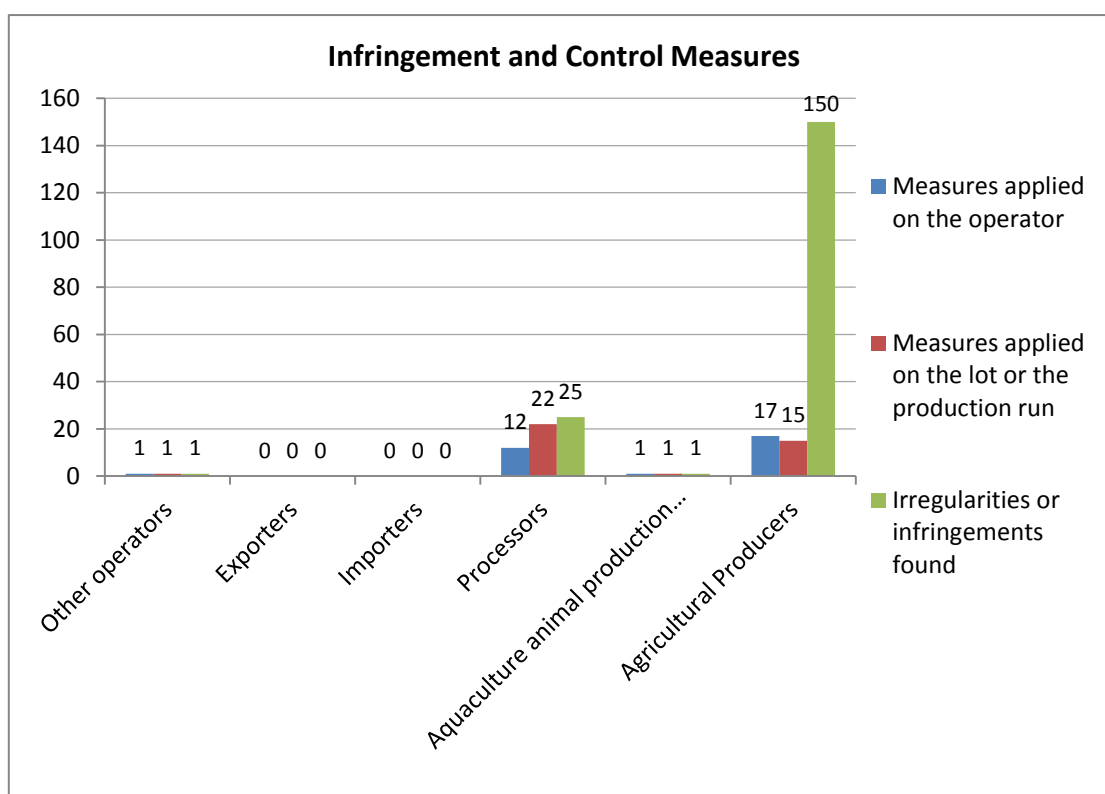
2.84 Risk based inspections are based on a number of factors where compromise of the integrity of an organic product is possible. These include:

- the number and severity of non-compliances found at inspections;
- checking an operator to confirm non-compliances/irregularities found during a previous visits have been addressed;
- taking a closer look at products at risk of non-organic substitution;
- Inspector recommendations following an inspection and/or repeated non-compliances.
- Industry intelligence, e.g. previous detections of a contaminant in organic products, operations involving complex supply chains are considered worthy of close scrutiny and non-dedicated sites with parallel production at risk of cross contamination.

2.85 Shown below is the additional risk based inspections which were carried out in 2015:



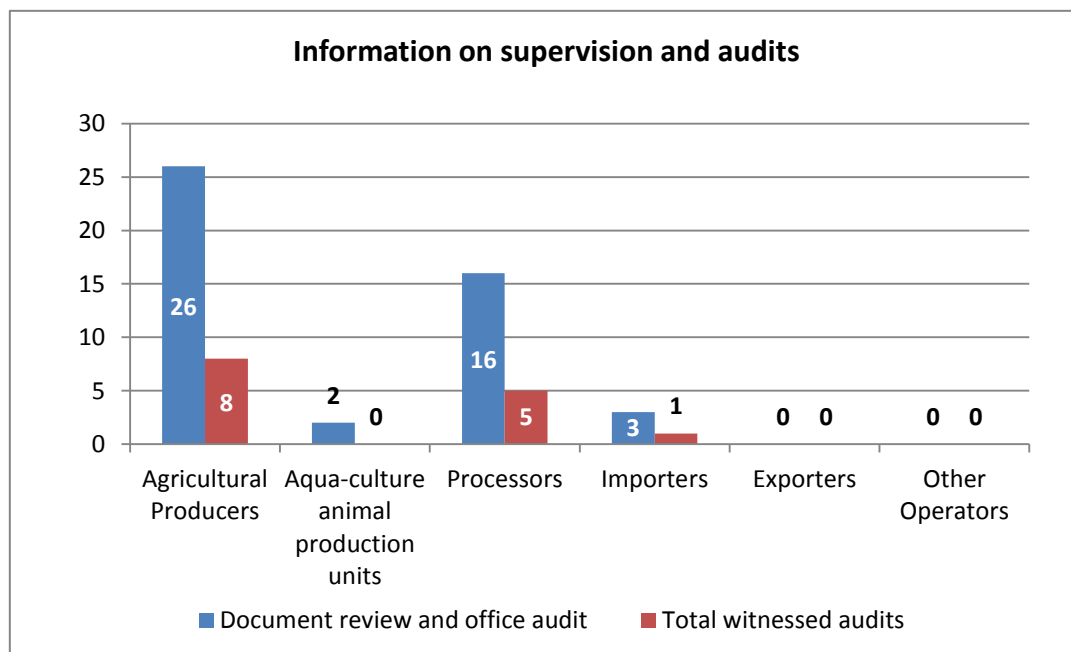
2.86 The following graph illustrates the infringements and control measures that have been applied to registered operators in 2015.



2.87 The audit and assessment of Control Bodies to check their compliance with the control requirements is undertaken on Defra's behalf by the UK Accreditation Service (UKAS). UKAS normally undertakes these assessments in line with its accreditation assessments and reports findings to Defra at the end of the calendar year. The audit involves assessing procedures in the office, checking a sample of licensees' files and undertaking witnessed

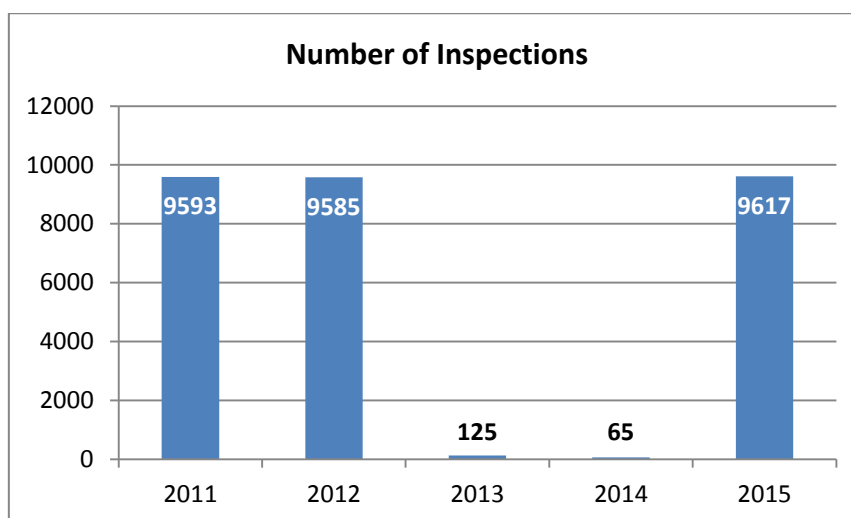
inspections of a sample of licensees to ensure that the inspection systems are working effectively. The checks are supplemented by additional UKAS checks and visits when required to deal with any outstanding issues to confirm compliance. Once UKAS has completed its assessments of the Control Bodies, it produces a report for Defra that summarises its findings for each Control Body and recommends whether or not it should be approved by Defra to operate in the UK.

2.88 The following graph illustrates the information on supervision and audits in 2015.



Protected food names

2.89 The following data covers the period 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2015. To note - the results for 2013 & 2014 show low volumes of inspection visits. These low numbers are due to the larger producer groups now being inspected on a 3 year cycle.



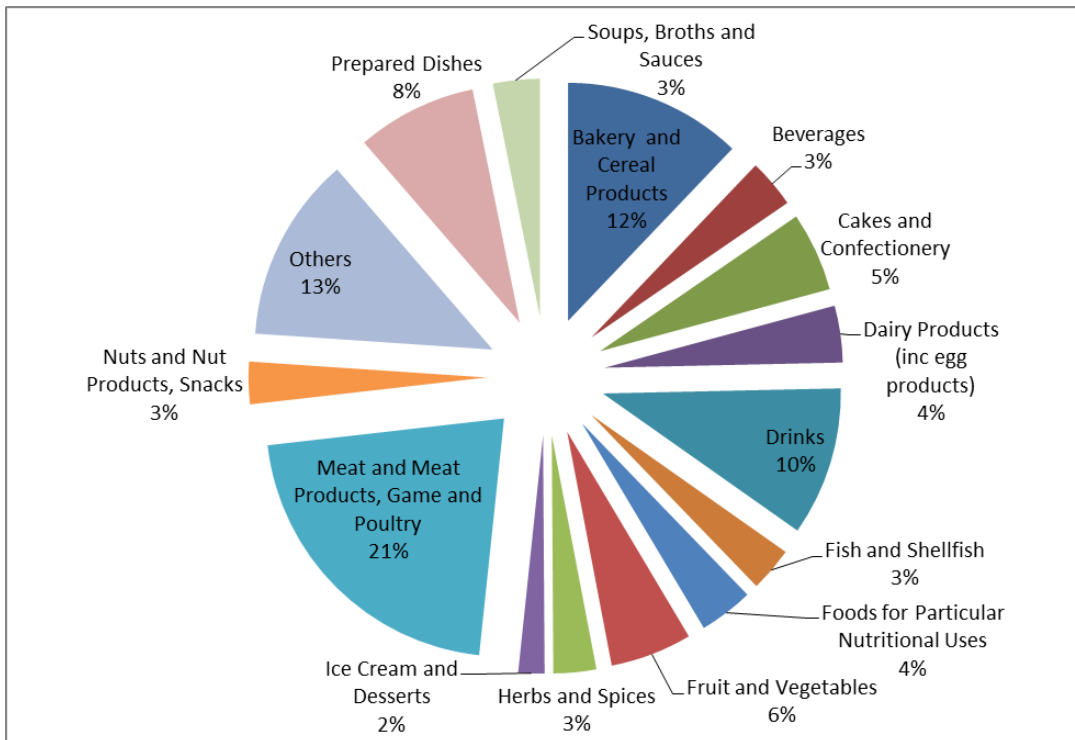
- 2.90 The overall compliance rate for 2015 was high with only 21 non-compliances. Each case of non-compliance was found to be minor. Follow up action was agreed and if trends are observed by producers in non-compliance further action is to be considered.
- 2.91 Each case of non-compliance was recorded as minor / low risk and ranged from clerical errors, to marginal product ingredient discrepancies. No compliance issues were recorded which would result in harm to human or animal wellbeing or mislead the consumer.

Natural mineral waters

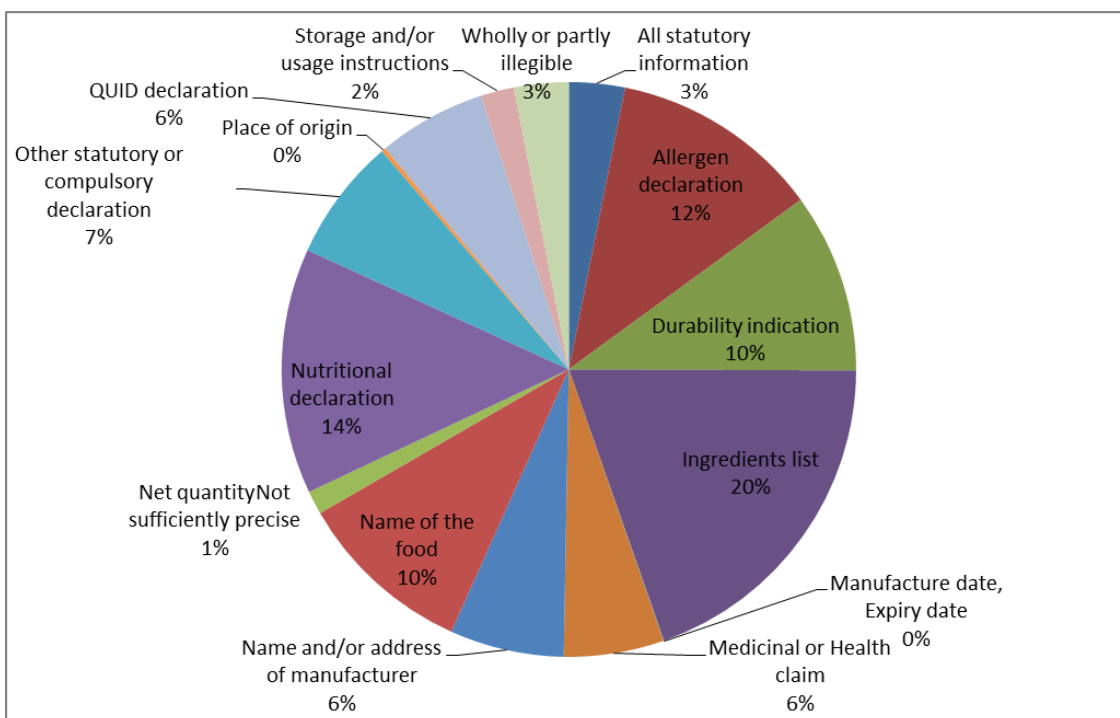
- 2.92 In 2015, no non EEA recognitions were conducted. The current list of recognised natural mineral waters is located on the Defra website. Gov.uk/food-standards-labelling-durability-and-composition#table-showing-natural-mineral-waters-recognised-in-the-uk.

Food labelling

- 2.93 Most food samples submitted for analysis will have a label check carried out. This involves checking the label against the UK Food Labelling law. During 2015/16 the requirements of the [Food Information Regulations \(FIR\) 2014](#) applied; This Regulation puts enforcement provisions in place to enable the European Regulation Food Information to Consumers Regulation EU (Regulation 1169/2011) to be enforced in England. Parallel measures exist in Scotland, Wales and NI:
- The Food Information (Scotland) Regulations 2014
 - The Food Information (Wales) Regulations 2014
 - The Food Information Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014
- 2.94 These checks are not the result of an analytical test but a labelling check carried out. Additional labelling requirements and controls are in place for certain foods for example those that contain specific ingredients or are packaged in a specific manner (e.g. in a modified atmosphere) or make a certain type of claim. Quantitative ingredient declarations (i.e. QUID) must be given for ingredients mentioned in the name of a food. For example, the meat content of meat products must be quantified as a percentage of the weight of the final food, either next to the name of the food or within the ingredients list.
- 2.95 Overall Data Trends
- 51% of labelling checks reported via the UK Food Surveillance System (UKFSS) were non-compliant (3,355 out of 6,509).
 - The most commonly sampled food groups were meat and meat products. A breakdown of products checked can be seen below;



2.96 A breakdown of the nature of labelling faults can be seen below. It should be noted that a number of samples were found to be unsatisfactory for more than one labelling fault; for this reason the number of failures listed is higher than the number of samples that failed.



- 21% of the non-compliance was seen in meat and meat products, game and poultry and 13% were bakery products.
- A proportionate level of enforcement will have been carried out in relation to these failures such as writing to the food business or writing to the home authority or primary authority and requesting them to take action.

- 2.97 Since 13 December 2014 and the enforcement of the allergen rules under the EU Food Information for Consumers Regulation (No.1169/2011), there has been a need to review and monitor compliance with allergen information rules. Whilst the number of allergy alerts have increased (from 127 in 2014 to 206 in 2015), the increase in these alerts was not due to non-compliance with the new requirements introduced by the EU regulation.
- 2.98 The increased awareness in both food information to consumers and allergen rules have resulted in increased activity by LAs through sampling programmes, business workshops events and the raised level of reporting of non-compliance by consumers.
- 2.99 Through UK and national sampling programmes, LAs have used inspection visits to educate food businesses where labelling/information non-compliance has been found and to instigate a plan of action as well as sampling to verify information. The increased awareness, sampling and consumer reporting may explain the increase in levels of reported labelling/information non-compliance.
- 2.100 To raise awareness of the allergen information rules, the FSA commissioned media campaigns in partnership with its key stakeholders. These campaigns were initiated in December 2014 before the rules went live and for Allergy Awareness Week in April 2016. The aim of Allergy Awareness Week was to address the issue of non-compliance by some businesses and to further raise awareness across the food service sector, in particular small and medium enterprises.
- 2.101 FSA, FSS and Defra will continue to work with food businesses to raise awareness of labelling requirements as well as develop partnerships with interested parties.

Beef labelling

England and Wales

- 2.102 In England and Wales, the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) introduced a risk/random inspection regime for 2015 to focus on those premises with a history of non-compliance. This has resulted in information and data for Beef Labelling in 2015 being presented in a different manner to previous years within this report.
- 2.103 RPA achieved its planned official controls for 2015, completing its inspection target of 382 initial inspections. Where non-compliance was found, premises were revisited as a follow-up inspection (usually within 4-6 weeks) until compliance was achieved or enforcement action taken. Of the 382 initial inspections, 209 achieved an unsatisfactory outcome.
- 2.104 In England and Wales, the overall level of non-compliance is set out below:

Year	% non-compliant
2012	44.3%
2013	37.7%
2014	32.2%
2015*	54.7 %

* (introduction of risk/random inspection regime)

- 2.105 The increase in non-compliance in 2015 was expected as a result of moving to a risk based inspection regime.
- 2.106 In England and Wales 57 Enforcement Notices were issued in 2015 scheme year, compared with 7 in 2014. This increase is also a direct result of focusing on high risk premises and addressing serious non-compliance.

Scotland

- 2.107 The Scottish Government (SG) achieved its planned official controls for 2015, completing a total of 25 inspections. Where non-compliance was found, plants were revisited as a follow-up inspection (usually within 14 days) until a satisfactory outcome was achieved. Of the 25 initial inspections, 2 achieved an unsatisfactory outcome, resulting in a follow-up inspection being required to ensure that corrective action had been taken.
- 2.108 The percentage of compliance and actions taken over the past five years is set out below:

Year	Number of premises inspected	Number of inspections carried out	% compliance of Scottish businesses
2011	32	48	85
2012	35	44	98
2013	29	41	90
2014	22	24	91
2015	18	25	72

Year	Verbal warning	Follow up inspection	Warning letter	Enforcement notices
2011	3	7	1	0
2012	2	0	2	0
2013	2	4	1	0
2014	2	2	0	0
2015	5	1	0	0

- 2.109 Modern technology has helped improve traceability, as shown in the year on year improvement in results.
- 2.110 No prosecutions were brought in Scotland in 2015.

NI

- 2.111 In NI, DARD Agri-Food Inspection Branch Technical Inspectors achieved their planned official controls for 2015, completing a total of 138 inspections.
- 2.112 Unscheduled (follow-up) inspections were undertaken where non-compliance was found. These inspections had little or no impact on planned inspections. Non-compliances related to labels with information omitted, inaccurate information and inaccurate company records.
- 2.113 The percentage of compliance and actions taken over the past five years is set out below:

Year	Number of premises inspected	Number of inspections carried out	% compliance of NI businesses ¹¹
2011	36	96	78
2012	39	117	79
2013	39	111	79
2014	48	132	79
2015	53	138	92

Year	Verbal warning	Follow up inspection	Warning letter	Enforcement notices
2011	6	6	0	0
2012	7	7	2	0
2013	4	5	1	0
2014	4	7	1	0
2015	4	2	0	0

2.114 An increase in compliance with beef labelling requirements has been observed across businesses in NI over the period 2011 to 2015.

2.115 No significant deviations in types of non-compliance have been found. The main types of non-compliance were inaccuracies in, or omission of, compulsory information on labels. In the past five years no evidence of deliberate non-compliance with the regulations for fraudulent purposes has been identified.

Veterinary residues surveillance

2.116 Out of 34,886 samples analysed under the National Surveillance Programme, 138 residues above the maximum residue level (MRL) or other action limit were detected in 129 samples.

2.117 Details of the UK results for the National Residue Control Plan (NRCP) are provided to the Commission via the EU database at:
ec.europa.eu/residues/index.cfm

2.118 Non-compliances can be categorised into three groups.

- Unauthorised substances – hormonal growth promoters, beta-agonists and substances contained in table 2 of Commission Regulation 37/2010
- Authorised veterinary medicines – antibiotics, anthelmintics, anti-coccidials, carbamates and pyrethroids, sedatives, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) and glucocorticoids
- Environmental contaminants and insecticides – organophosphates, organochlorines, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and heavy metals, dyes

¹¹ % Compliance of NI Businesses is calculated as the total number of businesses where non-compliance occurred during the year against the total number of businesses inspected, expressed as a percentage.

Unauthorised substances

2.119 Investigations into non-compliant samples found no evidence of the misuse/abuse of hormonal growth promoters, beta-agonists or prohibited substances.

Authorised veterinary medicines

2.120 Non-compliant residues were confirmed for antibiotics, anthelmintics, avermectins and Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drug (NSAIDs). Anti-microbial residues in excess of the MRLs were confirmed in samples from calves, cattle, pigs, sheep, poultry and milk. Anthelmintic residues were confirmed in samples from cattle and sheep. Avermectin residues were confirmed in cattle, sheep, fish and milk. An NSAID residue was confirmed in cattle.

2.121 A summary of results of non-compliant residues for antibiotics, anthelmintics, avermectins and NSAIDs is set out in the table below. Investigations show that the main cause of these residues was that the instructions for use of the Veterinary Medicinal Products had not been adhered to in respect of withdrawal times.

What tested	Tested for	No. of inspections or samples	Non-compliant residues found
Calves	Anti-microbials	269	10
Cattle	Anti-microbials	1201	3
Pigs	Anti-microbials	1331	1
Sheep	Anti-microbials	2598	4
Poultry	Anti-microbials	1612	1
Milk	Anti-microbials	464	1
Sheep	Anthelmintics	959	11
Cattle	Anthelmintics	504	1
Cattle	Avermectins	419	1
Sheep	Avermectins	539	1
Milk	Avermectins	540	2
Fish	Avermectins	83	1
Cattle	NSAIDS	616	1

Environmental contaminants and insecticides

2.122 Non-compliant residues confirmed for heavy metals, organophosphates, organochlorines and PCBs:

- Heavy metals – non-compliant samples confirmed in sheep, horses, cattle and game. The cause of these residues was either due to environmental pollution or the accumulation of the substance over time.
- Organophosphates – one case confirmed in sheep which had been treated with diazinon and the withdrawal period had been observed. Follow up samples were taken and all confirmed compliant.
- Organochlorines – a non-compliant sample of game was confirmed which had originated from a site with known historic organochlorine use. LAs have been made aware.
- Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) – one case confirmed in cattle which was grazed on a disused airfield. It was most likely that contamination from debris in the soil was the cause of this residue.

Pesticides residues monitoring

2.123 A successful monitoring programme was carried out in 2015. The graph below shows numbers of samples taken and the percentage of samples tested containing residues over the MRL, over the previous 5 years.

Year	No. of samples	Types of food	% of samples containing residues	% containing residues above the MRL
2011	3,642	40	45.5	2.83
2012	3,657	46	37.22	1.97
2013	3,549	44	43.61	2.25
2014	3,615	44	43.79	1.88
2015	3,614	47	42.86	2.79

2.124 Reports were published every quarter as well as the results for five commodities (beans with pods, grapes, milk, okra and potatoes) being published monthly as part of the rolling reporting programme.

gov.uk/government/publications/pesticide-residues-in-food-quarterly-monitoring-results-for-2015 and gov.uk/government/publications/pesticide-residues-in-food-rolling-monitoring-results-for-2015

2.125 A higher rate of non-compliance was found in fruit and vegetable products that were targeted for testing due to previous year's findings. The types of fruit and vegetables were generally from outside the EU, i.e. speciality beans, okra, speciality vegetables. This was reflective of the situation that pesticides used outside of the EU did not always have an appropriate EU MRL to take into account the use.

2.126 Similar to 2014, in 2015, there were a high number of samples with a residue of benzalkonium chloride (BAC) or didecyl dimethyl ammonium chloride (DDAC) above the MRL (0.1 mg/kg). As BAC and DDAC are widely used as disinfectants, the European Commission agreed to allow the marketing of produce with a residue over the default MRL up to a temporary guideline level of 0.5 mg/kg for all foods. The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) advised that this level would be safe to all consumer groups. The European Commission proposed a new MRL of 0.1 mg/kg to take in to account the use as a disinfectant. This new MRL came in to force on 4 November 2014; the temporary guideline level of 0.5 mg/kg was still in place until 12 August 2015. For reporting purposes only the figures in the table above for 2013 - 2015 only take in to account residues of BAC and DDAC above the temporary guideline.

2.127 All samples with residues are examined using a risk assessment screen. In 2015, only eight samples contained a pesticide residue that had intakes over the Acute Reference Dose. All of these eight samples were passed to the FSA with a draft RASFF notification.

Official Controls in the feed sector

2.128 In line with FSA priorities, enforcement authorities continue to work on improving the accuracy of information on the number of feed businesses. Enforcement data for 2015/16 was not available at the time of writing this report.

- 2.129 From the 2014/15 financial year, a new approach to the delivery of feed law official controls was adopted in England. The FSA agreed a three-year Memorandum of Understanding with the National Trading Standards Board (NTSB) for the coordination of local delivery of feed law official controls. The NTSB are a body set up by central UK government to more effectively coordinate delivery and administer funding for activities to LAs working through nine regional groups across England. Under the MoU, the FSA works closely with NTSB to: agree annual programmes of activity, including inspection and sampling; allocate funding to regional groups of LAs to finance these activities; and provide quarterly reports on progress against the planned programme of work.
- 2.130 A review of the first year of operation of the new delivery model provided positive results, with improved accuracy of data, 99.6% of planned feed inspections delivered and 95% of LAs engaged in the process. The second year of operation (2015/16) has built on this and the FSA continues to see positive results, including 98.9% of planned feed inspections delivered and 97% of LAs engaged in the process. 100% of authorities have been engaged in the process of planning controls in 2016/17. The FSA continues to review and, where appropriate, make improvements to the system in the light of experience.
- 2.131 From 1 April 2015 a new feed delivery model was introduced in Wales. LAs are now working collaboratively to deliver feed inspections on a regional basis. The 22 Welsh LAs have been divided into six feed regions, each with a regional lead feed officer. A memorandum of understanding has been set up between the FSA in Wales and each feed region. A governance group has also been established to oversee the delivery of animal feed official controls in Wales, including adherence to the terms of the memorandum of understanding. The governance group consists of representatives from Directors of Public Protection Wales, the Wales Heads of Trading Standards, the Welsh Local Government Association and the FSA. The group monitors the work programme and gives direction where necessary.
- 2.132 The work programme in Wales for 2015/16 consisted of a target of 2,386 inspections. The feed regions reported that they completed a total of 2,431 inspections (102%). In addition to the inspections conducted there were also 235 interventions that resulted in the discovery of feed establishments no longer trading, improving the accuracy of animal feed establishment registers. In 2015/16 feed regions reported taking 163 out of a target of 166 (98.2%). Samples were taken of imported feed at point of entry, feed manufactured in Wales and feed used on Welsh farms. The returns demonstrate a significant improvement in the delivery of animal feed official controls in Wales, with interventions now being carried out across all feed regions and in all LA areas. A full spend against the budget of £490,000 was been reported.
- 2.133 The data returns for 2014/15 show a small increase (less than 1%) in the number of feed businesses in the major business sectors. We anticipate that this is as a result of greater accuracy of data returns following significant efforts to improve this. The following provides a breakdown by business type:

Registered and approved feed businesses by type (only main categories listed)	Number of businesses 2011/12	Number of businesses 2012/13	Number of businesses 2013/14	Number of business 2014/15
Primary producers / livestock farms	175,276	190,694	192,561	193,856
Manufacturers and packers	1,164	1,164	1,839	1,378
Food businesses placing co-products into the feed chain	2,942	4,537	4,892	5,218
Importers	107	163	134	152
Distributors and transporters	1,807	2,030	2,242	2,901

2.134 The FSA and the VMD have published lists of the feed businesses approved in accordance with Article 19 of Regulation (EC) 1831/2003 on feed hygiene. These lists can be accessed at the link below:
food.gov.uk/enforcement/sectorrules/feedapprove/feedpremisesregister and
vmd.defra.gov.uk/registers/approved-premises.aspx

FSS - Scotland

2.135 During 2015/16, Food Standards Scotland began a review of how official controls are delivered in Scotland. In particular a centralised model of delivery is being developed for implementation in April 2017 and earned recognition was rolled out for implementation at the start of 2016/17. The earned recognition arrangements are defined in the Memorandum of Understanding with the industry, FSA and VMD.

2.136 Data returns for Scotland for 2015/16 indicates a fluctuation in the number of feed businesses over the last three years, with a small increase over that period.

	Number of businesses 2013/14	Number of businesses 2014/15	Number of businesses 2015/16
Primary producers	19,174	20,705	20,242
Manufacturers	81	90	88
Food businesses placing co-products into the feed chain	495	623	647
Importers	4	9	7
Distributors	275	317	313
Stores	65	96	86
Retailers	1603	1636	1064

LA and DARD controls

2.137 Enforcement data for 2014/15 (2015/16 was not available at the time of writing this report) shows that there was a minimal increase (0.03%) in numbers of inspections undertaken by LAs in GB and DARD in NI. The number of revisits and sampling visits fell by 28.9% and 13.3% respectively (although the number of samples taken remained relatively constant). However, the number of FeBOs being given advice as a percentage of those inspected rose again by approximately 12%.

Types of control intervention	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/2015
Number of inspections	13,812	13,015	11,709	12,022
Number of revisits	359	327	495	352
Number of FeBOs given advice	5,877	6,441	6,820	8,359
Number of sampling visits	832	946	1,199	1,039

LA and DARD action on non-compliances

2.138 LAs and DARD reported the following use of formal enforcement activity, updated for 2014/15:

Enforcement activity	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Written warnings for non-compliance identified for the first time and which did not present an immediate threat to feed safety	480	967	1,122*	862*
Improvement notice when issue arises which requires attention or has not been actioned following a written warning (not requested from 2013/14)	34	8	N/A	N/A
Other formal actions to address serious breaches of feed requirements	9	19	18**	40**

*Total establishments subject to written warnings

**Total establishments subject to other formal enforcement action

2.139 The overall use of enforcement action has fallen by 20.9% in 2014/15, suggesting that FeBOs are responding more willingly to informal advice. The increase in formal actions to address serious breaches is considered to be as a result of the improved targeting of businesses to more efficiently address non-compliance following the introduction of the new delivery model in April 2014.

Animal Feed Sampling

2.140 During 2014/15 the FSA continued to provide funds to enforcement authorities to undertake sampling of feedstuffs based on priorities set centrally. These primarily focused on feed materials and additives originating from outside the EU based on RASSF notifications and other intelligence concerning areas of likely non-compliance. The national sampling priorities for 2014/15 are contained in the National Enforcement Priorities document. The most up to date version of the document can be access online at: food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/national-feedenforcement-priorities-2016-17.pdf

2.141 During 2014/15 enforcement authorities took 3,303 samples. These samples were tested for 26,173 analytes, including heavy metals, dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs, salmonella, mycotoxins, and unauthorised GM events. Results of the analysis of feed samples, updated for 2014/15, are shown in the table below. These demonstrate that overall 11% of samples were found to be unsatisfactory. The FSA has seen some reduction in the level of satisfactory results for the analyses specifically relating to constituents and additives, but this is considered to be as a result of improved targeting of sampling activity since the introduction of the new feed delivery arrangements in April 2014, including some specific survey work on carryover of specified feed additives.

It is also worth noting that a number of those samples categorised as unsatisfactory are due to deficiencies in labelling rather than an adverse result for the substance being analysed.

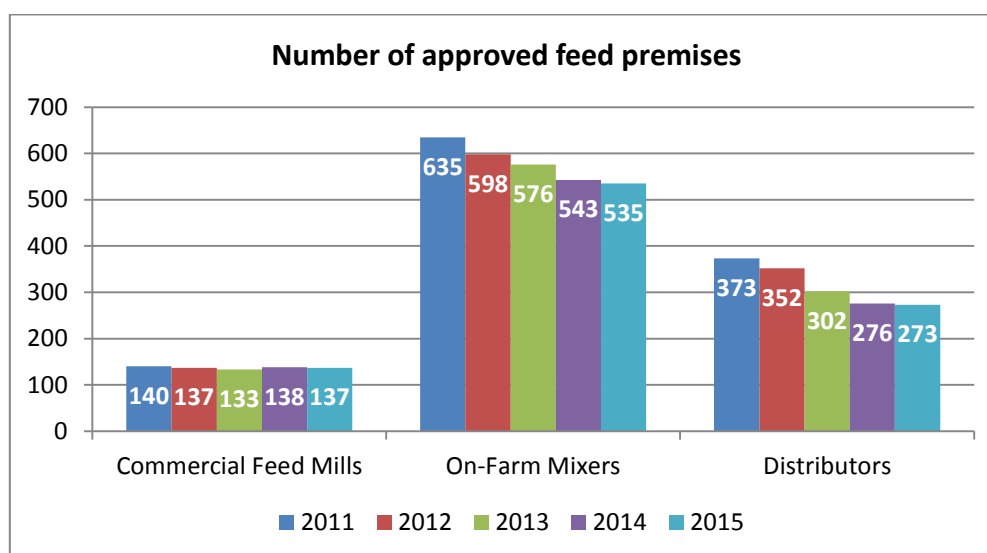
Substances	2011/12		2012/13		2013/14*		2014/15*	
	No. of analyses	% satisfactory	No. of analyses	% satisfactory	No. of analyses	% satisfactory	No. of analyses	% satisfactory
Constituents	3,334	90.3	3,884	92.3	5,740	93.1	4,807	60.8
Undesirable substances	4,089	99.9	4,393	99.4	23,036	99.7	23,360	97.0
Feed additives	667	98.8	1,052	93.9	1,975	97.8	2,405	65.4
Total analyses	8,090	96.3	9,329	95.2	30,751	98.3	30,572	88.9

*includes UKFSS

2.142 The allocation of grants in 2013/14 and 2014/15 required all LAs to use the FSA's centralised UKFSS system to report all of their feed sampling activity. However, whilst the FSA has seen some improvements in the quantity and quality of data being recorded, it is envisaged the 2015/16 data will be even more accurate.

Inspection of FeBOs by VMD

2.143 The number of approved feed premises for the last 5 years is shown below:

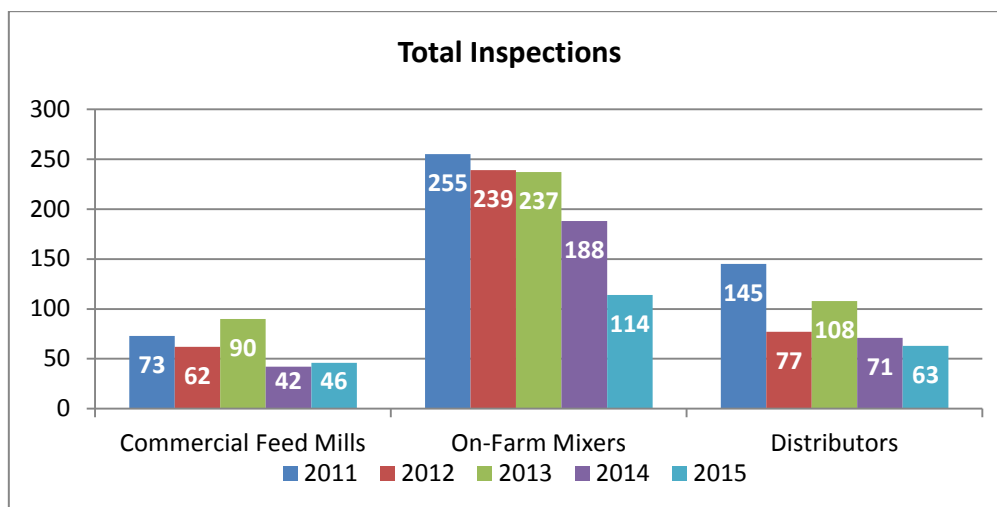


2.144 The official controls carried out by the VMD's inspectors included physical inspection of premises and equipment, and the taking and analysis of feed samples. The VMD classifies its visits as 'approval', 'scheduled', 'special/follow-up' and 'other':

- 'approval' inspections are carried out to approve new premises
- 'scheduled' visits are those which are planned, based on the number of FeBOs and inspection frequencies
- 'special/follow-up' visits are those to approved FeBOs premises for enforcement purposes or to check that non-compliances noted at a scheduled inspection have been corrected; and
- 'other' visits are visits to non-approved FeBOs premises for enforcement purposes e.g. the unlawful incorporation of veterinary medicinal products into feeding stuffs. 'Other' visits also include investigations into residues of veterinary medicinal products (VMPs) and specified feed additives (SFAs)

that may have arisen due to cross-contamination during manufacture or distribution of feeding stuffs, or the unintended feeding of feeding stuffs containing those products.

2.145 The following sets out the number and type of inspections carried out over the last five years:



	Commercial Feed Mills					On-Farm Mixers					Distributors				
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
New Approvals	2	4	2	0	4	55	38	31	14	22	29	10	6	6	16
Scheduled	66	52	75	30	35	185	197	198	169	91	110	65	102	64	47
Special/Follow up	3	4	6	7	5	14	4	8	4	1	5	1	0	0	0
Other	2	2	7	5	2	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0
TOTAL	73	62	90	42	46	255	239	237	188	114	145	77	108	71	63

2.146 Of the total Approval and Scheduled inspections carried out in 2015, 5.1% of Commercial Feed Mills were fully compliant (10.3% in 2014), 15.9% of On-Farm Manufacturers were fully compliant (10.5% in 2014) and 31.7% of Distributors were fully compliant (24.6% in 2014). The increase in non-compliance relates to increased HACCP and associated quality assurance/quality control requirements. There was increased scrutiny in these areas following FVO mission recommendations.

2.147 Of the 'other' visits carried out, all were to commercial FeBOs. These were unplanned visits and diverted resources from scheduled inspections. 11 (27 in 2014) visits were recorded as 'no inspection carried out'. These were either farms or distributors and the majority were unannounced visits where there was no one at the premises. These visits were an ineffective use of the VMD's resources and need to be reduced where possible.

2.148 Any significant risk to humans, animals and plants (or the general environment) is considered to be a critical deficiency. One critical deficiency relating to hygiene was observed in 2015.

2.149 There were no prosecutions, convictions or court fines imposed in 2015. From April 2015 to March 2016 VMD issued 5 Seizure Notices and 9 Improvement Notices. There was no significant change to enforcement trends – formal enforcement action remained very low.

2.150 The following table sets out sampling results for 2015:

Sample type	Veterinary medicinal product (VMP)	No. VMP samples 'compliant'	Specified Feed Additive (SFA)	No. SFA samples 'compliant'
Premixture or feedingstuff Routinely tested for declared active substance	34	94	2	1
Premixture or feedingstuff tested for 'carryover'	2			
Premixture or feedingstuff tested as part of a residue investigation	0	0	11	0

Sample type	Veterinary medicinal product (VMP)	No. VMP samples 'compliant'	Specified Feed Additive (SFA)	No. SFA samples 'compliant'
Premixture or feedingstuff tested as part of other investigation	0	0	0	0
Premixture or feedingstuff tested for 10 different AGPs	0	0	10	9

2.151 The introduction of 'Earned Recognition' for commercial feed mills certificated under the Agricultural Industries Confederation's (AIC's) Universal Feed Assurance Scheme(UFAS) resulted in an extended inspection interval for mills rated 'good' by the VMD the at their previous inspection which reduced the number of inspections required by the VMD in 2015. The reduced number of inspections of Distributers previously noted now appears to have stabilised in 2015.

2.152 In summary, FeBOs manufacturing and distributing specified feed additives, premixtures and medicated feeding stuffs were generally compliant with legal requirements. Where non-compliance was observed it was dealt with in accordance with the VMD's Enforcement Strategy.

Protein in animal feed controls

2.153 Information on inspections and sampling programme for GB and NI is set out below:

Stage	Number of inspections comprising checks on the presence of processed animal proteins	
	GB	NI
Import of feed materials	40	41
Storage of feed materials	48	4
Feed mills	610	101
Home mixers/mobile mixers ¹²	164	15
Intermediaries of feeding stuffs	23	0
Means of transport	22	3
Farms keeping non-ruminants	76	10
Farms keeping ruminants	749	0
Farms keeping both ruminants and non-ruminants	778	48
Total	2,510	222

2.154 In GB there were no procedural breaches.

Sampling and testing of feed materials and compound feeding stuffs for processed animal proteins

Premises	Number of samples collected by AHO staff tested for processed animal proteins in GB and NI						Number of non-compliant samples in GB ¹³		
							Presence of processed animal protein/animal protein from terrestrial animals (and fishmeal in		
	Feed materials		Compound feeding stuffs				Feed materials	Compound feeding stuffs	
	GB	NI	For ruminants		For non-ruminants			For ruminants	For non-ruminants
GB			NI	GB	NI				
At import	106	96	15	0	2	0	0	0	0
Feed mills	1017	137	1329	332	439	50	0	2	2
Intermediaries/Storage	147	8	53	4	4	0	0	0	0
Means of Transport	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Home mixers/mobile mixers	67	6	142	18	73	26	0	0	1
On farm	256	3	1829	75	453	57	0	1	0
Fats & vegetable oils	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Total	1595	252	3368	430	971	133	0	3	3

¹² In the figures above the category of home mixers mainly includes those farms producing non-ruminant feed containing fishmeal where ruminants are kept. Visits to ruminant home mixers are a priority in the livestock farm inspection programme and are included in figures for farms keeping.

¹³ Non-compliance figures relate to GB only

- 2.155 The total number of samples taken was 5,934 samples. Breaches involved one incident of one ruminant ration contaminated with a very low number bone spicules at a farm and mill of origin, which could not be speciated using PCR due to the low level of contamination. A Veterinary Risk Assessment concluded that the risk was negligible to human and animal health after effective measures were taken at the farm and mill; the second incident involved a sample of non-ruminant feed positive to feathers sampled directly from a trough contaminated with them.
- 2.156 The NFA programme operates from April to March. The target number of inspections from 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015 was 2,373 inspections, with a sampling budget to enable 5,600 Microscopic Analysis Test samples to be collected and analysed. During this period the operational targets were fully met.
- 2.157 The risk assessment criteria have remained the same as for the previous 2 years. The number of control inspections completed in relation to the last 2 years is as follows:

Year	Number of inspection visits		Number of samples Collected	
	GB	NI	GB	NI
2011	2,521	416	5,399	713
2012	2,254	308	5,392	837
2013	2,521	185	5,399	451
2014	2,389	199	5,564	578
2015	2,510	222	5,934	815

- 2.158 Detailed reports are available at defra.gov.uk/ahvla-en/keeping-animals/illegal-feeding.

Official controls in animal health sector

GB

- 2.159 Much of APHA's¹⁴ work is determined by legislation which, in turn, is driven by policies to minimise disease risk in GB and, through working collaboratively with other countries, in the EU and across the world. APHA targets reflect the need to ensure compliance with this legislation and also reflect the particular and differing needs of its policy customers and its own business.
- 2.160 APHA had a total of 24 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), in 2015/16, 19 KPIs were met or exceeded, three were substantially met, one was partially met and one was not met.
- 2.161 KPIs for science key were developed with customers in 2015/16. The KPIs underpin the the ask by customers to focus on priority areas by providing a science capability that delivers high quality and timely evidence through research, surveillance, lab testing and consultancy. All the KPIs were achieved.

¹⁴ gov.uk/government/organisations/animal-and-plant-health-agency/about

2.162 Activities to control bovine TB (bTB) and progress toward eventually achieving officially bTB free (OTF) status for England and Wales remains the most resource intensive part of APHA's business. APHA advises on and delivers a complex set of control measures across GB, differentiated according to bTB risk areas. APHA also carry out important research and development work to support customer's development of bTB policies.

2.163 The APHA Science Strategy¹⁵ has ensured the agency have focused on the identification and reduction of threats to animal health and welfare, and public health. It helped focus on ensuring and measuring the impact of its science, and continued to build agency capabilities to make sure APHA responded to new threats as they emerged. The Strategy was revised and re-launched in 2014/15.

2.164 APHA staff investigated 164 reports of suspected exotic diseases in 2015. The following outbreaks were detected:

- Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza in a flock of broiler breeder chickens in Hampshire, England in January
- High Pathogenic Avian Influenza H7N7 in a laying hen flock in Lancashire, England in July
- case of European Bat Lyssavirus was reported in Daubentons bat in Wales in July
- Outbreak of Anthrax was confirmed in two cows in Wiltshire, England in October.

Disease	No. of investigations
Anthrax	1
Aujeszky's	5
Avian Notifiable (Avian Influenza/ Newcastle Disease)	43
Bluetongue	10
Brucellosis (excl. bovine brucellosis)	12
Contagious agalactia	3
Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia	1
Vesicular Disease	5
Bat Rabies	4
Rabies	8
Swine Fever	1
Equine Viral Arteritis	47
Glanders	7
Equine Infectious Anaemia	1
West Nile	1
Enzootic Bovine Leukosis (EBL)	9
Bovine Brucellosis	6
TOTAL	164

For more information please refer to:

oie.int/wahis_2/public/wahid.php/Countryinformation/Countryreports.

¹⁵ gov.uk/government/publications/apha-science-strategy-2015-to-2020

- 2.165 Under Section 80 of the Animal Health Act 1981 (as amended) Defra is required to produce an annual report to Parliament on the enforcement actions of the LAs in England and Wales and the compensation paid for animals slaughtered to prevent the spread of animal disease. The 2015 report is available at: gov.uk/government/publications/section-80-report-for-2015-under-the-animal-health-act-1981.
- 2.166 A separate report is produced by the SG, and is available at: gov.scot/Topics/farmingrural/Agriculture/animal-welfare/Diseases/Enforcement.

NI

- 2.167 Veterinary Service Enforcement Branch (VSEB) inspectors continued to carry out inspections on farms, at livestock markets, abattoir lairages and roadside vehicle checks covering biosecurity, welfare and IRM¹⁶ regulations. A number of roadside vehicle checks were carried out with the PSNI¹⁷ with the objective of training police officers to read eartags and check animal movement documentation. These joint operations are also an opportunity for VSEB inspectors to conduct welfare during transport checks under Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005.
- 2.168 Since February 2012 there have not been any confirmed cases of Brucellosis in NI. The relatively small numbers of reactors since then are considered to be due to false positive reactions. There are no current confirmed annual herd incidences.
- 2.169 Aujeszky's disease surveillance continued throughout 2015. 3,345 blood samples collected from live pigs on farm and 21 pig carcasses submitted for post mortem were tested at the Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute Laboratory. All tested negative.
- 2.170 NI enforcement bodies were busy in a number of significant areas including livestock identification, movement and registration, animal welfare, Brucellosis and Tuberculosis (TB). Cattle identification inspections and sheep identification inspections were core activities for DARD Central Enforcement Team during the reporting year. The importance of movement and registration is reflected by the level of Veterinary Service monitoring, supervision and enforcement. In the most serious cases, files were prepared for prosecution and in the case of livestock whose identity and origin was not proven, 3 herd keepers had cattle destroyed without compensation.
- 2.171 267 case files were opened on Veterinary Service Investigation Database (VSID), for 299 investigations into alleged offences under ten separate Veterinary Service work areas. Progress with these investigations is summarised below.

¹⁶ dardni.gov.uk/index/animal-health-and-welfare/disease-control-prevention/identification-registration-and-movement/cattle-2013.htm

¹⁷ psni.police.uk

Progress summary of the Veterinary Service enforcement investigations opened

WORK PROGRAMME	Under Investigation	Interview Arranged	File being prepared	File Passed To Public Prosecution Service	Case Closed	TOTAL
Animal By-Products	3	1			9	13
Biosecurity					1	1
Brucellosis					3	3
Epizootic disease	1				1	2
Identification, Registration & Movement	32		2	3	149	186
Trade of Animals & Animal Products	1			1	1	3
Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies					1	1
Tuberculosis	1				6	7
Veterinary Public Health & Food Safety					8	8
Welfare of Animals	13	3		12	47	75
TOTAL INVESTIGATIONS (CASE FILES)	51 (44)	4 (3)	2 (2)	16 (15)	226 (203)	299 (267)

2.172 In the reporting year 203 case files were closed on VSID, for 226 investigations into alleged offences under 10 separate Veterinary Service work areas. Details are summarised below:

Outcomes of the Veterinary Service enforcement investigations closed¹⁸

<i>WORK PROGRAMME</i>	Case Dropped	Compliance Achieved	Warning Letter Issued	Animals Slaughtered/ Carcase Destroyed	MC30 can only go to slaughter	Formal Caution Delivered	Convicted In Court	Dismissed in court	Referred To Other Agency	TOTAL
Animal By-Products	1						8			9
Biosecurity	1									1
Brucellosis	2	1								3
Epizootic disease						1				1
Identification, Registration & Movement	15	27	91	2	1		12		1	149
Trade of Animals & Animal Products	1									1
Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies	1									1
Tuberculosis	2	2					2			6
Veterinary Public Health & Food Safety	4	1		1		1	1			8
Welfare of Animals	12	3	8			6	15	3		47
TOTAL INVESTIGATIONS (CASE FILES)	39 (32)	34 (32)	99 (98)	3 (3)	1 (1)	8 (7)	38 (26)	3 (3)	1 (1)	226 (203)

Progress summary of case files passed to the PPS

<i>PUBLIC PROSECUTION SERVICE (PPS)</i>	Not Directed For Prosecution	Directed For Prosecution – case on-going	Directed For Prosecution And Convicted	Withdrawn in court	Waiting for direction on	Total Sent To PPS
Case Files	1	22	5	1	5	34

¹⁸ 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015

2.173 26 persons were convicted in court (including two persons convicted on two occasions and one person convicted on three occasions), closing 29 case files (covering 41 investigations).

2.174 The penalties for serious breaches of animal health and welfare legislation are significant. In the reporting year:

- Fines totalling £15,750 were imposed
- One person was banned from keeping animals for 10 years
- One person was banned from keeping animals for 5 years
- Two people were banned from keeping animals for 2 years
- One person was banned from keeping animals for 18 months
- One person was banned from keeping animals for 6 months
- One person received a 24 month imprisonment suspended for 3 years
- Two people received a 6 month imprisonment suspended for 3 years
- One person received a 4 month imprisonment suspended for 2 years
- Two people received a 3 month imprisonment suspended for 2 years
- One person received a 2 month imprisonment suspended for 2 years
- One person received a 1 month and 28 days imprisonment suspended for 2 years
- Four deprivation orders under the Welfare of Animals Act (NI) 2011 were granted by the courts
- Three people received a conditional discharge for 2 years
- One person received an absolute discharge.

Animal by-products

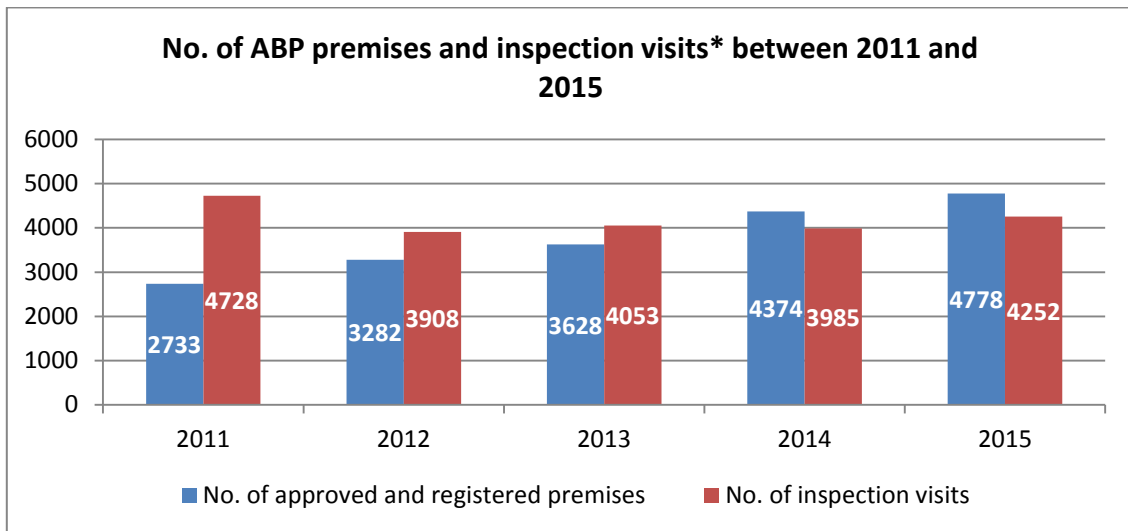
2.175 During calendar year 2015, APHA carried out 130 visits associated with new approvals to new or existing animal by-products (ABP)¹⁹ premises. This is in line with the previous year's figure for new approval applications.

2.176 The overall number of risk based visits to ABP premises has remained relatively constant over the last five years.

2.177 APHA use a risk based approach to determine visit frequency. This results in more visits to higher risk premises or those with a previous history of non-compliance with the requirements of the ABP regulation.

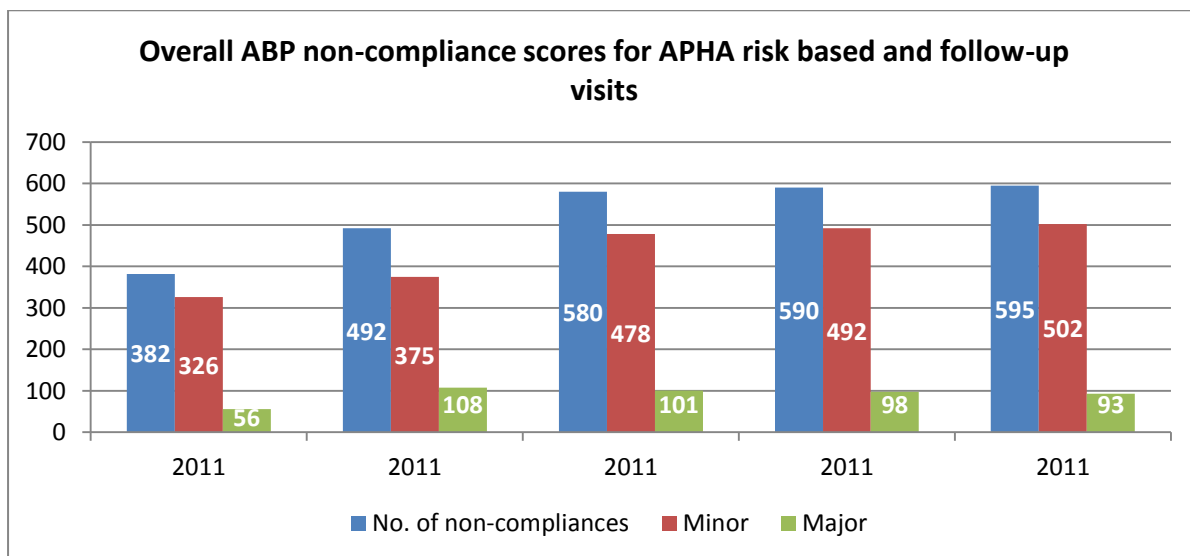
2.178 As the number of checks required is dependent on the number of premises operating in the ABP sector at any one time and visit frequency is driven by an assessment of risk, it is not possible to accurately predict a target number of visits at the start of the year. However, APHA were able to meet the requirements agreed with Defra.

¹⁹ defra.gov.uk/APHA-en/disease-control/abp/premises/ and dardni.gov.uk/index/animal-health-and-welfare/animal-by-products/approved-premises.htm



* Figures exclude TSE and Controlled Hide Stores

2.179 The requirement for certain premises to register was introduced in 2011. The number of registration requests received by APHA has continued to grow over the 5 year period. It is expected that numbers will continue to increase in the immediate future as further operators seek registration e.g. transporters and brokers.



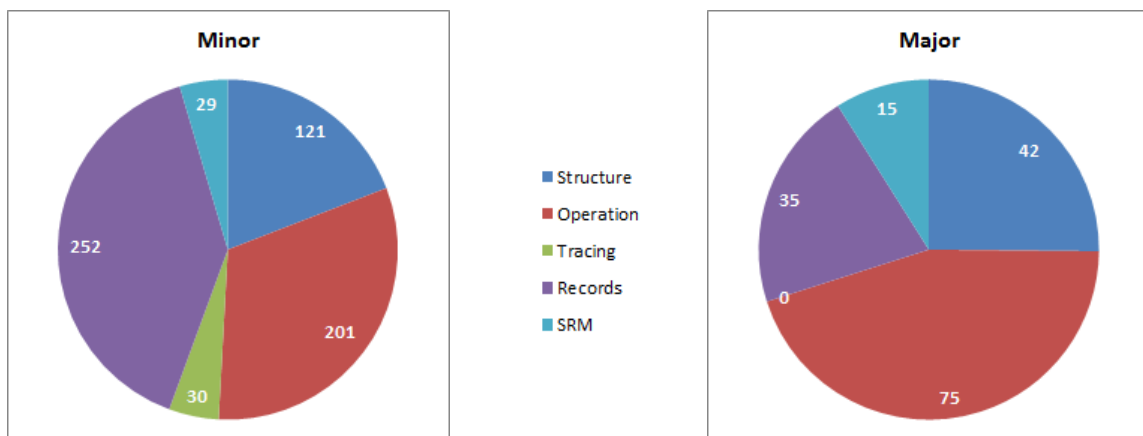
2.180 As in previous years, the main cause of non-compliance has arisen due to record keeping and operational issues. The total number of non-compliances^{20 21} has remained relatively consistent when compared to 2014. There is no significant pattern associated with the nature of these non-compliances.

²⁰ Minor non-compliance - Low to negligible risk to public or animal health, for example, a technical breach, poor commercial documents, pest control slightly overdue, improved bio-security required

²¹ Major non-compliance - Medium or severe risk to animal or public health for example, by-products uncovered or unstained, containers not labelled or labelled incorrectly

2.181 In 2015, two plants had serious major²²non-compliances²³ both for operational issues. The first related to failure to address serious drainage issues at a collection centre. The operation was suspended until corrective action was taken. The second non-compliance involved an ABP incineration site where carcasses were not incinerated without undue delay; carcasses were not stored appropriately prior to incineration and the incinerator did not meet the required time/temperature parameters. The operation was suspended until corrective action was taken by the operator. In both cases, follow up visits were triggered to assess the effectiveness of corrective actions taken by the operators.

Number of individual non-compliances disclosed at visits in 2015 by reason



2.182 In NI there are 187 approved ABP premises and 307 registered premises/operators. DARD completed 313 inspections during 2015.²⁴ During the reporting year 23 minor non-compliances centred on around structure, operation and record keeping. These were discussed verbally with the operator at the time of inspection and followed up with a letter.

Bovine Tuberculosis (TB)

2.183 In GB, APHA assisted with coordination of enforcement activity with a number of LAs in relation to TB controls. APHA worked closely with LAs at an operational level with frequent regional meetings and attended national meetings with the LAs National Animal Health and Welfare Panel.

2.184 During 2015 APHA recorded:

- 92,230 herd tests, with 4,843 herds experiencing a new TB incident

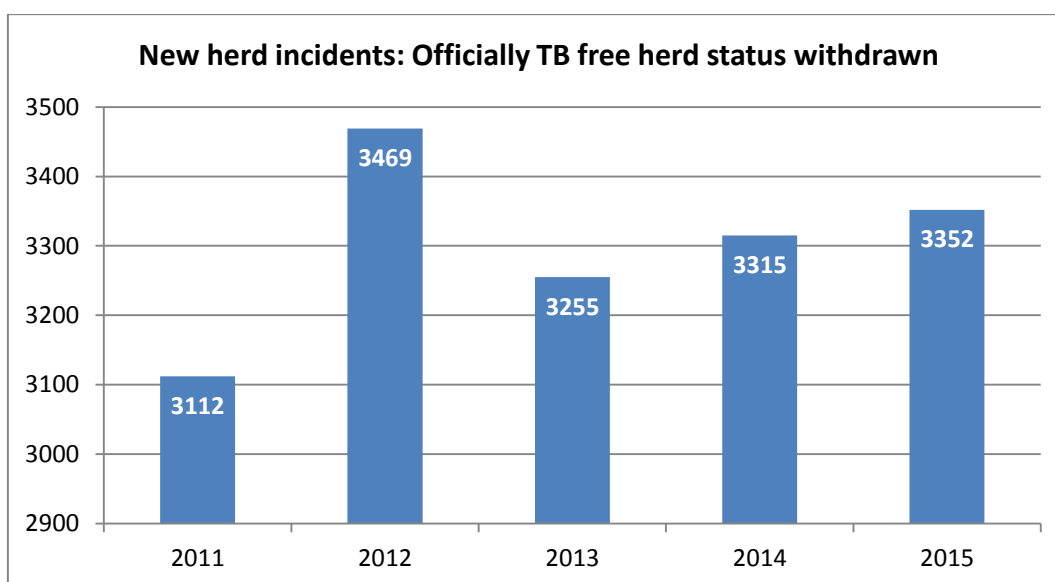
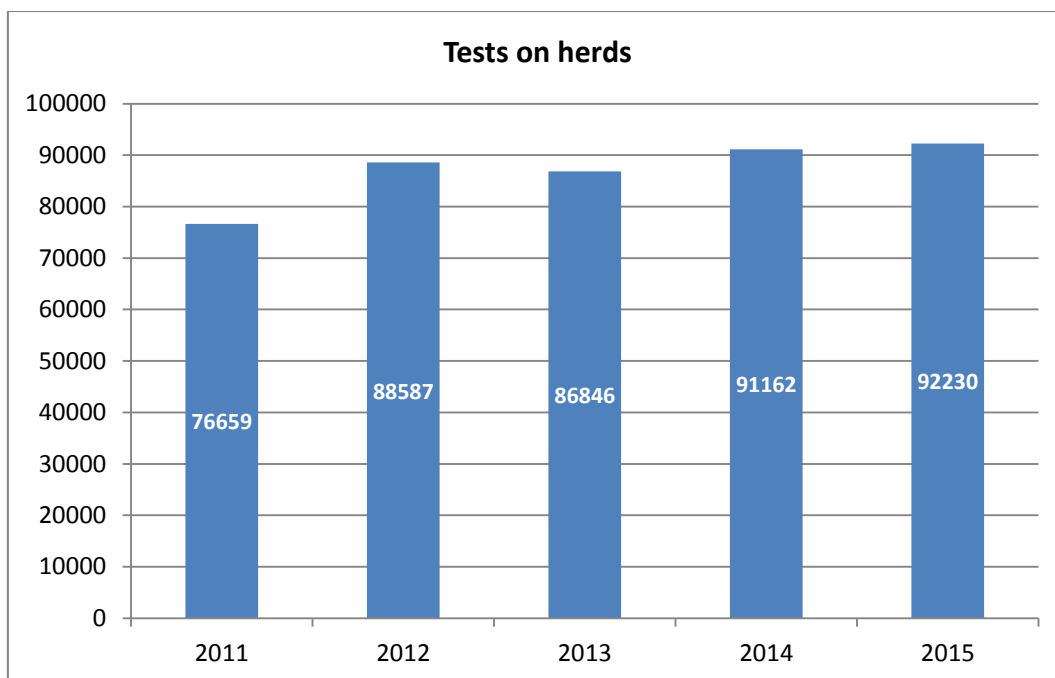
²² Serious Major non-compliance - a serious animal or public health risks for example, wrong category of waste consigned to an operation, by-products getting into the environment or animals having access to by- products.

²³ Only 3 serious major non-compliances were recorded 2104, 1 in 2013, 9 in 2012, none in 2011, and 3 in 2010

²⁴ 216 inspections during 2014, 156 inspections were carried out in 2013, 287 in 2012, 321 in 2011, and 291 in 2010

- 3,352 of these new TB incidents were recorded as Officially Tuberculosis Free (OTF) withdrawn
- 36,271²⁵ cattle were slaughtered for TB control purposes²⁶.

2.185 APHA traced bovines which moved to or from OTF withdrawn premises within a timeframe calculated on the time of completion of the last herd test. 24,591 tracing tests were carried out in 2015, 98.2% of tracings were completed within the target time.



2.186 The number of herd tests has risen since 2011, owing to the phased introduction of more comprehensive surveillance testing in England and Wales. Many herds (i.e. all of Scotland and much of England) remain on

²⁵ Source: Statistics on the incidence of TB in Cattle in GB, Defra via gov.uk, updated 15 July 2015

²⁶ This includes reactors, inconclusive reactors, direct contacts and gamma interferon positives

a four-yearly TB testing cycle and annual trends are affected by this. No unplanned official controls were required over this period.

2.187 The number of TB tests that went overdue by one day or more in 2015 was 4393. For comparison in 2014 the number of TB tests that went overdue by one day or more was 8292. From January 2015 cross compliance penalties were extended to apply to all overdue tests except those resulting from the tracing of animals following a TB breakdown.

2.188 Defra continued to implement its long term strategy to eradicate TB in England through a comprehensive suite of measures aimed at tackling all sources of TB infection. This includes tighter cattle testing and movement controls, improving biosecurity on farm and when trading, badger vaccination and badger control in areas where badgers are an important factor in spreading disease to cattle. The strategy was endorsed by the European Commission as part of the UK TB Eradication Programme for 2015. Key measures implemented in 2015 included:

- Extending reduced Common Agricultural Policy Scheme payments (cross-compliance penalties) for overdue TB tests to include all types of TB tests, with very few exceptions.
- In the Edge Area of Cheshire, replacing annual TB herd testing and targeted radial testing of all herds within 3km of a lesion/culture positive TB breakdown herd with six-monthly herd testing.
- Launching a new, interactive mapping tool (www.lbTB.co.uk) providing up to date information to cattle keepers on TB incidents.
- Publishing of regular field epidemiology reports for the Low Risk and Edge areas to better inform decisions when trading cattle.
- Introducing improved IT data capture system for epidemiological investigation outcomes to support targeted enhancement of more sensitive testing regimes in the High Risk Area.
- Launching and promoting new guidance to cattle farmers agreed with key industry groups on how to protect their herd from TB through implementing improved bio-security on farm.
- Introducing a single industry-led source of TB information and advice on best practice bio-security and trading tbhub.co.uk
- Procurement of TB testing. All TB testing in England is now delivered via five Delivery Partners.
- Licensed badger control in one new area and two existing areas within the wider High Risk Area.
- Grant-funding six badger vaccination projects via the Badger Edge Vaccination Scheme.

2.189 The Welsh Government continued to pursue its Programme to eradicate bovine TB in Wales through a comprehensive suite of measures aimed at tackling all sources of TB infection. The Programme's cornerstone initiative is the annual TB testing of all cattle herds in Wales which has been in place since 2010. The Programme was endorsed by the European Commission as part of the UK TB Eradication Programme for 2015. Key measures implemented in 2015 included:

- The introduction of cross compliance penalties for all overdue TB tests (regardless of whether the overdue test was identified at inspection or not).
- The amendment of the TB (Wales) Order 2010, following consultation, to allow the publication of information on bovine herds affected with TB.
- The formal procurement of TB testing performed by Official Veterinarians (OVs) through the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU). All TB testing in Wales is now delivered by two Delivery Partners.
- The wider roll out of the TB epidemiology project to include two new areas, taking the total number of study areas included in the project up to eight, to improve our understanding of TB at a local level.
- The launch of the [TB dashboard](#) to present TB data visually and make the information easy to understand.
- The fourth year of the Intensive Action Area (IAA) project resulted in the successful vaccination of 1,118 badgers.
- A badger hair trapping project commenced with a view to assessing badger social group sizes in the IAA.
- The laboratory capacity for carrying out gamma interferon testing in Wales was expanded with the upgrading of facilities at the former Carmarthen Veterinary Investigation Centre.
- The provision of a grant to livestock markets for them to purchase the necessary equipment to enable them to prominently display TB information of the cattle being sold. It is anticipated that this will help farmers to make more informed buying decisions based on animals' TB history.
- The announcement of the suspension of the badger vaccination project in the IAA due to the unavailability of badger BCG and a global shortage of human BCG vaccine. Modelling work was commissioned to assess impacts of four years of vaccinating along with an assessment of a variety of options for next steps.
- The Cymorth TB Veterinary Programme was rolled out across Wales.
- The Pre-Movement Testing exemption for cattle movements to and from common land in Wales was removed.

2.190 In NI, DARD carried out 32,703 herd tests (from 23,980 herds) where cattle were presented at the test. The table below sets out what the tests showed.

TB surveillance in NI during 2015

Number of confirmed TB Breakdowns	1,935 herds had at least one animal with confirmed TB during 2015 ^{27*}
Number of TB reactors slaughtered	11,002
Number of " confirmed" animals	5,980*
Number of new incidents	1,688
Number of slaughter house cases	676

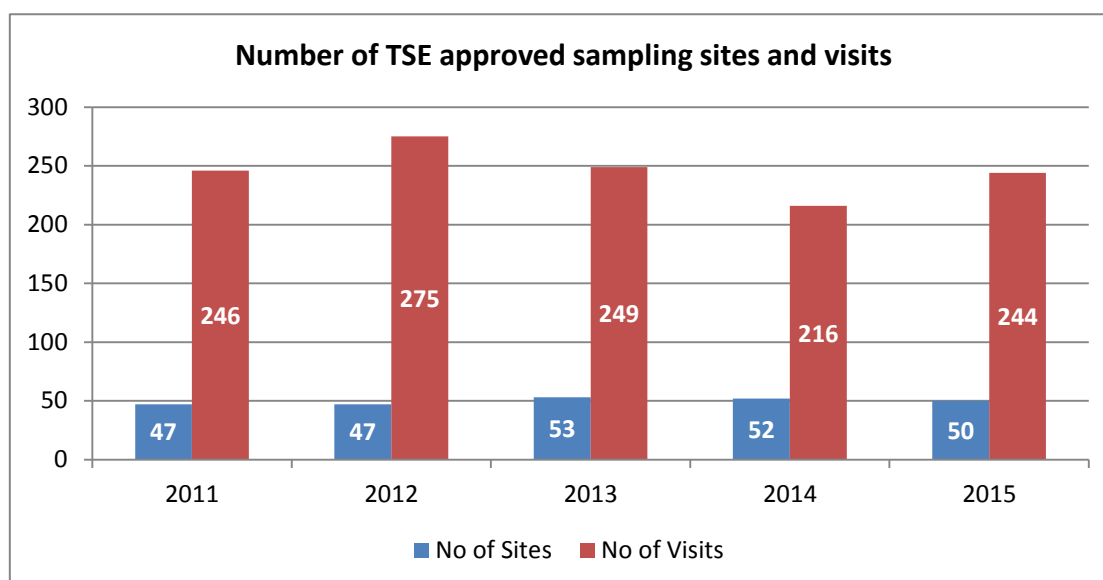
Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSE)

2.191 APHA delivered on all performance indicators within agreed criteria for the 2015 period.

Performance indicators for 2015, including percentage delivery against agreed targets

Action	GB		NI	
	Number	% completed within agreed target	Number	% completed within agreed target
Investigation of 'on-farm' suspect Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathies (BSE) reports	1	100%	1	100%
Investigation of 'on-farm' suspect Scrapie reports	6	100%	1	100%
Tracing of confirmed classical and atypical Scrapie cases	3	100%	1	100%
Risk based inspection of all approved TSE sampling sites and controlled hide stores	250 ²⁸	N/A	352 ²⁹	N/A
Restriction of eligible BSE offspring and cohorts	94	100%	0	N/A

2.192 The number of TSE approved sampling sites has remained constant over the five year period. The number of risk based inspections has also remained broadly consistent over this period.



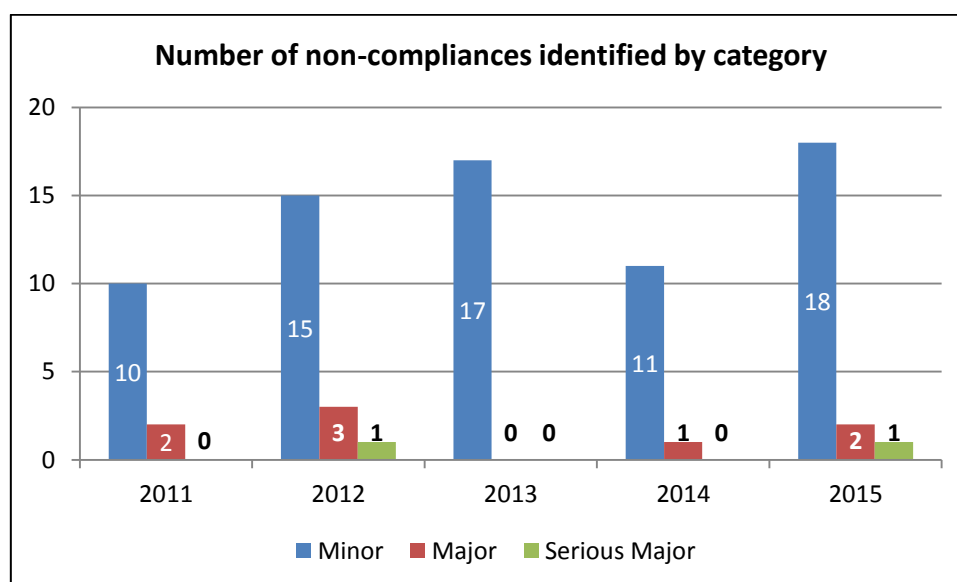
2.193 The main non-compliance issues disclosed at TSE sampling sites related to operation and records issues. Corrective actions and follow-up checks took place in all cases. There has been a small increase in the number of minor

²⁸ Approved TSE sampling sites - Of these 12 non-compliant operators were identified

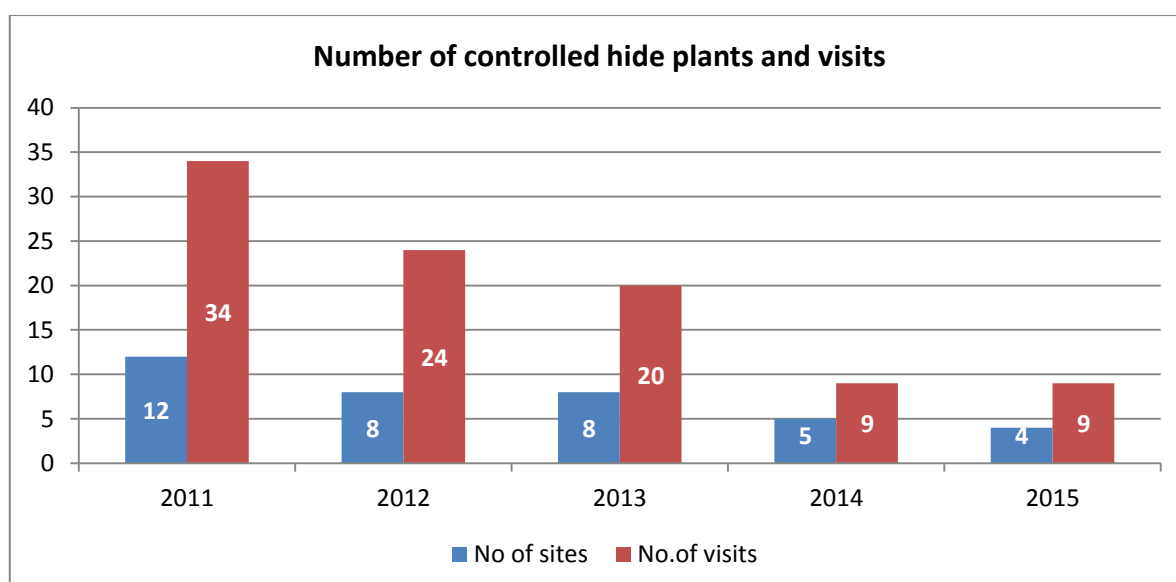
²⁹ Of these 20 non-compliant operators were identified

non-conformities identified at TSE sampling sites. These largely relate to issues with structure and operation. In NI in 2015, 2 non-compliances were detected relating to “risk” bovines aged over 48 months not being sampled.

2.194 There was one serious major non-compliance identified in 2015 relating to issues with identification of TSE samples. The incident was investigated and re-training took place followed by enhanced inspections. The incident was downgraded to major following the incident based on the error being operator driven and not a system failure.



2.195 The number of controlled hide plants visited and number of site visits has remained consistent with the previous year. All visits carried out in 2015 were compliant.



2.196 BSE in cattle in GB

- Following a peak in the number of clinical cases in 1992, the number of new cases now detected by active and passive surveillance continues to remain

very low, with just 2 cases confirmed in GB in 2015 and 0 cases confirmed in the first three months of 2016.

- The confirmed cases in 2015 were detected via active surveillance and both were born after the Reinforced Ban, i.e. cases born after the revised feed ban which came into force on 1 August 1996. One was of particular note as its age at death was 75 months. An epidemiological report was submitted to the Commission about this case.
- One case has been treated as Inconclusive and is currently undergoing confirmatory mouse bio-assay.
- 57 cohorts and 2 offspring traced from the two positive cases were euthanased, except for one which died of natural causes. All 59 cattle were tested for BSE with negative results.
- The numbers of confirmed BSE cases have continued to remain very low. No suspect BSE cases were reported in 2015. Further details are available at: gov.uk/government/statistics/cattle-tse-surveillance-statistics
- There were no cases of BSE in NI in 2015.

Surveillance³⁰ for BSE

- The main purpose of BSE surveillance is to monitor the level of BSE in cattle over time and thereby check on the continued effectiveness of BSE controls.
- With falling numbers of BSE cases across the EU, the requirement to carry out TSE testing on healthy slaughtered cattle born within EU Member States was relaxed on 1 March 2013 (with the exception of cattle born in Bulgaria and Romania). However TSE testing of the following 'risk cattle' aged over 48 months, where BSE is most likely to be detected, continues to be required under EU law:
 - fallen stock cattle (i.e. those which die or are killed other than for human consumption);
 - emergency slaughtered cattle;
 - cattle showing abnormalities at ante-mortem inspection.
- Cattle born in Bulgaria and Romania or any non-EU country must be tested if aged over 24 months (fallen stock; emergency slaughtered; showing abnormalities at ante-mortem inspection) or over 30 months (healthy slaughtered).
- In 2015 116,144 cattle were examined in GB and 23,265 in NI under the active surveillance programme and none through passive surveillance. One case of classical BSE and one case of Atypical BSE were confirmed in 2015.

³⁰ Surveillance for BSE is carried out in two ways:

- **Passive surveillance** - the statutory obligation to notify suspected cases of BSE has been in place in the UK since 1988.
- **Active surveillance** – the UK carried out limited active surveillance for BSE in cattle from 1999 to 2001. The EU active surveillance programme started in the UK in July 2001. The criteria for inclusion in the testing programme have been changed over the years in response to regular risk assessments.

2.197 Scrapie in sheep in UK

- No clinical suspect cases of classical or atypical scrapie were confirmed in 2015 in Great Britain. This represented the fifth successive year without confirmation of classical scrapie on clinical suspects since the disease became notifiable in 1993. The number of clinical suspects reported in GB remained very low with only three notifications from three different holdings.
- There were no cases of Classical Scrapie or Atypical Scrapie confirmed in NI in 2015.

2.198 UK Surveillance for scrapie

- The main purpose of scrapie surveillance is to monitor the level of classical and atypical scrapie in sheep and goats over time and thereby check on the continued effectiveness of scrapie controls.
- The EU requirement for active surveillance in sheep in the UK remained unchanged in 2015
 - 10,000 sheep aged over 18 months slaughtered for human consumption
 - 10,000 fallen sheep aged over 18 months.
 - Under EU derogation, tests on up to 5,000 healthy slaughtered sheep per year may be replaced with an equivalent number of fallen sheep. In 2015 20,255 were tested in the UK, of which 5,488 were slaughtered for human consumption and 14,767 were fallen stock. This includes 178 sheep that died during transit which were also tested for scrapie.
- There were two classical scrapie cases detected in 2015 in the active surveillance and through the fallen stock route (0.01%; 95% CI: 0 - 0.05%). The estimated prevalence using abattoir survey data was 0% (95% CI: 0-0.19%). again but with wider confidence interval due to reduced sampling through this route.
- In 2015 17 cases of atypical scrapie were confirmed in GB, 6 in sheep submitted to the Fallen Stock survey, 9 from sheep submitted to the Abattoir survey and 2 from a farm monitored as part of the atypical scrapie monitoring (ASM) scheme. No cases were confirmed in NI. The estimated prevalence for GB using abattoir survey data was 0.87% (95% CI: 0.42-1.52%). The Abattoir survey became this year the main contributor to the detection of atypical scrapie despite the reduction on the number sampled through this route, and possibly due to sampling variability rather than significant changes in the prevalence of infection in each of the populations tested by these two surveys. Further details are available at: gov.uk/government/statistics/sheep-tse-surveillance-statistics.
- Two new sheep holdings joined the Compulsory Scrapie Flocks Scheme (CSFS) in 2015. Four holdings terminated restrictions in 2015, leaving only two farms under control on the scheme at the end of the year.
- During the restriction period, fallen and healthy slaughtered sheep aged over 18 months were tested for scrapie. In total 71 samples were tested from these restricted farms. In 2015, the contribution of the Atypical Scrapie Monitoring Scheme (ASM) to the testing throughput of sheep holdings under restrictions by any kind of scrapie declined. Twelve holdings joined the existing 26 monitored due to confirmation of atypical scrapie. Twenty-seven of the 35 holdings under restrictions submitted 571 samples to the various testing routes of the scheme.

- Two cases of atypical scrapie were confirmed through the ASM Fallen stock route in 2015. This was the first year that additional atypical scrapie cases were confirmed in ASM holdings since the start of the scheme. The approximate sizes of these two flocks are 8100 and 972 animals respectively.
- The reasons why samples were not submitted by 8 ASMS holdings are as follows:
 - Some were owners who in error sent their fallen stock for normal collection rather than *via* the CSFS helpline.
 - Some were owners who erroneously failed to report their fallen stock, usually in the first year of restrictions. An audit visit (normally undertaken around the first anniversary of restriction), usually rectifies this problem.
 - Certain holdings had their restrictions lifted in early 2015 and therefore would not necessarily have had any fallen stock to report during their period under restriction in 2015.
- There were no changes in the genotype profile of the classical and atypical sheep scrapie cases confirmed in 2015. However, 608 samples from scrapie negative sheep were genotyped and the results indicated an increase frequency of genotype 1 (by 2.8%) and decrease frequency of genotype 3 (by 1.2%) in the sheep population.
- In 2015 23,265 cattle were examined in NI under the surveillance programme.

2.199 Scrapie in Goats in the UK

- In 2015 four clinical cases of classical scrapie were confirmed from one holding already under restriction under option 3 of Annex VII of Regulation (EC) 999/2001, as amended. In addition 10 cases were confirmed from animals submitted for testing under the CSFS (see 2.194 above). Because positive cases were continuing to occur, three years after the restrictions were first imposed, in accordance with the requirements of Annex VII a Veterinary Risk Assessment was carried out which recommended implementation of option 1 (culling of the holding) to achieve control and eradication of scrapie in this holding. The holding was culled in early 2016.
- No clinical cases of classical scrapie were recorded outside CSFS holdings.
- No atypical scrapie was recorded in goats.

2.200 UK Surveillance for Goat scrapie

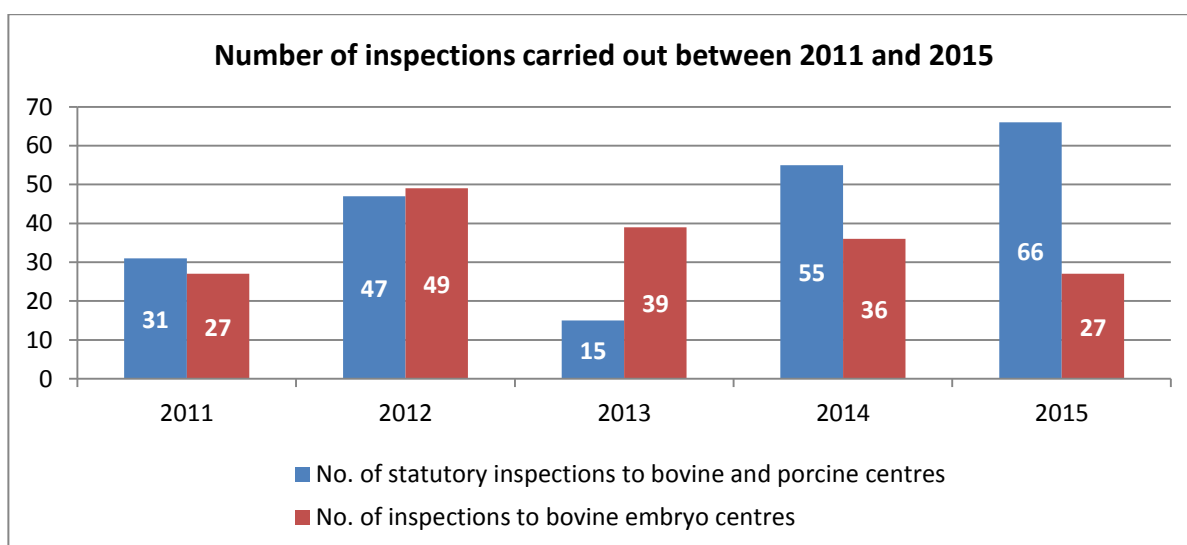
- The EU requirement for active surveillance in goats remained unchanged in 2015:
 - 500 fallen goats aged over 18 months. No positive cases were confirmed.
- No new goat holdings entered the CSFS in 2014. Two holdings remained under movement restrictions which will last for two years following confirmation of the final case of classical scrapie on the holding. (One of these holdings was culled in early 2016, see 2.195 above). Twenty-one other cases were confirmed in goats submitted under the different testing routes of the CSFS: 11 Fallen Stock and 10 from the Annual Cull. All cases came from the two holdings already under restriction. Despite the difference in

population sizes of the sheep and goats in GB, cases confirmed in goats outnumbered those confirmed in sheep.

- To date there has still not been any case of atypical scrapie confirmed in goats in GB.
- No cases of classical or atypical scrapie were confirmed in goats in NI.
- Further details are available at: gov.uk/government/statistics/goats-tse-surveillance-statistics.

Artificial breeding controls

2.201 This area of work is largely driven by industry activity (requests for approval and testing of approved sites). As such, no set targets are prescribed. The delivery of this work is in line with expectations. Controls have remained generally consistent over the period.



Number of control activities undertaken in GB

Activity	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Number of bovine embryo collection/production/transfer teams approved	9	6	0	3	15
Number of bovine and porcine semen collection, processing and storage centres approved	7	2	6	5	10
The number of animals licensed for on farm domestic semen collection	242	273	268	247	245
The number of animals approved to move onto approved AI centres	148	239	247	227	273
The number of animals licensed for semen export	712	923	1,231	881	1200
Number of samples collected from bovine semen production	158	126	123	65	No info available
Number of samples collected from porcine semen production	1,025	1,015	764	303	No info available

Number of control activities undertaken in NI

Activity	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Number of bovine embryo collection/production/transfer teams approved	5	5	6	6	6
Number of bovine and porcine semen collection, processing and storage centres approved	8	9	9	9	9
The number of animals licensed for on farm domestic semen collection	0	0	0	0	0
The number of animals approved to move onto approved AI centres	45	43	39	22	32

Sheep and goats identification and tracing inspections

2.202 Each UK Administration ensured that the requirement in Regulation (EC) No 21/2004 to inspect 3% of sheep/goat holdings covering 5% of national sheep and goat populations was met.

General information on holdings, animals and checks

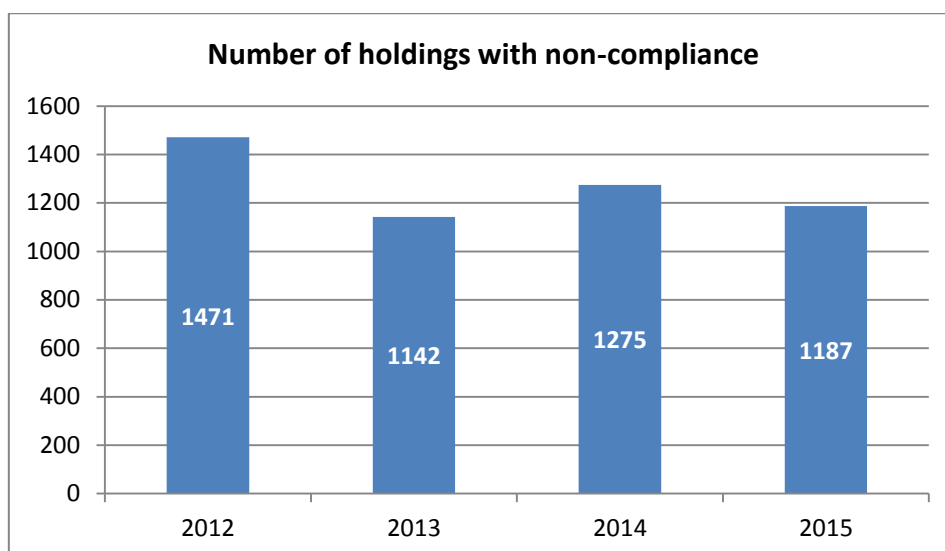
Year	2012	2013	2014	2015
Total number of holdings in the Member State as registered at the beginning of the reporting period	114,319	117,362	118,502	117,709
Total number of holdings checked	4,072	3,606	3,648	4,285
Total number of ovine and caprine animals in the Member State as registered at the beginning of the	18,595,792	20,950,950	19,173,173	18,786,694
Total number of ovine and caprine animals in holdings checked during the reporting period	1,915,052	1,705,203	1,568,578	2,037,213

2.203 There have been no significant changes in the risk selection criteria and the assessment of compliance, which are allied to Regulation 1505/2006³¹ and EU Statutory Management Requirement (SMR) 8³².

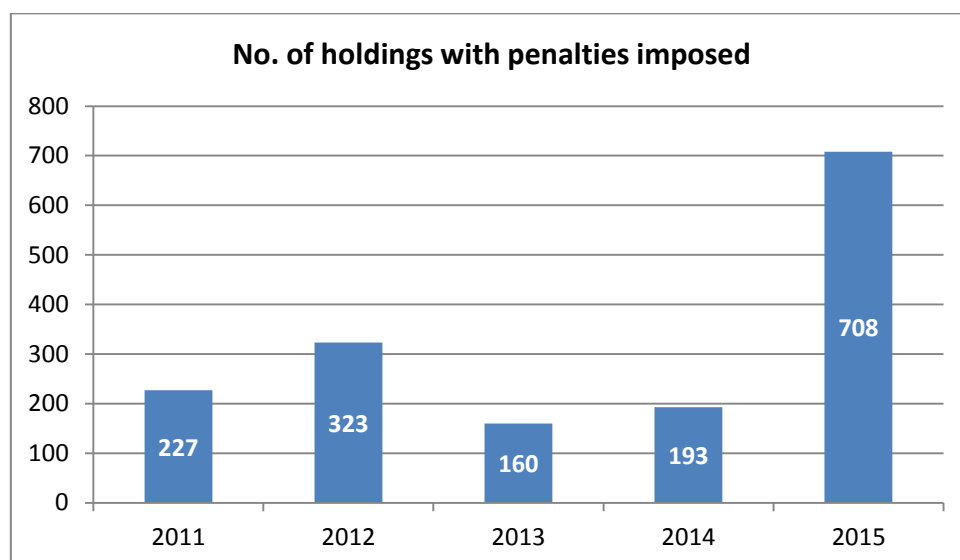
2.204 In 2015 there has been a small reduction (-7%) in the number of non-compliant holdings.

³¹ In accordance with Regulation EC No. 1505/2006 a programme of unannounced farm inspections was undertaken to monitor keeper's compliance with EU rules on the identification, recording, and reporting of sheep and goat movements laid down in Regulation EC No 21/2004

³² SMR 8 sets out which elements of EU sheep and goat ID rules are covered by cross compliance checks
gov.uk/guidance/guide-to-cross-compliance-in-england-2016/smr-8-sheep-and-goat-identification



2.205 Penalties are applied to sheep and goat keepers for non-compliance discovered during an SMR8 cross compliance inspection. LAs can also prosecute keepers for significant breaches of the ID and movement rules for sheep/goats and have done so in 2015.



2.206 The noticeable increase in the above table for the number of holdings with penalties imposed in 2015 is explained by the fact that the figures for previous years mostly described whole farm movement restrictions applied on non-compliant holdings whereas for 2015 we have included here holdings that also received financial penalties for SMR 8 inspection breaches. The most common types of non-compliance related to inaccurate or incomplete on-farm records including failure to record movements accurately.

Cattle identification and registration

2.207 Commission Regulation (EC) No 1082/2003 (as amended by Commission Regulation (EU) No 1034/2010) requires a minimum of 3% of Member States' holdings to be inspected annually. All inspections were completed on time during the reporting period.

2.208 In GB, 80% of the holdings inspected are selected using a computerised risk analysis, with the criteria including previous non-compliance, results of previous years' inspections and specific high risk indicators, such as high numbers of replacement tag purchases. In addition to the risk based inspections, 20% of the holdings inspected are selected at random to ascertain the level of compliance across GB. NI has a similar selection process. There were no significant changes to the risk assessment process for the 2015 inspection year.

General information on holdings and bovine animals in GB

Year	2013	2014	2015
Total number of holdings registered in Great Britain at the beginning of the reporting period	86,755	75,681	75,485
Total number of holdings checked during the reporting period	3,243	2,924	2,984
Total number of bovine animals registered in Great Britain at the beginning of the reporting period	7,957,244	8,093,880	8,237,396
Total number of bovine animals checked during the reporting period	322,958	333,481	330,108

General information on holdings and bovine animals in NI

Year	2013	2014	2015
Total number of holdings registered in NI at the beginning of the reporting period	22,873	23,167	23,024
Total number of holdings checked during the reporting period	777	826	856
Total number of bovine animals registered in NI at the beginning of the reporting period	1,522,875	1,522,875	1,550,945
Total number of bovine animals checked during the reporting period	99,252	109,737	97,684

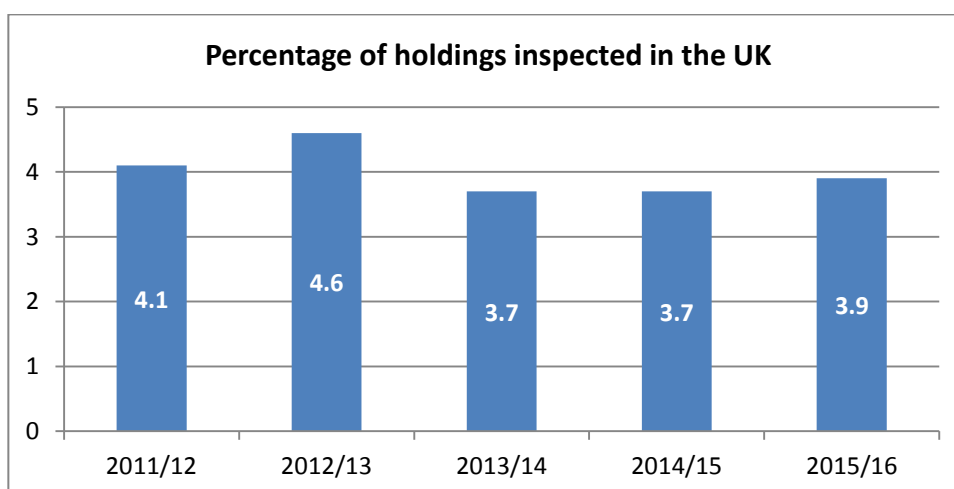
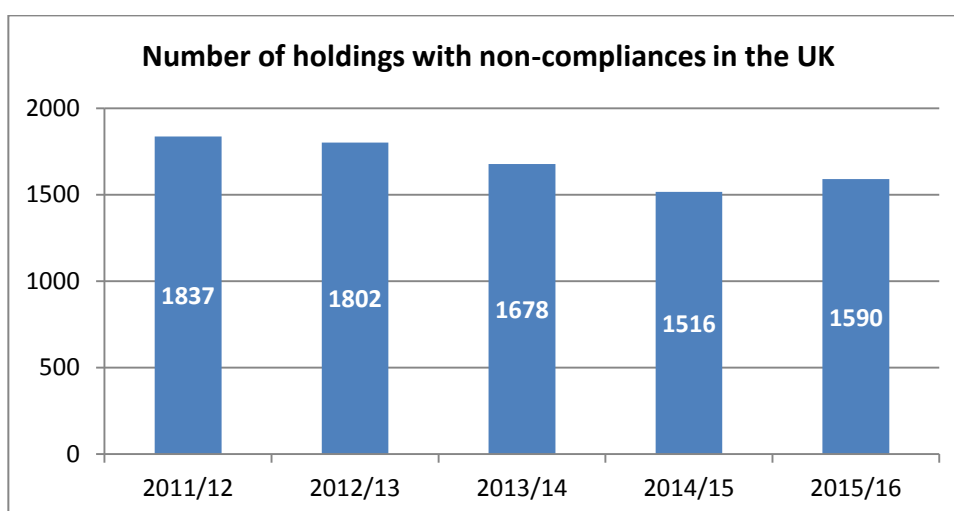
2.209 The results of the Cattle Identification inspection annual programme over the past 3 years show a small increase followed by a smaller decrease in compliance with the cattle identification regulations.

2.210 A variety of activities are inspected while on farm, such as standards of tagging or record keeping, and making notifications to the central database. Fewer than 3% of animals inspected were recorded for any one type of breach in any of the years. During 2015 the most common types of non-compliance related to late or no report of movements and late or no report of deaths.

2.211 Commission Regulation (EC) No 494/98 and Regulation (EC) No 1760/2000 set out the minimum penalties. These include movement restrictions to either individual animals or to the whole herd and compulsory slaughter of unidentified animals where appropriate, on the basis of an assessment of the

animal health and food safety risks.

2.212 As a result of the 2015 inspections, 11,177 bovine animals were subject to movement restrictions (2,726 animals were subject to individual restrictions and 8,451 were subject to whole herd movement restrictions). This represented 2.6% of the animals subject to inspection. 120 holdings were subject to a whole herd restriction (3.1% of the inspected holdings). The numbers of bovine animals that were compulsorily slaughtered following inspections were: 29 in GB³³ (0.01% of animals inspected) and 13 in NI³⁴ (0.01% of animals inspected).



Zoonoses

2.213 On-going progress continued to be made in controlling *Salmonella* in the UK poultry sectors³⁵. A reducing contribution of *Salmonella* to the overall burden of food-borne zoonoses has been observed in the UK in recent years. Further information is available at: gov.uk/government/collections/zoonoses-reports.

³³ in 5 affected holding

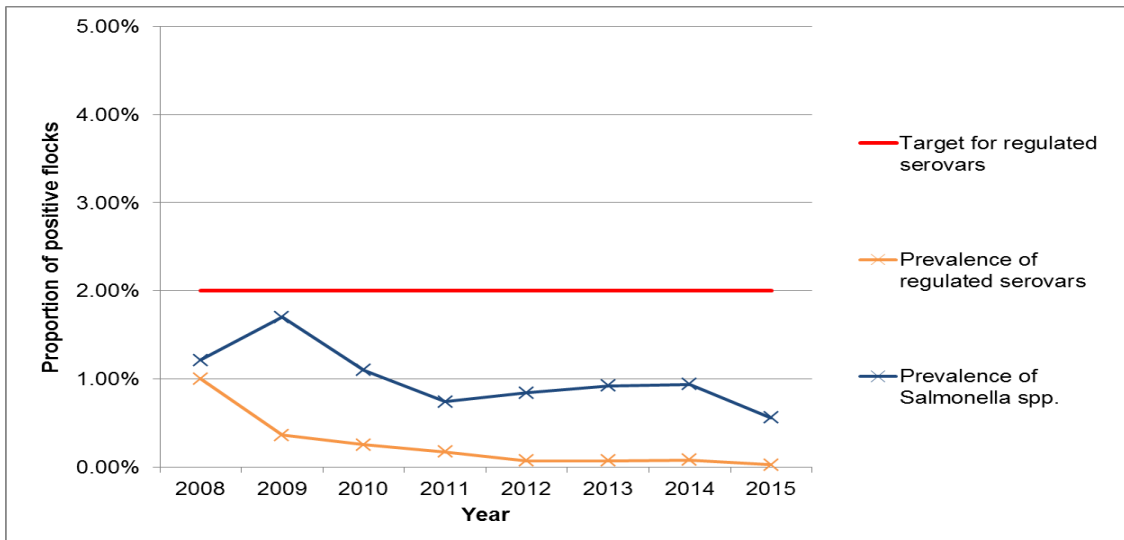
³⁴ In 3 affected holdings

³⁵ The Salmonella National Control Programmes (NCPs) continued to be implemented in 2015, according to the requirements of Regulation (EC) No. 2160/2003, in breeding chickens (programme in place since 2007), laying chickens (since 2008), broiler chickens (since 2009) and breeding/fattening turkeys (since 2010)

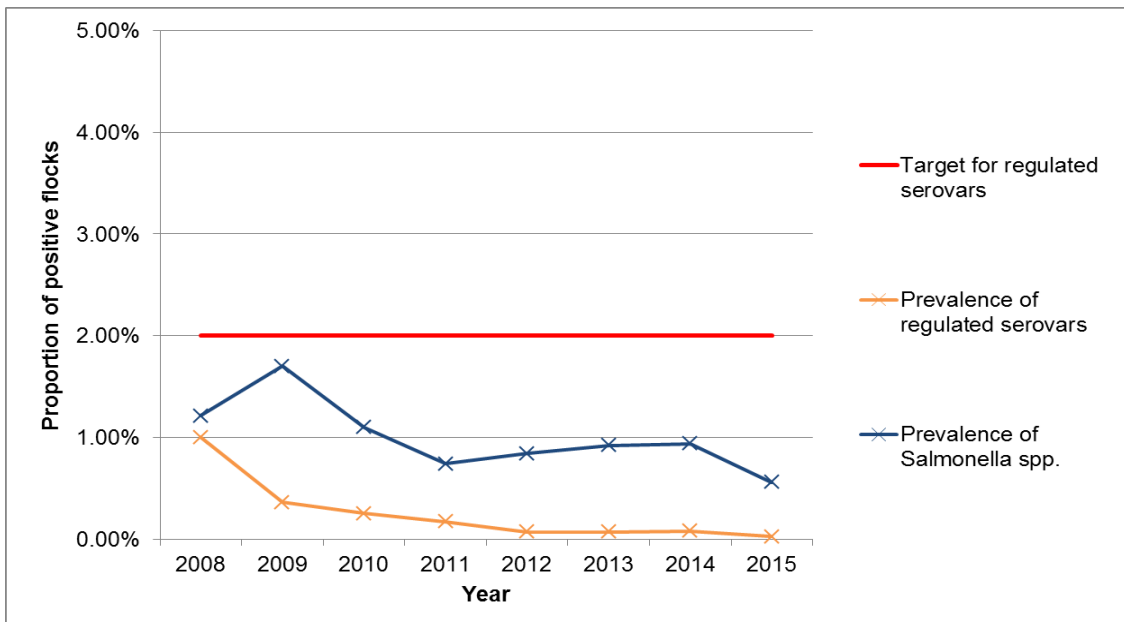
- 2.214 The SNCP³⁶ monitoring results for 2015 indicate that the levels of the regulated *Salmonella* serovars are well below the EU designated targets. All official sampling, as required by the EU legislation, was completed during the year for each sector: in total for all poultry sectors, 3,807 poultry flocks were subject to annual routine official sampling.
- 2.215 The UK chicken breeding sector had a reported prevalence for the regulated (target) serovars of 0.06% for 2015 with one adult breeding chicken flock in the UK detected positive for *Salmonella* Enteritidis PT21. No breeding chicken flocks were detected positive for *Salmonella* Typhimurium, Hadar, Infantis or Virchow. In laying chicken flocks during 2015, only one adult flock was positive for monophasic *S. Typhimurium* 4.12:i- out of the total 4,093 flocks included in the programme, giving an overall prevalence of 0.02% for the target serovars. No laying flocks were confirmed positive for *Salmonella* Enteritidis. The prevalence of the target serovars in broiler flocks was 0.15% in 2015, with three broiler flocks detected positive for *S. Typhimurium*, one flock positive for monophasic *S. Typhimurium* 4,12:i- and sixty flocks positive for *S. Enteritidis* out of a total of approximately 44,082 flocks tested during the year. No flocks were positive for monophasic *S. Typhimurium* 4,5,12:i- during the year.
- 2.216 For turkeys, the 2015 prevalence of the target serovars was 0.29% in fattening flocks. Eight fattening flocks tested positive for monophasic *S. Typhimurium* 4, 5, 12: i - and one tested positive for *S. Enteritidis*. These data are out of a total of 3,057 fattening flocks tested under the programme. No fattening turkey flocks were detected positive for *Salmonella* Typhimurium or *S. 4, 12: i -* during the year. For breeding turkeys, in 2015 no breeding turkey flocks were positive for regulated serovars and the prevalence of the target serovars was 0%. No adult breeding flocks were positive for the regulated serovars in 2015 out of the total of 256 adult breeding flocks subject to at least one Official Control Sample during the year.

³⁶ As per the requirements of Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003

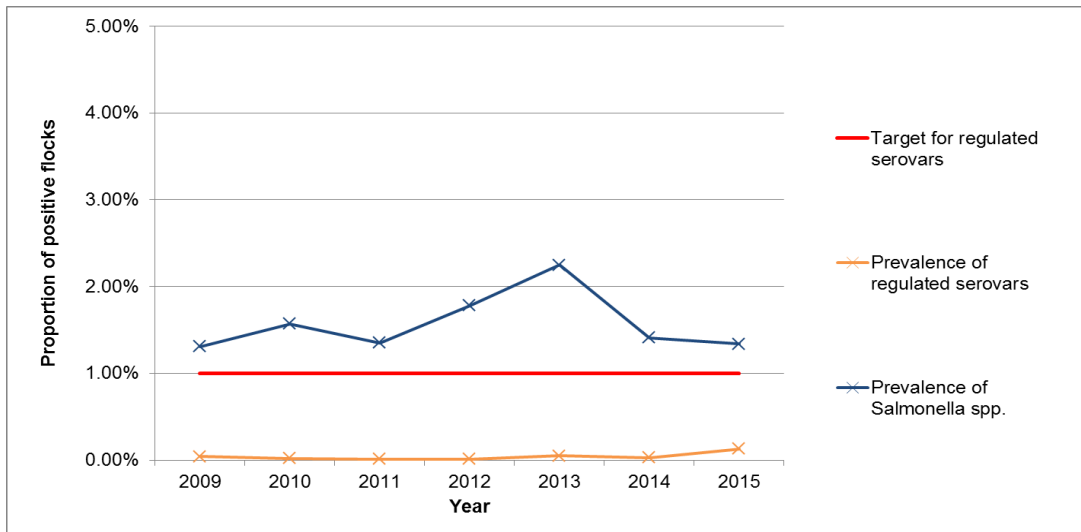
Prevalence of *Salmonella* spp. and the regulated serovars relative to the EU target in adult breeding flocks of *Gallus gallus* in the UK *Salmonella* National Control Programme from 2007 – 2015



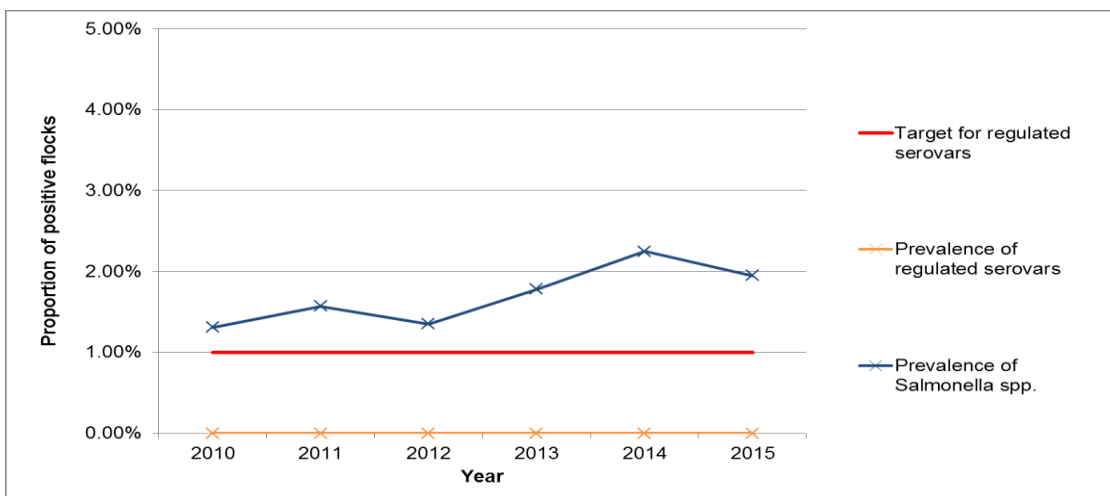
Prevalence of *Salmonella* spp. and the regulated serovars relative to the EU target in adult laying hen flocks of *Gallus gallus* in the UK *Salmonella* National Control Programme from 2008 – 2015



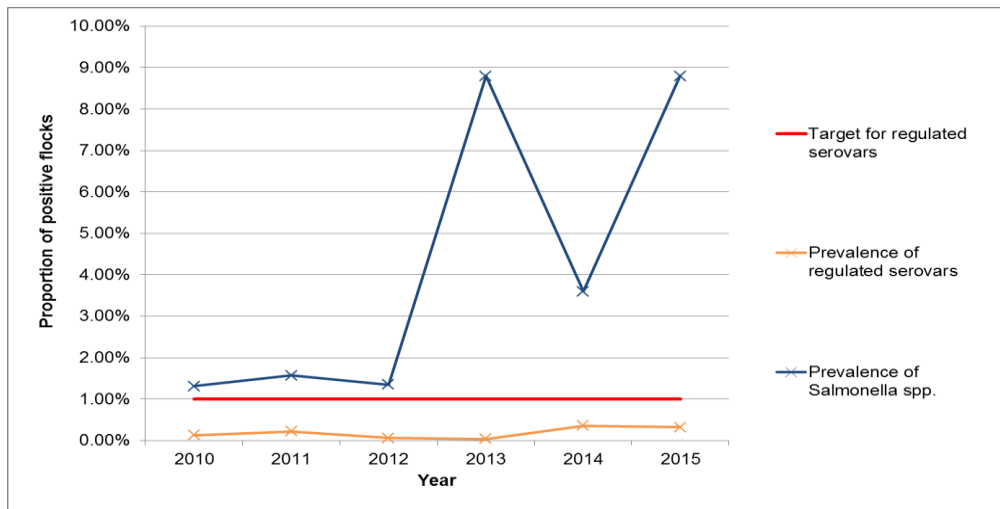
Prevalence of *Salmonella* spp. and the regulated serovars relative to the EU target for broiler flocks of *Gallus gallus* in the UK *Salmonella* National Control Programme from 2009 – 2015



Prevalence of *Salmonella* spp. and the regulated serovars relative to the EU target in breeding turkey flocks in the UK *Salmonella* National Control Programme from 2010 – 2015



Prevalence of *Salmonella* spp. and the regulated serovars relative to the EU target for fattening turkey flocks in the UK *Salmonella* National Control Programme from 2010 – 2015



2.217 The requirements for official sampling are laid out in Regulation 2160/2003 and implementing legislation. There were no significant changes in the intensity and type of controls from 2010 - 2015.

Number of flocks officially sampled (routine annual official control sampling) in the UK per year

Sector	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Breeding chickens	1,382	1,473	1,766	1,464	1,725
Laying chickens	1,485	1,371	1,411	1,398	1,633
Broilers	156	155	172	161	180
Turkeys	311	333	252	235	269

2.218 The assessment of FBO compliance with the requirements of the SNCP for all sectors in the UK indicated general overall compliance. In GB the criteria for defining a non-compliance and the number of compliance inspections varies between poultry sectors, so data can only be compared within a specific sector for the years reported and should not be compared between sectors. In GB most non-compliances were minor deviations from the required sampling schedule, or farm records being unclear or not kept fully up to date. No major non-compliances were reported for 2015 in NI. The criterion for defining a non-compliance is similar across the poultry and turkey sectors in NI.

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Total non-compliances	165	103	100	84 ³⁷	81 ³⁸

³⁷ GB figures only

³⁸ GB figures only

2.219 In England and Wales, laying chicken farms where there are major non-compliances detected have financial penalty notices issued for incomplete compliance with the requirements of the SNCP. The penalty notice data for the years 2012 – 2015 indicates a broadly stable trend in operator non-compliance with a slight increase in 2015³⁹: 30 penalty notices and 20 warning letters were issued in 2015. This financial penalty system is not used in Scotland and NI.

Border controls

2.220 EU legislation⁴⁰ requires that border inspection posts (BIPs) carry out 100% documentary and identity checks on imports of animals and animal products. Physical checks are carried out on all consignments of live animals and a set percentage of animal products laid down in Commission Decision 94/360 (1-10%, 20% or 50% depending on the product).

2.221 The level and nature of import controls are laid down in EU legislation so there is no flexibility to target particular types of consignments. Therefore, there were no significant changes during 2015 in respect of imports of products of animal origin. The number of consignments of animal products imported in 2015 was slightly lower at 57,980 compared with 58,710 in 2014. In the case of live animal imports the number of consignments rose from 8,987 in 2014 to 9,655 in 2015.

2.222 Compliance remains high for third country imports of animals and animal products. For products the 2015 figures are similar to the 2014 figures with 1.35% of consignments being rejected compared with 1.27% in 2014. 780 consignments were rejected in 2015 compared with 748 consignments in 2014. The major non-compliances are documentary errors, in particular absence of a health certificate or an invalid health certificate. This is likely to be because a lack of understanding or knowledge of the EU rules in the third country exporting authority. For live animals, 32 consignments were rejected in 2015 compared with 42 in 2014.

2.223 If the consignment presented a public or animal health risk, it was destroyed, otherwise the decision to re-export or destroy was made by the importer and destruction for animal products remained the most common enforcement action. For live animals most consignments were re-exported.

³⁹ 22 penalty notices and 11 warning letters were issued in 2014; 28 penalty notices and 13 warning letters were issued in 2013; and 27 penalty notices and 16 warning letters were issued in 2012

⁴⁰ Directive 97/78/EC requires 100% documentary and identity checks on imported animal products and Commission Decision 94/360/EC lays down the levels of physical checks. Directive 91/496/EEC requires that all imported animals are checked on entry to the EU. Operational targets are checked during APHA audits.

UK controls on imported consignments: Animal Products

Year	Certificates			Rejects		Reject conclusion		
	Total number	Number controlled	% controlled	number	% of total	Re-exported	Transformed	Destroyed
2012	57,698	57,685	100.0%	790	1.4%	245	4	530
2013	58,649	58,649	100.0%	820	1.4%	277	4	529
2014	58,710	58,710	100.0%	748	1.27%	222	3	513
2015	57,980	57,978	100.0%	780	1.35%	262	3	512

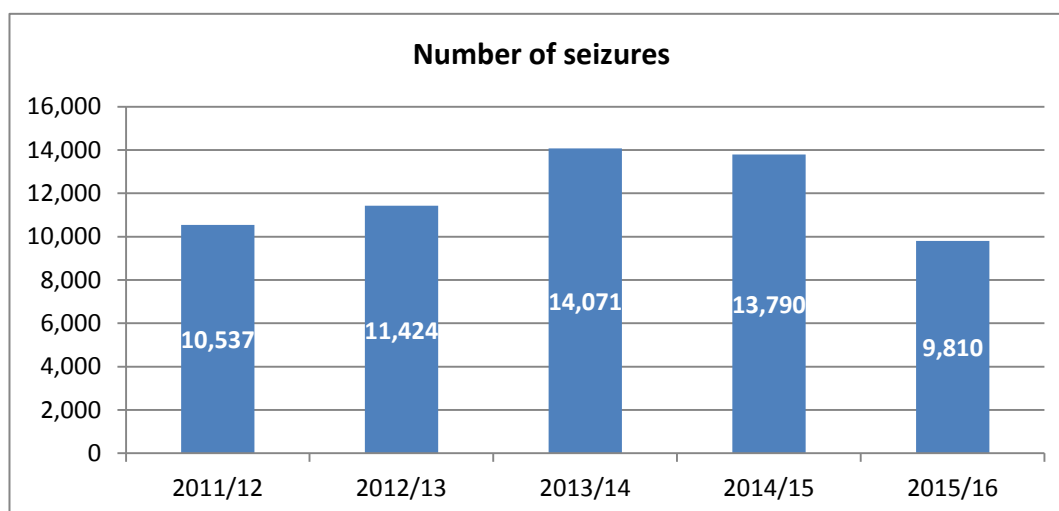
UK controls on imported consignments: Live Animals

Year	Certificates			Rejects		Reject conclusion		
	Total number	Number controlled	% controlled	number	% of total	Re-export	Slaughter	Euthanasia ⁴¹
2012	15,263	15,259	100.0%	103	0.7%	92	0	10
2013	9,754	9,754	100.0%	109	1.12%	102	0	7
2014	8,987	8,987	100.0%	42	0.47%	38	0	4
2015	9,655	9,646	99.91%	32	0.33%	23	0	9

Illegal imports⁴² controls of products of animal origin

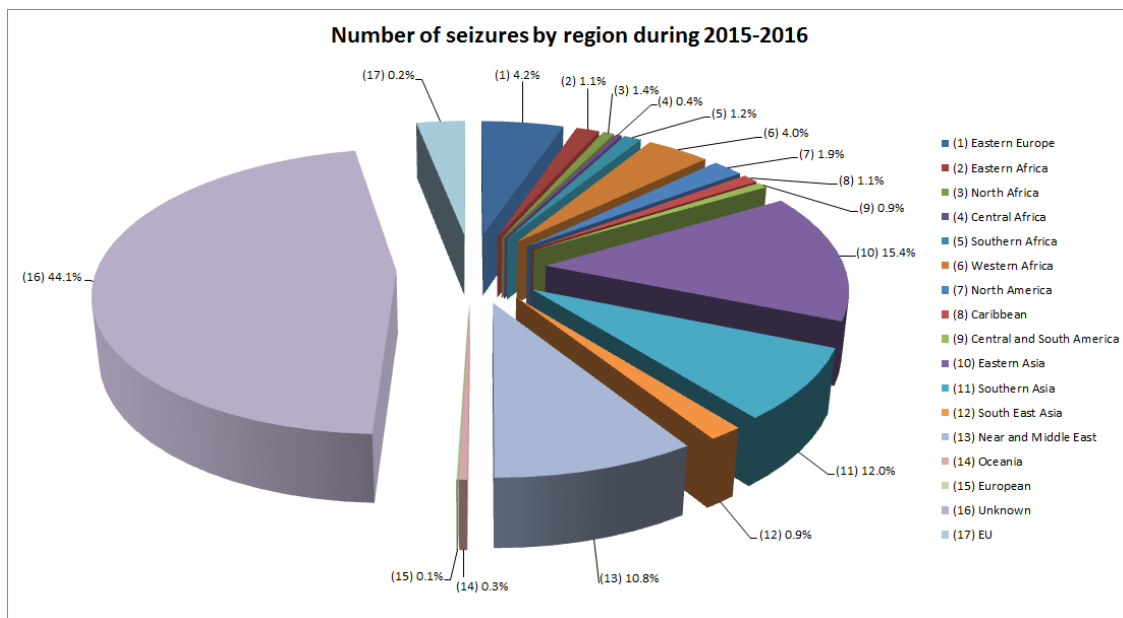
2.224 Between 2013/14 and 2014/15 at airports and ports the number of seizures of illegally imported products decreased by 2%, and between 2014/15 and 2015/16 the number of seizures decreased over 25%. Figures below show the number of seizures by Border Force, DARD and those made by inland LAs and Port Health Authorities at relevant UK points of entry.

Number of products of animal origin seized by region during 2015/16



⁴¹ Fish and Gastropoda

⁴² 'illegal' refers to products of animal origin seized as items from individuals being in contravention of the personal concessions permitted or commercial consignments that have sought to evade correct entry procedures by not being declared at a Border Inspection Post. These statistics also include items voluntarily surrendered by passengers at ports and airports.



2.225 The greatest number of seizures was from passengers returning from Southern and Eastern Asia, Near and Middle East and Western Africa. Cultural and sporting events (including celebrations as well as student terms) represent times when the level of seizures might be expected to increase. These have varied in size and product type, from unpackaged raw meat and fresh cheese to milk drinks and stock cubes. Most seizures continued to be less than 20 kgs and follow the typical pattern of small family groups, business people and students travelling to the UK.

2.226 During this reporting period most illegal imports detected were for small amounts and continued to be typically gifts by travellers visiting family (or returning from visiting family abroad) or seizures from tourists, business people and students travelling to the UK for the first time with foodstuffs for a special occasion or simply as ‘a taste of home’. Most did not involve deliberately smuggled goods but were from passengers who, in spite of government publicity campaigns, were simply not aware of the current rules and prohibitions in place for products of animal origin imports.

Bee health

England and Wales

2.227 In England and Wales, the National Bee Unit (NBU)⁴³ carried out a statutory inspection programme on behalf of Defra and the Welsh Government. Diagnostic support for the inspection programme is provided by Fera Science Limited. Details of the programmes are available on the NBU’s BeeBase website⁴⁴. Full details of the NBU’s inspections and pest and disease incidence in 2015 and in previous years, are also available on BeeBase.

2.228 The number of colonies infected with American Foul Brood (AFB) has remained fairly constant in recent years. The control of AFB is very effective,

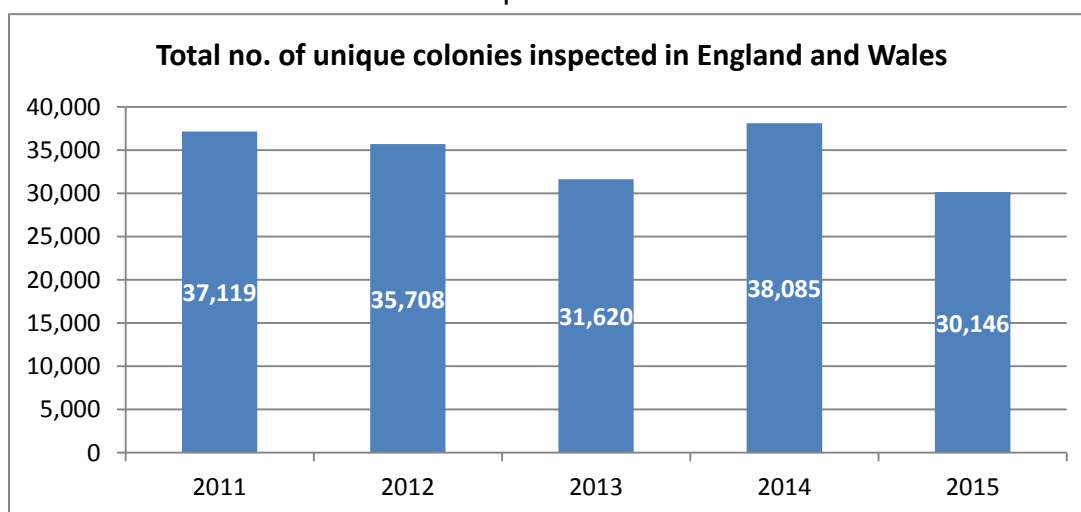
⁴³ From 1 October 2014 the NBU Inspectorate moved into the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA).

⁴⁴ nationalbeeunit.com

all infected colonies are destroyed and disease incidence in recent years is at the lowest levels since the controls began. European Foul Brood (EFB) is widespread in England and Wales and there are on-going research projects which aim to better understand the disease. The overall incidence has generally been in decline since 2000.

2.229 Honey samples were also collected under contract on behalf of the VMD for the National Surveillance Scheme. Approximately 100 samples are collected each year under Council Directive 96/23/EC⁴⁵; none of these samples were non-compliant.

2.230 A total of 30,146 unique colonies in 6,158 apiaries were inspected across England and Wales by the NBU's Bee Inspectors. For a short period of time in 2015 there were a number of vacancies in the NBU – this resulted in a slight decrease in the number of inspections carried out over the course of 2015.



2.231 Key Performance Indicators for laboratory diagnosis and field inspections were met, with two exceptions which were due to unique circumstances. Details are provided below:

Turnaround times on laboratory diagnosis and control measures on diseased apiaries

Type of sample	Target (Working days within which 95% of samples should be done)	Percent within target	Number of samples received
Statutory Exotics	1	95%	21
Voluntary Exotics	1	100%	167
Import Samples	4	100	2
Statutory Foulbrood	1	100%	603
Voluntary Foulbrood	1	89	9

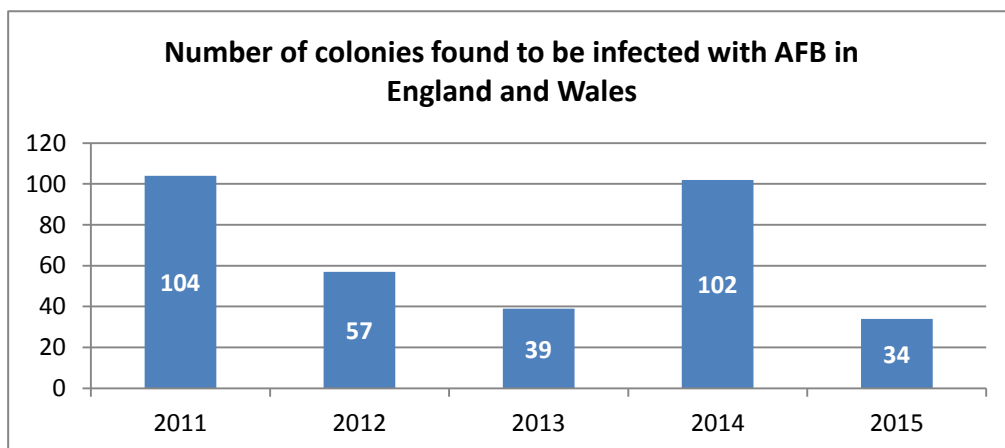
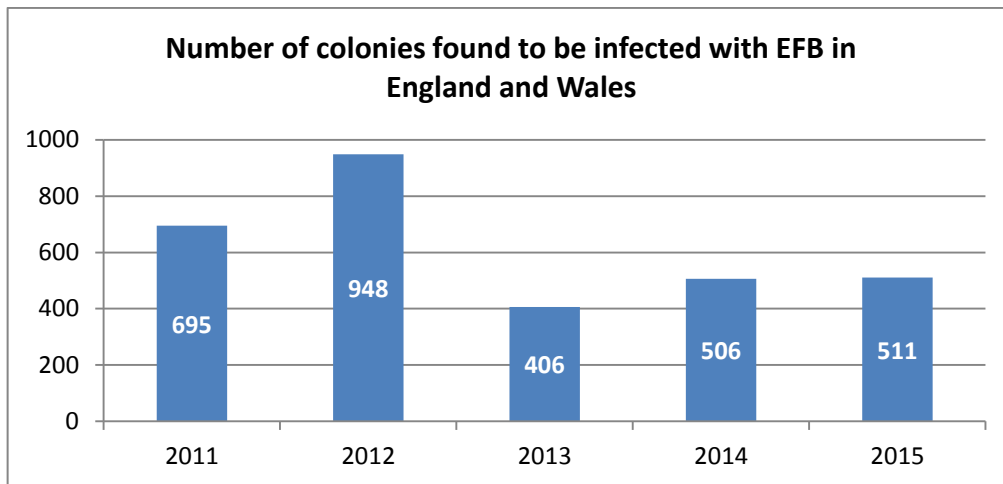
⁴⁵ ec.europa.eu/food/food/chemicalsafety/residues/council_directive_96_23ec.pdf

Field work/inspection:

- 230 colonies in 99 separate apiaries were treated by shook swarm/or OTC antibiotic: 79% within 10 days (mean treatment time 3 days);
- 427 colonies in 209 separate apiaries were controlled by destruction: 96% within 10 days (mean treatment time 2 days).

2.232 The NBU's inspection priorities are the detection and management of the statutory notifiable diseases, AFB and EFB, and surveillance for exotic pest species the Small hive beetle⁴⁶ and *Tropilaelaps mites*. The numbers of AFB cases over the past 10 years are relatively low. In terms of distribution, with the exception of Northern and South East England, at least one case of AFB was detected in each region. There were 34 cases of AFB in England and Wales in 2015.

2.233 There were 511 cases of EFB disease in England and Wales in 2015.



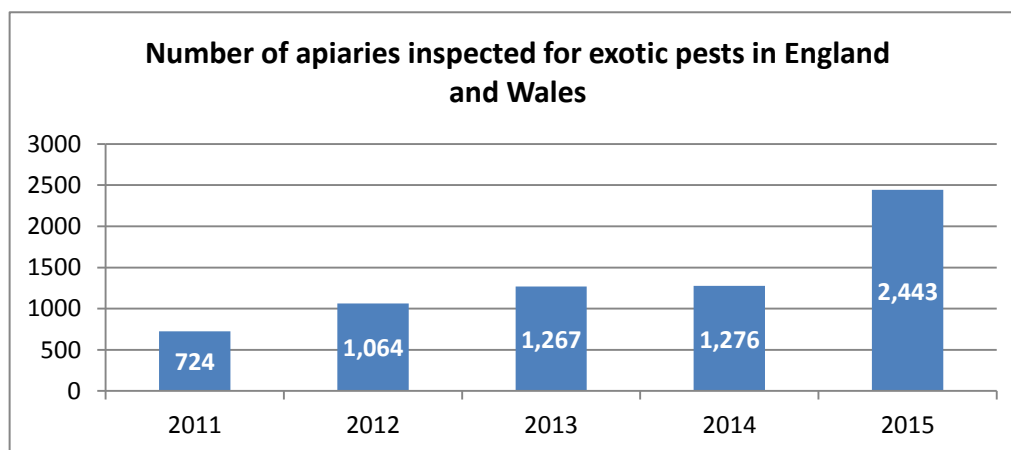
2.234 The NBU continued to search for the exotic pests Small hive beetle and *Tropilaelaps mites*. Neither of these pests was found in the UK. Surveillance programmes and the use of sentinel apiaries will continue.

2.235 A total of 11,177 colonies in 2,443 apiaries were specifically examined in

⁴⁶ *Aethina tumida*

England and Wales for the presence of exotic pests such as the Small hive beetle and *Tropilaelaps* mites. In addition, 167 samples were also submitted voluntarily by concerned beekeepers. None of these inspections revealed any exotic pests and no samples submitted by beekeepers tested positive. At present, both pests are believed to be absent from the UK.

- 2.236 The significant increase in exotic pest inspections in 2015 is due to a change of policy following consultation with beekeeping stakeholders. Responders to the consultation sought additional emphasis on surveillance for exotic pests, whilst monitoring endemics to ensure the continuation of existing low levels.



Scotland

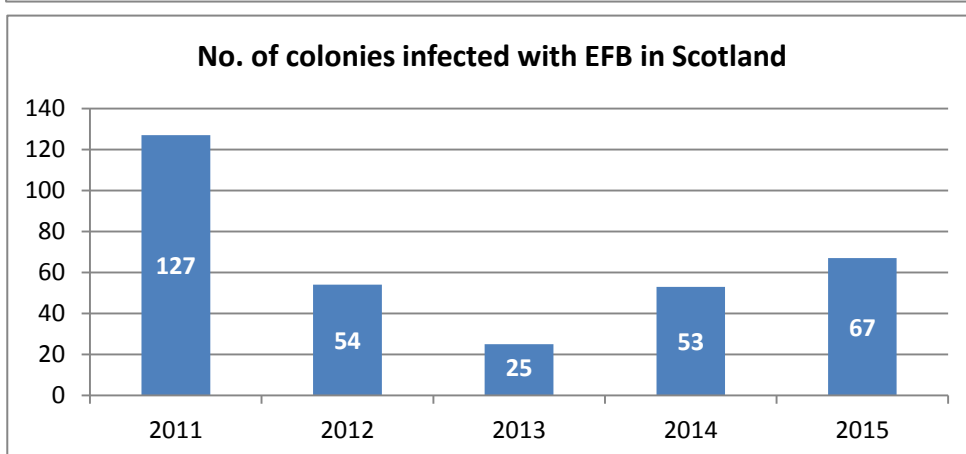
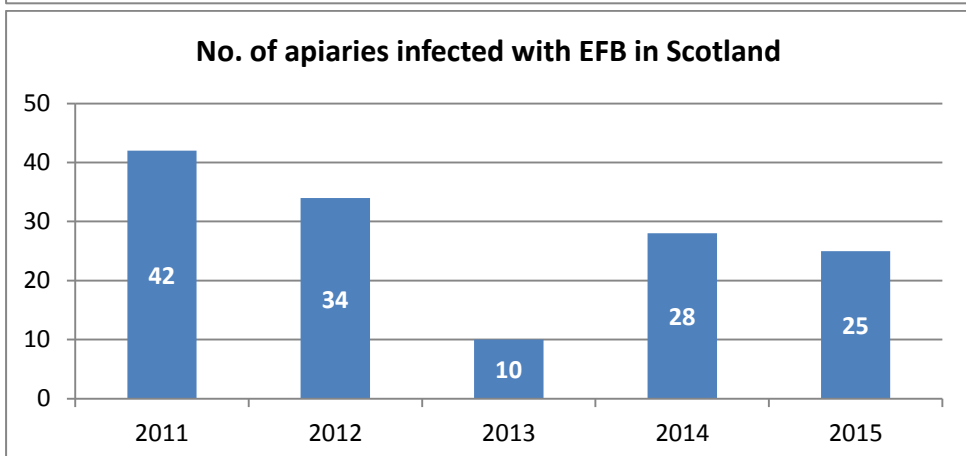
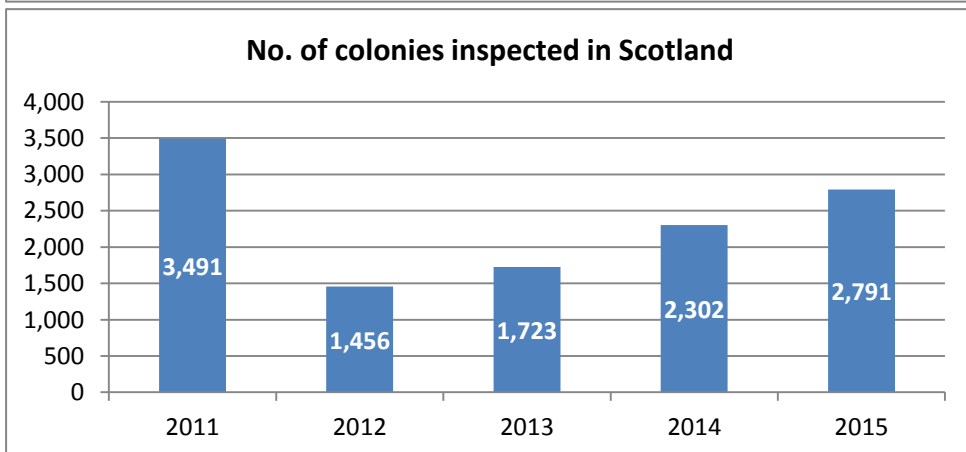
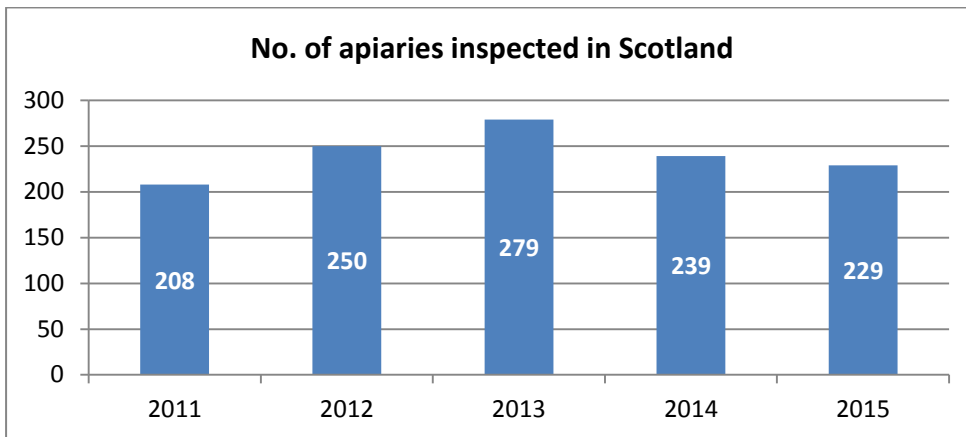
- 2.237 A Scottish Honey Bee Health Surveillance Programme⁴⁷ has continued to successfully identify cases of foulbrood as well as helping to provide a detailed picture of honey bee health in Scotland. It has allowed bee inspectors to continue with making their presence known in the local areas and improve engagement with beekeepers.

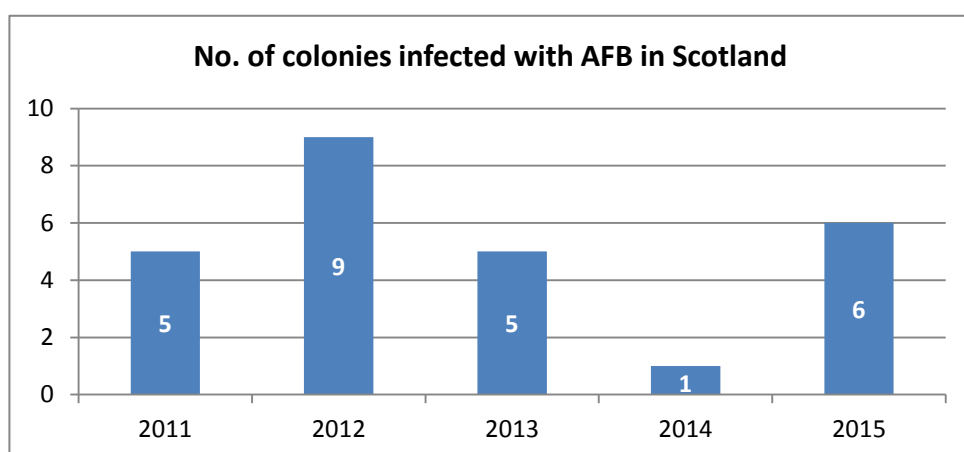
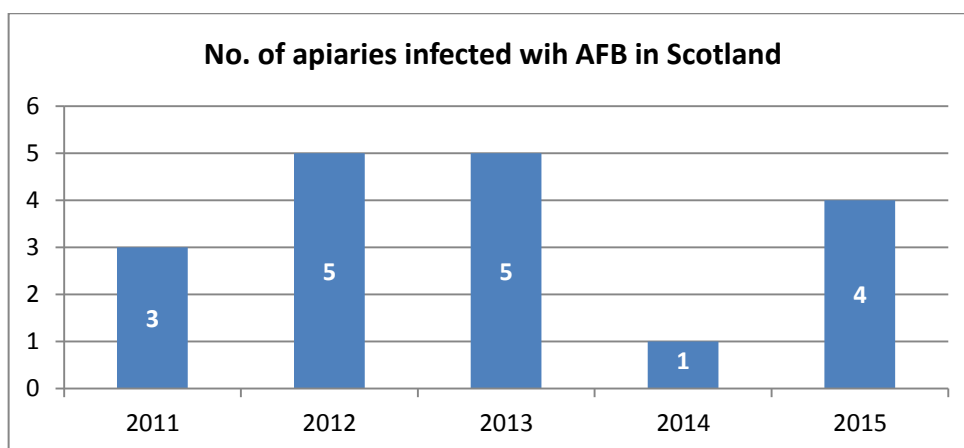
- 2.238 The Scottish Government EFB Control Plan⁴⁸ has been in operation since 2010, where commercial beekeepers⁴⁹ are able to complete their own initial disease inspection. The main element of the Plan was primarily dealing with cases of the disease in Tayside. The level of EFB has continued to reduce since the programme started. This reduction is not only in the number of colonies infected but also the density of disease which is steadily in decline. The EFB Control Plan brought together several agencies and stakeholders to deliver what is clearly a useful route to dealing with a crisis. Several simple measures adopted with a great degree of cooperation on all sides working in close partnership have been the marker of success. Results of the SG inspection programme are provided below.⁶⁵

⁴⁷ scotland.gov.uk/Topics/farmingrural/Agriculture/animal-welfare/bee/News/surveillanceinScotland

⁴⁸ scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0042/00423971.pdf

⁴⁹ who have successfully completed a training event and have been authorised by the SG





NI⁵⁰

2.239 The number of colonies infected with AFB has rose significantly in 2015, with 65 colonies in 40 apiaries recorded with the disease. All infected colonies were destroyed and apiaries within a 3 mile radius listed for a Foul Brood inspection EFB was also found at 5 apiaries in a total of 5 colonies. The decision was taken to destroy 4 colonies with the remaining one dealt with using shook swarm. Follow-up inspections were planned for 2016 to check the infected apiaries and complete surveillance inspections.

2.240 The Bee Inspectors continue to search for the exotic pests Small hive beetle and *Tropilaelaps mites*, mostly at targeted apiaries. Samples submitted have all remained negative for these pests. Following the Small hive beetle outbreak in Italy a Sentinel Apiary programme was set up in 2015 to support inspections and provide an early warning of any outbreaks of these pests in NI.

2.241 Honey samples were collected on behalf of VMD for the National Surveillance Scheme. No non-complaint residues have been recorded from the submitted samples.

2.242 A total of 161 apiaries were inspected in NI by DARD Bee Inspectors.

⁵⁰ dardni.gov.uk/index/animal-health-and-welfare/bees/bee-health.htm

Aquatic Animal Health

- 2.243 The planned official control programme on aquatic animal health was successfully completed and met the objectives and targets set out in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Defra and Cefas in England and Wales, Service Level Agreements established within Marine Scotland, and the MOU between DARD and the Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute Fish Disease Unit (FDU)⁵¹. The successful completion of the official control programme supported the maintenance of approved zone status for the UK for a number of serious diseases of fish and shellfish and contributed to the protection of our high aquatic animal health status.
- 2.244 Compliance by aquaculture production businesses (APBs) was good, reflecting the effectiveness of the inspection programmes, and the prompt and consistent actions taken in event of non-compliance.
- 2.245 The majority of non-compliances were administrative in nature and were dealt with through the provision of advice, warning letters, and enforcement notices followed by further inspections. These actions were generally sufficient to ensure good statutory compliance, with only infrequent need to take further action.

England and Wales

- 2.246 The intensity and the type of controls have remained relatively consistent over the past five years. With regard to APBs, 294 fish farms and 86 shellfish farms were subject to routine compliance inspection, with an additional 137 unscheduled compliance inspections on fish and shellfish farms, and sites under statutory control. A total of 109 samples from fish and 54 samples from shellfish were submitted for diagnostic testing for listed diseases, new and emerging diseases and cause of mortality. In addition, 158 official controls were undertaken relating to the application of disease controls on infected sites. The risk based import surveillance programme continued to be directed towards sources of live fish that have been demonstrated to be of higher risk in respect of the introduction of disease. Under the 2015 import surveillance programme a total of 42 samples were subject to diagnostic testing for listed diseases. A total of 11 statutory samples were taken from shellfish farms in relation to the *Oyster Herpesvirus* (OsHV-1 μ var)⁵² surveillance programme, and in support of disease freedom status for *Marteilia refringens*, and in continuance of the control programme for *Bonamia ostreae*. In addition, 1 sample was taken from crustacean farms in relation to monitoring for *White spot disease*. Finally 83 inspections were undertaken relating to the authorisation of 45 new APBs, and the de-authorisation of 25 businesses. The Fish Health Inspectorate also registers low risk aquaculture production businesses such as managed fisheries. In 2015, 1,043 fisheries were registered resulting in a total figure of 9,718 registered fisheries in England and Wales. The Fish Health Inspectorate undertakes inspections and sampling for veterinary residues on fish farms on behalf of the Veterinary

⁵¹ Responsible for the fish disease testing programme in NI

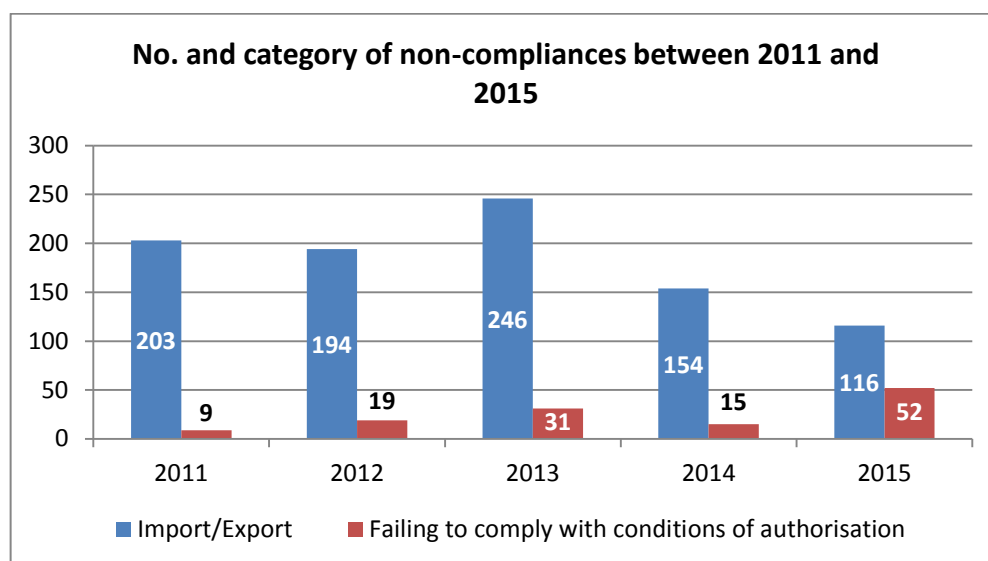
⁵² Controlled through national measure in accordance with Commission Decision 2011/187/EU

Medicines Directorate (VMD). In 2015, 65 samples were obtained. In addition the FHI completed 13 inspections on fish farms holding veterinary medicines mixing licences, again on behalf of the VMD.

- 2.247 As far as unplanned official controls are concerned oyster herpesvirus microvariant OsHV-1 μ var has continued to extend its range across the Pacific oyster *Crassostrea gigas* farming sector. An outbreak of OsHV-1 μ var was confirmed in the River Roach, Essex adjacent to the outbreak that occurred in the River Crouch in 2014, and the Confirmed Designation on Whitstable Bay, Kent was further extended along the north Kent coast due to outbreaks in wild Pacific oyster populations. Epidemiological studies concluded that these outbreaks were due to the natural spread of disease between contiguous populations of Pacific oysters. Finally in autumn 2015 OsHV-1 μ var was detected in the River Teign in Devon. The source of the infection remains unknown as the location is geographically distant from other infected areas. Confirmed Designations were revised to take into account the new distribution of the disease.
- 2.248 Investigations are continuing into a number of unexplained mortalities in shellfish populations in shellfish farms and wild stocks in England and Wales. A variety of pathogens have been identified as potential causes of mortality, including the bacterium *Vibrio aestuarianus* and the parasite *Haplosporidium nelsoni*. However, in most cases the definitive cause of mortality was not identified. Further work on unexplained shellfish mortalities is planned using newly developed diagnostic methods.
- 2.249 A comprehensive review of the conditions of designation that apply to shellfish farms and shellfish harvesting areas was completed to ensure consistency in approach across the different shellfish diseases. As a result of this review all shellfish Confirmed Designation areas were re-issued and updated on the GOV.UK website.
- 2.250 There was a decrease in the number of outbreaks of the non-exotic disease of common carp Koi Herpesvirus (KHV) disease as compared with the previous year with 11 sites subject to statutory controls through confirmed designations in 2015⁵³. 2015 saw the first outbreak of KHV disease in Wales. The number and severity of KHV disease outbreaks appear to be closely linked to environmental conditions and particularly ambient water temperatures that prevail in late spring. In 2015 comparatively low water temperatures are thought to have contributed to the lower number of KHV disease outbreaks as compared with the previous year. Statutory controls were removed from 7 sites as a result of the successful completion of a four year inspection and surveillance programme which demonstrated that infection was no longer present in the waters. As a result of the conclusions of an epidemiological study, a new policy on KHV disease retesting on infected waters was adopted in 2015 which will be the final year of disease surveillance using sentinel fish. Future surveillance on KHV disease infected sites will comprise four years of inspections, with a minimum of two inspections per year. The incidence of KHV disease in the ornamental fish

⁵³ as compared with 23 outbreaks in 2014, 15 outbreaks in 2013, 6 outbreaks in 2012 and 6 outbreaks in 2011

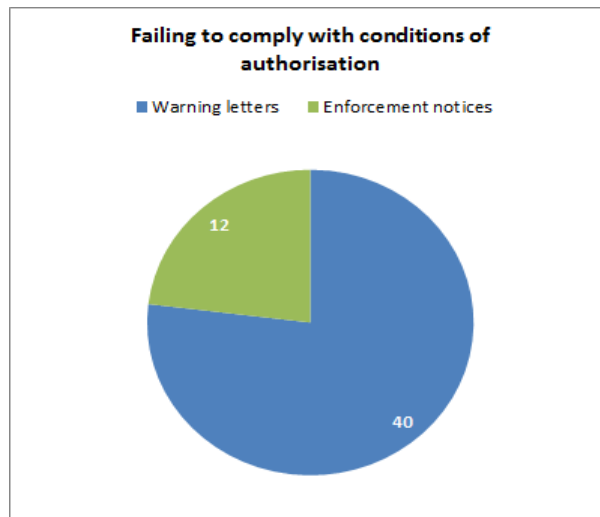
wholesale sector continues to decline with no outbreaks identified in 2015. This decline in the incidence of infection may be due to improved levels of awareness and enhanced biosecurity in this sector.



2.251 There was a significant increase in the number of warning letters (40) and enforcement notices (12) served on APB's as compared with 2014 (15 in total). This increase in non-compliance is primarily related to the increase in the number of managed fisheries subject to statutory controls following outbreaks of KHV disease and failures to comply with conditions of confirmed designation. FHI made considerable effort to improve engagement with the fisheries sector which has resulted in a significant increase in the flow of intelligence from other government agencies and from stakeholders about failures to comply with statutory requirements. As a consequence the FHI has increased the number of unannounced visits to sites under confirmed designation which have identified a number of non-compliances.

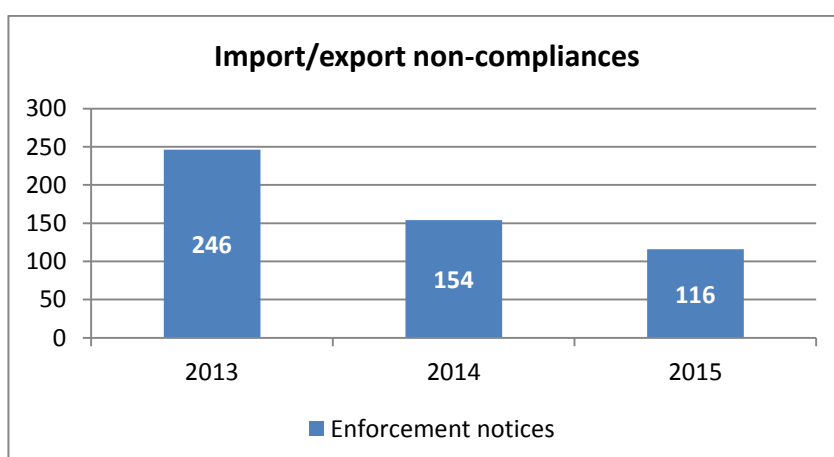
2.252 A combination of advice, warning letters, and enforcement notices has proven to be sufficient to achieve good compliance by businesses. The FHI is continuing to place emphasis improving awareness about biosecurity and protecting fish stocks against incursions of disease within this sector with a view to improving levels of compliance with statutory requirements.

2.253 The FHI undertook one successful prosecution of a business in 2015 arising from the illegal movement of live Pacific oysters from an infected area in contravention of the conditions of a confirmed designation due to the presence of oyster herpesvirus OsHV-1 μ var. This illegal movement is considered to be the route of introduction of oyster Herpesvirus into the River Crouch, Essex in 2014.



2.254 As far as trade is concerned import and export activities remained high with the FHI issuing 381 health certificates for the export of aquatic animals from England and Wales. This is a slight increase from the number of health certificates issued in 2014 indicating that trade in live shellfish exports is continuing to be buoyant. Non-compliances, all relating to the import of aquatic animals, have continued to show a significant decrease over recent years from 246 in 2013, 154 in 2014, to 116 in 2015.

2.255 This is considered to be due to increased engagement by the FHI with importers and with trade bodies over a number of years, and the provision of advice and guidance to encourage better compliance with import requirements. The majority of non-compliances are associated with irregularities in certification requirements by third country authorities rather than non-compliance by recipient stakeholder businesses. This type of non-compliance presents a relatively low risk to aquatic animal health in England and Wales as most fish are destined for secure facilities. Nevertheless it is important to maintain levels of enforcement in this area in order to prevent this type of non-compliance spreading to higher risk activities.



2.256 The aquatic animal health surveillance programme on imports of live aquatic animals from third countries has continued to provide an important measure in preventing the introduction of serious diseases into the UK. The 2015 risk based import surveillance programme found no evidence for the presence of listed diseases in imported consignments of live fish.

- 2.257 The FHI initiative to continue with a high level of engagement with trade bodies and with businesses importing live fish has resulted in improved levels of compliance, with less than half the number of enforcement notices issued in 2015 as compared with 2013.
- 2.258 Illegal importation of live freshwater fish represents the biggest risk to the aquatic animal health status of England and Wales. In 2015, the FHI continued to implement a proactive approach to illegal importation and undertook a number of intelligence-led interceptions of consignments of fish. The FHI works in accordance with the National Intelligence Model (NIM) and has introduced a database for the storage and analysis of intelligence. This has resulted in improved intelligence exchanges with other regulatory bodies, and facilitated better cooperation with other Government Agencies such as Border Force in the investigation of illegal activities.
- 2.259 During 2010-15 no businesses were closed as a result of actions arising from official controls.

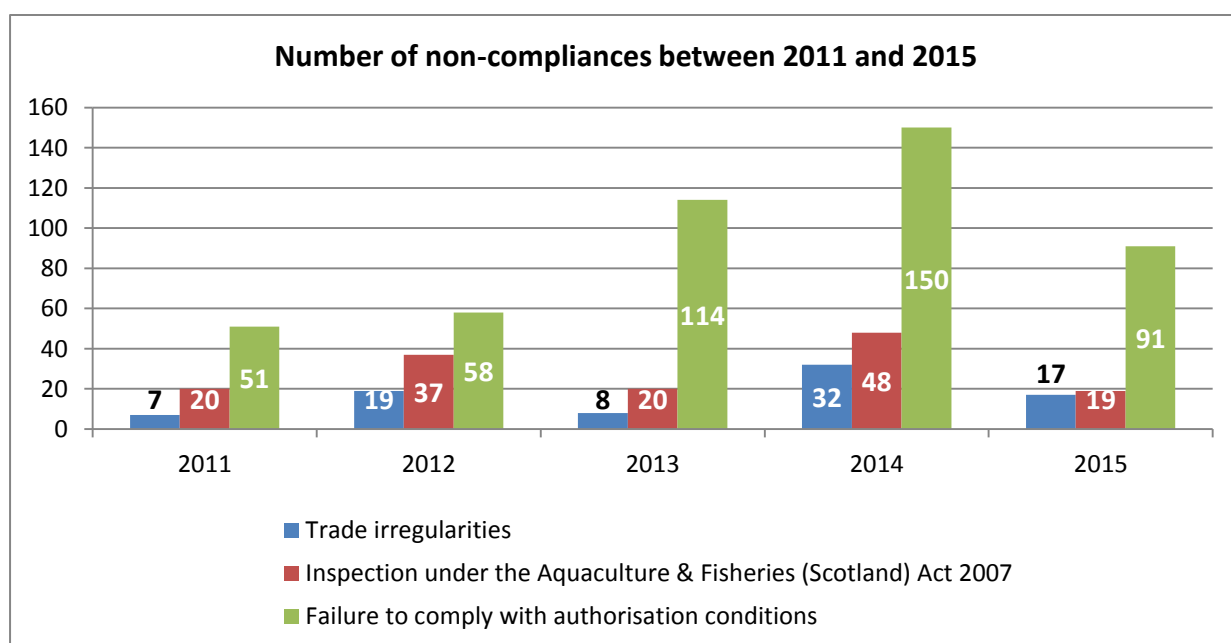
Scotland

- 2.260 In accordance with the Risk Based Surveillance scheme⁵⁴, 213 inspections relating to fish farms and 103 inspections relating to shellfish farms were conducted in 2015. Four statutory inspections and 4 statutory samples were taken to determine the presence of Bacterial Kidney Disease (BKD)⁵⁵. Throughout the inspection process a total of 13 unannounced inspections were conducted.
- 2.261 A total of 58 diagnostic samples were taken from fish and shellfish in response to notifications of mortality, suspicion of disease, or through routine active inspection involving the observation of clinical and post mortem signs of disease. Further details of diagnostic samples are available at: scotland.gov.uk/Topics/marine/Fish-Shellfish/FHI/CaseInformation/anrep2013.
- 2.262 Through a contractual arrangement with the VMD a total of 1,383 samples were collected from finfish aquaculture sites. These samples were submitted to the FERA Science Limited for analysis with respect to residues of chemotherapeutants or environmental contamination. No non-compliant results were confirmed.
- 2.263 Document checks associated with consignments of live aquatic animals introduced into Scotland from neighbouring EU countries were conducted for 275 introductions. Ten applications to import stock from third countries into Scotland were processed. Inspection of all consignments for placing on the market along with the issuing of appropriate animal health certificates was conducted in 9 cases to facilitate trade.

⁵⁴ Conducted in line with Council Directive 2006/88/EC

⁵⁵ Listed in accordance with The Aquatic Animal Health (Scotland) Regulations 2009

- 2.264 Marine Scotland FHI did not meet the inspection target of 10% of consignments introduced into Scotland due to a legislative change through the introduction of the Trade in Animals and Related Products (Scotland) Regulations 2012 (TARP). Marine Scotland policy officers are actively addressing this issue through proposed amendments to the regulations. Contingency measures have been identified which can allow Marine Scotland's FHI to inspect consignments being introduced.
- 2.265 In 2015, one fish farm site and one research establishment had movement restrictions placed for the presence or suspected presence of clinical BKD. There were three cases where movement restrictions in place for BKD were revoked. A total of 6 sites had movement restrictions in place for suspicion or confirmation of BKD⁵⁶. A policy change introduced in 2011 resulted in control measures being placed on the presence of clinical disease only as opposed to the previous policy of clinical disease and/or the presence of the pathogen *Renibacterium salmoninarum*, the causative agent of BKD. This change explains the reduction in controls placed over this period.
- 2.266 Movement restrictions for *Bonamia ostreae*⁵⁷ remained in place in two sea water lochs in Scotland, as they have been since 2006 and 2007.
- 2.267 The aquaculture sector in Scotland shows a significant level of compliance with legislation to control aquatic animal disease. This is evidenced by the number of instances of non-compliance compared to the number of active sites⁵⁸ and the fact that the majority of non-compliances are not considered significant in relation to the risk of contracting or spreading serious aquatic animal disease.



⁵⁶ Listed in accordance with 2006/88/EC

⁵⁷ Listed in accordance with 2006/88/EC

⁵⁸ There are presently approximately 750 active fish and shellfish sites in Scotland

Details of outcomes of the non-compliances found in Scotland during 2015

Category of non-compliance	Number	Enforcement Actions
Trade irregularities	17	All cases involving minor non-compliances were resolved through communication with the importer.
Inspection under the Aquaculture and Fisheries (Scotland) Act 2007 & 2013	19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11 cases where recommendations were made with deadlines for actions imposed • 8 cases related to anomalies in record keeping All issues were resolved.
Failing to comply with authorisation conditions	91	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 77 cases related to anomalies in record keeping • 14 cases involved breaches in authorisation conditions All cases were resolved through issuing advice.

2.268 The main types of non-compliance were administrative in nature, most notably relating to 'failing to comply with authorisation conditions' and relate directly to the maintenance of site records. There appears to be an increase in compliance in 2015 in comparison to both 2013 and 2014.

2.269 Risk based enhanced inspections continued to be conducted in accordance with AFSA⁵⁹ during 2015. Analysis of the number of inspections in comparison to the number of non-compliances suggests an increase in the level of compliance during 2015⁶⁰.

2.270 A reduction in trade irregularities was observed during 2015 in comparison to 2014. It is unknown if any non-compliances would have been detected should the normal operational activity of inspecting 10% of introductions been undertaken.

2.271 During 2010-15 no businesses were closed as a result of actions arising from official controls.

NI

2.272 The intensity and the type of controls have remained relatively consistent over the past five years and, given the relatively small number of farms⁶¹ and close geographical location in NI, all operational farms are inspected annually.

2.273 With regard to APBs, 27 fish farms and 40 shellfish farms were subject to compliance inspections. In addition, a total of 20 samples from finfish farms

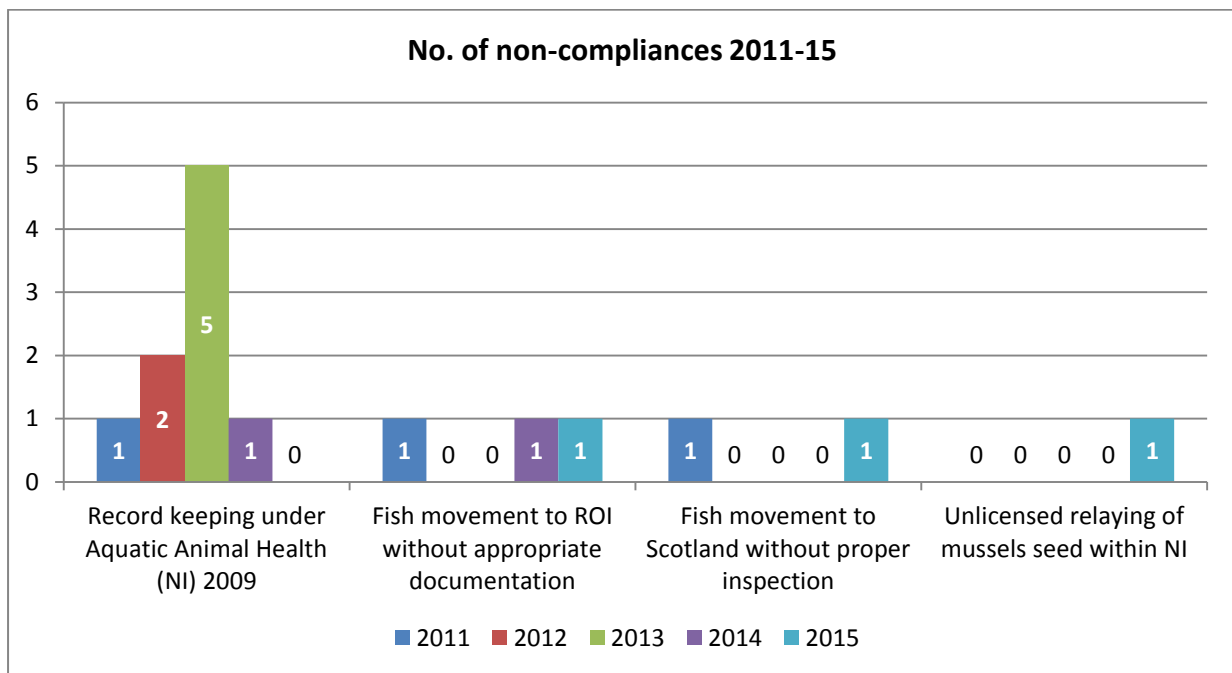
⁵⁹ Aquaculture and Fisheries (Scotland) Act 2007 (as amended)

⁶⁰ 2011 – 20 cases of non-compliance from 24 inspections = 83% non-compliance; 2012 – 37 cases of non-compliance from 45 inspections = 82% non-compliance; 2013 - 20 cases of non-compliance from 30 inspections = 67% non-compliance; 2014 - 48 cases of non-compliance from 58 inspections = 83% non-compliance; 2015 – 19 cases of non-compliance from 38 inspections = 50% non-compliance

⁶¹ 36 authorised finfish farms and 54 authorised shellfish sites

and 8 samples from shellfish sites were submitted for diagnostic testing for listed diseases, new and emerging diseases and cause of mortality. Inspections were carried out on 359 exports and 146 imports for fish health purposes. Inspection targets were achieved for salmonid imports (80%) and exports (100%), shellfish exports (40%) and imports (40%), and live coldwater exports (100%) and imports (40%) to open systems.

- 2.274 Seed muscle imports from England and Wales continued in 2015 as in previous years. Consignments continued to be moved with the appropriate Health Certification in order to maintain traceability of seed movements and provide reassurance around movement of non- mussel species onto NI sites.
- 2.275 There were no disease outbreaks in 2015. Confirmed Designation Notices remain in place for Strangford Lough and Lough Foyle (for *Bonamia*) and Carlingford Lough, Strangford Lough, Lough Foyle and Killough Bay (for OsHV).⁶²
- 2.276 Compliance across the aquatic animal health sector in NI is high with a good working relationship and communications between FHI and APB operators.



2.277 For the last five years (2011-15), there were 15 instances of non-compliance, all of which were dealt with by way of formal written warning. There were only 3 minor instances of non-compliance in NI in 2015.

Official controls in animal welfare sector

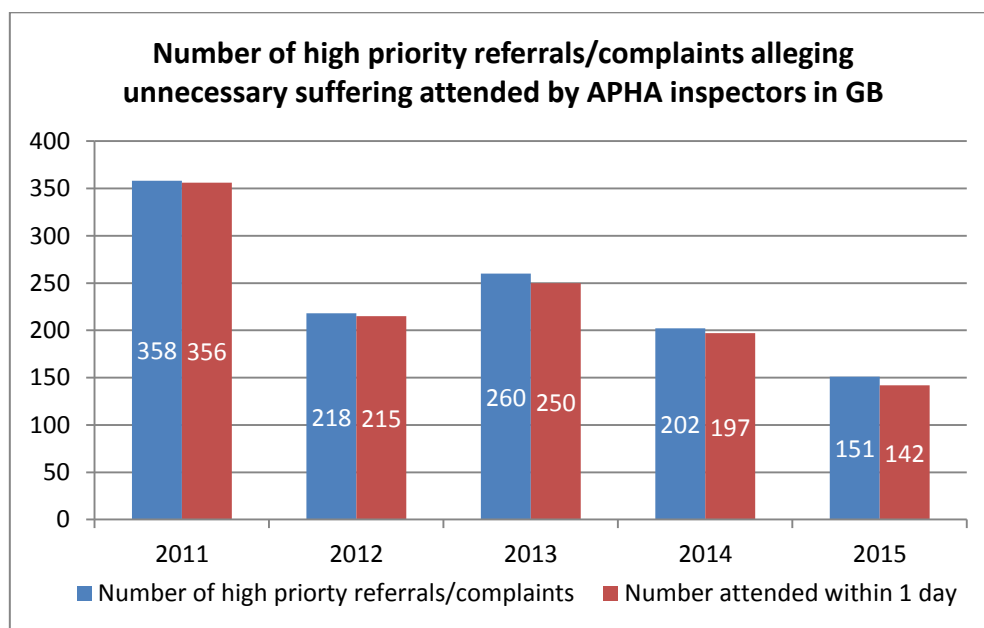
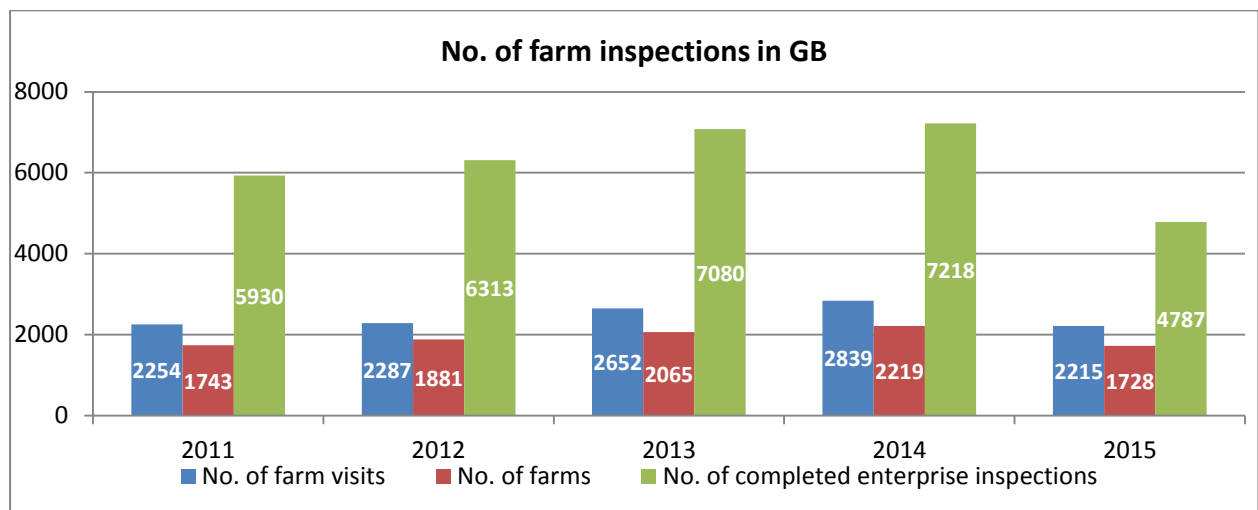
2.278 There were some organisational changes to the operation of official animal welfare controls during 2015. Most controls remained the responsibility of APHA and LAs in GB and DARD in NI. Defra, the SG and WG continued to

⁶² dard-ni.gov.uk/publications/designation-notices-northern-ireland

delegate the responsibility for animal welfare controls in approved slaughterhouses in England to the FSA Operations team and in Scotland to Food Standards Scotland (FSS). Welfare at slaughter and killing on-farm e.g. in LA approved slaughterhouses and during disease control situations, continued to be monitored by APHA. In England from September 2015 all complaints of poor welfare were channelled centrally through a single point of contact (SPOC), rather than direct to local offices. Data for 2015 is now solely collected through one data system, "SAM", and there are some changes to presentation of data due to data records kept on this system

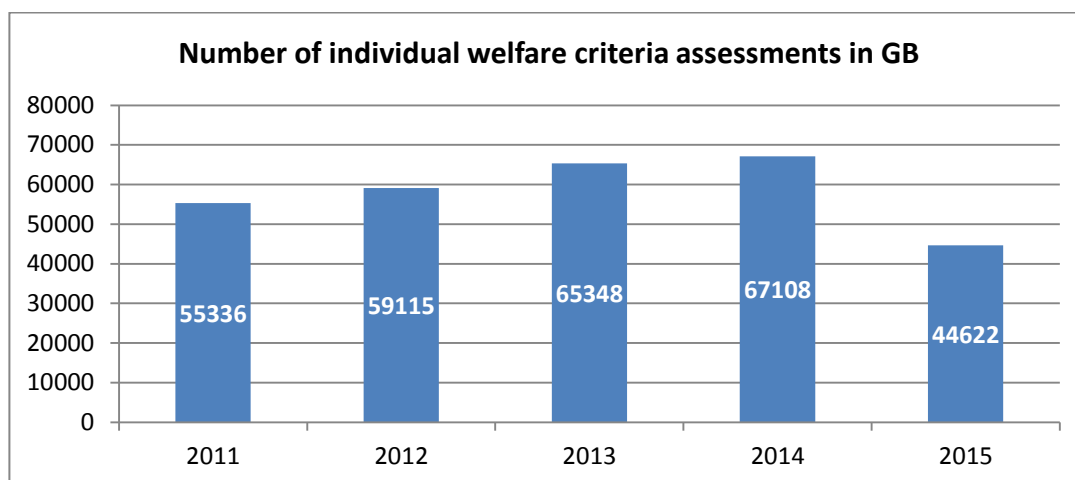
On-farm animal welfare

2.279 In 2015 there was a marked reduction in farm and enterprise visits. The number of enterprise types inspected at each visit (for example different species or different production systems) also dropped from 2.5 (in 2014) to 2.2 enterprises per visit). The number of repeat visits in 2015 (to a farm inspected the same year) comprised 22% of all visits.



2.280 All complaints and allegations of poor welfare are risk assessed by a

veterinary officer and high priority visits carried out as a matter of urgency. As the graph above shows, in 2015, 151 of the total number of referrals and complaints were assessed as high priority of which 142 (95.3%) were visited within 24 hours of receipt of the complaint.



2.281 The number of individual welfare criteria assessments dropped in 2015, reflecting the reduced number of total farm visits and the reduced number of enterprises assessed at each visit. In 2015, the level of compliance on farms in GB was similar to that recorded in previous years and overall, approximately 95.7% of category assessments indicated compliance with relevant European and domestic legislation, in line with performance in the previous four years.

Welfare non-compliance only (C score) in GB

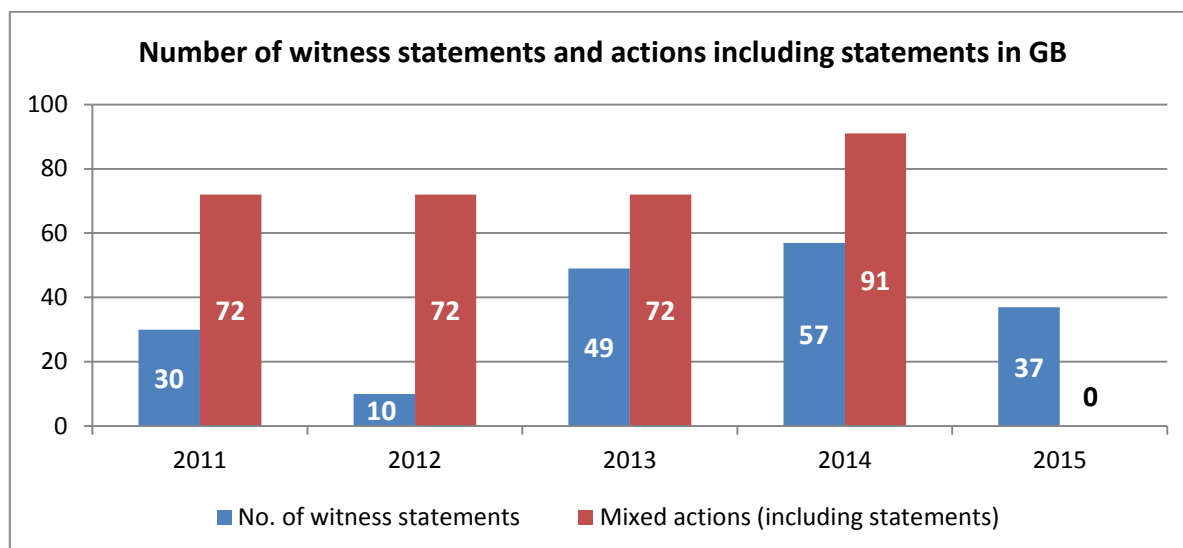
Year	Number of non-compliances per 1,000 assessments	Number of enterprises (% of total inspected) with overall C score	Advisory letters issued
2010	32	881 (12%)	376
2011	33	839 (14%)	355
2012	31	775 (12%)	274
2013	40	1,065 (15%)	266
2014	36	1,062 (15%)	237
2015	37	732 (15%)	205

Welfare non-compliance with unnecessary suffering (D score) in GB

Year	Unnecessary suffering found per 1,000 assessments	Number of enterprises (% of total inspected) with overall D score	Average number of days to clear D score
2010	8	286 (3.8%)	11.8
2011	6	213 (3.6%)	20.6
2012	5	187 (3.0%)	16.0
2013	9	308 (4.4%)	12.9
2014	7	215 (2.9%)	16.2
2015	6	158 (3.3%)	15.1

2.282 The results of inspection visits are classified into four score categories - A to D. The overall level of non-compliance (C scores) and the level of unnecessary suffering (D scores) are very similar to 2014.

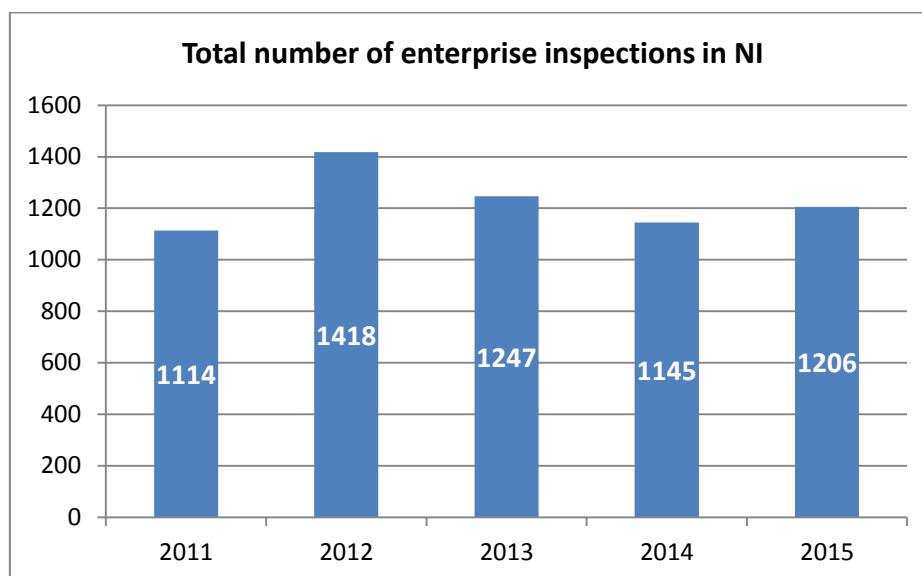
2.283 As in previous years, the welfare criteria with the most non compliances related to buildings and accommodation hazards, record keeping, provision of feed, water and other substances, disease treatment and staff competence/skills.



*Please note that from 2015 any statement produced in association with a farm inspection is captured individually and a “mixed action” is no longer required in the database recording / reporting process

2.284 During 2015, APHA provided witness statements in association with 37 farms to enforcement bodies such as LAs and to Non-Governmental Organisations such as the Scottish Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (for Scotland) and the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (for England & Wales) in support of legal action. Additional statements provided for some farms, either in association with the same offences or additional offences, during the same inspection year are not included.

2.285 In 2015 DARD completed 1,206 production site inspections with an overall compliance rate of 91%. Of the 329 non-compliances reported on 112 sites detected by DARD, 44% of these non-compliances were category C breaches (as described by Commission Decision 2006/778/EC). The most common failures related to inspection, record keeping, staff training, provision of feed and water, and buildings and accommodation hazards. These are similar to 2014. In NI, any farm animal non-compliances found were referred to the Single Farm Payment agency and an improvement notice or cover letter was served.



Year	Compliance rate at enterprise inspection level	Number of non-assessment level	Number of sites with non-compliances	% of non-compliant sites with category C ⁸¹ non-compliance
2010	84%	3	132	7%
2011	89%	2	122	45%
2012	95%	4	65	16%
2013	94%	3	75	34.5%
2014	95%	3	70	30.8%
2015	91%	*	112	56.2%

Meat Chicken Directive

2.286 GB has implemented the Meat Chicken Directive (2007/43/EC) through the Welfare of Farmed Animals Regulations⁶³. The meat chicken directive is implemented in NI by the Welfare of Farmed Animals Regulations (NI) 2012. APHA, FSA Operations and FSS deliver a system for all eligible flocks resulting in all trigger reports generated being assessed for further action. DARD operates similar procedures.

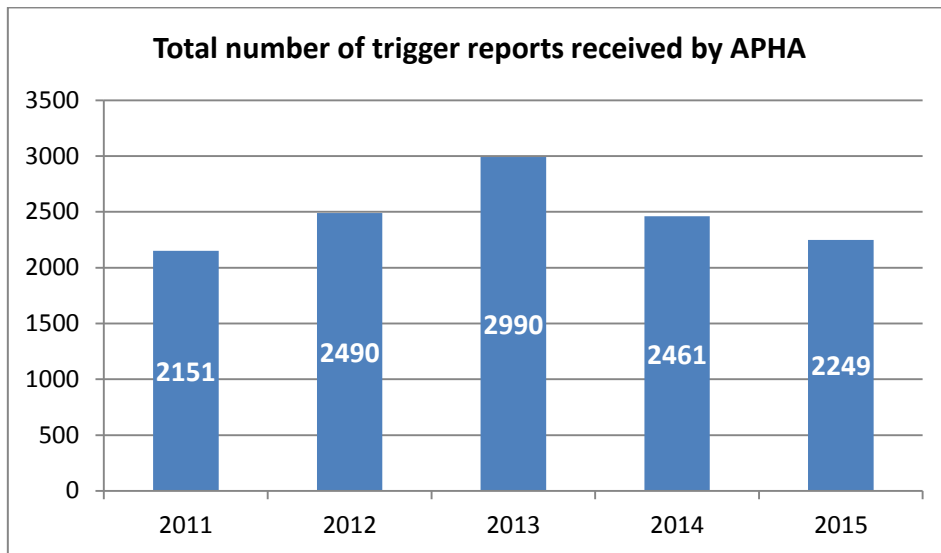
2.287 During 2015, APHA received 2,249 trigger reports from FSA Operations and FSS in GB. This represents a decrease over the number of reports received compared with the previous three years. Following assessment and initial contact with the producer, the actions taken are shown in the table below.

⁶³ WOFAR legislation amendments available at:

England: [Welfare of Farmed Animals \(England\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2010](#)

Scotland: [Welfare of Farmed Animals \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulation 2010](#)

Wales: [Welfare of Farmed Animals \(Wales\) \(Amendment\) Regulation 2010](#)



Actions taken following receipt of trigger reports by APHA

Actions	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Cases assessed as "resolved or not eligible under 2007/43/EC"	1,448	1,742	2,242	2,435	2,249
Classified as "current action under 2007/43/EC is sufficient"	465	379	952	330	287
Action Plans requested	199	245	471	150	149
Inspections carried out	12	13	5	31	29

2.288 Combined APHA/DARD data are presented below for 2011-15 with respect to actions taken following receipt of trigger reports.

Trigger reports	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Number of trigger reports received	2,245	2,609	3,231	2,861	2,519
Number assessed	2,245	2,531	3,128	2,838	2,508
Number resolved following assessment	1,513	1,762	2,397	2,587	2,253
Number for which current action under 2007/43/EC is sufficient	475	379	952	330	287
Number for which an Action Plan requested, received and approved	218	331	581	253	213
Number for which an advisory visit carried out	29	47	167	2	0
Number for which an inspection carried out	14	14	21	36	42
Number recommended to reduce stocking density	0	0	1	2	1
Number for which further enforcement action taken	1	4	2	6	0

Animal welfare during transport

2.289 The Annual Report on the Protection of Animals during Transport covering 2015 was produced and submitted to the Commission on 28 June 2016⁶⁴.

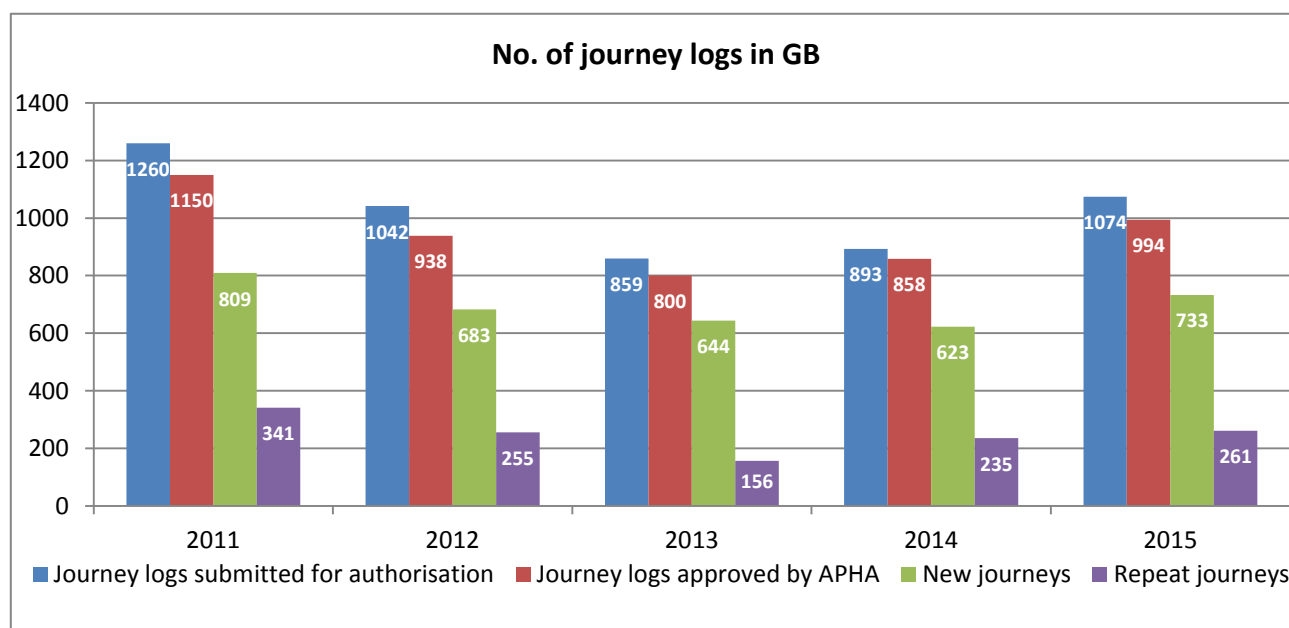
2.290 Inspections are carried out in the UK on a risk basis and in response to intelligence received. Inspection programmes are planned by APHA and LAs in GB through local liaison. DARD performs these activities in NI. Findings are kept under review and local action taken as appropriate where any major deficiencies are detected.

Number of Transporter authorisations in GB

Year	New Applications	New Authorised	Refused	Applications for re-authorisations
2011	1,076	1,075	1	5,433
2012	895	895	0	19,584
2013	688	688	0	3,904
2014	668	665	3	872
2015	844	680	0	55*

* There were only 55 applications during this period for renewal due to the 5 year cycle process.

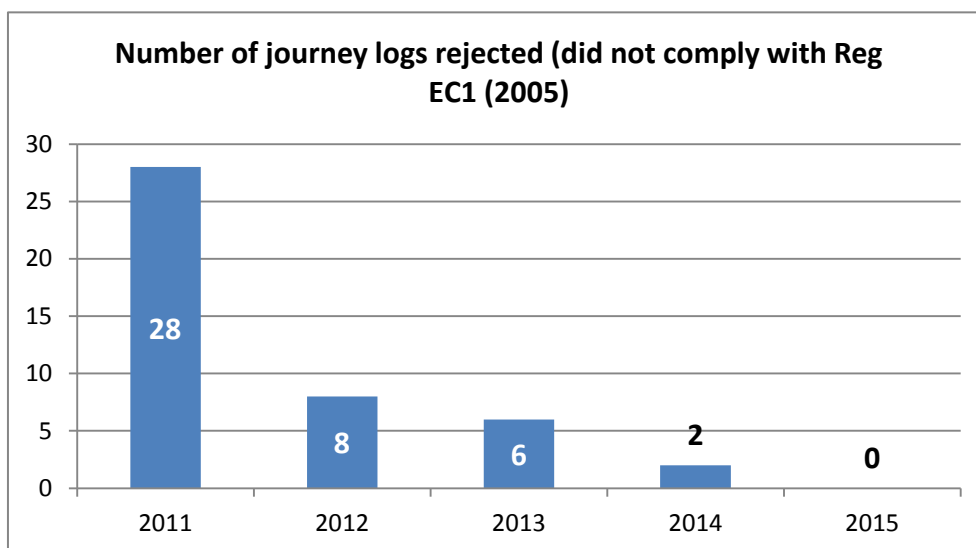
2.291 In GB, 680 of the 884 new transporter authorisation applications were issued. In NI, DARD issued 150 transporter authorisations in 2015 (this compares with 164 transporter authorisations in 2014).



2.292 In GB, 1,074 journey logs were submitted for validation in 2015, a slight increase on the previous year, but not approaching the peak of 2011. In NI,

⁶⁴ ec.europa.eu/food/sites/food/files/animals/docs/aw_transport-inspection_2015_report_uk_en.pdf

DARD approved 162 journey logs in 2015. The increase leaves the final figure for 2015 almost similar to the 2013 figure (163).



2.293 No journey logs were rejected in the UK during 2015. This possibly reflects a better industry understanding of both the legislation and journey log application procedures.

Number of checks of animals and means of transport in UK

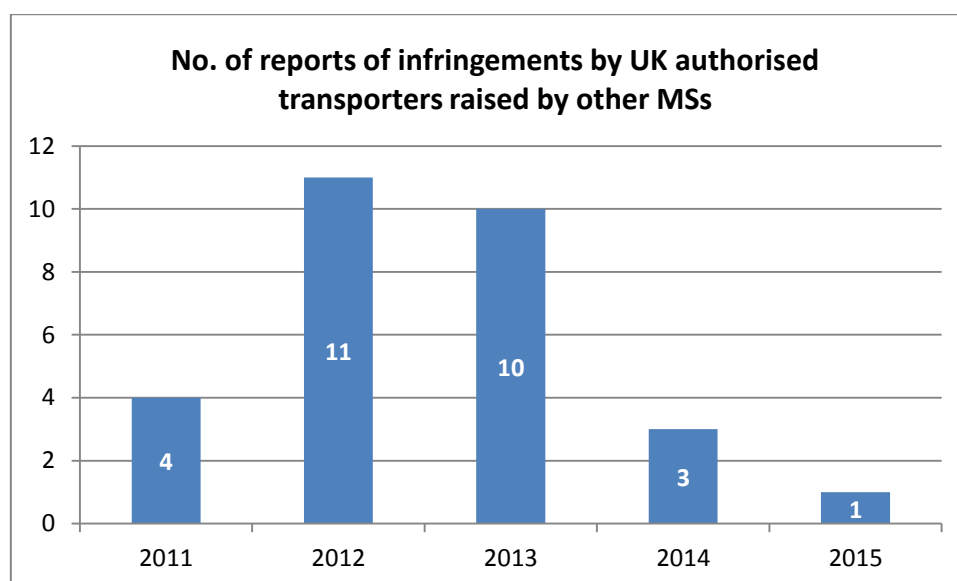
Checks and non-compliances	2012 GB	2013 GB	2014 UK	2015 GB
Vehicles inspected (including documentary checks)	136,973	125,601	118,881	135,568
Non-compliances (excluding documentary non-compliances)	1,115	784	1,073	700
Documentary only checks (vehicles inspected)	5,238	5,602	3,783	2,100
Non-compliances documentary checks only	90	115	166	66
APHA checks of vehicles transporting livestock and horses at ports through GB/UK	188	100	131	157
APHA supervised loading inspections	79	98	147	67

2.294 The bulk of routine checks of animals and means of transport were carried out by LA inspectors in conjunction with APHA in GB and by DARD inspectors in NI. Supervised loadings have been undertaken for all consignments of live slaughter export through Ramsgate and Dover. In addition, there was an increase in the risk based requirement for supervised loadings for export of horses following history of non-compliance.

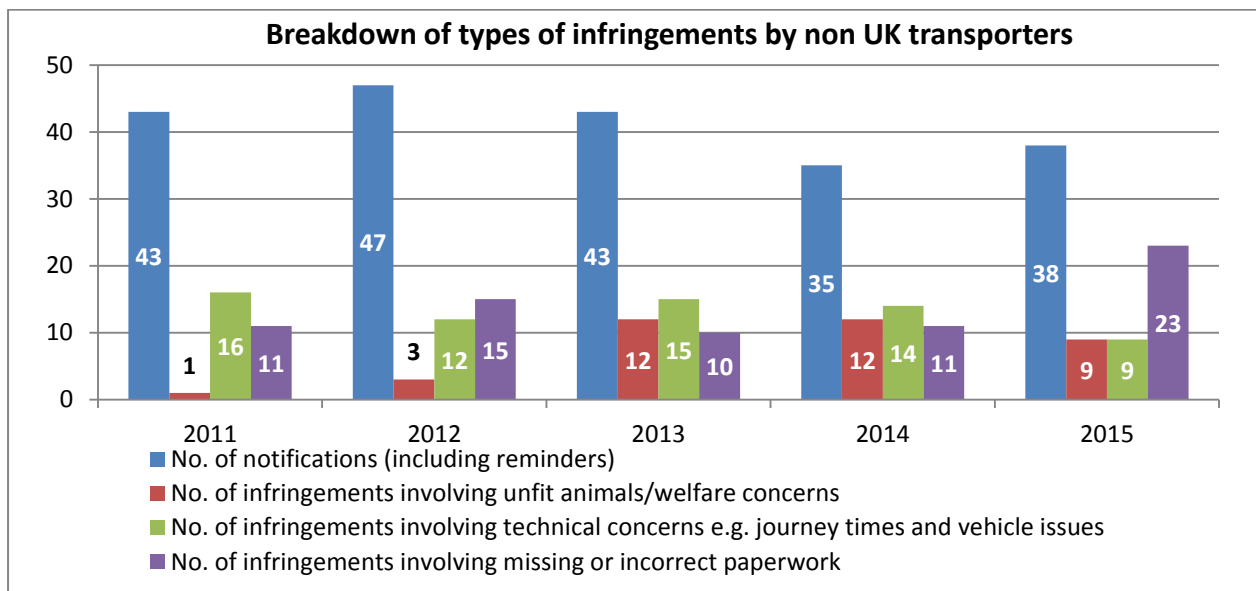
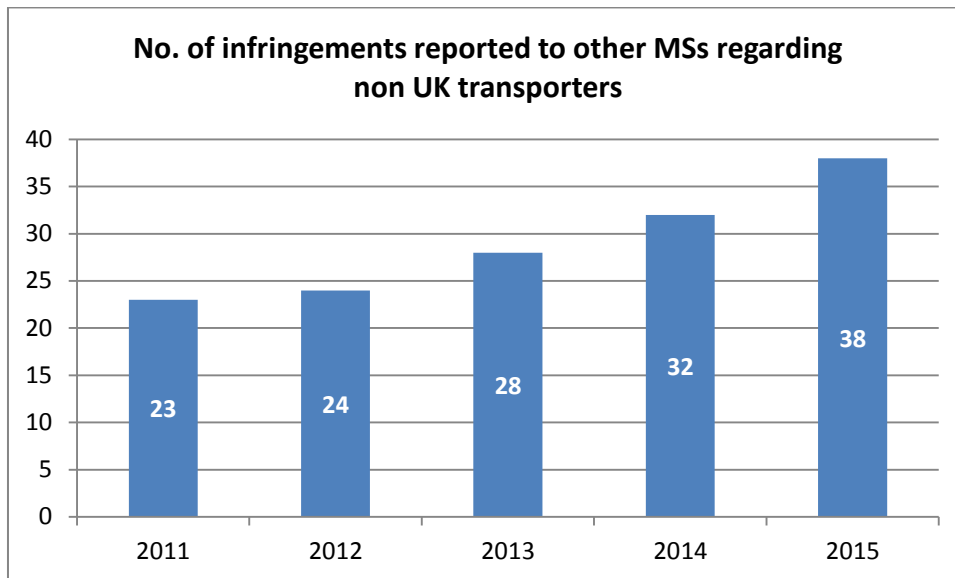
Number of checks of animals and means of transport in NI

Checks and non-	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Vehicles inspected (including documentary)	4,691	4,559	5,744	26,154	6,676
Percentage compliance	98.5%	97%	99%	100%	99%
Infringement detection across departure, destination and market	1.39%	3%	1%	<1%	1%

- 2.295 DARD inspected 6,676 vehicles in NI of which 88 non-compliances were identified. This is a 99% compliance rate similar to previous years. Unlike in 2014 the 2015 calculation does not include poultry transport vehicles at slaughter. This explains the significant difference with the data provided for 2014 which did include a figure for poultry vehicle inspection. Some confusion has been caused by the new EU reporting templates.
- 2.296 The GB inspections resulted in a variety of enforcement action ranging from oral warning to prosecutions. The annual report to the Commission explains the Action plan that is in place to address any major levels of non-compliance.
- 2.297 The UK authorities continued to communicate and work with Member States contact points regarding potential contraventions of Regulation EC 1/2005 and information exchange under Article 26. Of the 1 potential infringement made by transporters authorised in GB, notified by another Member State, it related to missing or incorrect paperwork.



- 2.298 In contrast, 38 formal notifications were made by the UK in 2015, involving non-UK transporters. This is an increase of 6 compared to last year. There were 9 reports regarding unfit animals/welfare concerns in 2015, which is lower than the previous two years.



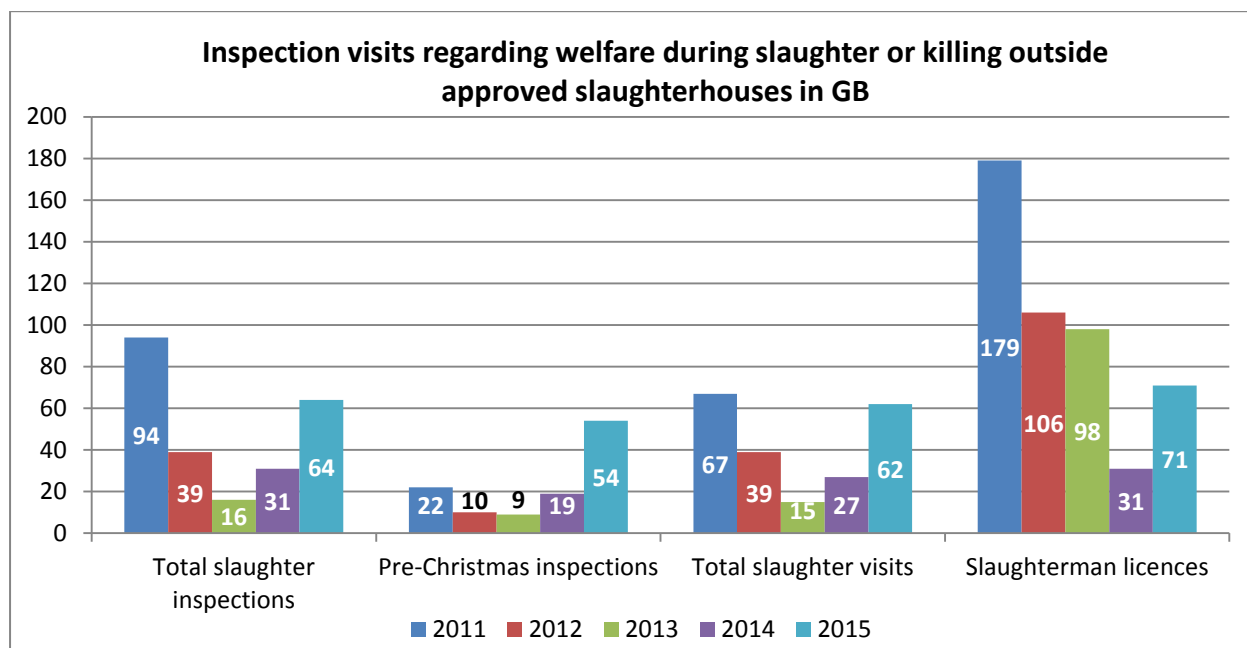
Animal welfare at slaughter or killing

2.299 Council Regulation (EC) 1099/2009 on the welfare of animals at the time of killing came into force on the 1 January 2013 and is directly applicable in all Member States. Domestic legislation was required to fully implement the EU Regulation as well as maintaining existing national rules as permitted by the EU Regulation. England introduced The Welfare of Animals at Time of Killing (England) Regulation⁶⁵ on the 5 November 2015. The devolved administrations of Scotland, Wales and NI have already implemented domestic legislation in previous years (2012 Scotland and 2014 Wales and NI). In 2015, APHA followed up reports and allegations relating to poor animal welfare incidents during slaughter or killing operations outside approved slaughterhouses in GB and, where necessary, conducted investigations with a view to provide advice for prosecution. APHA are also responsible for following up reports from Official Veterinarians at approved slaughterhouses of

⁶⁵ WATOK

welfare incidents that appear to have arisen on-farm. LAs are responsible for following up reports of incidents that appear to have arisen during transportation of animals. DARD performed similar functions

2.300 Welfare standards during slaughter or killing operations carried outside of approved slaughterhouses were similar to those reported in previous years with very few reported problems. 54 of the 64 inspections carried out by APHA were undertaken just before the Christmas peak period. No serious non-compliance was found. 71 slaughterman's licences were issued in 2015, an increase due to the changes in legislation requiring additional assessments of competence to be carried out .



2.301 WATOK England came into force on 5 November 2015, and the process of replacing WASK licences with Certificates of Competence commenced late in 2015. During the period 15 October 2015 to 31 March 2016 the FSA ensured replacement of the old WASK licences. This involved the issue of 804 Temporary Certificates of Competence, 4,628 Certificates of Competence and 102 licences for slaughter on farm.

2.302 In Scotland, over 300 Certificates of Competence were issued for operatives in slaughterhouses, farms and knacker companies under the Welfare of Animals at Time of Killing (Scotland) Regulations 2012 between November 2015 and March 2016 as part of the ongoing work to replace the old WASK slaughter licences

2.303 In NI, DARD continued to monitor compliance with welfare during slaughter or killing legislation. No significant non-compliance was found. During 2015/16 there were 163 Certificates of Competence and 58 temporary Certificates issued under the Welfare of Animals at the Time of Killing Regulations (NI) 2014.

2.304 The FSA and FSS works with Defra and its agencies and the devolved administrations to ensure that animal welfare policy is enforced within slaughterhouses. In NI, DARD has sole responsibility for animal welfare policy.

2.305 The FSA publicised the following statement to enforce the message of zero tolerance to animal welfare breaches:

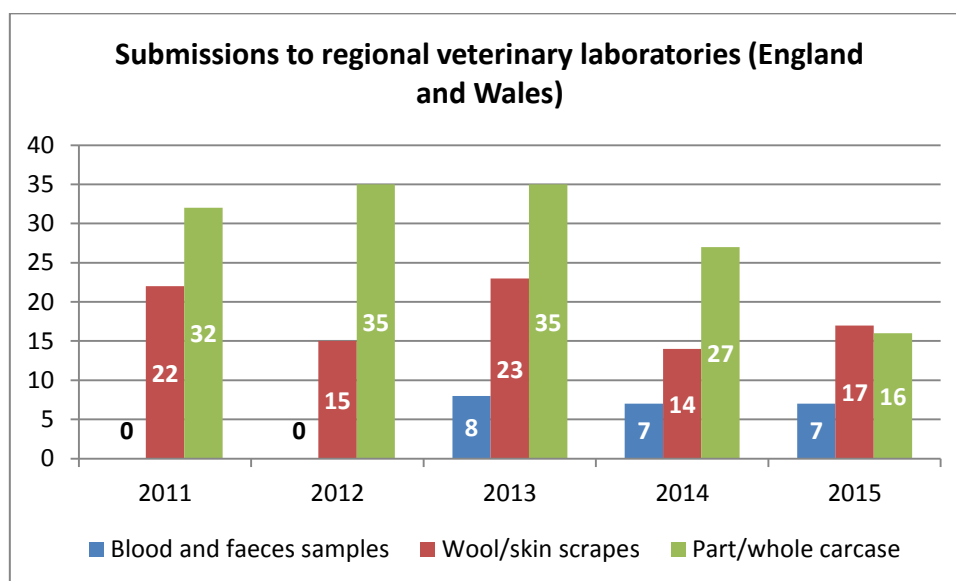
“Every time animal welfare is compromised and an animal is suffering, enforcement action should be taken. A risk based and proportionate approach to enforcement should not be perceived as supporting bad practices or compromising animal welfare”.

2.306 Undercover filming inside two FSA approved slaughterhouses this year has provided evidence of cruelty and breaches of welfare. Whilst the FSA took immediate interventions in the abattoirs involved it was necessary to seek wider assurance at a national level to verify that FBO compliance with welfare regulations and FSA verification activities are in place and working effectively.

2.307 The FSA carried out Unannounced Inspections (UAs) in all slaughterhouses in GB between February and March 2015.

2.308 The results of the UAs were published on the FSA website and considered by the FSA board 3 June 2015: food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/fsa150605.pdf

Welfare forensic pathology and advice



2.309 The Regional Laboratories (RLs) of the APHA received 50 welfare forensic submissions, of which 26 (48%) were whole/part carcasses; the remainder of the samples were wool or skin samples in suspect sheep scab cases and blood and/or faeces samples. These numbers are similar to previous years. RLs worked with APHA and LAs to provide witness statements for serious non-compliances detected in 9 cases which have or are progressing to court, many of which were accepted by the courts without requiring attendance as expert witnesses. RLs produced summary welfare surveillance reports for communication of welfare-related (mostly on-farm) cases dealt with in 2015.

Official controls in the Plant health sector⁶⁶

England and Wales

2.310 During the Financial Year 2015/16:

- 100% of imported controlled plant health material of high and medium risk (planting material, soil and potatoes) was inspected.
- targets were met for the inspection of non-regulated material and contact with the establishments licensed to hold prohibited material
- inspections of other controlled material (low risk) were slightly lower than the set target (64% of consignments were inspected against a target of 65%); reduced check inspection targets were achieved for the 47 designated trade commodities
- prohibited material imported or held under scientific licence was subject to the required level of inspection
- there has been an almost 10% increase in the number of consignments declared and requiring control.

2.311 The shortfall in inspection rates for other controlled material is partly explained by a programming error in the APHA Inspectorate software. The trade is seasonal and there was limited opportunity to make up the shortfall in 2015/16.

2.312 The EU maintained the ban on certain vegetable products⁶⁷ from India, following unacceptable levels of interceptions of plant pests over preceding years:

- the ban was imposed following persistent interceptions on Indian produce and critical reports from FVO audits in India in 2010 and 2013
- despite assurances from India in response to these reports, the level of interceptions remained high and in 2014, the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed – Plant Health Section voted unanimously to suspend imports of the 5 trades representing the highest numbers of interceptions
- this decision was fully justified and in line with UK policy of strengthening plant health controls
- The ban was initially imposed until December 2015
- When the Indian plant health authorities provided evidence that they were meeting EU requirements, in February 2015 the ban was lifted for *Mangoes* only. The lifting of the ban on mangoes resulted in the import of 2,000 consignments, which were accommodated within the inspection programme.
- The ban remains for Bitter gourd (*Momordica*), Aubergines (*Solanum melongena*), Snake gourd (*Trichosanthes*), and Taro or Patra leaves (*Colocasia spp*) originating in India.

⁶⁶ fera.defra.gov.uk/plants/plantHealth/

⁶⁷ The initial ban applied to Mangoes, Bitter gourd (*Momordica*), Aubergines (*Solanum melongena*), Snake gourd (*Trichosanthes*), and Taro or Patra leaves (*Colocasia spp*)

- 2.313 In 2015, restrictions remained in place for imported South African citrus, following a failure by South Africa to prevent the export of fruit infected with Citrus blackspot⁶⁸. This complied with EU emergency measures, agreed by Member States at the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed – Plant Health Section. Citrus blackspot is a major concern for citrus-growing EU Member States.
- 2.314 The control programme for *Phytophthora ramorum* and *Phytophthora kernoviae* continued. The risk of spread of the pathogens via the trade in plants and plant products has been reduced within the Defra Programme by increased inspections and containment/eradication action whenever the pathogens are diagnosed. For *Phytophthora ramorum* – surveys of Vaccinium (Bilberry) sites and surveys around outbreaks in larch woods continued. The extra Inspectorate resources that were secured in previous years have been maintained to assist with surveys, with additional input continuing from established field inspectors.
- 2.315 The Forestry Commission customer service standard target of inspecting 95% of imports of wood and wood products on the day of notification of landing, or the next working day, was met. Customer Service Standard response time was achieved in over 98% of cases in 2015, thereby meeting the annual target. As a result of the additional funding for 2 years from 2013, the Forestry Commission:
- employed a Cross Border Plant Health Liaison Officer, a Project Support Officer and an Assistant Economist to assist in the additional inspection programmes, contingency planning and financial impact assessments
 - increased inspections of wood packaging material associated with known high risk commodities at ports, leading to increased detection of non-compliant wood packaging material.
 - In England, additional field staff were recruited to their inland plant health team to increase the surveillance level of trees and woodlands for pests and diseases.
- 2.316 Two outbreaks of *Dryocosmus kuriphilus* (Oriental chestnut gall wasp) were detected in southern England. A significant new outbreak of *Thaumetopoea processionea* (Oak Processionary moth) was also detected in Guildford. Whilst there was a decline in the rate of new findings of *Phytophthora ramorum* in Larch; conversely, new findings of *Thaumetopoea processionea* (Oak Processionary moth) and *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus* (Chalara ash dieback) have continued to increase.
- 2.317 The Canary Islands rejected a large number of consignments of ware potatoes imported from the England for the 2015/16 season (August to May annually). In this season, rejections primarily concentrated on skin surface diseases, whereas in 2014/15 rejections were mainly due to soil adhering to tubers. During the reporting period, the rejection rate averaged 5.8%, with some regional variation. Defra, the Devolved Administrations and APHA

⁶⁸ During 2015 and previously, the United Kingdom has been requesting a derogation to allow the import of citrus from South Africa, Brazil and Uruguay for use in industrial processing, which has been identified as low risk by EFSA. These measures have been subsequently introduced through EU Decision 2016/715.

continue to liaise and work with the Spanish Ministry of Agriculture (MAGRAMA) to resolve this ongoing issue.

2.318 In 2015, surveillance continued within the Paddock Wood area of Kent following the 2012 outbreak of *Anoplophora glabripennis* (Asian long-horn beetle). Following a review, the surveillance programme has been extended to 2018, corresponding with two complete life cycles of the beetle. A single interception of *Anoplophora glabripennis* (dead) was made at a UK point of entry.

Preventive action on deliveries at point of destination as a result of trace forward/back exercises or general quarantine surveillance

Disease/ Pest	Host	Action
<i>Ceratocystis platani</i>	<i>Platanus</i> (Plane)	84% (113 consignments) of intra-EU <i>Platanus</i> (Plane) inspected in active growth within 6 months of arrival against target of 95% (127 consignments). 134 consignments notified General Quarantine Surveillance (QS) of genera, i.e. not attributable to a specific consignment, was increased to compensate.
<i>Cryphonectria parasitica</i>	<i>Castanea</i> (Sweet Chestnut)	74% (71 consignments) of intra-EU <i>Castanea</i> (Sweet Chestnut) inspected in active growth within 6 months of arrival against target of 95% (91 consignments). 96 consignments notified. General Quarantine Surveillance (QS) of genera, i.e. not attributable to a specific consignment, was increased to compensate.
<i>Phytoplasma ulmi</i>	<i>Ulmus</i> (Elm)	70% (77 consignments) of intra-EU <i>Ulmus</i> (Elm) inspected in active growth within 6 months against target of 95% (105 consignments). 110 consignments notified. General Quarantine Surveillance (QS) of genera, i.e. not attributable to a specific consignment, was increased to compensate
<i>Thaumetopoea processionea</i>	<i>Quercus</i> (Oak)	217% (217 consignments) of intra-EU <i>Quercus</i> (Oak) inspected in active growth within 6 months against a minimum target of 100 notified consignments. 1,745 consignments notified.
<i>Dothistroma pini</i> and <i>Dothistroma septosporum</i> ; <i>Thaumetopoea pityocampa</i>	<i>Pinus</i> (Pine)	304% (152 consignments) of intra-EU <i>Pinus</i> (Pine) inspected in active growth within 6 months against a minimum target of 50 notified consignments. 988 consignments notified.

2.319 For the above preventative action on deliveries at point of destination,

legislation on notifying tree movements was initially introduced in 2013, with subsequent additions. In 2015, the target inspection rates for consignments in active growth within 6 months of arrival were:

- 95% for Elm, Plane, and Sweet Chestnut
- minimum of 100 notified consignments of Oak
- minimum of 50 notified consignments of Pine.

2.320 In selecting consignments for inspection, the rationale was to target multiple different genus, supplier and country combinations, so as to increase the breadth of the horizon scanning.

Surveillance surveys⁶⁹ carried out during 2015

Disease/ Pest	Surveillance
<i>Ralstonia solanacearum</i> (Brown rot) tuber survey and <i>Clavibacter michiganensis</i> (Ring rot) tuber survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 784 inspections of England & Wales seed stocks from the Seed Potato Classification Scheme (SPCS) (All E&W seed stocks excluding Pre Basic not marketed) from an estimated 740 seed stocks (106% against a target of 95%) This compares to 862 inspections in 2014. • 108 (90%) consignments of E&W ware from EU seed & EU ware inspected against a target of 120 (100%). This compares to 133 consignments in 2014. • 109 (84%) consignments of EU seed entering the SCPS scheme against a target of 124 (95%). • 749 consignments (100%) of EU seed – a consignment from each grower/ variety to be inspected against a target of 100%. There are no comparative figures for EU seed for 2014. • This compares to 1,499 tuber samples taken from an estimated 2,100 in 2013.
Brown rot river survey of treated/scheduled water courses completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Brown Rot river survey was completed during September 2015, involving 200 samples from 25 water courses and 50 sampling points. There were 24 negative samples and a positive diagnosis in the River Loddon (close to the confluence with the River Thames). • This compares to 2014, when the Brown Rot river survey involved samples from 22 water courses and 44 sampling points. All samples were negative. • In 2013, 21 watercourses were sampled - there were 20 negative samples and a positive diagnosis in the River Jubilee (from and into the River Thames).

⁶⁹ Required under EU legislation

Disease/ Pest	Surveillance										
EU minimum: <i>Phytophthora ramorum</i> & <i>Phytophthora kernoviae</i> survey of Parks, Gardens & Commercial premises	<p>During 2015/16, 1,680 retail outlets and nurseries were visited against a target of 1000 (target met). 747 wider environment sites were inspected against a target of 300 (target met). 369 sites trading in <i>Phytophthora ramorum</i> hosts received an additional inspection visit (100%) against a target of 95%. The total number of visits was 2,796.</p> <p>This compares to 2014/2015, when 2,353 visits were undertaken at retail outlets and nurseries, there were 1,305 visits to parks and gardens, 481 visits to plant passporting nurseries, a total of 4,139 visits.</p>										
PCN survey	<p>The EU requires 0.5% of the area used to produce ware potatoes to be sampled. In England and Wales this amounts to 450 ha – growers are randomly selected for inspection. 63 sites were inspected.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="767 745 1353 1003"> <tbody> <tr> <td>Total area sampled (ha)</td> <td>514.8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Area of fields with <i>G pallida</i> only (ha)</td> <td>268.2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Area of fields with <i>G rostochiensis</i> only (ha)</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Area of fields with combined population (ha)</td> <td>11.7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total infested area (ha)</td> <td>279.9</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>This compares to 2014, when 161.4 hectares were found to be infested from a sampled area of 474 hectares.</p>	Total area sampled (ha)	514.8	Area of fields with <i>G pallida</i> only (ha)	268.2	Area of fields with <i>G rostochiensis</i> only (ha)	0	Area of fields with combined population (ha)	11.7	Total infested area (ha)	279.9
Total area sampled (ha)	514.8										
Area of fields with <i>G pallida</i> only (ha)	268.2										
Area of fields with <i>G rostochiensis</i> only (ha)	0										
Area of fields with combined population (ha)	11.7										
Total infested area (ha)	279.9										
<i>Tilletia indica</i> survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request to obtain up to 50 untreated wheat samples from UK processors to provide evidence for UK freedom from <i>Tilletia indica</i>. 50 Samples were received into FERA's Seed and Exports laboratory, sampled by 14 PHSI inspectors, from 20 premises across 15 counties. No <i>Tilletia indica</i> spores were detected in any of the 50 samples tested. <i>Tilletia sp.</i> spores were found in 3 of the samples but they were not <i>Tilletia indica</i> spores. 										
<i>Epitrix</i> surveillance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2015, target set to inspect 200 consignments of England and Wales ware potatoes from UK seed. 198 consignments (99%) were inspected In 2014, APHA were notified of 3,803 tonnes in 240 consignments from 10 applicants. 40% of the ware potato consignments were inspected 										
<i>Anoplophora chinensis</i> survey, <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> survey, <i>Leptinotarsa decemlineata</i> survey, <i>Erwinia amylovora</i> survey, <i>Potato spindle tuber</i> viroid survey, <i>Rhynchosporium ferrugineus</i> survey, <i>Gibberella circinata</i> survey, <i>Dryocosmus kuriphilus</i> survey & <i>Bemisia tabaci</i> survey (all ongoing as EU reporting periods vary and are not synchronised with business plan).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No set targets per pest. Plant hosts were inspected as part of Quarantine Surveillance inspections. Quarantine Surveillance inspection visit frequency is determined by a PHSI established risk matrix. 										

- Note In 2014, *Diabrotica* was deregulated, with no survey was conducted.

- Note The *Tilletia indica* survey was undertaken in January – February 2015. No survey is due to take place in 2016/17

Scotland

- 2.321 In Scotland for 2015, the number of import consignments from third countries increased by another 15% on the 2014 total, continuing the rising trend during recent years. Despite the increase, operational targets were met.
- 2.322 In 2015, exports maintained a good record of 78,500 tonnes for seed and approximately 7,900 tonnes of ware potatoes.
- 2.323 All pest and disease surveys required by EU legislation were successfully undertaken.

Enforcement activities for Single Market and EU surveillance activities

Disease/ Pest	Surveillance
<i>Chalara fraxinae</i> Ash Dieback	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ban on the movement of ash trees remains in force. Two samples tested positive for Chalara, one at garden site visited for the Phytophthora Survey and the other in boundary planting at a registered nursery. • Two Ash Movement Licences were also issued to Forest Research in December to allow movement of young ash trees to England for resistance trials.
<i>Xanthomonas arboricola</i> <i>pv. Pruni</i> Bacterial Leaf Spot of Laurel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following the first outbreak of <i>Xanthomonas arboricola pv. pruni</i> in England during 2014, a survey of 76 sites was carried out across Scotland. Sixty samples of laurel were submitted to SASA for testing and <i>X. arboricola pv. pruni</i> was found at 2 sites. Where the disease was identified, infected plants along with other susceptible plants within 2 metres were destroyed by burning.
<i>Dothistroma</i> Needle Blight of Pine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint growing season inspections to forestry nurseries were carried out with Forest Research. No DNB was found at any of the nurseries inspected.
<i>Erwinia amylovora</i> Fireblight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Six nurseries requested fireblight buffer zone status and had host plants tested for latent symptoms. All samples taken from nurseries and the surrounding buffer zone were negative.
<i>Phytophthora</i> – Nursery Trade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registered nurseries producing susceptible material for <i>P. ramorum</i> and <i>P. kernoviae</i> continue to receive 2 site inspections plus one based on risk. Checks also made for <i>P. austrocedri</i> and <i>P. lateralis</i>. • <i>P. ramorum</i> was identified on two production nurseries near Perth. The first nursery had infected <i>Rhododendron</i> and <i>Kalmia</i>. It is possible that plants bought from Poland in 2013 were the original source of the outbreak. The second nursery had <i>P. ramorum</i> identified on <i>Rhododendron</i> which is in close proximity to the other nursery. • Following notification from APHA about controls put in place for <i>P. ramorum</i> on <i>Leucothoe</i> plants at Homebase, follow up visits to 2 of the 4 stores located in Scotland were undertaken in order to confirm that infected batches were destroyed. In both cases this was done. • Two stocks of <i>Kalmia</i> of Dutch origin were also found to be infected with <i>P. ramorum</i> at a wholesale nursery near Glasgow. Plants from both batches were destroyed and those sold on were traced (none of these showed symptoms of <i>P. ramorum</i>).
<i>Phytophthora</i> –	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2015 garden survey covering 50 sites across Scotland has

Disease/ Pest	Surveillance
Gardens/Landscaped sites	<p>identified 7 new outbreaks. In addition to the garden survey 2 other sites were identified.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current outbreak situation: there are 47 active outbreak areas for <i>P. ramorum</i> and <i>P. Kernoviae</i>. Some of these are single sites and others are in clusters. In total there are 58 infected sites in separate ownership (42 with <i>P. ramorum</i>, 8 with <i>P. Kernoviae</i>, 8 with both). There has been a further 16 gardens which have been clear of the pathogens for over 3 years and these have been moved to a non- active status. Making a total of 31 'non active' sites. • <i>P. austrocedri</i> was found on mature ornamental Junipers in two private gardens and on a Juniper in a public funded garden. • <i>P. lateralis</i> was also identified at 2 sites first found on <i>Chamaecyparis</i> and the other on <i>Thuja plicata</i>.
Beet Necrotic Yellow Vein Virus (Rhizomania)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To allow movement of Scottish seed potatoes into Rhizomania Protected Zones (Denmark, Finland, parts of France, Ireland, NI, Portugal and Sweden) an annual survey must be undertaken. • During 2015, 22 farm premises were inspected, with 44 samples taken. All samples tested negative for Rhizomania.
<i>Sirococcus tsugae</i> Shoot Blight on Cedar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This was found on a <i>Cedrus atlantica</i> in Perthshire during a routine inspection for <i>P. ramorum</i>.
Tomato Chlorotic Dwarf Viroid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Petunia</i> cuttings were tested at 1 nursery for the presence of TCDVd. 22 samples were taken and no trace findings of TCDVd were identified.

NI⁷⁰

2.324 In 2015/16 8,377 inspections were carried out for a range of organisms, including those required under protected zone surveys.

2.325 Imports checks on ware potato imports continued with special emphasis on inspecting all Spanish ware potato imports due to increased risks from *Epitrix spp.*

2.326 Inspections have continued for *Phytophthora ramorum* due to outbreaks in larch and on ash to detect *Ash Dieback (Hymenoschyphus fraxineus)*.

2.327 There are now 27 sites thought to be infected with *Phytophthora lateralis*.

Summary of new disease outbreaks at the end of 2015

Disease	Outbreak sites
Erwinia amylovora	87
Phytophthora ramorum	2
Ash Dieback	18
Potato Cyst Nematode (PCN)	12 fields restricted, 15 fields cleared

⁷⁰ dardni.gov.uk/index/plant-and-tree-health.htm

Surveillance pests surveys carried out during 2015

Disease	Surveillance
<i>Bemisia tabaci</i>	379 inspections, no findings
<i>Liriomyza bryoniae</i>	388 inspections, no findings
<i>Leptinotarsa decemlineata</i>	359 inspections, no findings
<i>Erwinia amylovora</i>	985 inspections, 87 positive sites
<i>Anoplophora spp</i>	171 inspections, no findings
<i>Phytophthora ramorum</i>	624 inspections, 30 positive sites
<i>Clavibacter michiganensis and Ralstonia solanacearum</i>	198 samples of seed and ware potatoes were tested for Ring Rot and Brown Rot. In addition, there were 41 water samples from rivers and processors and 7 Woody Night Shade plants sampled were tested.
<i>Diabrotica virgifera</i>	5 fields (25 ha) trapped as part of all Ireland strategy. No findings.
<i>Rhizomania</i>	12 fields inspected and 6 beet samples tested. No findings.

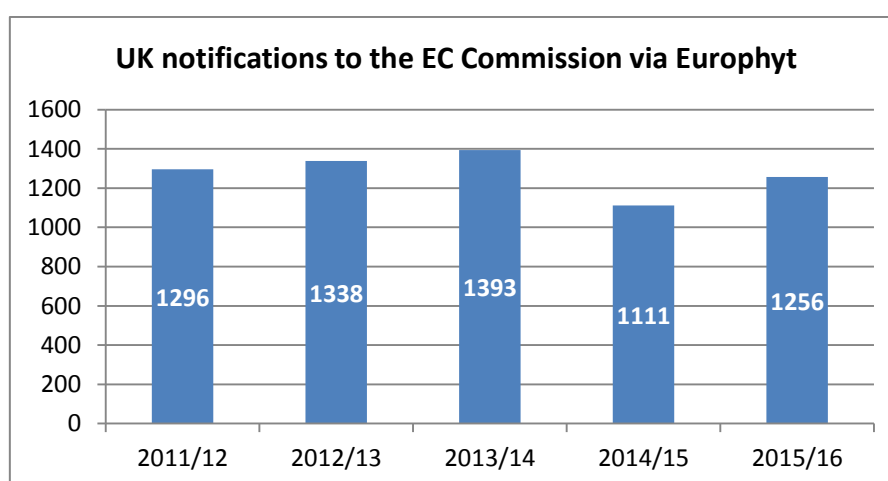
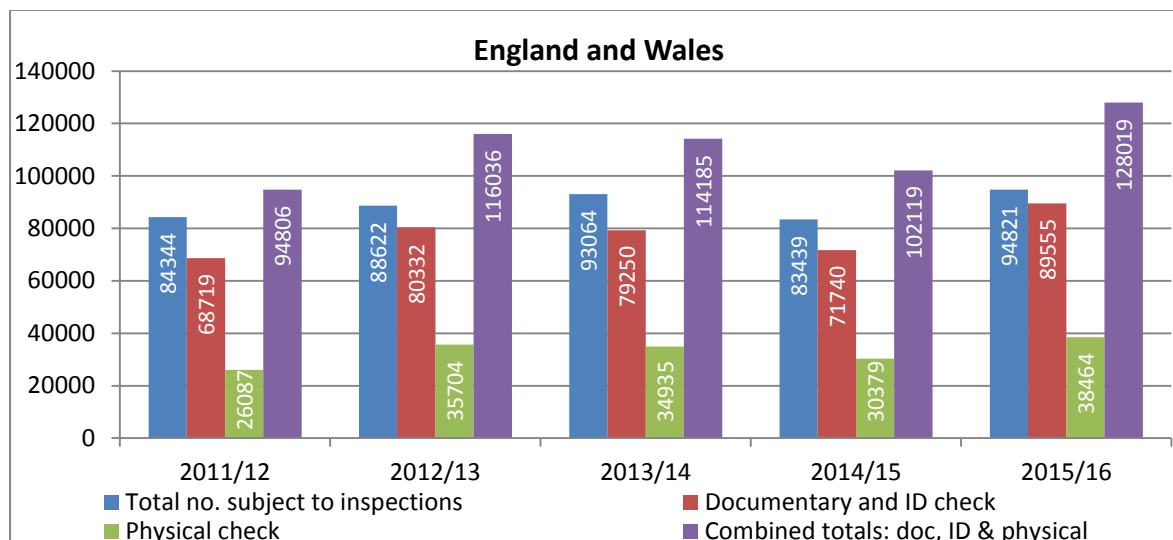
Summary of intensity and type of plant controls in the UK

- 2.328 In the UK, overall the same trades have remained a problem in terms of non-compliance over the last 4 years, although there have been some improvements. In the closing months of 2014, the list of controlled products changed. In particular, the inclusion of capsicum, which is a host of several harmful organisms lead to an increase in the number of notifications on non-compliance. Also the decision to begin to take action on false codling moth, a common finding that had not previously required action, also raised the number of interceptions. These trades included vegetables and herbs from Ghana and Kenya. In 2015, the majority of the import inspection targets were met for England and Wales.
- 2.329 Pest findings are the main reasons for notifications; in England and Wales, they account for 70% of all notifications. The 5 countries with the greatest number of pest notifications are: Bangladesh, Ghana, Kenya, Uganda and the United States of America, with these notifications accounting for approximately 71% of pest interceptions. The 4 most commonly intercepted pests were: *Bemisia tabaci* (tobacco whitefly), *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* (False Codling moth), *Thrips* sp., and Tephritidae (fruit flies), – these accounted for 79% of all pest interceptions.
- 2.330 The vast majority of businesses co-operate with PHSI and other inspectors in destroying stock when harmful organisms or outbreaks are found at ports or inland, entering imports correctly into the advance notification system (PEACH), producing records for plant passport inspections, etc.
- 2.331 Pests present in imported consignments pose a risk to crops, plants in commercial production and in the wider environment in the EU. The root causes were lack of awareness or understanding of the EU import requirements and a disregard for the risks presented by sending plants and plant products infested by pests into or within the EU, with the profit motive

outweighing the long-term potential benefits of maintained and improved crop production and biodiversity.

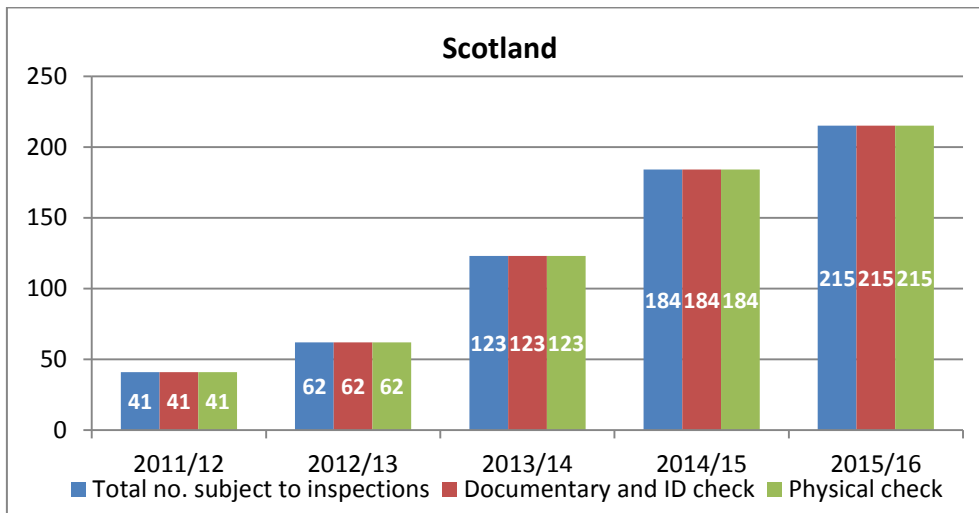
Summary of imports subject to inspections⁷¹

2.332 In England and Wales, the number of consignments declared and requiring controls increased by 10% (84,439 in 2014, 94,821 in 2015).



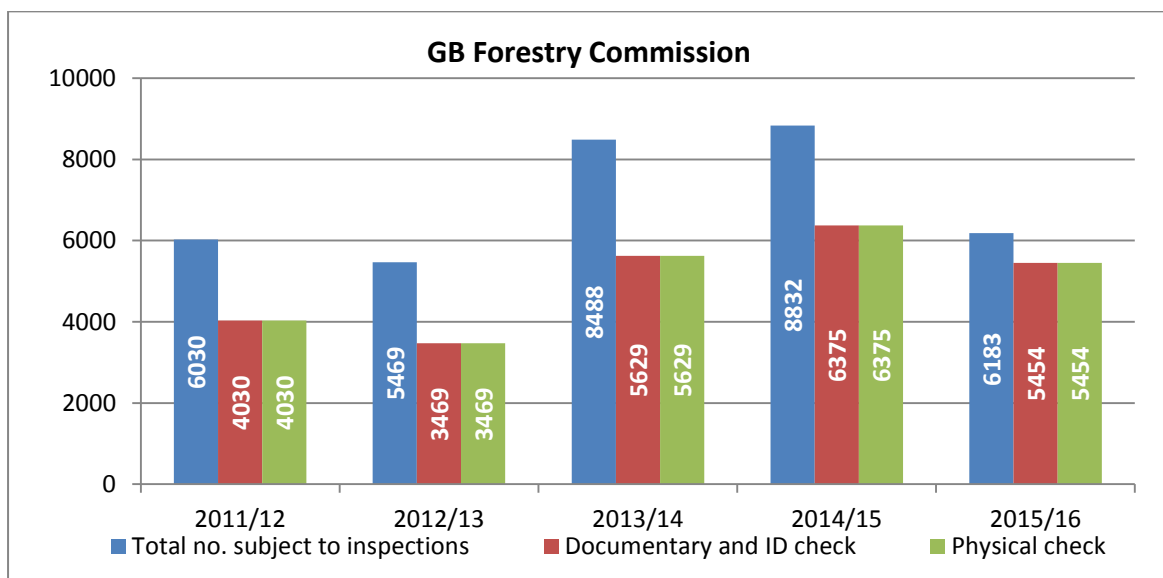
2.333 The number of non-compliances and notifications to the European Commission for England and Wales rose to 1,256 in 2015. 351 related to documentary infringements, 882 for pests and 23 for diseases.

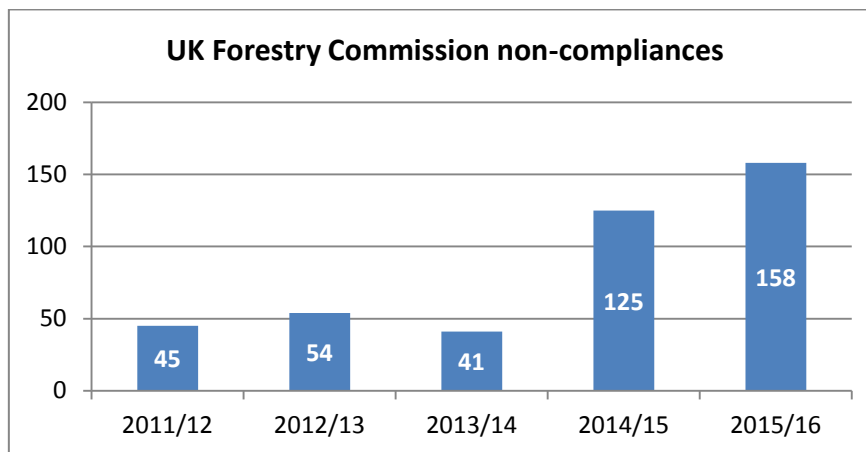
⁷¹ The total for physical plant health inspections is less than total imports because some “safer” trades are subject to reduced rates under EU legislation. Some trades e.g. cut flowers require rates as low as 5%.



2.334 The instances of non-compliance of third country imports into Scotland are as follows:

- Soil samples taken from a consignment of bonsai imported from Japan were found to be free from quarantine nematodes although some saprophytic, non-quarantine species were found. Destructive sampling for *Anoplophora* spp. was also undertaken for *Acer*, *Carpinus*, *Cotoneaster* and *Ulmus*.
- A shipment of Custard Apples (*Annona muricata*) from Nigeria which had a number of concerns, including the presence of False Codling Moth (*Thaumatotibia leucotreta*), was destroyed.





2.335 For the Forestry Commission, the number of non-compliances increased dramatically in FY2014/15 (125 in FY2014/15 was a threefold increase from the FY2013/14 total). This increase was due mainly to additional resources being made available to perform additional inspections of wood packaging material at points of entry. In FY2015/16, these additional resources were maintained and there was a further increase in the number of interceptions made.

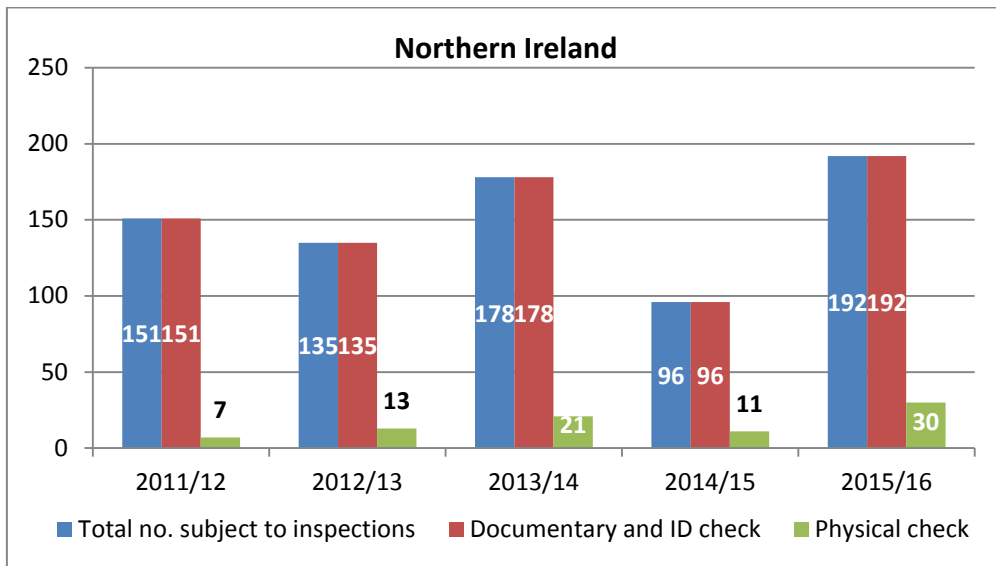
2.336 The majority of non-compliances involved wood packaging material not being compliant with ISPM15 and therefore the material was subjected to remedial action. The causes of the non-compliances resulted from the failure by wood packaging material manufacturers and treatment providers in the country of export to ensure that the material was compliant with ISPM 15:

- clearly marked with a traceable ISPM15 mark
- within the bark tolerance level permitted and
- free from pests and signs of live pests.
- subject to approved phytosanitary treatments.

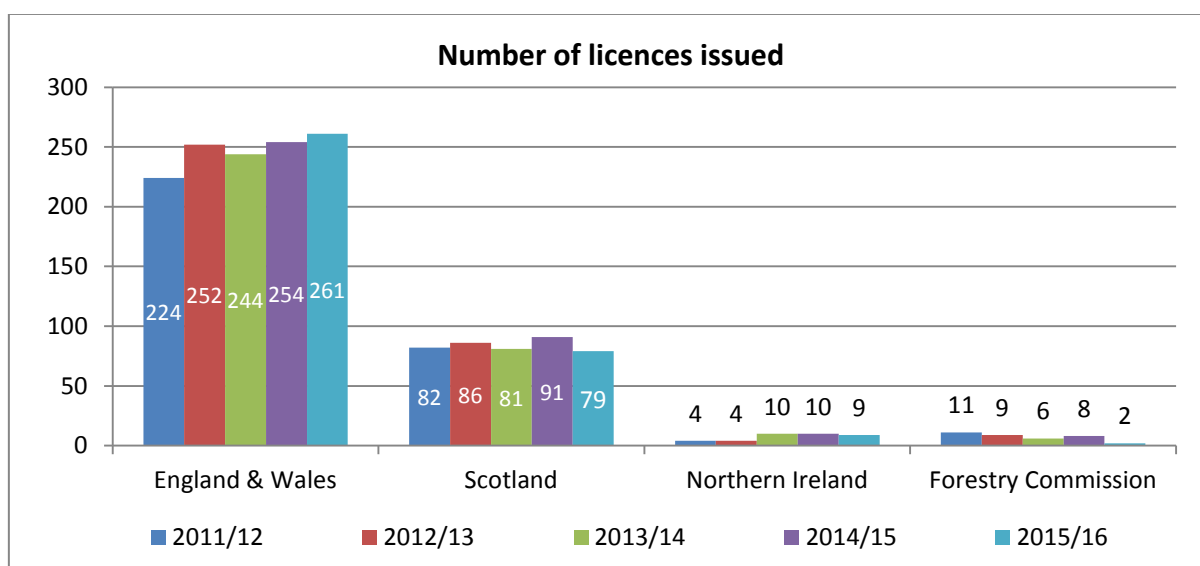
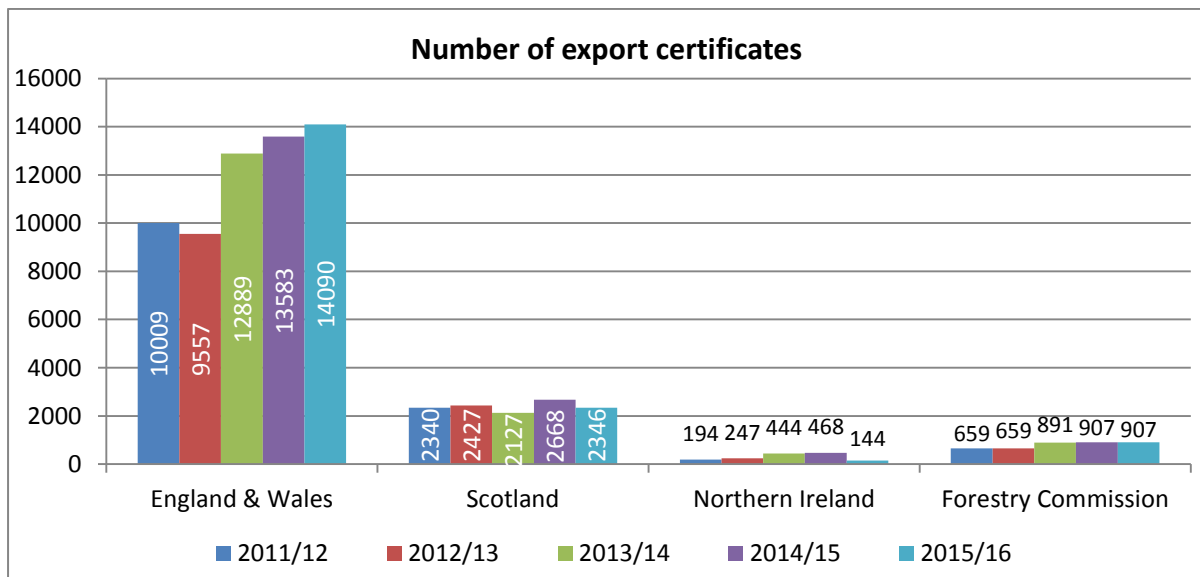
2.337 The main significant consequences of the non-compliances are that a quarantine pest such as Asian Longhorn Beetle or Pine Wood Nematode could be introduced into the country. The root cause is poor compliance with ISPM15.

2.338 Until March 2015, the Forestry Commission continued the requirements of EU Implementing Decision 2013/92/EU regarding inspections of wood packaging material associated with stone materials from China identified by certain commodity codes listed in the EU legislation. These were subjected to more rigorous checks. From April 2015, there was a decreased focus on inspections of wood packaging material associated with stone and iron materials from China in response to Commission Implementing Decision 2015/474 (amending 2013/92/EC). This legislation required a lower inspection level of 15% of imports for all 8 CN Codes included within it.

2.339 The intensity and type of controls for sawn timber in 2015 were consistent with the previous two years in terms of performing 100% documentary, identity and physical plant health checks for imports of controlled timber. The exception to this check is for wood of maple from Canada where physical inspection checks are performed on a reduced frequency basis.



2.340 In NI, no interceptions of harmful organisms were made on any imported consignments of regulated plant material from 3rd countries.



- 2.341 The number of phytosanitary certificates issued by the Forestry Commission during 2015 remained broadly similar to previous years. The number of businesses registered to issue plant passports during 2014 remained broadly similar to previous years. The number of scientific licences issued by the Forestry Commission fell to its lowest level during the past 5 years, with 4 issued.
- 2.342 In England and Wales, there are 156 premises licenced to import or hold prohibited plants and pests under 261 licences. All Defra Plant Health licence holders have been contacted by APHA PHSI in line with business frequency targets. The Forestry Commission's two scientific licences were both issued for work on *Dothistroma septosporum* (Dothistroma Needle Blight). They were issued on the basis of the standard operating procedures and no premises were inspected.
- 2.343 Scientific licence holders in Scotland are contacted every year. The on-going inspection programme of licensed premises includes visits every three years, with more frequent inspections of premises that hold high risk material. All new premises are inspected before licences are issued.

Enforcement trends: Actions taken in cases of non-compliance

- 2.344 For PHSI, enforcement of import controls is mainly by action on non-compliant consignments (re-export or destruction at the importer's expense). During 2015 in England and Wales, the number of non-compliant actions rose to 1,256 from 1,111 during 2014. The number of actions is broadly comparable to the period 2011-2013 where there was a relatively consistent level of non-compliance actions between 1,300 and 1,400 actions per year.
- 2.345 In 2015, with technical input from PHSI/APHA, Defra successfully prosecuted a UK company for using forged phytosanitary certificates for seed export purposes. The prosecution informs the ongoing efforts to improve the security of UK phytosanitary certificates.

CHAPTER 3 NATIONAL SYSTEMS OF AUDIT

Food and feed sectors

Official Controls for which the FSA is responsible

Audit of Local and Port Health Authorities

- 3.1 In England the approach to audit of LAs (including PHAs) has been risk based, involving an assessment of the performance of selected authorities by comparing data from the LA enforcement monitoring scheme (LAEMS) annual submissions against audit selection criteria. Following a desk top analysis of LAEMS data LAs are then allocated and prioritised against a range of appropriate follow up audit actions from full on site audits (core audits) to one day audit visits and in depth desktop assessments.
- 3.2 Following consultation with policy and delivery colleagues themed topics for official controls delivery are also selected for inclusion in the annual audit plan – these are known as “focused audits” where an official controls theme is audited across a number of LAs with the production of reports for each LA and a summary report for the sponsoring FSA manager.
- 3.3 From 1 April 2015 – 31 March 2016 core and focused audits were carried out in 57 authorities, 22 follow up audits were also undertaken. The focused audit programmes carried out in the audit year examined LA Incidents & Alerts controls and consistency in application of the Food Hygiene Rating Scheme (FHRS).
- 3.4 In Wales the three-year programme of full audits continued in order to assess LA performance in delivering food hygiene and food standards official controls. LAs were audited against the requirements of *The Framework Agreement on Official Feed and Food Controls by LAs*. Feed official controls were not included within scope as a new delivery model for feed was launched on 1 April 2015 with regional delivery of official feed controls by LA officers. In 2015/16 ten full audits were carried out at five LAs: 5 food hygiene, 5 food standards).
- 3.5 In addition to the full audit programme, Wales’s auditors participated in the following focused audit programme:-
 - Incidents and Alerts. An Assessment of LA Food & Feed Controls Enforcement for Incidents and Alerts in England and Wales
- 3.6 Eight follow-up audits were carried out to four LAs in association with earlier audits.

- 3.7 In April 2014, the number of LAs in NI reduced from 26 to 11. To allow the LAs a period of normalisation no audits of LAs were carried in 2015. Instead, the NI audit team focused on auditing official controls delivery by DARD, either in their own right or on our behalf through service level agreements.
- 3.8 Four DARD audit programmes were carried out between April 2015 and March 2016:
- Delivery of official controls on milk and dairy products in approved establishments (one on-site visit carried out)
 - Audit of enforcement action in approved meat establishments (three on-site visits carried out)
 - Audit of the system for auditing of FBO controls at approved establishments (two on-site visits carried out)
 - Audit of the delivery of animal feed official controls (three on-site visits carried out)

Main recommendations

England

- 3.9 The recorded audit recommendations vary depending on the scope and type of audit. In relation to the “core” audit programme, ten audits were undertaken during the audit year and the majority of the recommendations raised concerned the carrying out of interventions and inspections (30), internal monitoring (22), authorised officers (18), Organisation and management (16) and enforcement against FBO non-compliance (13). The numbers in brackets refer to the specific areas of the standard for delivery where non-compliance was observed and not the number of audit recommendations made.
- 3.10 In relation to the shorter one day visits to LAs to discuss anomalies in LA annual returns of LAEMS data, nine visits were undertaken and the findings confirmed that:
- The majority of LAs triggering the audit selection criteria were encountering pressure on the available resource available to deliver their respective inspection programmes.
 - The overdue inspections identified were in the medium to lower risk C,D and E categories, comprising a mix of catering businesses including takeaways and restaurants.
 - There was potential to increase the accuracy of LA establishment databases with regard to registration of premises and recorded risk scores. Auditors identified a need for increased validation checks to maintain accuracy.
 - Up to date Service Plans were not always in place and in some case had not been brought to the attention of LA elected members.
- 3.11 A focused programme of audits to assess LA local controls for incidents and alerts was completed and twelve LAs were included in the audit programme. Findings were reported to the individual authorities and summary audit report will capture the overall findings, recommendations and good practice.

- 3.12 A focussed programme of audits to assess LA's operation of the Food Hygiene Rating Scheme (FHRS) with reference to the FHRS Brand Standard, the Framework Agreement and the Food Law Code of Practice (FLCoP) was also carried out. Views on operation of the FHRS were also sought from LAs to inform FSA policy development. Twelve LAs were included in the programme and the findings were reported to the individual authorities and summary audit report will capture the overall findings, recommendations and good practice.
- 3.13 Recommendations from audit programmes were accepted by the audited authorities and corrective action plans were agreed. Ongoing follow-up audit verification checks, including on-site visits where necessary, are carried out to ensure that the agreed actions are prioritised and remedial action is taken within an acceptable timescale.

Wales

- 3.14 Overall findings in respect of the delivery of official controls for food hygiene are that they are largely being delivered in accordance with the FSA's Framework Agreement and Food Law Code of Practice. LAs are taking a risk-based approach to interventions at food businesses, and with the benefit of FSA funding, continue to work with businesses to assist them in achieving compliance.
- 3.15 The statutory food hygiene rating scheme has afforded a degree of protection to LA resources for food safety in Wales despite the current austerity climate. Audit has found that the statutory scheme is being effectively delivered by LAs in Wales and is having a positive impact on food business compliance with food hygiene legislation. Where non-compliances are identified follow up is generally being carried out in accordance with an *All Wales Revisit Policy* which has been adopted by all LAs.
- 3.16 LA performance in delivering interventions at new businesses has continued to improve.
- 3.17 Findings in respect of the delivery of food standards official controls are that overall, planned interventions are not being carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Framework Agreement and Food Law Code of Practice. Most LAs have adopted a risk-based approach, but it has not generally been possible to assess the quality of interventions from the records available. In contrast, reactive food standards work e.g. responding to incidents and complaints and work in connection with Primary Authority / Home Authority matters continues to be delivered in accordance with FSA requirements and guidance.

FSS – Scotland

- 3.18 A focussed audit programme to assess general delivery of official controls was carried out during 2015/16. 9 LAs were selected for audit. A report was produced for each LA audited and an action plan put in place (as appropriate) to address the recommendations made.
- 3.19 During 2015 a review of the audit scheme took place, this was necessitated following transition to FSS. A revised audit policy has now been published.

NI

- 3.20 Two of the four audit programmes in NI were carried out in conjunction with the FSA's Internal Audit team, i.e. the audit of enforcement action in approved meat establishments and the audit of the system for auditing of FBO controls at approved establishments. FSA Internal Audit reported on the recommendations from these two audit programmes.
- 3.21 No recommendations were made in the audit of the delivery of official controls on milk and dairy products in approved establishments.
- 3.22 The audit findings for the audit of the delivery of animal feed official controls demonstrated the animal feed team in DARD continued to be well resourced and in the majority of cases carried out official controls in accordance with animal feed legislation. Recommendations were made in the areas of approvals, sampling and enforcement.

Programme	Dates	No. of authorities/ DARD NI Units	No. of establishment 'reality checks'	Final report(s) or other correspondence issued/published/due	No. of recommendations
ENGLAND					
Audit of Service Delivery and Business Compliance	April – June 2015	6	6	Final reports published: food.gov.uk/enforcement/auditandmonitoring/auditreports/audengreport/	61
Escalation Meetings	April – June 2015	2	2	Final reports published: food.gov.uk/enforcement/auditandmonitoring/auditreports/audengreport/	Accounted for in Core audit totals
Audit follow up	April – June 2015	8	-	Updated LA action plans are published on the FSA website against the original individual LA audit report.	48-
Delivery of Official Controls on Incidents and Alerts	July – Sept 2015	9	9	Final reports published: food.gov.uk/enforcement/auditandmonitoring/auditreports/audengreport/	80
Audit follow up	July – Sept 2015	7	-	Updated LA action plans are published on the FSA website against the original individual LA audit report.	-
Audit of Service Delivery and Business Compliance	Oct – Sept 2015	4	4	Final reports published: food.gov.uk/enforcement/auditandmonitoring/auditreports/audengreport/	31
Delivery of Official Controls on Incidents and Alerts	Oct – Sept 2015	3	3	Final reports published: food.gov.uk/enforcement/auditandmonitoring/auditreports/audengreport/	16
LAEMS 1 Day Audits	Oct – Sept 2015	7	-	Summary letter and action plan sent to LA	-
Audit follow up	Oct – Sept 2015	5	-	Updated LA action plans are published on the FSA website against the original individual LA audit report.	-
Desktop Audits	Oct – Sept 2015	15	-	Summary letter sent to LA	-
Audit of LA Service Delivery Operation of the Food Hygiene Rating Scheme	Jan – Mar 2016	11* (one audit moved to Q1 of 2016)		Final published (2 outstanding): food.gov.uk/enforcement/auditandmonitoring/auditreports/audengreport/	48

LAEMS 1 Day Audits	Jan – Mar 2016	2	-	Summary letter and action plan sent to LA	-
Audit revisits	Jan – Mar 2016	2	-	Updated LA action plans are published on the FSA website against the original individual LA audit report.	-
WALES⁷²					
Reports on Food and Feed Law Enforcement Service	April 2015- March 2016	5	15	Reports published: food.gov.uk/enforcement/auditandmonitoring/auditreports	145
Visits to LAs in connection with audits	April15- Mar 16	4	-	Updated action plans are added to the original audit reports and re-published	-
SCOTLAND⁷³ FSS					
Core Audit of LA (Food Service) in accordance with the Framework Agreement on Official Feed and Food Controls by LAs	April 2015 – Dec 2016	9	18	Reports published for all LAs audited. foodstandards.gov.scot/food-safety-standards/regulation-and-enforcement-food-laws-scotland/audit-and-monitoring#la	12
NI					
DARD - Delivery of official controls on milk and dairy products in approved establishments	April 2015	1	1	1 issued	-
DARD - Audit of enforcement action in approved meat establishments	June 2015	1	3	1 issued (UK wide report)	-
DARD - Audit of the system for auditing of FBO controls at approved establishments	Oct 2015	1	2	1 issued (UK wide report)	-
DARD - Audit of the delivery of animal feed official controls	Nov 2015	1	3	1 issued	5

⁷² All reports can be found at food.gov.uk/enforcement/auditandmonitoring/auditreports

⁷³ All FSS audit reports are published at: foodstandards.gov.scot/food-safety-standards/regulation-and-enforcement-food-laws-scotland/audit-and-monitoring#la

FSA Internal Audit

- 3.23 The FSA’s internal audit team carries out risk based systems audits on operational systems, processes and procedures for the FSA in England, Wales and NI and for FSS in Scotland as part of annual programmes agreed with the respective audit committees. These internal audits ensure that requirements of the UK Public Sector Internal Audit Standards and Article 4(6) of Regulation (EC) 882/2004 are met.
- 3.24 In accordance with EU guidance, there is also a five-year cycle for all official controls to be audited and so, as well as focusing on high risk areas, the audit plans for the 2014/15 and 2015/16 financial years included operational areas which were lower or medium risks, with follow up audits to monitor implementation of corrective actions from previous audits.
- 3.25 The main objective of the programmes of audits conducted by the FSA internal audit team during the 2015 calendar year in relation to official controls was to provide assurance to FSA and FSS management and the respective Boards that enforcement was effective, consistent, risk-based and proportionate.
- 3.26 The four grades of audit opinions or equivalent used during the period covered by the report were “Substantial⁷⁴”, “Moderate⁷⁵”, “Limited⁷⁶” and “Unsatisfactory⁷⁷”. The following audits were completed and reports issued between January and December 2015.

Policy area audited	Audit Opinion	Recommendations
Dairy Hygiene (UK)	Moderate	6
Food Chain Information and CCIR (UK)	Moderate	6
Flexibility of OV Attendance (FSA & FSS)	Limited	5
FSA Enforcement	Moderate	6
FSS Enforcement	Moderate	5
FSA Audits of FBO Controls in approved meat establishments	Substantial	6
FSS Audits of FBO Controls in approved meat establishments	Moderate	6

- 3.27 The majority of the corrective and preventative actions agreed with management were aimed at improving policy and procedural guidance to ensure consistency in the application of official controls and their outcomes. Audit reports also identified the need for improved records and more effective

⁷⁴ “Substantial” means the framework of governance, risk management and control is adequate and effective.

⁷⁵ “Moderate” means some improvements are required to enhance the adequacy and effectiveness of the framework of governance, risk management and control.

⁷⁶ “Limited”, there are significant weaknesses in the framework of governance, risk management and control such that it could be or could become inadequate and ineffective.

⁷⁷ “Unsatisfactory” means there are fundamental weaknesses in the framework of governance, risk management and control such that it is inadequate and ineffective or is likely to fail.

monitoring of official control activities to help identify and correct poor practices and recurring issues.

Defra internal audits

Beef labelling – England RPA – GB

3.28 No audits relating to animal traceability of official food/feed controls were carried out by RPA Internal Audit in 2015. Two related reviews are scheduled for delivery in Q2 2016 – covering the processes and procedures used by BCMS for Bovine and Ovine traceability and the framework for delivery of BCMS services to the devolved administrations (Scotland and Wales).

Protein in animal feed ban

3.29 The national Lead Veterinary Officer carried out an audit of some inspection reports and an overview of regional performance.

Veterinary Residues Surveillance

3.30 The VMD carried out audits of the sampling procedures and processes performed by APHA and the FSA.

3.31 A list of recommendations has been produced which have been implemented. No evidence of significant failings was found.

Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance – Defra/VMD

3.32 Auditing of antimicrobial resistance surveillance and policy is carried out by external providers in accordance with the UK Five Year AMR Strategy 2013-2018. Collection of caecal samples is carried out by FSA on behalf of the VMD; an SLA is in place detailing the KPIs for sample collection. APHA carry out all AMR testing on behalf of the VMD. Success is measured through submission of data to EFSA in compliance with Commission Decision 2013/652/EU and through KPIs as stated in the SLA. Success of surveillance of antibiotic sales is measured through publication of data in the annual report and stakeholder feedback.

Animal health and welfare sectors

3.33 The audit programme was successfully completed and action has been taken to address any issues raised.

Audit programmes in relation to animal health carried out in 2015

Audit Programme	Conclusions/recommendations
ENGLAND – Defra Internal Audit carried out 3 full audits.	
1. Food Standards – Defra related actions arising from the Government response to the Elliott Review – horse meat incident	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This provided moderate assurance over the areas reviewed • No recommendations were made.
2. Protected Food Names	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This provided limited assurance • 1 High and 5 Medium level recommendations were made.

3. Governance and Implementation of the 'Protecting Plant Health' Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This provided substantial assurance over the areas reviewed. • No recommendations were made.
SCOTLAND - SG Internal Audit Division (SGIAD) carried out two audits of 'discreet official controls areas' (as per their 5 year audit strategy)	
1. Vet Med Residue Monitoring (SG Responsibilities)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substantial Assurance • 4 recommendations (4 medium level, but readily rectifiable). • The follow-up review of these recommendations has yet to begin (scheduled for middle of 2017).
2. Potato Health (area not covered under 2014/15 general Crop/Plant Health audit)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reasonable Assurance. • 8 recommendations (2 high and 6 medium level) were made - audits identified some areas where improvement could be made • The follow-up review of these recommendations has yet to begin (scheduled for middle of 2017).
3. Follow-up review of Fish Health & Plant Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow review confirmed that all recommendations made have been implemented with the exception of one recommendation which has been superseded by events.
WALES – The European Funds Audit Team (EFAT) within the Corporate Governance & Assurance (CG&A) Division of the WG has developed a five year audit strategy for Official Feed & Food Controls. The overall purpose of this strategy is to put in place an approach that will allow the Head of CG&A to manage the audit function to deliver a balanced assurance to the Permanent Secretary and the European Commission on the adequacy and effectiveness of OFFC controls for which the Welsh Government is the competent authority.	
<p>Overarching review of compliance with EC Regulation 882/2004. Including, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring of key OFFC Legislation 882/2004 and supporting regulations; • Welsh Government OFFC overarching arrangements, including risk management and training programmes; and • Welsh Government arrangements for assurance over Animal Health & Welfare controls. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assurance mapping exercise undertaken. The results of which were fed into an audit needs assessment. The OFFC five year strategy has been developed taking account of this.
DARD NI - Internal Audit Branch continued with implementation of the audit strategy covering arrangements for animal health and welfare controls for which DARD are responsible	
1. TB Prevention & Control	Final Report 06/01/16 Satisfactory
2. Plant Health	Final Report 05/10/15 Satisfactory
3. Fish culture License Inspections & Aquaculture Production Business Inspections	Final Report 23/07/15 Satisfactory

4. Inspection of Fish Exports and Movement Authorisations	Final Report 23/07/15 Satisfactory
5. Implementation of previously agreed Internal Audit recommendations were followed-up: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trade, Certification • Animal Welfare 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final report 18/12/15 • Final report 05/08/15

FVO audits

3.34 The following is a summary of the FVO audit information for the UK for 2015, with links to the reports:

Inspection No.	Title	Inspection Period	Links to Reports
2015-7490	Pesticide residue controls in organic production	Jan 2015	Report details
2015-7502	Eggs and egg products	Mar 2015	Report details
2015-7570	Animal health - bovine tuberculosis eradication in NI	Jun 2015	Report details
2015-7456	Primary production of food of non-animal origin	Sep 2015	Report details

3.35 A number of fact finding/study visits were also conducted in 2015; however these reports were not published as they formed the basis for overview reports.

Control Bodies

Audits/inspections of control bodies in relation to animal health controls

Control body	Control tasks	Progress
<p>APHA (from 1st January – 31st December 2015)</p>	<p>Scrapie genotyping service under contract to Defra in support of the GB Voluntary Scrapie Flocks Scheme and the CSFS</p>	<p>The Central Sequencing Unit, APHA had the following Audits, Inspections, Proficiency Tests (EQA) and Quality:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UKAS ISO 17025:2005 Surveillance audit on 9th Dec 2015. Three findings were made which were addressed and closed out in the appropriate time. Accreditation was maintained for the current scope. • NRL Inspection on 10th Feb 2015. Seven recommendations were raised for the CSU. The inspectors found the CSU laboratory facilities continued to be maintained according to the NRL requirements. • Three Vertical audits were completed in Feb (one Preventative action was raised), May (four corrections were raised) and Oct 2013 (seven corrections were raised). Procedures & processes were seen to be fit for purpose and meeting the requirements for UKAS ISO 17025 and ISO9001. • Out of four Test Audits carried out in CSU one was for Scrapie genotyping tests in March (MB.002 – no actions raised). The SOPs were fit for purpose and compiled with ISO17025 and ISO9001 • CSU 2015 Annual Quality Review was discussed at the SSSD Annual Quality Review meeting on 31st March 2016. The review covers the period 1st Jan 2015 to 31st Dec 2015 for the APHA ISO 17025:2005 Group and ISO 9001:2008. • Internal Quality Assurances were successfully undertaken twice in the year in March & October. • Two VETQAs Proficiency Testing Schemes were successfully completed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scrapie Tissue genotyping (NRL), Distribution 11875/SE PT0093 Feb 15 - Scrapie Tissue genotyping (NRL), Distribution 11982/SE PT0100 May 15 <p>Two other EQA –previously done alongside Cellmark, were successfully completed in June & Dec 2015.</p>
<p>Commercial Transport carrier Companies approved by Defra and audited by APHA to bring dogs, cats or ferrets to GB in accordance with the EU Pet Travel Scheme</p>	<p>Documentary and identity checks as required are undertaken by carriers to confirm compliance with the EU pet travel Regulation (576/2013)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2015, 267,832 cats, dogs and ferrets were imported into the UK under the EU Pet Travel Scheme⁷⁸. <p>APHA carried out spot checks/inspections on approximately 3% of those animals. APHA conduct audits on the checks undertaken by carriers. This surveillance is carried out randomly at entry points. Where any non- compliance was found, the carrier was informed and if required, the animal was either re-exported or placed in quarantine depending on the circumstances. No carriers were suspended or had their agreements terminated during the year. Any non-compliances discovered during audit were addressed with extra training</p>

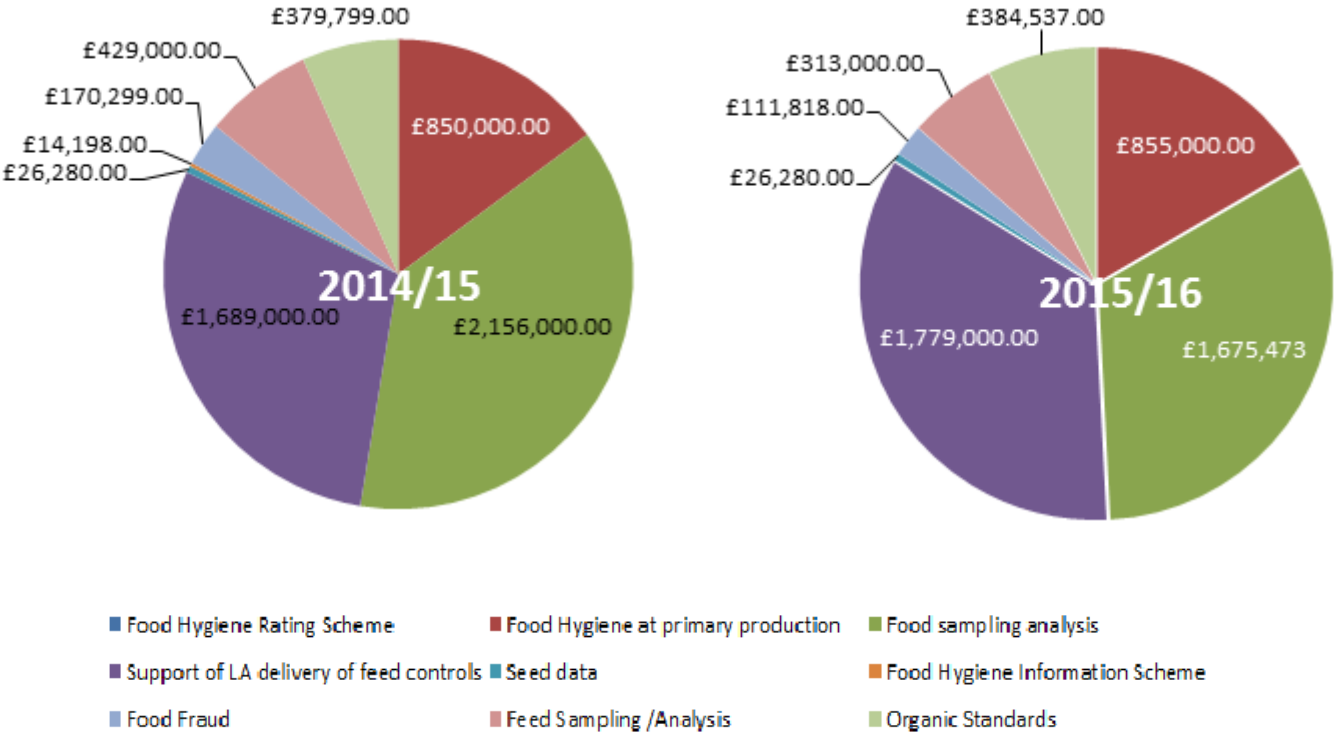
⁷⁸ gov.uk/take-pet-abroad/overview

CHAPTER 4 RESOURCES

Food and feed sectors

Grants

4.1 The following graph show the financial support (£) provided in grants to LAs and control bodies by central government for feed and food control work over the last financial year⁷⁹:



⁷⁹ Funding for FHRS and FHIS ended in 2015/16

4.2 The table below sets out more detail on the recipients of this financial support.

Programme	Provided to
Food Hygiene at Primary Production	Funding distributed via National Trading Standards Board to LAs. FSS provided £73,000 of funding to LAs and SG to carry out training, primary production food and feed inspections
Food Fraud	FSA provides funding to LAs to assist in investigations into food fraud activity for the financial year 2015/16 £111,818 was awarded.
Food Sampling/Analysis	Funding provided to LAs across GB and DARD in NI to undertake targeted sampling for the presence of undesirable substances. FSS in Scotland provided £201,000
Feed Sampling/Analysis	Provided to LAs across GB and DARD in NI to undertake targeted sampling for the presence of undesirable substances in feed. £313,800 was provided for feed sampling analysis for England, Wales and NI.
Support of LA delivery of feed controls	Provided to LAs in GB to undertake a programme of inspections of feed business establishments across all sectors. England and Wales provided £1,779,000. In NI DARD carries out official feed controls and has its own budget for this work, so there is no cost to FSA in NI.
Organic Standards	Defra provides an annual grant to Control Bodies to carry out specific obligations. In 2015 this was £384,537 and payment is UK wide as Control Bodies approval covers UK.
Seed Database	Defra provides funding to the Soil Association to run the seed database for operators to identify available organic seed. £26,280 is paid to database manager for UK wide management.

Plant health sector

- 4.3 Additional funding was available to maintain the number of PHSI inspectors in 2015/16 (110) in order to increase the number of inspections and the range of activities to improve import controls at UK borders.
- 4.4 The Forestry Commission continues to operate a full cost recovery inspection regime. In 2013, the Forestry Commission received additional resources for a planned 2 year period to increase its inspections of wood packaging material associated with known high risk commodities and this funding continued in 2015/16.
- 4.5 In Scotland, a full cost recovery exercise was undertaken during late 2014 to assess the collection of fees covering the costs of documentary checks, identity checks and physical plant health checks of certain imports of plants, plant products and other objects from third countries which are required by Article 13a(1) of the 2000/29 directive. The new legislation was introduced on 15 January 2015. This legislation consolidated amendments made to the 2005 Import Regulations and also increased the level of the applicable fees. They also made provision for additional fees in respect of potatoes originating from some Middle East countries.
- 4.6 In the implementation of the All-Ireland Chalara Control Strategy in NI, four temporary inspectors were engaged from May to September 2015 to undertake inspection, sampling, and enforcement duties for Ash Dieback. This resource was supplemented in statutory implementation by full time Plant Health Inspectors from the Plant Health and Horticulture Inspectorate, Forest Service.

CHAPTER 5

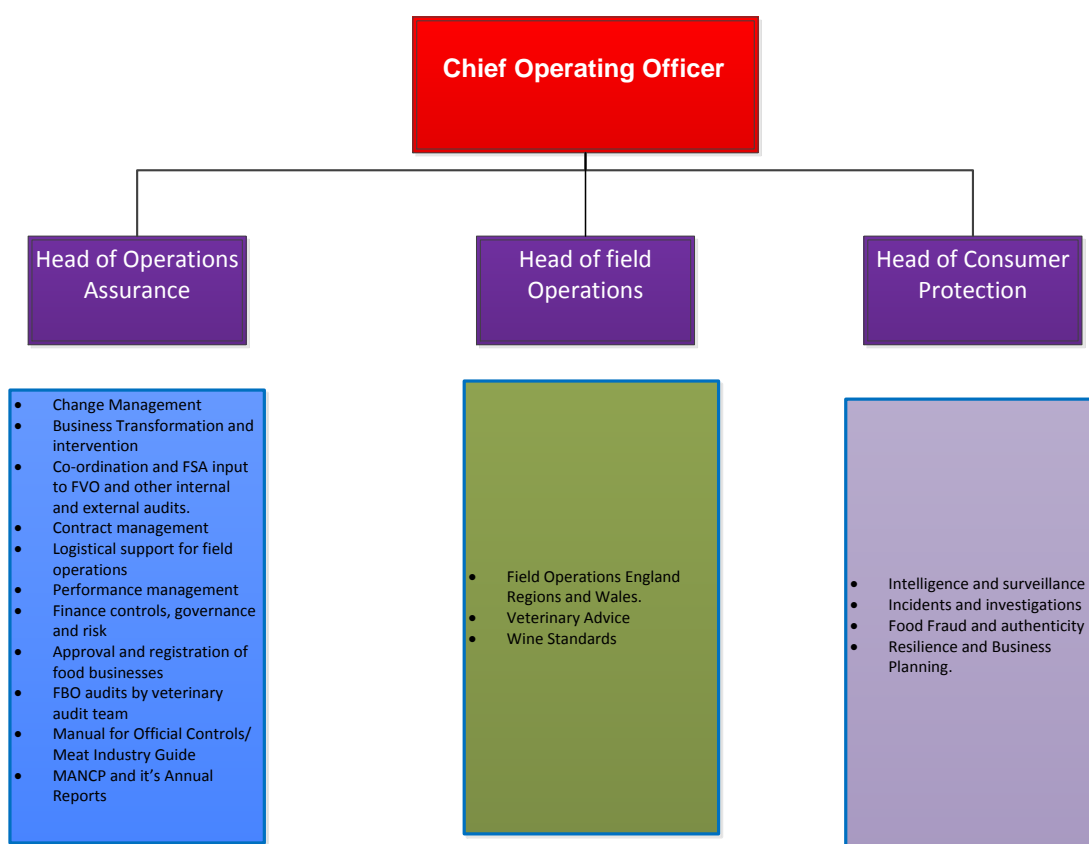
ACTIONS TAKEN TO IMPROVE PERFORMANCE OF CONTROL AUTHORITIES

Co-ordination and co-operation in the food and feed sectors

Food Standards Agency

FSA Operations

5.1 During 2015/16 the FSA Operations underwent further changes to better align its core functions and delivery. Additional changes during the year included the Local Delivery Division and LA Audit Team moving out of the Operations and into the new Wales and Local Delivery Division. Also Operations Assurance incorporated a business transformation and intervention team within its division. The organisation chart below shows the 2015/16 overarching responsibilities for the Operations Division:



Food Standards Scotland

5.2 Following the establishment of FSS on 1 April 2015 a new organisational structure for operational delivery functions has been put in place, making a number of changes to the previous structure under the FSA in Scotland. This is led by the FSS Director of Operations, and comprises the following teams:

- Operational Delivery
- Enforcement Delivery
- Audit
- Veterinary Approvals

Revision of the Food Law Codes of Practice

5.3 During the year these Codes were the subject of an ongoing review programme. The newly revised Food Law Code of Practice (England) came into force in April 2015, and has been amended in two ways:

- To clarify guidance to LAs on the registration, inspection and reporting requirements for mobile food establishments and for ships and aircrafts. The changes will improve consistency of approach, particularly in determining whether a mobile business has been registered and inspected by an authority and the frequency of official controls required at such establishments.
- To introduce a “competency-based authorisation” system for LAs undertaking official controls, to place more emphasis on the necessary behavioural skills and experience needed to undertake official control duties. Authorised officers will continue to hold a necessary baseline qualification.

5.4 A development team was set up by FSS in January 2016 to take forward the recommendations of the Scottish Food Enforcement Liaison Committee working group, which was established to review the Food Law Code of Practice (Scotland), in line with recommendation 57 of the Scudamore report.

5.5 The Development team consists of three members of FSS and three LA representatives, who have been tasked with the development of the proposed “Ladder Model” and the creation of a new combined food law enforcement matrix.

5.6 The newly revised Food Law Code of Practice for NI came into force in February 2016

Revision of the Feed Law Code of Practice

5.7 The Feed Law Code of Practice (Scotland) was updated in March 2016 to reflect the implementation of Earned Recognition in Scotland. Its issue was accompanied by the Earned Recognition Practice Guidance, both available on the FSS website: foodstandards.gov.scot/earned-recognition-practice-guidance-scotland and foodstandards.gov.scot/feed-law-code-practice-2016

All the Codes and Practice Guidance are available at:
food.gov.uk/enforcement/enforcework/feedlawcop.

5.8 The Feed Law Enforcement Guidance (NI) is currently under review.

General Hygiene

Training for authorised officers

5.09 The FSA continued its programme of update training for LA food and feed law authorised officers at little or no cost to LAs. During the financial year 2015/16, 219 courses were held and 3,709 officers were trained in England.

5.10 The programme, delivered throughout the UK, covered training on a wide range of issues, including:

- HACCP assessment for Enforcement Officers
- Auditing food safety activities and processes
- *E. coli* cross-contamination guidance
- Feed safety (import controls, feed safety management and sampling)
- Import controls
- Shellfish hygiene
- Food fraud
- Use of sous-vide in food establishments
- Enforcement sanctions

5.11 Training delivered to FSA frontline staff throughout 2015/16 included:

- 2 members of staff had lead auditor training
- 2 members of staff had HACCP training 40 members of staff had food sampling and analysis training
- 12 members of staff had local delivery lead auditor training
- 39 members of staff had WATOK training, 41 meat hygiene inspectors (MHIs) had unannounced inspection consistency training

Training specific to Wales

5.12 During 2015/16, the FSA in Wales funded 26 training courses for 664 LA officers.

5.13 A range of trainer-led courses were provided for LA officers in Wales covering food hygiene, food standards and animal feed. The training addressed the key priorities which were established at the start of the year, following consultation with key stakeholders and a review of significant legislative and policy changes.

5.14 The training programme covered the following areas:

- Additive legislation & product specific regulations
- Food supplement, nutrition and health claims
- Animal feed general update
- Feed law consistency

- Animal feed enforcement and sampling
- Onsite practical training by a feed expert
- HACCP
- Approved establishments
- Inspection of dairy establishments
- Micro criteria for food with emphasis on *Listeria monocytogenes*
- Reducing the risk of *E.coli* O157
- Food Hygiene Rating Scheme (FHRS) consistency
- Food Information Regulation (FIR) Improvement Notices
- UKFSS

5.15 As a result of the FSA funded training, 97.3% of LA officers gave positive feedback.

Training specific to FSS - Scotland

5.16 FSS funded training for 36 LA staff in level 4 HACCP over two courses run in February and March 2016. Officers attended from 20 out of 32 LA's in Scotland.

5.17 FSS continued to support the EH profession by awarding funding for student / graduate trainee EHO's up to the end of the 2015 financial year.

Training specific to NI

5.18 The following training courses were identified by the NI Food Liaison Group and delivered throughout 2015/16:

- Food Supplements Training (22 officers attended)
- Country of Origin Labelling Training (63 officers attended)
- Food Information Regulation - Improvement Notice Training (50 officers attended)

Meat controls

UK official controls on Mechanically Separated Meat (MSM)

5.19 The moratorium on production and use of desinewed meat (DSM) remains in place and official controls are applied. One FBO has legally challenged the FSAs decision to impose the moratorium in the High Court by way of Judicial Review. As part of the case the High Court sought clarification from the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) on the definition of MSM and the CJEU made a preliminary ruling on 16 October 2014. The effect of the preliminary ruling on the domestic Judicial Review proceedings is yet to be determined by the High Court. In the meantime, the FBO has been granted interim relief by the High Court to produce DSM from pigs and poultry and to sell this product as a meat preparation. As the final decision of the High Court may impact on the advice and guidance in relation to MSM production the UK is adopting a holding position.

- 5.20 The reformed system of charging and discounting was developed by the Steering Group on Meat Charging. This is a group of meat industry stakeholders which is independently chaired and facilitated by the FSA. The Steering Group works to develop and agree policy proposals by consensus. An overriding principle of the Steering Group is that nothing will be taken forward which would have an adverse impact on public health.

E coli O157 guidance

- 5.21 The FSA E-coli O157 control of cross-contamination guidance was revised and updated in December 2014 to take into account the results from independent research into the effectiveness of disinfecting complex equipment, and the views of industry and LA stakeholders. The aim of the guidance is to ensure that businesses manage the risk to consumer health from the presence of E.coli in food. Minor revisions to the fact sheet were completed in January 2016. Further information can be found at food.gov.uk/business-industry/guidancenotes/hygguid/ecoliguide

Modernised meat controls for pigs

Visual Inspection

- 5.22 From June 2014 visual inspection of pigs was successfully introduced across the UK. The exception to the default visual inspection is for establishments where there is a business need to continue traditional inspection to meet the requirements of an export certificate for trade with Third Countries, the FSA continues to work with industry to see that this is done. This is usual practice in situations where meat is being placed on the market outside of the EU and is subject to different considerations. Defra, with support from the FSA and the devolved administrations, will continue to work with Third Countries towards gaining assurances about the use of visual inspection procedures for exported meat in the future.

Salmonella

- 5.23 A new obligation in 854/2004 (introduced in June 2014) for Competent Authorities (CA) to collect all information on the total number of Salmonella PHC samples taken by FBOs, including the number of positive results. The legislation also requires that if the PHC is not complied with on several occasions the CA must require an action plan from the FBO concerned and strictly supervise its outcome. The requirement still only applies to FBOs processing over 37,500 pigs a year.
- 5.24 Regarding the FSA salmonella database, an on-line application has been produced so that data on salmonella can be recorded by Official Veterinarians in slaughterhouses. The first reporting year began in January 2015. Between 1st Jan and 31st December 2015 in England at the 16 establishments that slaughter 100,000 pigs weekly there were 1,945 salmonella tests on pigs of which 15 were positive. In Scotland 320 tests were undertaken. None were positive.

Trichinella

- 5.25 A new, risk-based, EU-wide approach to *Trichinella* testing was introduced in the UK on the 1 June 2014. Producers have adopted the new testing requirements and in 2015 no *Trichinella* was detected in domestic or wild animals in the UK.

Shellfish hygiene

- 5.26 The programme to improve co-ordination, consistency and effectiveness of shellfish controls across the UK continues to ensure shellfish work carried out across the devolved FSA offices and FSS, is aligned and makes most efficient use of resources to manage the safety of shellfish produced and sold in the UK. The Working Group meets regularly to review progress and identify issues which might impact on effective delivery of official controls for shellfish.

Imported food

- 5.27 In February 2014, the Commission Implementing Decision 2014/88 introduced a temporary suspension on EU imports of paan (betel) leaves from Bangladesh until July 2014. This followed continuously high levels of non-compliances for salmonella in paan leaves as reported by the UK since 2011. This temporary suspension was first extended in July 2014 for a further 12 months followed by an additional 12 month suspension in 2015 until 30 June 2016.
- 5.28 Additional controls on imported food were implemented, and the FSA issued guidance on the application of the controls to enforcement practitioners at points of entry for new and amended measures introduced in 2015:
- additional controls on certain feed and food listed in Annex I of Regulation (EC) 669/2009 (as amended) following each quarterly review
 - amendment measures on food and feed from Japan for the radionuclides iodine-131 (part), caesium-134 and caesium-137 (Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 322/2014)
 - extension of period of suspension of certain bivalve molluscs from Peru due to Hepatitis A (Commission Implementing Decision 2014/874/EU).
- 5.29 The FSA's Early Warning System, developed in 2013 to detect potential emerging risks related to imported foods, continued to identify new emerging issues in 2015, including some which were subsequently subject to additional import controls under Regulation (EC) 669/2009 (as amended). The EWS system is primarily based on analysis of EU RASFF notifications. Port health and inland authorities and food businesses who have expressed an interest, are alerted to new risks when they are identified, which contributes to their targeted sampling programmes, to improve the safety of imported foods.
- 5.30 In 2014, the FSA made the transition to using the Commission's web-based certification system, TRACES, to record all UK consignment data on high-risk food and feed imports not of animal origin. This enabled TRACES to be used to obtain compliance data of such imports required for the statutory quarterly reporting to the Commission. As such, it removed a significant administrative

burden on PHAs for complying with the requirement to submit to the FSA quarterly reports of such consignments. The use of TRACES to record such products may become a legal requirement for all Member States following the outcome of the review of official controls under Regulation (EC) 882/2004 expected in 2016.

- 5.31 Between April 2014 and March 2015, 11 food training courses were provided to 177 inland and Port Health enforcement officers from England, Wales and NI, and between April 2015 and March 2016 8 food training courses were provided to 115 enforcement officers. This covered both inland and port health officers, covering enforcement of import controls, sampling, imported food/feed control at smaller ports, and guidance on investigation and enforcement.

Third country exports

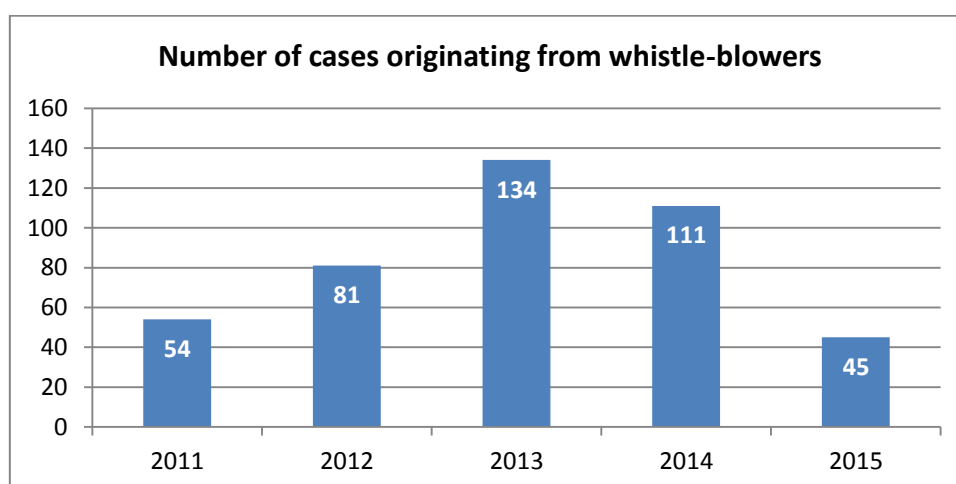
- 5.32 The FSA Exports Policy Team works closely with FSA veterinarians, LA officials and Defra/APHA to support activity to approve (where necessary) UK businesses for export to countries outside the EU and to carry out ongoing assessments of compliance in these exporting businesses, particularly where they are exporting to countries with specific conditions on food/feed exports.
- 5.33 The Exports Policy team has been working closely with the Exports Veterinary Leader and supporting portfolio leads to ensure that the relevant documentation, such as checklists and guidance, is readily available and accessible to the inspecting FSA veterinarians. The team plays a co-ordinating role to ensure that FBOs receive the information they require to obtain and maintain their export approval status, including reports of approval and ongoing compliance inspection visits.
- 5.34 The Exports Policy Team also continues to work with LAs to enable them to support businesses in their area wishing to export their products and be able to provide the appropriate certification. This export certification is usually issued in respect of products not of animal origin but, in the case of a limited number of products of animal origin, LAs can also provide formal APHA issued export health certificates. The Team has been considering how to improve access to information and consistency of approach and has been working on draft new guidance on the role of LAs within the export certification framework. This will be developed further with LA input for issue by Autumn 2016.
- 5.35 In addition to the above, FSA's Exports Veterinary Leader provided significant input to the Self Reporting Tool (SRT) which Defra are required to submit to the USDA as a key step towards the UK obtaining approval to export red meat to the USA. FSA veterinarians continue to work with industry to ensure that those businesses listed in the SRT will be able to meet the USDA's requirements prior to an inspection visit next year. Validation testing has been completed by the 2 UK laboratories that will carry out the prevalence testing required for Shiga Toxin producing *E coli* (STEC). FSA continues to work with Defra and industry to ensure agreed procedures are in place to allow prevalence testing to commence.

- 5.36 In April 2015, the Chinese AQSIQ carried out a market access inspection visit to review the UK's system of controls on the production of pig trotters. The Chinese auditors identified some areas for improvement to meet Chinese requirements before this trade can commence and Defra have provided a response addressing the concerns identified. A response is awaited from AQSIQ.
- 5.37 Also in April, the Chinese CNCA carried out a combined review of UK controls on pigmeat and fishery products exported to China. While largely successful, the pigmeat audit identified some areas for improvement to meet Chinese requirements and Defra have provided a response addressing the concerns identified. Exports from existing approved businesses can continue, although no new businesses can currently be approved for export to China. A response is awaited from CNCA.
- 5.38 In May 2015, a large scale inward inspection of UK controls on dairy products was carried out by the Brazilian authorities. This involved 3 teams of auditors over a 2 week period and a significant number of FSA, FSS, Defra, APHA and LA officials. The Brazilians reported a number of areas for improvement to meet Brazilian requirements which Defra addressed in their response to the report. A further response is awaited from the Brazilian authorities.
- 5.39 In October 2015, a group of South Korean officials conducted a study visit to the UK, hosted by FSA on Defra's behalf, to learn more about the UK's implementation of HACCP controls.
- 5.40 In November 2015, the Chinese AQSIQ visited the UK to review the UK's controls in place for the exports of live crabs to China, which were at the time suspended due to concerns over levels of Cadmium in crabs which, although meeting EU requirements, exceeded the Chinese requirements. This was a successful visit, with a new sampling and testing regime demonstrated by industry and Cefas. An action plan for the implementation of the proposed testing regime was subsequently agreed by the Chinese and it was hoped that trade would recommence during the spring of 2016.
- 5.41 The Exports Veterinary Leader has been working closely with poultry industry and APHA veterinary colleagues to ensure that interested businesses will be able to meet the Chinese export requirements for poultry meat. This work will be progressed during 2016 with a view to then seeking an inward market access inspection from the Chinese authorities.

Food fraud

- 5.42 As part of the development of the National Food Crime Unit (NFCU) in 2015, the practices in relation intelligence analysis and the processing of food fraud reports were refined. During 2015, 641 intelligence reports were generated from the data submissions received by the NFCU. These figures highlight the consistent levels of food fraud reporting, and the increasing utility of the data received by the NFCU as it continues to raise its profile.
- 5.43 In 2015, the FSA handled 45 cases originating from whistle-blowers (where this information originates from someone working within industry). This was considerably down on the previous years' 111, which may represent a natural

adjustment following a spike in whistleblowing caused by the horsemeat incident.



- 5.44 FSS established the Scottish Food Crime and Incidents Unit (SFCIU) in October 2015. The Unit has been put in place to provide leadership in the prevention, investigation, disruption and enforcement of Food Crime and in the management of Food Safety incidents nationally for Scotland. The SFCIU will work with key partners to proactively develop intelligence aimed at identifying serious threats faced in Scotland as a result of Food Crime and in taking the appropriate action to combat those threats.

Incident Management Protocols

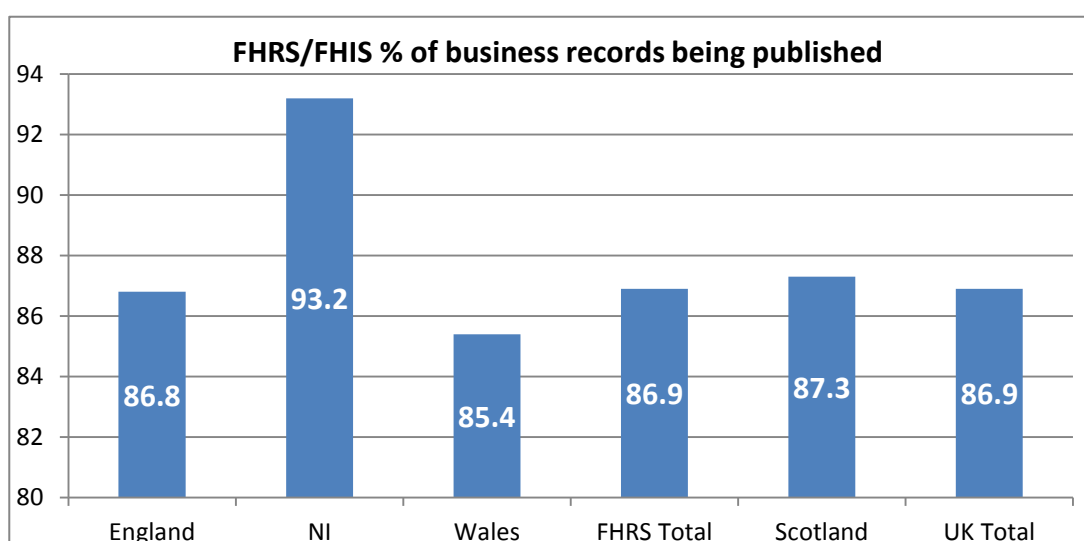
- 5.45 In 2015 the FSA undertook a series of exercises to test its revised Incident Management Plan (IMP) for non-routine incidents, which was published in 2014 following the reviews into the horsemeat incident. In 2015 FSS also produced their own Non-Routine Incident Management Plan following separation from FSA. Exercise Prometheus was designed to simulate a major, UK-wide food and feed incident requiring a cross-government response. The exercise consisted of two table top exercises, which were held in December 2014 and January 2015, followed by a main control post exercise involving stakeholders across the FSA, Government, and industry in March 2015. The exercise report made 22 recommendations for improving the FSA's emergency response protocols, of which EMT fully accepted 20. The final report together with an outline of the FSA response to the recommendations made was presented to the September FSA Board meeting. An action plan was devised to implement these recommendations and this work is now nearing completion.
- 5.46 In parallel with this, the FSA commenced planning for a further series of small scale exercises to take place throughout 2016 to continue testing the IMP and associated Standard Operating Procedures. 2015 also marked the embedding of a rolling programme of incident review, which with the oversight of the FSA's Emergency Preparedness and Resilience Response Board has identified and implemented further refinements to the FSA's incident management protocols.

Regional presence in England

- 5.47 The FSA regional team regularly attended LA Food Liaison Groups, with priority given to highlighting consistency of application of FHRS, raising the profile of the Food Information for Consumer Regulations, increasing awareness of FSA guidance on “Less than thoroughly cooked burgers”, Food Brokers and provided the opportunity for LAs to raise issues. The team provided feedback on LA delivery of official controls to inform FSA policy and shared intelligence with the National Food Crime unit. Additionally, the team hosted food leads meetings covering all nine of the English regions. These were attended by representatives of LA food hygiene and food standards liaison groups and other partner organisations and provided an opportunity for strategic discussion.
- 5.48 In addition, throughout 2015 the team continued to engage with a wide range of other stakeholders including, Public Health England, BIS, GAIN coordinators, and Local Enterprise Partnerships to improve communications and promote FSA priorities and objective

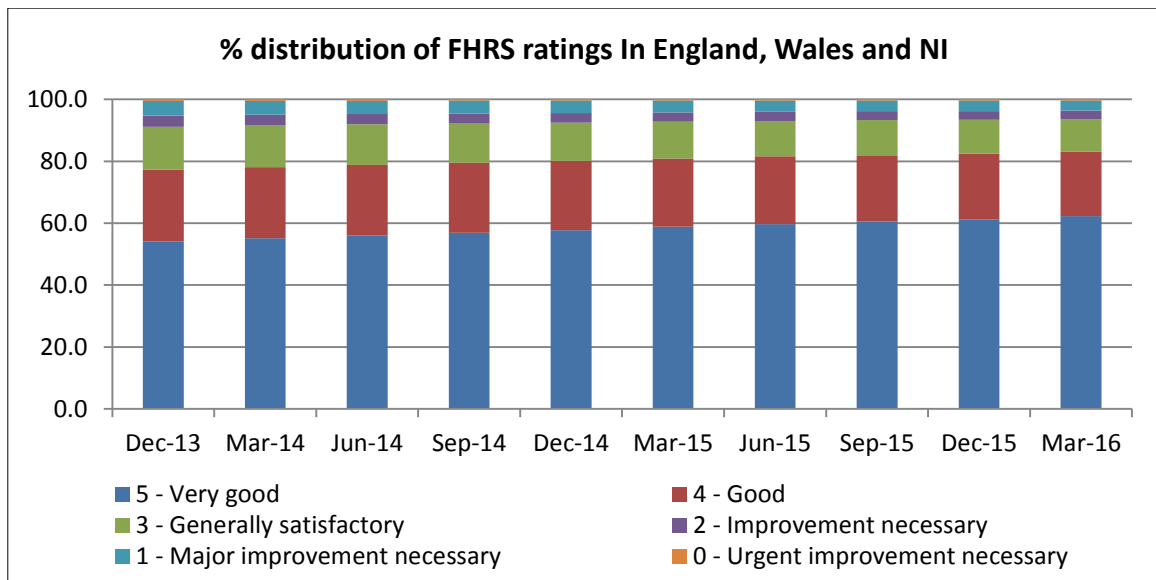
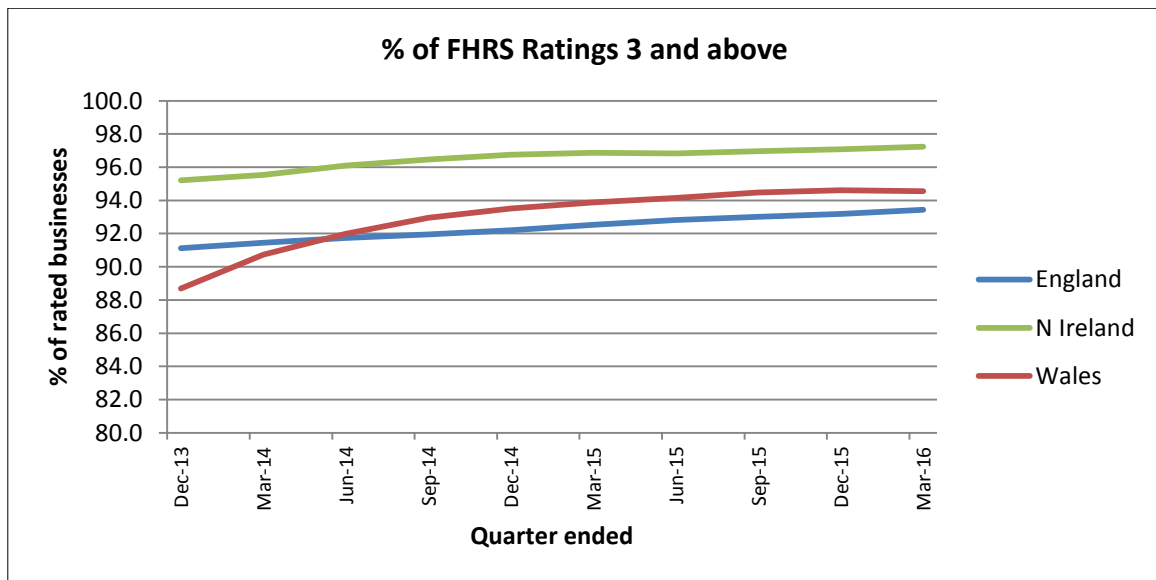
Food Hygiene Rating / Food Hygiene Information Schemes

- 5.49 The FSA and FSS continue to work with LAs to deliver the Schemes. At the close of 2015 all LAs in Wales and NI, and all but one in England were operating the FHRS. All LAs in Scotland were operating the FHIS
- 5.50 FHRS information was available for approximately 455,000 food businesses which is an estimated 87% of businesses within scope of the scheme. This is a 2% increase on 2014 (85%). FHIS information was available for approximately 46,000 food businesses and is an estimated 87% of businesses within scope. The chart below shows the percentage of business records published on food.gov.uk of those businesses within scope of the schemes as of December 2015.



- 5.51 The FSA favours extending mandatory display of ratings to food outlets in England and as an initial step, in December 2015 the FSA sought input from interested parties to the development of an impact assessment.

- 5.52 In Wales, the Food Hygiene Rating (Wales) Act and associated regulations came into force on the 28 November 2013. It introduced a statutory Food Hygiene Rating Scheme (FHRS) for Wales and requires the display of the rating sticker at establishments. In November 2014 the scope of the scheme was extended to include trade to trade businesses.
- 5.53 In April 2015, the Food Standards Scotland (FSS) Board agreed that a review should be undertaken of the operation and presentation of FHIS and its connection with the consumer. The review should encompass improvement and opportunities for evolution of the scheme. Qualitative consumer research has been carried out and FSS staff have sought initial views from LA enforcement officers. This evidence, along with the outcome of the evaluation carried out by FSA, indicated that a full review considering all aspects of the scheme was required and is currently on going.
- 5.54 The introduction of a statutory FHRS scheme in NI made good progress through the NI Assembly in 2015 and is scheduled to come into operation in October 2016. The Food Hygiene Rating Act (NI) 2016 will require food businesses to display hygiene rating stickers at establishments and a further requirement for operators to publish ratings online where they provide a facility to order food online will be consulted upon before the end of 2016.
- 5.55 Guidance to ensure consistency in implementation and operation of the FHRS by LAs is provided by the Brand Standard. As part of the Agency's on-going efforts to promote consistency in the application of the scheme a national consistency exercise was developed for LAs across England, Wales and NI, in which 95% LAs participated. Other consistency related activity for England included support to nine food liaison groups to conduct FHRS themed inter-authority audits and development of a FSA audit programme of FHRS themed audits of 12 LAs for early 2016.
- 5.56 The FHRS continued to generate significant local press coverage and the FSA ran a UK-wide programme of consumer communication activity to promote the use of the Schemes including a 'look before you book' campaign in February focussing on Valentine's Day treats. Other promotional activity included a campaign in England marking the fifth anniversary of the launch of the scheme.
- 5.57 The below graphs, which cover the financial quarters since December 2013, shows an increasing trend in businesses scoring an FHRS rating of 3 and above in England, Wales and NI and the percentage of FHRS distribution ratings for the same period:



5.58 The above graph clearly demonstrates how businesses under the FHRs scheme, up to 2015/16 financial year, have continued to improve in their ratings in England, Wales and NI.

Official Controls Auditors Liaison Group

5.59 Meetings of the UK-wide Official Controls Auditors Liaison Group were held in March and September 2015. The Group is comprised of UK audit teams involved in auditing official controls and its main purpose is to improve collaborative working so as to avoid duplication of audit effort and gaps in assurance across the UK as well as sharing knowledge and expertise.

Defra, its Executive Agencies and CRD (HSE)

Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD)

5.60 The VMD's Inspection Management System (IMS) database continues to improve as more functionality is added and allows inspectors to log more detailed information on deficiencies.

Inspection of FeBOs

- 5.61 The VMD continues to participate/engage in meetings with the Animal Feed Law Enforcement Liaison Group (AFLELG) and its sub group, the National Animal Feed Port Panel (NAFPP). The MoU⁸⁰ and details of AFLELG and NAFPP can be found at: food.gov.uk/enforcement/enfcomm/aflelg.
- 5.62 Separate MoUs remain in place with the APHA and National Agriculture Panel (NAP) (replacing the one with LACORS) and the FSA. The MOUs are currently in the process of being updated and it will now be a tripartite agreement with APHA/NAP & the VMD.
- 5.63 The VMD also has a Service Level Agreement in place with Cefas for them to inspect fish farmers manufacturing medicated feed in England & Wales.
- 5.64 The Veterinary Medicines Regulations came into Force on 1 October 2013 (S.I. 2013 No. 2033). Since then there has been an amending S.I. in 2014. No 599.

Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance

- 5.65 The VMD is responsible for antimicrobial resistance policy with respect to animal health. The VMD in partnership with DH is responsible for the delivery of the UK Five Year Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Strategy 2013-2018. The VMD compiles data on antibiotic sales and is responsible for the mandatory surveillance of antibiotic resistance in animals in the UK (as required by Commission Decision 2013/652/EU). Data are submitted to the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) for inclusion in EU surveillance reports, and the VMD is the secretariat for the Defra Antimicrobial Resistance Coordination (DARC) group.
- 5.66 The VMD also funds the antibiotic susceptibility testing of bacteria of clinical relevance from APHA's scanning surveillance programme in England & Wales. Findings from both the mandatory UK surveillance and clinical surveillance in England & Wales are published annually in the UK-VARSS report.

Veterinary Residues Surveillance

- 5.67 The planning meeting for the 2015 National Residues Control Programme (NRCP) was held in September 2014 attended by representatives of the NRLs, major contractors, FSA, Veterinary Residues Committee (VRC) and VMD. Three meetings of the independent VRC attended by officials from Defra and the FSA were held during 2014. The Committee reviewed progress on the UK NRCP. Following a review the Committee were disbanded in 2014 with their last meeting held in November 2014.

⁸⁰ between animal feed law regulatory and enforcement bodies in the UK

National Pesticide Residues Monitoring Programme

- 5.68 The 2015 National Pesticide Residues Monitoring Programme has been discussed by the Expert Committee on Pesticide Residues in Food (PRiF) and representatives from Defra, FSA, NI Executive and the SG.
- 5.69 Four meetings of the independent PRiF, attended by officials from Defra, FSA, NI Executive and the SG were held during 2015. As well as an open event where members of the public were able to join the committee for a day to listen to presentations from the committee, people from the food industry, growers and FSA and had the opportunity to ask questions about pesticide residues.

Beef labelling – England, & Wales

- 5.70 Since the FVO audit on the traceability of beef and beef products undertaken in March 2011, RPA has been supporting Defra in their engagement with FSA over improved LA enforcement of the compulsory beef labelling rules at retail premises and other premises under their enforcement control. RPA also passed on intelligence gathered during its control visits to the relevant LA (where applicable) for their follow-up action as required. RPA also liaised on an ongoing basis with the Devolved Administrations on cross border enforcement issues.
- 5.71 From July 2015 RPA introduced a risk/random inspection selection model which we now deploy rather than visiting every plant, every year, regardless of their compliance history. This was designed to help focus and tackle non-compliance.
- 5.72 RPA also made more effective use of the enforcement powers available under both domestic and European legislation and introduced an enforcement process for dealing with all serious beef labelling non-compliances. In the 2015 scheme year a total of 57 enforcement notices have been issued to premises in England and Wales, resulting in operators having to either send the consignment of beef directly into processed products, in instances where full traceability has been lost or compromised.
- 5.73 Another measure introduced is a report of inspection findings, which advises operators that their inspection has been found satisfactory or conversely will identify deficiencies found which will require correction, this is issued at the time of inspection.

Beef labelling – NI

- 5.74 Enforcement responsibility for beef labelling in NI continued to be split between DARD (approved premises) and LA (retail), with the FSA having a peripheral role. Co-ordination between DARD and Environmental Health Officers (EHOs) was strengthened through a number of joint visits which were conducted during the year. DARD inspectors provided input to a training course on beef labelling which was arranged by FSA for EHO's. LA environmental health departments also submit data on EHO beef labelling inspections to DARD on an annual basis.

Working across the EU

Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF)

- 5.75 The Incident Unit within the Consumer Protection Division is the UK contact point for RASFF notifications. More information can be found at: ec.europa.eu/food/food/rapidalert/index_en.htm
- 5.76 In 2015, the UK issued a total of 338 RASFF notifications, although four were later withdrawn. The remainder comprised 35 rapid alerts, 248 border rejection notifications and 51 information notices

Co-ordination and co-operation in the animal health and welfare and plant health sectors

Chief Veterinary Officers (CVOs) meetings

- 5.77 The four UK administrations' CVOs met monthly in 2015, focusing on the specifically veterinary aspects of animal health policy and delivery. The CVOs from the UK, Scotland, Wales and NI were joined by the most senior veterinary official from the APHA and the FSA. On a six monthly basis CVOs from the Isle of Man, Guernsey and Jersey also attended. Standing agenda items included global threats to animal and public health, international trade and a formal report and assessment of risks to animal health and welfare identified by the Veterinary Risk Group. If risks identified were not considered to be sufficiently mitigated they were escalated to the highest levels of the administrations for further action.
- 5.78 The group considered specific issues in greater depth as needed, including an overview of antimicrobial resistance, a reinvigoration of the International Animal Health Emergency Reserve Agreement and to the Department's biosecurity assessment and taking the opportunity to benchmark where the UK are in regards to animal health capability via an assessment using the OIE *Tool for the Evaluation of Performance of Veterinary Services* as the basis for evaluating the UK's performance against international standards. TB control issues are considered on a UK basis by CVO's and policy colleagues in the monthly TB liaison group meeting.

The Veterinary Risk Group (VRG)

- 5.79 In 2015, the VRG met monthly, focusing on identifying, assessing, characterising, prioritising and escalating unexpected animal-related threats and providing technical advice on options for risk management to inform decision making. The VRG reported to the four UK CVOs at their monthly Four Administrations Liaison meetings.
- 5.80 During 2015, eleven threats and vulnerabilities were raised and discussed. Four of these threats were of domestic concern including a biodiversity threat to GB amphibian species. Seven threats of international concern were discussed, including H5N1 HPAI in wild birds in Bulgaria, and Seneca A virus in pigs in Brazil. In addition, 55 points for information were raised and

discussed. Points for information provide details of unexpected threats which the risk manager considers do not require further action or have already been mitigated, but would be useful for the VRG members and UK's CVOs to be aware.

The Animal Health and Welfare Board for England

5.81 The Animal Health and Welfare Board for England is the principal source of departmental advice to Defra ministers on all strategic health and welfare matters relating to all kept animals in England. The Board's role is to set the strategic policy framework, using it as the basis for day-to-day advice to ministers and day-to-day operational actions. The Board's responsibilities during 2015 included:

- Developing and implementing animal health and welfare policy and ensuring value for money.
- Assessing of the risk of threats from animal disease and what the surveillance and research priorities should be.
- Monitoring the regulatory framework.
- Approving the operational plans of the APHA and other bodies.
- Reviewing contingency plans for dealing with new disease outbreaks.

5.82 In 2015 the Board met five times, and all meeting notes are published⁸¹

The Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework⁸²

5.83 The Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework Implementation Plan for 2015/16 was published on 17 July 2015. The plan outlined priorities for the year, how these contribute to the strategic outcomes and key actions for delivery. Information on the Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework including key documents and the published minutes of the Wales Animal Health and Welfare Group⁸³ can be found at gov.wales/ahwframework

Working with LAs

5.84 Defra and APHA continued to work with the LAs' National Animal Health and Welfare panel (NAHWP) to exchange and disseminate information and to identify and address common issues. The panel met quarterly, led by LAs and included representatives from each region allowing a national picture to be understood. A LA National Animal Health and Welfare framework⁸⁴ was prepared and published to help LAs plan and deliver against Defra's animal health and welfare national priorities. This framework sets out national

⁸¹ gov.uk/government/groups/animal-health-and-welfare-board-for-england-ahwbe#minutes-of-meetings

⁸² wales.gov.uk/ahwframework

⁸³ Group of six experts providing a recognised link between the WG, livestock keepers, animal owners, industry representatives and the veterinary profession. The Group meets on a quarterly basis.

⁸⁴ gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/255065/pb14037-ahaw-framework-2014-2015.pdf

priorities whilst retaining flexibility to react to local financial pressures and priorities. These priorities are discussed and agreed with the NAHWP.

Co-ordinating work on biosecurity across Defra and its agencies

5.85 Defra assesses thousands of risks to animal and plant health including aquaculture, bees and risks to the environment. These risks are constantly evolving as risk pathways change, whether due to climate change, trade patterns or other factors. As a result, Defra continues to update its approaches to risks and issues related to biosecurity, covering animal, plant, bees, aquatic animal health, and invasive non-native species, across the continuum of activities on biosecurity – pre-border, at the border and within the UK. Monthly biosecurity meetings were held throughout 2015 to enable timely escalation of new and changing biosecurity risks to animal and plant health and the environment from invasive non-native species. These meetings are held with senior officials and Ministers and provide strategic oversight and direction.

Risk Assessment – understanding the risk

5.86 Defra continued to monitor the international disease situation and conducted and produced 17 Preliminary Outbreak Assessments on a range of global outbreaks such as *Bluetongue*, *African Swine Fever*, *Avian Influenza*. Defra communicated the new outbreaks to the BIPs and Border Force to ensure that all regulatory and anti-smuggling controls at the border were responsive to new or changing animal health risks and to ensure that they focused on the most high risk routes and goods. Further information can be found at: gov.uk/government/collections/animal-diseases-international-monitoring.

Bee health

England and Wales

5.87 In England and Wales Defra and APHA continued to work in partnership with beekeeping stakeholders to deliver the objectives of the Healthy Bees Plan⁸⁵. During 2015 four meetings of the Bee Health Advisory Forum⁸⁶ took place which included bee stakeholders and officials from Defra, APHA, Fera, the WG, and the SG. Topics discussed included stakeholder bee health training programmes, the National Pollinator Strategy, veterinary medicines for bees, bee research, and contingency planning for exotic pests.

Scotland

5.88 In Scotland, the Honey Bee Health Strategy⁸⁷, now in its sixth year of operation brings together, in a partnership arrangement, all sectors of the

⁸⁵ nationalbeeunit.com/index.cfm?sectionid=41

⁸⁶ The aim of the Forum is to provide an opportunity for early discussion on emerging or developing issues, as well as increasing transparency and understanding for all participants of positions across the range of interests.

⁸⁷ gov.scot/Topics/farmingrural/Agriculture/animal-welfare/bee/strategy

beekeeping sector from frontline beekeepers, SG Bee Inspectors, scientists at SASA and policy makers. Implementation of the Strategy involves representatives from the Scottish Beekeepers Association (SBA); Bee Farmers Association (BFA), Scotland's Rural College (SRUC) as well as observers from the NBU and Defra policy. The Strategy is taken forward under the auspices of 2 sub-groups who deliver on outcomes as agreed by the main steering group.

NI

- 5.89 The NI Strategy for the Sustainability of the Honey Bee⁸⁸ which is in its fifth year of operation is currently being reviewed. This review will integrate the Bee Health elements of this Strategy within the All Ireland Pollinator Strategy. During 2015 DARD continued to engage with the Ulster Beekeepers Association and the Institute of NI Beekeepers in implementing the strategy.

Aquatic animal health

- 5.90 UK policy and enforcement officials continued to meet on an annual basis, in order to share good practice and ensure that standards of inspection are equivalent across the administrations.

England and Wales

- 5.91 The Defra annual stakeholder meeting took place at the Cefas Weymouth laboratory in March 2015 and was attended by officials from the competent authority, the devolved administrations, the official services and representatives of trade bodies. This meeting provides an opportunity to consider current issues in relation to aquatic animal health from a UK perspective.
- 5.92 The FHI has continued to engage with other government agencies on improving working practices in a number of areas including with Natural England on habitats regulation assessments, the Environment Agency on response to disease outbreaks in wild aquatic animals, and FSA on contingency planning and support during emergencies.
- 5.93 The FHI is represented on the Government's National Investigators Group. This group promote the need for all Government Departments to participate in the new National Crime Agency⁸⁹ Integrated Operating Model (Threat, Harm and Risk from Organised Crime Groups). The FHI is also taking forward inter-Agency cooperation including participating in a multi-Agency investigation into a number of potential breaches of food and animal health regulations in the shellfish sector, and in illegal activity associated with trade in live eels.
- 5.94 The FHI investigation and enforcement Inspector remains seconded to the

⁸⁸ dardni.gov.uk/strategy-for-the-sustainability-of-the-honey-bee.pdf

⁸⁹ nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/

Marine Management Organisation⁹⁰ to lead a number of high level investigations into illegal activities in the marine fisheries sector.

- 5.95 The FHI provided a technical expert in support of a mission to the Republic of South Korea funded through the partnership initiative of the Technical Assistance Information Exchange Instrument (TAIEX), to assist the Korean Ministry of Ocean and Fisheries in establishing an appropriate regulatory framework to facilitate trade into the European Union.
- 5.96 In 2015 the FHI were awarded the Cabinet Office's Customer Service Excellence (CSE) Standard. The Government developed this exacting standard for delivery bodies that provide an efficient, effective, excellent, equitable and empowering service to the public, and represents an independent validation of achievement. The FHI is the first organisation in Defra and the Defra agencies to achieve the CSE Standard through independent assessment.

Scotland

- 5.97 Communication between Marine Scotland and internal and external organisations ensured appropriate co-operation and co-ordination for relevant cases throughout the year. During 2015 communications were maintained with veterinarians from the APHA, representatives from the Scottish Environment Protection Agency as well as colleagues within Marine Scotland Compliance.

NI

- 5.98 The excellent lines of communication which exist between the DARD FHI and the FHI at Cefas were again evident throughout 2015. The sharing of good practice and technical expertise has proved beneficial in the on-going maintenance of a high fish health status.
- 5.99 DARD continued on-going co-operation with the Marine Institute⁹¹ regarding movements of fish.
- 5.100 For animal diseases in the wild, DARD maintained good lines of communication with the NI Environment Agency, the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure responsible for inland fisheries in NI in 2015 and the Loughs Agency of the Foyle, Carlingford and Irish Lights Commission, which is responsible for inland fisheries of the Foyle and Carlingford Areas.

Plant health

GB

- 5.101 There were biannual meetings of the UK Co-ordination group, which includes all the UK territories, including the Channel Isles and Isle of Man. These

⁹⁰ gov.uk/government/organisations/marine-management-organisation

⁹¹ the Competent Authority for fish health in the South of Ireland marine.ie

meetings discussed a range of topics, including the latest developments on the review of the EU Plant Health Regime and the implementation of the GB Plant Biosecurity Strategy⁹², as well as to agree pest risk management measures, and to hear reports from all territories on actions taken against plant pests.

- 5.102 In England and Wales, Plant Health and Seeds Inspectorate continue to co-ordinate their inspections with the Rural Payments Agency Inspectorate through the use of the PEACH notification system which allocates inspections to each inspectorate thus reducing the risk of unnecessary duplication of inspections. There is also co-ordination with HM Revenue and Customs through the use of the Automatic Licence Verification system which feeds data on the plant health status of goods to the HMRC CHIEF Computer system, thus automating the release of goods when permitted by an inspector.
- 5.103 PHSI exchanges information with Port Health Teams and UK Border Force when items of potential interest are found which may be of interest to other agencies.
- 5.104 Participation in the One Government at the Border project has helped to increase recognition of the importance of all the Border agencies cooperating to a greater extent. PHSI has gained greater oversight and control of imports via the postal service. Throughout the year, the Forestry Commission participated and provided import data to assist with the discovery phase of the government initiative One Government at the Border (OG@B). This is an emerging portfolio of work to solve problems and exploit opportunities by bringing together border-related strategies, processes and technologies to deliver integrated border controls and a single, secure service experience for business to:
- support the UK's economic growth agenda;
 - improve border security;
 - increase revenue collection; and
 - deliver operational efficiencies.
- 5.105 Representatives from Defra, APHA PHSI, the Devolved Administrations, the Forestry Commission Plant Health team, and Forestry Commission Forest Research attended Defra Plant Health Risk group meetings⁹³ in 2015. This Group carries out a monthly assessment of plant health threats faced by the UK, including the prioritisation and review of Pest Risk Analyses and entries on the UK Plant Health Risk Register.
- 5.106 As in previous years, PHSI worked with Natural England and Forestry Commission Plant Health team on aerial surveillance of *Juniper*, photographing and mapping for PHSI ground truthing. In addition, where aerial surveillance identified positive *Phytophthora* cases in Larch, PHSI carried out all non-forestry follow up inspections. Details of locations and inspection results are shared between APHA & Forestry Commission.
- 5.107 Co-operation between agencies including APHA, Forestry Commission &

⁹² gov.uk/government/publications/plant-biosecurity-strategy-for-great-britain

⁹³ coordinated by the UK Chief Plant Health Officer

Forest Research has been crucial in the delivery of Incident Management responses to pests such as *Dryocosmus kuriphilus* and *Anoplophora glabripennis*.

NI

5.108 DARD and DAFM continue to work in partnership on a number of key issues including Plant Health. Both jurisdictions continue to implement the All Ireland and Chalara Control Strategy. A review of this strategy is underway, based on scientific evidence which will collate the extent of disease spread across the island, and allow options to effectively manage the changing situation. This work commenced in December 2015 when DARD facilitated a Chalara workshop with representation from both Defra and DAFM which produced options for the control of the disease. These options will be considered in conjunction with stakeholders to determine future control policy.

Legislation

5.109 During the period under report, the Government introduced a number of amendments to the UK plant health, forestry, and potatoes legislation.

5.110 England introduced The Welfare of Animals at Time of Killing (England) Regulation 2015 on 5 November 2015

Procedures

5.111 Border controls procedures are in the BIP Manual which is supplemented by OVS notes providing updates about changes to EU legislation. During 2015 46 OVS notes were issued covering a variety of subjects from safeguard measures for fishery products to changes in import conditions live animals and animal products. The BIP Manual and OVS notes are available on ahvla.defra.gov.uk/official-vets/Guidance/bip/index.htm.

5.112 In 2015, the PHSI import processes were audited and re-accredited under ISO 17020. In addition, the PHSI received a very successful surveillance visit and inspection from UKAS. With only a few minor changes needed, the PHSI passed and maintained ISO accreditation to 17020 for plant passporting, with audit inspections by APHA ISO Quality Standards team and UKAS external assessors.

Information systems

5.113 The Cefas FHI works in accordance with the National Intelligence Model (NIM) and in 2015 introduced a new database for the storage and management of intelligence. This database will improve the capability of the FHI to identify potential breaches of aquatic animal health legislation, and facilitate better exchange of information with other government agencies.

5.114 In April 2015 DARD and DAFM in the Republic of Ireland launched a web based smartphone “App” – TreeCheck.⁹⁴ The App, developed with the co-operation of Forestry Commission by DAFM and DARD, allows smartphone users in both jurisdictions to report suspect disease and pest symptoms including the location and photographs of the trees. Reports are shown on a web based viewer and can be sent to Inspectors’ hand held GPS devices for follow up.

5.115 In NI, the Plant Health Inspection Branch migrated the remainder of its non-able plant health inspection data capture to a GPS enabled handheld system, in line with previous developments for Ash Dieback and *Phytophthora ramorum*. This system is facilitating enhanced management and spatial analysis of inspection and outbreak data through a Geographic Information System (GIS).

Training

5.116 132 representatives attended animal health and welfare and plant health training courses organised through the European Commission’s Better training for Safer Food (BTSF). The BTSF learning materials were cascaded to staff of Competent Authority involved in official controls through in house courses through in house courses.

Animal health and welfare

5.117 Fifty three UK’s Official Veterinary Surgeons and Official Fish Inspectors responsible for carrying out veterinary checks at BIPs attended 2 BIP update training days organised by APHA⁹⁵. Some training requirements were identified during BIPs audits e.g. new and changed legislation, areas of controls where issues were arising because of inconsistent application of the veterinary checks rules. Pre-training questionnaires were sent out prior to the training day and these provided valuable information on the level of knowledge of attendees and future training events were then planned to address any deficiencies noted.

5.118 APHA provided a wide range of training courses during 2015. Details of these are set out below:

- 69 newly appointed State Veterinary Inspectors completed the induction training, a 3 day event covering key subject matter relevant to the SVI role:
 - To further support their induction into APHA, 67 staff attended livestock industry briefing days which provided an introduction to the five main livestock sectors of beef cattle, dairy cattle, sheep, pigs and poultry with emphasis on the keys issues affecting each sector in terms of methods of production, jargon, level of profitability, opportunities and threats and reference to health and welfare.
- 79 staff completed Enforcement training:

⁹⁴ TreeCheck can be accessed at treecheck.net

⁹⁵ 2 June and 5 November 2014

- 55 of which attended a 2 day course on Enforcement Support. The course provided an understanding of APHA's role in enforcement (including rules relating to witnesses and evidence).
- 24 of which completed online Enforcement Refresher training. The e-learning provides those staff that have already completed the face to face training with an opportunity to refresh their knowledge and understanding of their roles and responsibilities in this area of work.
- 149 APHA staff have attended welfare related training:
 - 62 of which attended a 1 day course on the 'Welfare at Time of Killing' regulations in order to understand the differences between the old and the new regulations and how to apply them effectively in the field.
 - 87 of which completed an introductory eLearning module 'Core Animal Welfare' which provides people with basic training on animal welfare and covers the theory and legislation involved.
- 63 APHA staff attended Salmonella training covering the statutory requirements of the UK Salmonella National Control Programmes in poultry.
- 418 staff attended events which have health and safety as a central theme:
 - 157 of which attended 'Cattle Event' workshops – a programme to increase knowledge of animal's behaviours and reactions, and this can be exploited for the purposes of the agency's work. They also discussed modern thinking on management, handling and restraint methods and equipment.
 - 261 of which attended Dynamic Risk Assessment events – interactive workshops which are aimed at those staff who work out in the field and need to react appropriately to hazards discovered while conducting their work.
- 125 staff attended events which have contingency planning as a central theme. These events all allow staff to update their knowledge and skills in the roles and responsibilities they would adopt in the event of a disease outbreak. The events in this area are:
 - Firearms related training: 34
 - Field Operations Manager training: 14
 - Poultry Culling training: 12
 - Case Officer training: 35
 - NDCC Veterinary and Technical Operations Team induction: 30
- Other activities of significance were courses for the Post Mortem of Pigs, a pilot for Veterinary Risk Assessment (roll out will be in 2016), Tracing Documents & Record Keeping Requirements for Animal By-Products and initial training for Egg Marketing duties.

Border Controls

5.119 Illegal imports of live fish into the UK represent a major threat to the maintenance of the UK aquatic animal health status. In order to enhance biosecurity at the border the FHI undertook a series of training events for frontline Border Force (BF) staff at major points of import including Dover, Hull, Poole, and Harwich on the legislative position with regard to trade in live fish. This awareness training yielded positive results through an increased exchange of intelligence and the interception of an illegal consignment of live fish.

Bee health

5.120 During 2015 in the UK:

- 9 new Seasonal Bee Inspectors received in house training, a week long residential course at the NBU (Fera) followed by 2 weeks Field Based training with competent Inspectors.
- 13 Bee Inspectors attended City and Guilds training and qualified from Level 2 Disease Management and Safe Use of Veterinary Medicines Modules. Two other Bee Inspectors passed their Level 3 City & Guilds Land Based Skills Assessors to deliver and assess the above Disease Management course.
- 32 Bee Inspectors received additional training as part of field-based contingency exercises carried out for potential exotic threats to apiculture.
- 70 NBU staff undertook mandatory, e-learning on protecting information, fraud prevention and unconscious bias.
- 70 NBU staff attended the NBU annual Technical training workshop at Sand Hutton.

Aquatic animal health

5.121 130 Members of the Cefas FHI attended a number of training events including intelligence analysis, water safety, driving safety, and presentation skills. In addition a newly recruited Fish Health Inspector completed the Better Training for Safer Food e-learning course on animal health prevention and controls for aquatic animals.

5.122 Four members of Marine Scotland's FHI were undertaking a Post Graduate Certificate in Aquatic Animal Health from the University of Stirling.

Plant health

5.123 Plant Health Contract Inspector training for the Forestry Commission Inspectors was provided in Edinburgh in December 2015, covering a range of updates on pest threats, EU legislation, Health and Safety and standard operating procedural guidance.

5.124 In January 2015 the annual PHSI technical training event took place, covering a range of plant health training areas from concept to delivery.

Emergency and contingency planning

Animal health

5.125 For the purposes of exotic animal disease control, GB is considered to be a single epidemiological unit or zone. A co-ordinated disease control approach will therefore be adopted in the event of an outbreak of an exotic notifiable animal disease. APHA has responsibility for delivering the operational response to a disease outbreak and provides input to the English, Scottish

and Welsh Contingency plans for an outbreak of exotic disease of animals which are produced by each Government in GB. In addition to the individual country plans, there is an overarching UK Contingency Plan⁹⁶ which outlines how the four Administrations work together during the response to a disease outbreak. The revised version of the Plan was published in March 2015.

5.126 In February 2015 an outbreak of Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza H7N7 was detected in a flock of broiler breeders in Hampshire, England. A proportional response was mounted using the contingency plans and control strategy for this disease. The disease was successfully contained to a single premises and surveillance activities confirmed that the disease had not spread. In July, High Pathogenic Avian Influenza H7N7 was detected in a flock of laying hens in Lancashire, England. A full response was mounted again utilising the contingency plans and control strategies, and included operational partners and stakeholders at the local and national level. The disease was again successfully contained to a single premises. Restriction zones were lifted on 16 August 2015. Both outbreaks demonstrated that the contingency plans and control strategies were effective in responding to and controlling the disease. The final report to the OIE confirmed that secondary cleansing and disinfection had been completed on 19 November 2015 and the event was closed. Reviews of the outbreaks have taken place and lessons identified and actioned.

5.127 APHA has a well-developed, centrally co-ordinated exercise programme in which local offices carry out or participate in at least one local exercise each year. In 2015 the programme was curtailed due to the HPAI outbreaks with only those not directly involved continuing with their planned exercise. The internal Emergency Readiness Management Assurance Scheme (ERMAS) mechanism and the three year exercise programme has allowed staff to complete simulated tests of outbreak governance, processes, decision making and the mobilisation of services. In addition to a national FMD Vaccination table top exercise held in November 2015, APHA carried out 7 exercise events in 2015/16 to test contingency plans. These exercises included policy input from English, Scottish and Welsh Governments and representation from partner organisations such as the Police and LAs in order to test a multi-agency response to disease outbreak.

England

5.128 Defra's Contingency Plan for Exotic Notifiable Diseases of Animals⁹⁷ was reviewed in 2015 as required by the Animal Health Act 2002 and published in March 2016.

Wales

5.129 The Welsh Governments Contingency Plan for Exotic Animal Diseases⁹⁸ was reviewed and updated in 2016 to reflect the lessons learned from previous outbreaks and exercises.

⁹⁶ gov.uk/government/publications/great-britain-and-northern-ireland-contingency-plan-for-exotic-notifiable-diseases-of-animals

⁹⁷ gov.uk/government/publications/contingency-plan-for-exotic-notifiable-diseases-of-animals-2016

Scotland

5.130 The SG deployed key aspects of its generic Contingency Framework Plan⁹⁹ in response to the identification of a suspected contact premises in Scotland during the Preston HPAI outbreak in July 2015. Restrictions at that premises were applied temporarily while investigations were conducted, however disease was ruled out and the response did not move past the suspicion stage. The SG also participated in cross-border bird tables and CVO stocktakes during both the February and July HPAI outbreaks in England.

NI

5.131 During 2015 the following contingency planning activities were carried out:

- A Poultry Day at CAFRE Loughry Campus provided field Veterinary Officers and technical staff with updates on the poultry industry in NI; important notifiable diseases of poultry; their roles and responsibilities during an outbreak. Practical sessions in the afternoon included post mortem demonstrations lead by a private veterinarian, and practicing the use of personal protective equipment.
- Exercise “*Gallus*” was held at a poultry slaughterhouse. Its purpose was to exercise Veterinary Service and Food Business Operator plans and procedures when responding to an Avian Influenza suspect case at a poultry slaughterhouse.
- Exercise Leghorn was held at an egg packing station. The scenario involved a Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza outbreak in a supplier flock. Not only did this exercise practise DARD procedures, it also highlighted the need for such businesses to have their own contingency plans in place.
- Classroom training on whole-house gassing included input from industry technicians and helped to maintain staff preparedness.
- An Avian Influenza awareness event was held at CAFRE Greenmount Campus for all involved in the poultry industry in NI.

Bee health

England and Wales

5.132 The contingency plans for the arrival of exotic pests are reviewed on an annual basis. Regular contingency planning exercises were held including two regional contingency exercises for exotic threats. These involved appointed inspectors from three regions testing the scenarios for the arrival of Small hive beetle¹⁰⁰ and Asian hornet¹⁰¹. These exercises are run in conjunction with local beekeepers so it is a joint cooperative exercise. Following the exercises, lessons learned and actions were used to refine the contingency plans.

⁹⁸ gov.wales/docs/drah/publications/160630-wg-contingency-plan-exotic-animal-diseases-2016.pdf

⁹⁹ gov.scot/Topics/farmingrural/Agriculture/animal-welfare/Contingencies

¹⁰⁰ two field exercises

¹⁰¹ one desk top workshop

Scotland

5.133 Given the outbreaks of Foulbroods since 2009 the Scottish Contingency Plan for notifiable diseases continued to be practised in real-time. A future exercise will be considered in discussion with the SG partners and stakeholders which will include contingency arrangements for both notifiable diseases and pests. At the invitation of APHA (NBU York) SG did send a delegation to participate in their Small Hive Beetle exercise based on a scenario near Exeter.

NI

5.134 The DARD Bee Health Contingency Plan is reviewed on a regular basis and Department is content that it would meet their needs in an emergency situation. The Plan will be reviewed in 2016.

Aquatic animal health

5.135 Contingency plans¹⁰² for the control of exotic disease outbreaks in the UK have been subject to annual review and the relevant operational manuals were updated.

England and Wales

5.136 In November and December 2015 members of the FHI participated in exercise “*Alpheus*”, an exercise to test aquatic animal health disease contingency plans which extended over several days and was based upon a hypothetical outbreak of the exotic parasite *Gyrodactylus salaris* in an English river system. The exercise, which was overseen by the UK Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) tested the operational response to the disease outbreak, diagnostic capacity, communications, and presented a number of policy challenges. Over 60 participants were involved including representatives from Defra, the Devolved Administrations (including their CVOs), the Environment Agency, and various stakeholder groups. The exercise was followed up with a series of stocktaking meetings and a lessons learned review.

Scotland

5.137 Contingency plans and procedures were not required to be implemented throughout 2015. Work was undertaken with respect to their development and will continue following on from Exercise “*Alpheus*”.

NI

5.138 DARD’s fish health contingency plans provide for trans-border arrangements with the south of Ireland. DARD works closely with DAFM and the Marine Institute on a range of aquatic health issues.

¹⁰² Directive 2006/88/EC requires publication of contingency plans for exotic aquatic animal diseases.

5.139 In conjunction with the Marine Institute in the South of Ireland and the Foyle, Carlingford and Irish Lights Commission (FCILC), work continued on a cross-border¹⁰³ Operations Manual for dealing with outbreaks of *Gyrodactylus salaris* in the cross-border FCILC areas¹⁰⁴.

Plant Health

England and Wales

5.140 APHA's Plant Health and Seeds Inspectors operate through a series of Standard Operating Procedures analogous to contingency plans, which are also made available to other parts of the plant health services. These are not available through a public website.

5.141 Following the creation and implementation of a plant health risk register, further work is underway to develop contingency plans for pests identified on the risk register as presenting the highest risk. Existing plans are being reviewed and updated in line with international standards. New plans have been drafted for priority pests.

5.142 The Forestry Commission has published contingency plans for Oak Processionary moth, Pinewood nematode, European spruce bark beetle (*Ips typographus*). A number of other pest and disease contingency plans are awaiting publication or undergoing consultation by experts and stakeholders.

Scotland¹⁰⁵

5.143 Scotland has its own generic plant health contingency plan¹⁰⁶ and specific contingency plans for *Potato brown rot* and *Potato ring rot*. There was no specific exercise carried out to test the plans in 2015, however a revised draft revised generic plan was produced that is subject to approval from the Scottish Government. The main changes included clarification of specific roles and adjustments to bring the plan in line with the draft Defra plant health contingency plan and other national plans.

5.144 Scotland's Horticultural Marketing Unit and Policy personnel carried out desk top exercise whilst at the annual APHA technical training event in January 2015.

NI

5.145 NI has developed and maintained a contingency plan in the event of an introduction of a serious plant health pest or disease¹⁰⁷. The contingency plan allowed for major incidents to be escalated to the Major Emergency

¹⁰³ NI is the only part of the UK which has a land border with another Member State and therefore fish health contingency plans for NI must provide for trans-border arrangements with the Republic of Ireland.

¹⁰⁴ daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/foyle-carlingford-and-irish-lights-commission

¹⁰⁵ Scotland's contingency plans can be viewed at:

gov.scot/Topics/farmingrural/Agriculture/plant/PlantHealth/PlantDiseases/ContingencyPlans

¹⁰⁶ gov.scot/Topics/farmingrural/Agriculture/plant/PlantHealth/PlantDiseases/ContingencyPlans/GeneralContingencyPlans/GenContingencyPHI

¹⁰⁷ dardni.gov.uk/index/forestry/forestry-publications/forestry-plant-health-publications.htm

Response Plan. Close liaison with officials in the Republic of Ireland in respect of serious plant health issues took place at meetings of the North South Plant Health sub group under the direction of the North South Plant Health Steering Group.

Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance

5.146 With regards to AMR, the VMD has a contingency planning document in place which outlines responsibilities and actions for UK Government agencies in the event that a resistant bacterial isolate which poses a potential risk to human and/or animal health is isolated from an animal source. The document is published online:

[gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/497125/771046_Contingency_planning_guidance.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/497125/771046_Contingency_planning_guidance.pdf)

CHAPTER 6

ACTIONS TAKEN TO IMPROVE THE PERFORMANCE OF BUSINESS OPERATORS

Food and feed sectors

Training

- 6.1 Safer Food, Better Business (SFBB) – The FSA’s Safer food, better business (SFBB) packs are reviewed every 3 years to reflect FSA policy changes, feedback from local authorities and other stakeholders.
- 6.2 The latest review was undertaken in 2015/16 and all versions of the packs, Caterers, Retail, Chinese, Indian, Childminders’ packs and the Care home supplement were reviewed and updated to reflect FSA advice along with other changes where it was felt it would improve ease of use.
- 6.3 In addition to reviewing the content, this time the packs were refreshed in line with new FSA branding, including revised icons for the 4 C’s (Cross contamination, Cleaning, Chilling and Cooking and the Management section - giving the pack a whole new look. While retaining the familiar colours for differentiating the sections of the pack, more block colour has been removed to facilitate a version that is more print-friendly for food businesses to download and print. This version also has a ‘fillable element’ for those businesses that prefer to keep their SFBB records on computer. All versions are available on the FSA websites SFBB page¹⁰⁸.

Safety, quality and information campaigns

FSA

- 6.4 We delivered four campaigns in the financial year April 2015 to March 2016.
- 6.5 FHRS campaign 2015 – The FSA ran a two phase England only campaign: in November 2015 ‘5 years of FHRS’ focused on the success of the scheme, encouraging business to display their rating and consumers to ‘look before you book’. In February 2016 ‘Where’s the sticker?’ prompted consumers to be more active in looking for the green and black sticker and to ask if they don’t see one.
- 6.6 Food Safety Week 2015 – The FSA ‘Chicken Challenge’ and ‘Summer eating’ activity reminded consumers not to wash chicken and food safety around barbecue cooking.

¹⁰⁸ food.gov.uk/business-industry/sfbb

- 6.7 Other campaigns – The FSA ran ‘Our Food Future’ in February 2016 an event which not only brought together over 150 leading experts in a room, but over 6000 people online to discuss what we all can do to get the best food outcome for people in the UK. The Christmas campaign, reminded consumers of safe handling and cooking of food as well as how to reduce waste. Across all campaigns we secured significant media coverage including TV, radio, press and social media coverage.
- 6.8 The FSA in Wales is committed to a programme of work with schools. On 15 March 2016, the FSA in Wales launched Cookin Castle, a new online interactive website intended to teach and promote healthier eating and good food hygiene practices to children aged 8 – 11 years old. This new educational online resource cookincastlewales.co.uk was originally developed by Food Standards Scotland and has been adapted, in collaboration with Welsh Government, to support the Welsh curriculum. We have continued to the Crucial Crew network which operates in Wales. Crucial Crew is a network of partners including local authorities, the police and the fire service which aims to provide workshops to primary school children with information on a wide range of important safety issues and services. During 2015/16, the FSA in Wales participated in over 30 Crucial Crew type events delivering food safety information to around 24,000 children (71% of the annual birth cohort in Wales).

Review of Raw Drinking Milk (RDM)

- 6.9 FSA has made significant progress in implementing recommendations from the Board on the review of RDM controls. It has reviewed its advice to consumers and how it is delivered to ensure the recommendation that consumers only drink pasteurised milk is explicit, and that vulnerable consumers are particularly advised against drinking RDM.
- 6.10 RDM webpage - The FSA has a dedicated RDM area on its website giving the risks on consumption. The new RDM webpage was launched on 26 January 2016 and can be found at: food.gov.uk/science/raw-drinking-milk-and-cream
- 6.11 The improved management information provided by the introduction of the compliance rating system last year has enabled improved accuracy in targeting inspections at the highest risk RDM premises.
- 6.12 A list of registered RDM producers can be also found on the FSA website. This list of RDM producers includes a compliance rating score for each establishment. An inspection appeal process has been developed so that producers are able to challenge the outcome of inspections

FSS

- 6.13 #Lookatthelabel October 2015 – FSS ran a Scottish wide campaign encouraging consumers to spend a little longer looking at food labelling and

increasing understanding of the importance of use by dates, colour-coded nutrition labelling, storage advice and allergen information. This campaign received a very positive response and excellent coverage in both the media and digital media channels.

- 6.14 Festive Campaign December 2015 – FSS food safety campaign in a bid to reduce the number of people contracting food poisoning across Scotland in December. Christmas cooks were urged to follow simple food safety advice when preparing food in the home over the festive season. This campaign used tongue in cheek humour to depict an under the weather Santa Claus taking a break from delivering presents after being stricken by a bout of food poisoning. This campaign included field marketing opportunities in shopping centres across Scotland. This campaign received huge coverage in both media and digital channels.
- 6.15 Earned recognition for FeBOs – A system of risk-based inspections for the delivery of official controls for feed was introduced in England and Wales from April 2014. This takes account of FeBOs own-checks and gives ‘earned recognition’ to compliant members of FSA approved assurance schemes, as well as other businesses with a history of good compliance.
- 6.16 The FSA have approved assurance schemes operated by the Agricultural Industries Confederation and Red Tractor Assurance.
- 6.17 The interaction between official controls and private assurance schemes in the UK feed sector was the subject of a study visit by the FVO in January 2016. The FVO commented positively on the arrangements put in place. The final report of the visit can be viewed on the FSA’s website:
ec.europa.eu/food/audits-analysis/audit_reports/details.cfm?rep_id=3634
- 6.18 The introduction of earned recognition ensures that LA resources available to undertake official feed controls are now better targeted at higher-risk businesses and reduces the burden on compliant businesses.
- 6.19 In September 2015 FSS colleagues provided a talk to the industry Cheese Common Interest Group at SRUC Elmwood, on the regulation and safety of cheese making.

Department of Health

- 6.20 Nutrition and labelling – Department of Health is working on updating its Technical Guidance on Nutrition Labelling to reflect nutrition labelling becoming mandatory from 13 December 2016:
[gov.uk/government/publications/technical-guidance-on-nutrition-labelling-and-guidance-on-Foods-for-Specific-Groups:](http://gov.uk/government/publications/technical-guidance-on-nutrition-labelling-and-guidance-on-Foods-for-Specific-Groups)
gov.uk/search?q=infant+formula&show_organisations_filter=true

Animal health and welfare and plant health sectors

Training

6.21 DARD's College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise worked in collaboration with the UBKA¹⁰⁹ to provide Beekeeping Training in NI. During 2015 a total of seven Preliminary level Beekeeping courses and four Intermediate level Beekeeping courses were delivered in various venues across NI. Approximately 160 individuals attended and completed this training. DARD Bee inspectorate and Agri-Food & Biosciences Institute (AFBI) staff have provided disease recognition information especially covering *Aethina tumida* (SHB), inspection findings and outbreak reports for notifiable diseases at association meetings during 2015. AFBI circulates a questionnaire to beekeepers with respect to overwintering losses. This data is subsequently provided to the CoLoss project, which produces loss maps for Europe.

Safety, quality and information campaigns

6.22 During 2015 APHA:

- Introduced a Science Blog on the GOV.UK website, to promote and communicate APHA's science. These blogs have covered a range of subjects including plant health controls, tackling bovine TB and E-Coli.
- Attended a number of industry shows to deliver key messages and collect customer insight in relation to management of animal and plant health.
- Conducted a number of customer insight surveys to identify areas for improvement in the services delivered, including surveys with livestock keepers, bee keepers and private veterinarians.
- APHA was a leading partner in an industry led campaign to inform farmers about the possibility of Bluetongue virus disease incursion, and to make them aware of the signs and symptoms of the disease

6.23 As part of preventing and controlling bovine TB (on a local level) APHA staff held annual (sometimes more frequently depending on local disease incidence) meeting with various TB stakeholders, including livestock market operators and other operational partners. In some areas there are local eradication boards which convene every two months and are comprised of farmer's union, veterinarians, valuers and APHA representatives. These meetings covered topics including new TB initiatives and policies, and Biosecurity best practice. Contracted delivery partners started to be used to deliver TB testing in 2015 in England and Wales. Monthly contract meetings are held with the 7 delivery partners.

¹⁰⁹ ubka.org/

- 6.24 In NI a number of stakeholder events took place in 2015. In December 2015 DARD facilitated a Chalara workshop with representation from both Defra and DAFM which produced options for the control of the disease.
- 6.25 APHA PHSI, supported by Defra, the Scottish Government, the Horticultural Trades Association and Botanic Gardens Conservation International won a gold medal for the *Beyond our Borders*¹¹⁰ garden at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show¹¹¹ 2015. This illustrated the network of native plants (“plant sentinels”) that are being established in botanical gardens across the world to detect pests and diseases that have the potential to attack the UK’s native species.
- 6.26 The Scottish Government facilitated a Plant Health Workshop during December 2015. This workshop provided an opportunity for engagement with wider stakeholders. Interactive sessions took place on two overarching Strategy themes; 1) Risk-based Decision Making and 2) Interaction and Communication. The workshop was useful in the development and implementation of the Scottish Plant Health Strategy¹¹².

Guidance

- 6.27 In 2015 work continued on reviewing APHA guidance as part of the Defra Smarter Guidance Review project and transition to GOV.UK website. The aim of the project was to ensure Defra group content on GOV.UK meets customer needs including advice on how to request government services and comply with regulations. The focus was also on making guidance simpler, clearer and easier to understand.

Some examples of published material:

- Key information to support livestock keepers in protecting themselves against bovine TB, including breakdown and epidemiological information.
- Updated Bovine TB guidance for England about compensation for animals in approved finishing units (AFU) and exempt finishing units (EFUs).
- Updated Bovine TB guidance for Wales about the OTFW policy changes coming into force in January 2016.
- New version of the guidance on the controls of animal pathogens.
- Guidance on the Seed Potato Classification Scheme and approved stock scheme for 2015/16 season
- Guidance on the Plant Health Propagation Scheme for the 2015 season.
- Guidance on protecting plant health with a focus on the new EU emergency measures against *Xylella fastidiosa*
- Introduction of the Science Blog to promote and communicate APHA’s science. These blogs covers a range of subjects including plant health controls, tackling bovine TB and E-Coli.

¹¹⁰ [youtube.com/watch?v=zHdRMrevZZE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zHdRMrevZZE)

¹¹¹ rhs.org.uk/shows-events/rhs-chelsea-flower-show

¹¹² The Scottish Plant Health Strategy was published in Spring 2016

- 6.28 The UK Fish Health Inspectorates attended several meetings with stakeholder groups, and had a regular presence at trade sector conferences and other stakeholder events such as the Coarse Fish Conference, the Fish Veterinary Society annual meeting, Shellfish Association of GB meetings, the Angling Trust meetings and The Game Show, to disseminate good practice and offer advice and guidance on legislative compliance.
- 6.29 The Cefas FHI has sought better engagement with stakeholders through the publication of information on aquatic animal health on the Cefas Marine Science blog with the announcement of new articles on the Cefas Twitter page, and has launched a Facebook page. A recently produced information leaflet on KHV disease and biosecurity on fisheries placed on Facebook was seen by over 3,000 individuals, many of whom would not have had access to this information by other means.

GLOSSARY

ABP	Animal By-Products
AD	Aujeszky's Disease
ADF	Assured Dairy Farms
AFB	American Foul Brood
AFBI	Agri-Food & Biosciences Institute
APB	Aquaculture Production Business
APHA	Animal and Plant Health Agency
ARG	Aquaculture Representative Group
ASP	Amnesic Shellfish Poisoning
BIP	Border Inspection Post
BKD	Bacterial Kidney Disease
BSE	Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathies
BTSF	Better Training for Safer Food
Cefas	Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science
CIEH	Chartered Institute of Environmental Health
CRD	Chemicals Regulation Directorate
CSFS	Compulsory Scrapie Flock Scheme
CTC	Chlortetracycline
DARD	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (Northern Ireland)
Defra	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
DH	Department of Health
DNA	Deoxyribonucleic Acid
DSM	Desinewed Meat
DSP	Diarrhetic Shellfish Poisoning
EA	Environment Agency
EBL	Enzootic Bovine Leukosis
EC	European Community (now the European Union)
E. coli	Escherichia Coli
EEIG	European Economic Interest Grouping
EFB	European Foul Brood
EU	European Union
EUS	Epizootic Ulcerative Syndrome
FBO	Food Business Operator
FC	Forestry Commission
FDU	Fish Disease unit
FeBO	Feed Business Operator
FeNAO	Feed not of Animal Origin
Fera	Fera Science Ltd
FHI	Fish Health Inspectorate

FHIS	Food Hygiene Information Scheme
FHRS	Food Hygiene Rating Scheme
FNAO	Food not of Animal Origin
FSA	Food Standards Agency
FSS	Food Standards Scotland
FVO	Food and Veterinary Office
GB	Great Britain
GM	Genetically Modified
GMO	Genetically Modified Organism
HACCP	Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point
HPA	Health Protection Agency
HSE	Health and Safety Executive
IAB	Internal Audit Branch
IAS	Internal Audit Service (Welsh Government)
IMB	Irish Medicines Board
IMS	Inspections Management System
IIT	Inspections & Investigations Team
LA	Local Authority
LAEMS	Local Authority Enforcement Monitoring System
LIMS	Laboratory Information Management System
LT	Lipophilic Toxins
MRL	Maximum Residue Level
MSS	Marine Scotland Science
MS	Member States
MSM	Mechanically Separated Meat
NBU	National Bee Unit
NFA	National Feed Audit
NFCU	National Food Crime Unit
NI	Northern Ireland
NIM	National Intelligence Model
NRCP	National Residue Control Plan
NRL	National Reference Laboratory
NSAID	Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drug
OFFC	Official Feed and Food Controls
OIE	World Organisation for Animal Health
OsHV-1 μ var	Oyster Herpesvirus
OTF	Officially Tuberculosis Free
OV	Official Veterinarian
OVS	Official Veterinary Surgeons
P.	Phytophthora
PAA	Primary Aromatic Amine
PBZ	Phenylbutazone
PCB	Polychlorinated Biphenyl
PCN	Potato Cyst Nematode
PEACH	Procedure for Electronic Application of Certificates

PFN	Protected Food Name
PGI	Protected Geographical Indication
PHA	Port Health Authority
PHSI	Plant Health and Seeds Inspectorate
PPS	Public Prosecution Service
PSP	Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning
RA	Welsh Government, Department for Rural Affairs
RASFF	Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed
RDM	Raw Drinking Milk
RPA	Rural Payments Agency
RPID	Rural Payments and Inspections Division
RIPA	Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act
RL	Regional Laboratory
SCoFAH	Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health
SFBB	Safer Food, Better Business
SG	Scottish Government
SG AFRC	Scottish Government, Agriculture, Food and Rural Communities
SGIAD	Scottish Government Internal Audit Division
SHB	Small Hive Beetle
SMR	Statutory Management Requirement
SNCP	Salmonella National Control Programme
SOCA	Serious Organised Crime Agency
S.	Salmonella
SPS	Single Payment Scheme
SRM	Specified Risk Material
3-MCPD	3-Monochloropropane -1,2 – diol
TARP	Trade in Animals and Related Products
TB	Tuberculosis
TRACES	Trade Control and Expert System
TSE	Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy
TSG	Traditional Specialities Guaranteed
UK	United Kingdom
UKAS	United Kingdom Accreditation Service
BF	Border Force
UKFSS	United Kingdom Food Surveillance System
VASP	Voluntary Aflatoxin Sampling Plan
VHS	Viral Hemorrhagic Septicaemia
VMD	Veterinary Medicines Directorate
VSEB	Veterinary Service Enforcement Branch
VSID	Veterinary Service Investigation Database
WG	Welsh Government
WG SF	Welsh Government Sustainable Future