



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



Multi-annual national control plan for the United Kingdom January 2007 to March 2013: Progress in 2011 towards implementation - report for the European Commission

Note

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.

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Enquires will then be forwarded either within the FSA or to other Government Departments as appropriate.

Executive summary

2011 ANNUAL REPORT - IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MULTI-ANNUAL NATIONAL CONTROL PLAN (MANCP) FOR THE UNITED KINGDOM (UK) (JANUARY 2007 – MARCH 2013)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Overall effectiveness of controls

1.1 Feed and food sectors

Achievement against objectives in these sectors, as set out in the MANCP, can be demonstrated as follows:

- In 2011/12, 90.2% of registered food establishments inspected for food hygiene achieved a UK level of Broad Compliance (equivalent to ratings 3 to 5 of the National Food Hygiene Rating Scheme in England, Wales and Northern Ireland and the 'Pass' standard in the Food Hygiene Information Scheme in Scotland). This represents an increase of 1.3% on the last reported figures for 2010/11;
- In April 2011, 2.2% of the 1,152 approved and operational meat premises in Great Britain (GB) had audit scores meeting the criteria for cause for concern. This figure reduced further to 1.1% (of 1,118 premises) by April 2012.
- 83% of approved meat premises in GB are achieving adequate or good scores for hygienic production, environmental hygiene / pre-requisites and Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) in April 2012, compared with 80.6% in April 2011.
- Further progress was made in developing the National Food Fraud Database. The amount of information submitted by LAs increased by 56% in 2011 compared to the amount of information received in 2010.
- 81% of Local Authorities in England, Wales and Northern Ireland and all those in Wales are operating the Food Hygiene Rating Scheme (FHRS). 69% of those in Scotland are operating the Food Hygiene Information Scheme (FHIS). FHRS information is available on around 290,000 food businesses and FHIS information on around 28,000 food businesses.

1.2 Animal health and animal welfare sectors

Achievement against objectives in this sector, as set out in the UK MANCP, can be demonstrated as follows:

- There were no major outbreaks of exotic diseases during 2011. However, work continued across a wide range of risk based projects to improve disease prevention and emergency preparedness.

- There has been a continued reduction in the contribution of *Salmonella* to the overall burden of food-borne zoonoses observed in the UK under the *Salmonella* National Control Programmes.
- In GB, the overall compliance rate during inspections for both welfare on-farm and during transport was 96%. In NI, the overall compliance rate during welfare on-farm inspections was 89% and during transport over 98.5%.
- Animal welfare in approved slaughterhouses across GB showed 99% compliance.
- In GB no serious non-compliances were found during inspections of welfare at slaughter on farms.

2. Information and trends on controls

2.1 Significant developments in relation to main priorities and risk assessment criteria

- The main priorities in relation to official controls and the main risk assessment criteria remained the same in 2011 as in 2010;
- Interventions at higher risk category establishments continue to be prioritised; but interventions at lower risk category food businesses are falling.
- During 2011 the risks associated with the Olympic and Paralympic Games, to be held in 2012, were assessed in terms of both feed and food and animal health.

2.2 Main trends in intensity and type of controls

Feed and food sectors

	2011/12	% change from 2010/11
Local Authority interventions at food establishments	555,350	-0.3%
Formal enforcement actions	180,177	-3.2%

- Enforcement action saw notable rises compared to 2010/11 returns such as emergency prohibitions and seizure, detention and surrender of food, though there were considerably less suspensions and revocations of approvals and licences, prohibition orders and improvement notices.
- Levels of feed interventions remain consistent.
- Changes in delivery of official controls for dairy hygiene in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (NI) from 1 July 2011 have led to a reduction in official inspections in England and Wales from more than 11,000 to about 3,000 per year. In Northern Ireland, the reduction is from 4,500 to 3,200 inspections per year. The changes are providing more proportionate official controls and earned recognition for the assurance provided through dairy farm membership of the Assured Dairy Farm (ADF) scheme.

Animal health and welfare sectors

- The planned official control programmes in the animal health and welfare sectors were successfully completed as last year.

Plant health sector

- In the plant health sector 161,122 compliance inspections were carried out (this includes import inspections, export certification inspections, checks on plant passporting premises).
- Action continued against *Phytophthora*. Import inspections increased as a result of the recruitment of 16 new inspectors at key entry points, resulting in an increase to 76% of all consignments being inspected in December 2011, compared to 17% in December 2010.

3. Trend analysis of non-compliance

3.1 Statement of overall trends in compliance

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

3.2 Main types of non-compliance

Feed and food sectors

- Food safety (including food hygiene)
- Imported food
- Organic food (though hardly any manifest infringements)
- Beef labelling (different rates in UK administrations, e.g. compliance levels higher in Northern Ireland)

Animal health and welfare and plant health sectors

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

3.3 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

4.1 Statistics on enforcement

Businesses closed

Food businesses	Number
Suspensions or revocations of approval or licences	21
Emergency prohibition notices	285
Voluntary closures	941

Meat premises	Number
Premises subject to veterinary audit refused approval	10
Number of those premises which have upgraded their establishments to obtain conditional or full approval	6
Number which ceased operating	4

Fines imposed

- 33 financial penalty notices for incomplete compliance with the requirements of the *Salmonella* National Control Programme in laying chicken flocks.

Prosecutions taken

- Food and feed sectors – 347 food hygiene prosecutions and 66 food standards prosecutions by local authorities.
- Animal health and welfare sectors – 24 Home Office cautions issued and 157 convictions achieved (Local authorities, DARD and Cefas).

4.2 Enforcement trends

Feed and food sectors

- 3.2% overall reduction in formal food enforcement actions carried out in 2011-12 compared with 2010-1, but notable rises in certain types of action such as emergency prohibitions and seizure, detention and surrender of food.
- 30% reduction in RASFF notifications for mycotoxins in 2011 compared with 2010.
- 19% increase in remedial action notices in meat premises in 2011-12 compared with 2010-11.
- Continued improvement in compliance with Cattle Identification legislation – only one holding subject to sanctions for non-compliance.

Animal health and welfare sectors

- Compared with 2010 enforcement records there was an approximate 50% decrease in Home Office cautions with an approximate 50% increase in convictions achieved.

5. National Systems of Audits

5.1 Implementation of audit plan

Feed and food sectors

- The FSA audited 82 Local Authorities (LAs)/ Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) Units and carried out 150 audits of official controls at approved meat establishments.

Animal health and plant health sectors

- Nine full audits (one in Wales, five in Scotland and three in Northern Ireland) plus two follow-up audits (one in England and one in Northern Ireland) covering animal health and plant health. All four recommendations made in Scotland were followed up in-year.

5.2 Main summary of audit results

Feed and food sectors

- Individual audit reports are published on the FSA website at: food.gov.uk/enforcement/auditandmonitoring/auditreports
- 410 recommendations arising from audits of LAs/DARD units, most arising from animal feed at inland authorities and ports.
- 51 recommendations arising from audits of official controls at approved meat establishments, most concerning monitoring and reporting arrangements on the effectiveness of official controls.

Animal health and plant health sectors

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

5.3 Main actions taken

Feed and food sectors

- All recommendations accepted by relevant authorities and corrective action agreed. Good practice is disseminated through update meetings and training.

Animal health and plant health sectors

- The conclusion of the follow-up review was that six of the eight recommendations had been suitably actioned, fully implemented and closed.

6. Resources

6.1 Significant developments in the allocation of:

Funding for programmes

Programme	Available to:	Amount (£)
Imported Food	Local and Port Health authorities for additional sampling of imported food	1.5m
Food Hygiene Rating Scheme	Local Authorities in England and Northern Ireland adopting FHRS	200,000
Food Hygiene Information Scheme	Local Authorities in Scotland adopting FHIS to assist in start up and launch activities	28,000
Food Fraud	Local Authorities to assist in investigations into food fraud activity	172,000

Control staff

- Plant health sector – additional staff recruited for inspection work at key points of entry have had a major impact on meeting targets for import inspection and greatly increased the level of interception of harmful organisms in imports.

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

- No significant changes.

7. Actions taken to improve performance of control activities

7.1 Legislation

- The UK introduced minor changes to Regulation (EC) 767/2009 on the Marketing and Use of Feed.
- The Scottish Government amended Prohibited Procedures on Protected Animals (Exemptions) (Scotland) Regulations 2010 to clarify the requirements of tail docking in sheep and antler removal in deer.
- Defra and the Welsh Government consulted on a proposal to make changes to the Welfare of Animals (Slaughter or Killing) (Amendment) Regulations 2007 and DARD consulted on similar changes to slaughter legislation in Northern Ireland and laid the amendment order before parliament in 2011.
- DARD brought into force a new Welfare of Animals (Northern Ireland) Act 2011¹
- The Trade in Animals and Related Products Regulations 2011² was made in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, which provide enforcement authorities

¹ http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ni/2011/16/pdfs/ni_20110016_en.pdf

² The Trade in Animals and Related Products (Scotland) Regulations was made in 2012

with robust means of enforcing EU legislation in respect of imports from third countries and intra-Union trade in animals and animal related products.

7.2 Organisation

- Following the demise of the LGR in March 2011, the LGA continues to operate knowledge hubs where LA enforcement officers can seek advice from colleagues on food hygiene, food labelling and standards, and feed.
- During 2011 significant work was progressed towards changes to the management structure of the expanded FSA Operations Group following amalgamation of the Meat Hygiene Service in 2010.
- The Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency (AHVLA), an executive agency of Defra was formed on 1 April 2011, following the merger of Animal Health and the Veterinary Laboratories Agency.

7.3 Procedures

- Out-of-hours incident procedures in NI were revised in 2011. The out-of-hours rota is now manned solely by senior staff with the authority to make decisions and update Ministers allowing actions to be taken more quickly.

7.4 Information systems

- National Food Fraud Database – further progress was made in developing the National Food Fraud Database.
- UK Food Surveillance System continued to be rolled out.
- Local Authority Enforcement Monitoring System (LAEMS) – LAs continued to complete more timely LAEMS returns, with the timescale for receipt of all returns reducing by four months over the last two years, which allows for earlier publication of the results.
- GRAIL – The database on Guidance and Regulatory Advice on Import Legislation (GRAIL) was maintained.
- SPPOCS - Work continued to develop and enhance Scottish Primary Production Official Control System (SPPOCS), a data base on which both local authorities and Scottish Government record primary production inspection outcomes.
- Food Hygiene Rating Scheme – Guidance to ensure consistency in implementation and operation of the FHRS by local authorities – the Brand Standard – was revised during 2011 to reflect the experience of those local authorities operating the scheme.
- Imported Food - Guidance for enforcement officers on increased levels of official controls for certain feed and food of non-animal origin of known or emerging risk, under Regulation (EC) No. 669/2009 was reviewed and updated in all four national administrations.

7.5 Training

- Consistency training – The FSA continued its programme of consistency training for LAs, based on the guidance on application of the food establishment intervention rating scheme set out in the Food Law Code of Practice.
- Imported Food – A programme of free regional based training was provided across the UK to ensure that port health and local authority officers are kept up to date with current legislation and practical guidance on the implementation of imported food official controls.
- Food labelling and composition – The FSA provided training to enforcers on food labelling and composition.
- Food Fraud – The FSA provided training to enforcement officers on evidence gathering and interview skills.
- UK representatives attended various training courses through the European Commission's Better Training for Safer Food (BTSF) programme. The BTSF learning materials were cascaded through in house courses.
- In Scotland primary production training focusing on fruit and vegetable production was given to LAs and Scottish Government.
- In Northern Ireland the training programme included HACCP, Evidence Gathering and Interviewing Skills, Seasonal Production of Wild Game, Food Standards Sampling and Labelling.
- Update training events and conferences for AHVLA and DARD veterinary and technical staff covering animal disease control issues and live animal and animal products BIPs.
- Ongoing AHVLA welfare training events in response to specific local and individual training needs delivered through shadowing/mentoring, training events or conferences.
- Fish Health Inspectors in England and Wales received training in Investigators Interviewing Skills which covered the legal basis of interviewing under caution, interviewing skills, and Police and Criminal Evidence Act awareness.

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

- The MANCP was extended in 2011 until March 2012.

8. Actions taken to improve the performance of Food Business Operators

8.1 Training programmes

- Training provided for Olympic and Paralympic games for Food Business Operators nominated by LAs as requiring intensive food hygiene training.

- National Bee Unit and DARD carried out around 900 training events for beekeepers. The training covered many aspects of beekeeping, pest and disease recognition and control and good husbandry.

8.2 Safety, quality and information campaigns

Feed and food sectors sectors

- The FSA ran publicity campaigns in Wales and Northern Ireland based on the message ‘*Good food hygiene is getting easier to spot*’.
- The *Food Hygiene Information Scheme* was publicised in Scotland via posters and artwork produced by the FSA.
- Over 150 organisations participated in *Food Safety Week* which focused on dispelling food hygiene myths.
- The FSA launched a DVD for butchers entitled “*E. Coli 0157 – A Butcher’s guide to staying safe*”. Approximately 10,000 DVDs have been distributed to butchers across the UK.
- The FSA ran a publicity campaign in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland highlighting food safety practices associated with handling raw food, focusing on washing raw vegetables.
- The FSA ran a Christmas campaign to communicate some key food safety messages associated with the safe preparation of Christmas meals.

Animal health and welfare sectors

- ADAS³, on behalf of Defra, provided welfare advice through a variety of media to producers and private veterinary surgeons on current topics of welfare concern.
- Video on the illegal import of live fish produced by Cefas was disseminated to stakeholders through conferences and meetings. The video was also published on the Defra aquatic animal health and movements website⁴, and was made available through social media such as ‘YouTube’.
- In GB Egg Marketing Inspectors and Veterinary Officers contacted laying hen premises ahead of the conventional cage ban on 1 January 2012⁵, to remind them of the need to comply with the ban and find out producers’ intentions, as to whether they would cease production or convert to alternative systems. DARD issued a poster on the ban on conventional cages on their stand at a major agricultural show (the Balmoral) and issued a concurrent press release stressing the tough enforcement policy.
- Defra used the “*Veterinary Record*” magazine to highlight issues related to late elastrator castration of calves, illegal tail docking in cattle, drenching/bolus injuries in sheep and the risk of botulism posed by the use of poultry litter as bedding for other livestock;
- Scottish Government provided advice to farmers on maintaining Animal Welfare in severe weather conditions (snow and freezing temperatures);

³ Information on ADAS is available at: adas.co.uk/

⁴ <http://www.defra.gov.uk/aahm/guidance/angling-under-threat/>

⁵ <http://www.defra.gov.uk/food-farm/animals/welfare/on-farm/poultry-welfare/>

- Welsh Government communicated with the industry via the agricultural magazine "Gwlad" covering short tail docking of lambs, ram health in markets and the changes to the laying hens' requirement. Additionally the CVO Wales contacted Agricultural Show societies about teat sealing in exhibition dairy stock.
- Significant effort has been invested by the Fish Health Inspectorate in England and Wales and partner organisations in publication of the *Crimestoppers*⁶ initiative through articles in the press, leaflets and posters.

8.3 Guides to good practice

- Imported Food – Guidance for Feed Business Operators (FeBOs) and FBOs on the import provisions for feed and food of non-animal origin of known or emerging risk under Regulation (EC) No. 669/2009 was reviewed and issued in all four national administrations.
- FSA Website – the section on imported food food.gov.uk/foodindustry/imports was completely revised and updated.
- Safe Catering – Your Guide to making food safely – This initiative in Northern Ireland continues to help catering businesses produce a food safety management plan based on HACCP principles and keep records appropriate to their business.
- Trade rules on aquatic animal movements - UK Fish Health Inspectorates sent out guidance to aquaculture production businesses following reports of export certification anomalies.

⁶ <http://www.defra.gov.uk/aahm/guidance/angling-under-threat/>

Chapter 1 – Introduction

Background

- 1.1 The United Kingdom (UK) Multi-Annual National Control Plan (MANCP) (originally January 2007 to March 2011 and extended during 2011 to March 2012) was prepared jointly by the Food Standards Agency (FSA), the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and its agencies, the Health and Safety Executive's (HSE's) Chemicals Regulation Directorate (CRD), the Scottish Government Rural and Environment Directorate (SG RED), the Welsh Government, Department for Rural Affairs (RA) and Department of Agriculture and Rural Development for Northern Ireland (DARD). The Plan satisfies the requirements of European Community (EC) Regulation 882/2004 on official controls,⁷ 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; and
 - sets out the strategic objectives, and planned control activities.
- 1.2 The latest version of the MANCP is published on the FSA website at:
- <http://www.food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/uknationalcontrolplan.pdf>.
- 1.3 The MANCP was extended during 2012 to March 2013 and a new MANCP will be devised next year starting from April 2013.
- 1.4 Regulation 882/2004 also requires Member States (MS) to produce annual reports on the implementation of their MANCP. This is the fifth report and covers the period 1 January to 31 December 2011. It has been prepared jointly by the FSA, Defra and its agencies, CRD, SG RED, the Welsh Government RA and DARD.

⁷ 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.

Scope and content of this report

- 1.5 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.⁸
- 1.6 The Commission has developed guidance on the content of annual reports on implementation of MANCPs, and this has been taken into account.⁹
- 1.7 It should be noted that in the UK much of the data on official controls and associated activities is collected on a financial year (April to March) rather than a calendar year basis and financial year data is often used in this report rather than data for a calendar 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 2011/12 is not always possible. Where this is the case, data for the 2010/11 period has been reported and has been indicated where appropriate.
- 1.8 This fifth report:
- outlines the progress that has been made towards achieving the objectives of the MANCP;
 - describes changes to the regulatory landscape;
 - outlines the improvements that have been made to ensure that the competent authorities and other bodies involved in official controls work together to safeguard public, animal and plant health;
 - provides an analysis of the performance of the competent authorities and control bodies; and
 - summarises the official controls that have been undertaken and their outcome (including the level of compliance by business operator) and provides information on the actions taken to address non-compliance with the laws on feed and food, animal health and welfare and plant health.

⁸ 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.

⁹ 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.

Chapter 2 - the Regulatory landscape: what has changed?

Competent authorities

Organisational changes at central Government level

FSA

- 2.1 During 2011 significant work was progressed towards changes to the management structure of the expanded FSA Operations Group following amalgamation of the Meat Hygiene Service in 2010.
- 2.2 The FSA Operations Group has responsibility for the implementation and effective delivery of official controls across the UK covering all food including meat, shellfish, eggs, dairy, wine as well as animal feed. The main changes to the management structure saw the UK organised along national boundaries, reflecting devolution and local government responsibilities within the UK.
- 2.3 For logistical reasons England has been subdivided into four geographical areas; North West, North East, South East and South West. These geographical areas do not span LA boundaries.

FSA review of the delivery of official controls in the UK

- 2.4 In January 2011, the FSA Board agreed to a review of the current LA and port health authority delivery structure to consider the scope for making improvements to official controls for food and feed. A governance structure (including an External Advisory Group and a Consultative Group) was put in place to ensure the integrity of the review.
- 2.5 The FSA will report on its findings and produce recommendations to the FSA Board by July 2013. In the meantime it has been recognised that a review of feed official controls should be examined more rapidly and therefore this part of the review will produce its findings and recommendations to the FSA Board in November 2012.

Defra

- 2.6 The Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency (AHVLA), an executive agency of Defra was formed on 1 April 2011, following the merger of Animal Health and the Veterinary Laboratories Agency. AHVLA works across Great Britain on behalf of Defra, Scottish Government and Welsh Government. Its role is to help safeguard animal health and welfare and public health, protect the economy and enhance food security through research, surveillance, provision of advice and regulation.

- 2.7 The current division of responsibility for official feed, food, animal health and animal welfare controls is summarised in Figures 1 to 3 at the end of this chapter.

Organisational changes in Local Government

- 2.8 Following the demise of the LGR, the FSA met with the LGA to identify crucial pieces of guidance that needed to be retained and this guidance was transferred onto the knowledge hubs, which can be accessed by LA enforcement officers. LA enforcement officers can also seek advice from colleagues on food hygiene, food labelling and standards, and feed through the knowledge hubs.
- 2.9 The Trading Standards Institute (TSI) and the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH) are involved with helping to ensure topics on the website are monitored and appropriate guidance is followed, and alert the FSA of any contentious or emerging issues.
- 2.10 The FSA works closely with CIEH, TSI and the Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland to ensure that LA enforcement officers have the necessary skills and knowledge to undertake their roles. However, each LA as an employer has a duty to ensure the effective delivery of official controls in line with the framework agreement and the statutory Food Law Code of Practice.

NRLs

- 2.11 The following NRLs have been designated for the provision of certain analytical services. In April 2011, the Health Protection Agency was awarded a formal four year contract to provide the NRL services in microbiology, which involves six different NRL areas. Details are given in Table 2.1 overleaf.

Table 2.1 New NRLs appointed in 2011

Analytical activity	Competent authority responsible for appointing the NRL	NRL
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Listeria monocytogenes</i>• Coagulase positive Staphylococci, including <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>• <i>Escherichia coli</i>, including Verotoxigenic <i>E. coli</i> (VTEC)• <i>Campylobacter</i>• <i>Salmonella</i>• Antimicrobial resistance (AMR)	FSA	Health Protection Agency - HPA
Veterinary medicines in animal feed	VMD	Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute
Veterinary medicines in animal feed	VMD	Food and Environment Research Agency

Figure 1 - Division of responsibility for official food controls in 2011

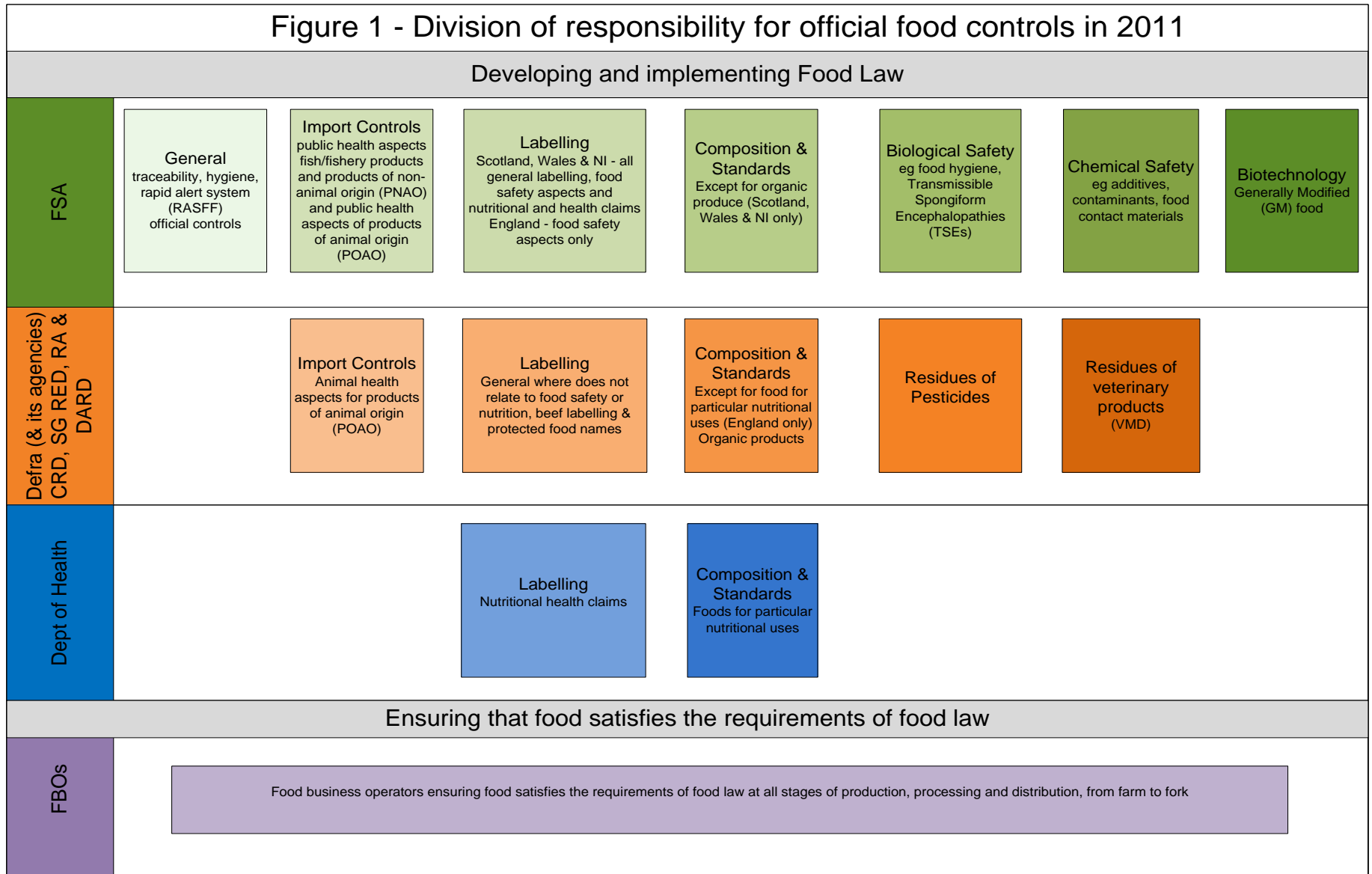


Figure 2 - Division of responsibility for official feed controls

Developing and implementing feed law					
FSA			Defra (& its agencies), CRD, SG RED, RA & DARD		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General – traceability, rapid alert system (RASFF), official controls • Import controls • Labelling • Composition and standards • Biological safety – eg feed hygiene • Chemical safety – prohibited and undesirable substances • Biotechnology – GM feed 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animal by-products – feed ban, Salmonellas etc • Medicated feed • Chemical safety – specified feed additives 		
Ensuring that feed satisfies the requirements of feed law					
<p>Feed business operators ensuring feed satisfies the requirements of food law at all stages of production, processing and distribution, from farm to feed trough (over 200,000 businesses in the UK – this includes farms)</p>					
Official controls in respect of feed law					
Central level				Local level	
VMD	SG RPID	Animal Health	DARD	LAs in England and Wales	LAs in Scotland
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medicated feed • Specified feed additives • Veterinary medicine drug residue surveillance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary production feed hygiene controls on behalf of the FSA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animal protein in feed ban 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All feed law controls in Northern Ireland 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official controls and enforcement of the main body of feed law, including imported feed • All feed law not enforced by Defra and its agencies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official controls and enforcement of the main body of feed law, including imported feed • All feed law not enforced by Defra and its agencies

Figure 3 - Division of responsibility for official animal health and welfare controls

Policy and development and implementation of animal health and animal welfare legislation					
ENGLAND Defra	SCOTLAND SG RED	WALES Welsh Government, Department for Rural Affairs	NORTHERN IRELAND DARD		
Official controls (delivery landscape)					
Defra Executive Agencies	Devolved Administrations	Other Government Departments	Local Government	Non-Departmental Public Bodies	Other Bodies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency (including local veterinary inspectors) Rural Payments Agency (including British Cattle Movement Service) Veterinary Medicines Directorate Food and Environment Agency – Bee Health Unit Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science, Fish Health Inspectorate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scottish Government Field Officers and Marine Scotland Science Rural Payments Wales DARD (Veterinary Service Grants and Subsidies Division and Fish Health Inspectorate) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food Standards Agency Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs United Kingdom Border Agency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LAs in Great Britain Port Health Authorities Local Government Association 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environment Agency Meat and Livestock Commission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

Chapter 3 - Working together to safeguard public, animal and plant health, to protect consumers, and to promote animal welfare: what improvements have we made?

Co-ordination and Co-operation in the Feed and Food sectors

Regional and National Liaison Groups for Feed and Food

- 3.1 The FSA continued to engage locally and regionally with representatives of LAs and the Health Protection Agency (HPA). The FSA's regional team continued to maintain a system of nine Regional Liaison Groups in England to provide a strategic forum for representatives from Local FLGs in the regions. These meetings provided an opportunity for LAs to raise issues or concerns with the FSA and provide informal feedback on official control activity. There were separate meetings for each of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.
- 3.2 In addition, LAs in England and Wales participated in FLGs and Feed Liaison Group Meetings where co-ordination of activities across the regions was discussed. Animal Health Dairy Hygiene and FSA representatives also attended FLG Meetings, in order to facilitate communications between LAs, the FSA and other agencies such as AHVLA.
- 3.3 LAs, AHVLA and the FSA in Scotland participated in Food and Feed Liaison Group Meetings. These facilitated communications and the sharing and promotion of good practice.

FSA Support Mechanisms

Regional Presence in England

- 3.4 During 2011-12 the FSA organised regional update events. Over 500 LA officers attended this series of events. Regional Co-ordinators attended relevant local Food Liaison Group (FLG) meetings and hosted regional meetings for FLG chairs/secretaries to help ensure delivery of key Agency priorities, facilitate two-way dialogue and share good practice. During 2011-12 priority has been given to: LA adoption and operation of the FHRS; facilitating LA engagement in the Review of Official Control Delivery; and providing timely intelligence on LA delivery of official controls to inform Agency policy.

Local Authority Enforcement Monitoring System (LAEMS)

- 3.5 During 2011-12 LAs continued to complete more timely LAEMS returns, with the timescale for receipt of all returns reducing by four months over the last two years, which allows for earlier publication of the results.

Food safety partnership initiative

3.6 Food Hygiene Rating / Information Scheme

- Currently 81% of local authorities in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (including all those in Wales) are operating the FHRS and 69% of those in Scotland are running FHIS. FHRS information is available on around 290,000 food businesses, an estimated 59% of those within the scope of the scheme, and FHIS information was available on around 28,000 food businesses, an estimated 57% of those within scope.

Olympic and Paralympic Games 2012 food hygiene initiative

3.7 During 2011 the FSA Olympic preparations team mapped the risks associated with the Olympic and Paralympic Games. They then undertook the following work:

- a bespoke course was set up for 20 students to attend Middlesex University in order to study for the Certificate in Food Control;
 - a number of update and refresher courses were commenced for LA officers to attend on audit and inspection and food sampling;
 - work commenced on highlighting high risk foods which would be added into a sampling programme, with sampling planned to commence from April 2012;
 - an evaluation was undertaken on the provision of hygiene monitoring units, which would be used during the run up to and throughout the Olympic and Paralympic Games period. These would be used to monitor cleaning and cross contamination; and
 - a contract was drawn up with an external training provider to initiate a programme of training of FBOs who were nominated by LAs as requiring intense food hygiene training.
- 3.8 AHVLA team organised *Exercise Herakles*, a tabletop exotic notifiable disease outbreak exercise. Experts from all quarters, including the horse shipping agents, were brought together to consider the risks of disruption to the equine events at the Olympic and Paralympic Games 2012. Six different outbreak scenarios were reviewed with a particular emphasis on the impact of Equine Infectious Anaemia (EIA), African Horse-sickness, Foot-and-Mouth Disease and Glanders, a zoonotic disease (capable of being passed to humans). Lessons identified from these exercises help Defra and the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games to refine the plans and procedures for the Games.

Publicity and information

3.9 The FSA ran publicity campaigns to raise consumer awareness of the FHRS during 2011. The first of these in Wales was based on the message '*Good food hygiene is getting easier to spot*' and used outdoor posters and advertising in

local and national newspapers and magazines as well as on digital media. Two phases of publicity were also run in Northern Ireland and included TV and outdoor advertising. Post campaign research in Northern Ireland found that 56% of people were aware of the name of the scheme when prompted, 63% recognising the FHRS stickers and 74% claiming they would use the information to make decisions about where to buy food.

- 3.10 Publicity in Scotland during the year was mainly routed through creative LA projects using posters and artwork produced by FSA, in response to local authority needs. Posters were also purposely designed to be displayed by Visit Scotland in Visitor Centres. The scheme was promoted in trade publications in the Grocery and Licensed Trade sectors and at events such as the Royal Highland Show.
- 3.11 *Food Safety Week* was held in June and focused on dispelling some common food hygiene myths. Over 150 organisations participated, holding events and generating local publicity. Extensive regional coverage was achieved in over 70 local newspapers and a feature was broadcast on ITV's *Daybreak*, a national television programme.
- 3.12 In July 2011 the FSA launched a DVD for butchers entitled "*E. Coli 0157 – A Butcher's guide to staying safe*". This DVD focuses on how *E. Coli* can be a threat to businesses and customers, the importance of controlling cross-contamination and the role of documented food safety management procedures. Almost 10,000 DVDs have been distributed to butchers across the UK.
- 3.13 During November and December 2011 the FSA ran a publicity campaign in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland highlighting the food safety practices associated with handling raw food. The FSA assessed the impact of the campaign and found that the key behavioural messages of washing or peeling vegetables before consumption and taking care when preparing and storing raw vegetables had the strongest impact.
- 3.14 In December 2011 the FSA sponsored the *4Food* section on Channel 4's website. Channel 4 is a national television channel in the UK. The agency used this sponsorship to communicate some of the key food safety messages associated with the safe preparation of Christmas meals, particularly the safe cooking and preparation of turkey. The campaign generated 37,708 hits on the FSA website, www.food.gov.uk.

Meat Hygiene

- 3.15 A detailed assessment of FBO HACCP controls in slaughterhouses was completed, as part of the Lead Veterinarian visits programme for England, Scotland and Wales.
- 3.16 The FSA consulted on changes to the FBO audit form to improve quality and consistency of audits. These changes are now being field trialled to ensure robustness.

3.17 Animal Welfare Survey

- The animal welfare survey conducted in September 2011 covered all red and white meat premises in England, Scotland and Wales. Results of the survey were included in a paper to the FSA Board in May 2012:

<http://www.food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/board/fsa120508.pdf>

- 324 (99%) of the 328 FBOs surveyed were fully compliant or demonstrated minor deficiencies with the requirements of the Welfare at Killing Regulation (Council Regulation (EC) 1099/2009) which will come into force in all MS from 1 January 2013.
- Results of the survey have been shared with Defra and the Welsh and Scottish Governments to help inform future policy making and implementation of the new Welfare at Killing Regulation.

Food Surveillance

- 3.18 The United Kingdom Food Surveillance System (UKFSS) is a real-time database for recording the results of analysis of official feed and food control samples taken by LAs, Port Health Authorities (PHAs) and DARD. The system is established in Scotland and Northern Ireland and continued to be rolled out across England and Wales. Having the official control sampling data held centrally allows real time data to be accessed by regulators and enforcers to give oversight on where the problems, gaps and areas of lower priority sampling exist. In 2011, 129 LAs were using the system, representing 30% of LAs able to access the system.

Stakeholder groups

- 3.19 The FSA's stakeholder groups, including those specific to devolved administrations, continued to meet during 2011 and the discussions between them helped to achieve greater co-operation and co-ordination, better targeting of official controls in areas of greatest risk and reduce unnecessary burdens to business.
- 3.20 In England and Wales, Local Food Authorities responsible for shellfish harvesting areas are required (under the Food Law Code of Practice) to establish and maintain Shellfish Liaison Groups (SLGs), which must meet routinely. These formal meetings are held annually or biannually (at the discretion of the LA) and involve local industry to discuss issues relating to classification and harvesting of molluscan shellfish at a local level. The FSA are members of all SLGs in England and Wales and attend when required and /or provide written updates on matters relating to agenda items as necessary. Minutes of meetings are not published as a matter of course but can be provided upon request. Similarly local authorities in Scotland are responsible for setting up and maintaining Local Action Groups for

shellfish areas. Their purpose is to deal with results with classification above pre-determined levels. The work will range from providing advice to more extensive incident investigations. The FSA also actively encourage informal dialogue with LAs and industry representatives to aid cooperation and build relationships. A course on the purification process was undertaken for England, Wales and Northern Ireland local authorities in March. Further sessions of this course are planned.

- 3.21 Local Authorities in England and Wales participate in 'FLG Meetings' where co-ordination of dairy hygiene activities through the different regions is discussed.
- 3.22 Measures to provide information and support LAs and PHAs involved in carrying out import controls continued in 2011. The central competent authorities for imported food including the FSA, the Defra, AHVLA and the UK Border Agency (UKBA) met twice at the Keeping in Touch meeting, to review the effectiveness of official controls. These central authorities and local and port health representatives also met twice yearly at the meeting of the Imported Food and Feed Working Group (IFFWG) to discuss changes to legislation, best practice and issues of concern. Minutes and relevant papers of the IFFWG meetings are published at:

http://www.food.gov.uk/foodindustry/imports/enforce_authorities/ifwg/ifwgmeetings/

- 3.23 District Councils (DCs) in Northern Ireland participated in FLG Meetings where co-ordination of activities across the region was discussed. FSA NI attended NI BIP (Border Inspection Post) Liaison Group Meetings and Designated Port of Entry Enforcement Authorities meetings to facilitate communications between DCs, DARD and the FSA in NI.
- 3.24 FSA NI held monthly meetings with Veterinary Public Health Unit (VPHU) to discuss technical aspects and implementation of official controls. Quarterly meetings were held with DARD to review the Service Level Agreement. FSA NI participated in VPHU industry stakeholder meetings and contributed to the VPHU Manual for Official Controls updates.
- 3.25 FSA NI established a fish and shellfish working group and hold cross-border shellfish meetings with Republic of Ireland (ROI) competent authorities. They have meetings with NI shellfish industry and industry representatives. Service Review meetings are held with the Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute for Northern Ireland (AFBI) and DARD Quality Assurance Branch (QAB). There are also cross-border animal feed meetings with ROI competent authorities.

Training for Enforcement Officers

- 3.26 The following training was provided:

- Consistency training - a continuation of the programme of consistency training for local authorities, based on the guidance on application of the food

establishment intervention rating scheme at Annex 5 of the *Food Law Code of Practice*, was organised and funded by the FSA. During the year 15 courses were attended by around 720 local authority officers in England and Northern Ireland. The FSA's ongoing annual training programme for LAs now includes consistency training and a number of courses are planned for 2012/13.

- Two consistency training courses were carried out in Scotland last year, reaching 29 of the 32 Scottish local authorities. Further courses will be delivered during 2012//13.
- Imported Food - Imported Food Controls training material, including an online training package was updated, and is available at: www.importedfood.co.uk.
- A programme of free regional based training was provided across the UK to ensure that port health and local authority officers are kept up to date with current legislation and practical guidance on the implementation of imported food official controls.
- Courses included: Imported Food sampling, Practical Enforcement of Imported food controls, Small Ports Imported Food, Food Contaminants sampling and Notice drafting. A course was also developed providing training on the import conditions for polyamide and melamine plastic kitchenware from China and Hong Kong, shortly after the introduction of the new Regulation (EU) No. 284/2011.
- Food Labelling & Composition - The FSA provided training for 54 delegates on food labelling and composition. The training was provided in parallel with the development of the Food Standards Training Manual: <http://www.food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/scot-manual.pdf>
- Primary Production - in Scotland, funding was made available to provide primary production training, particularly focusing on fruit and vegetables, to local authorities and the Scottish Government. 74 officers were trained in 2011. These training events provide an opportunity for local authority and Scottish Government officers to build relationships and work together.
- In Northern Ireland 24 officers undertook the HACCP, Assessment for Training Officers course. 24 officers undertook Evidence Gathering and Interviewing Skills training and 25 officers were trained on Seasonal Production of Wild Game. The Food Standards Sampling Course was attended by 60 officers and the Labelling Course was attended by 20 officers.
- Food Fraud – The FSA provided eight “Evidence Gathering & Interviewing Skills” training courses during 2011. A total of 96 enforcement officers attended the two day courses. Incident handling workshops were also held in Wales and Northern Ireland.

- PFNs - The European Commission Better Training for Safer Food (BTSF) courses form part of an ongoing two year programme established to explore how checks work across various sectors. The programme includes courses focusing on how control procedures are managed in relation to the PFN schemes. The objectives of the programme are to disseminate best practice for control procedures and improve knowledge, as well as increasing compatibility of control procedures and practices across the European Union (EU).
- A number of policy officials, inspectors from private inspection bodies and trading standards officers from the UK involved with the PFN verification inspections have participated in these courses and have played a part in disseminating the information with relation to control procedures/practices to other interested parties upon their return.

Guidance for Enforcement Officers

3.27 The following guidance was published

- FHRS/FHIS – Guidance to ensure consistency in implementation and operation of the FHRS by LAs – the Brand Standard – was revised during 2011 to reflect the experience of those local authorities operating the scheme. Similar guidance for operation of the FHIS is provided for local authorities in Scotland.

The FSA ran four FHRS ‘workshops’ for local authorities in 2011, two each in England and Northern Ireland, to provide an opportunity to identify and share good practice on the implementation and operation of the scheme.

In Wales the FSA hosted quarterly meetings of the Wales Implementation Group comprising local authority representatives, to facilitate the consistent and coordinated implementation of the scheme and identify and share good practice.

- Imported Food - Guidance for enforcement officers on increased levels of official controls for certain feed and food of non-animal origin of known or emerging risk under Regulation (EC) No. 669/2009 was reviewed and issued in all four national administrations.

3.28 Work on the following information systems was carried out

- Work was ongoing to further develop and enhance Scottish Primary Production Official Control System, a database on which both local authorities and Scottish Government record primary production inspection outcomes. Information on inspections is available to either party. The development is aimed to provide the database with greater functionality. In addition, enforcement officers were provided with additional guidance

developed by members of the Scottish Primary Production Enforcement Working Group:

<http://www.food.gov.uk/scotland/regsscotland/regsguidscot/primaryproductionfoodfeedhygiene>

- Food sampling – The Food Standards Training Manual used by environmental health officers was updated during 2011. The 2010 report on food sampling was produced and the roll out of UKFSS for DARD to include feed was begun.

Grants

3.29 The following financial support was provided:

- Imported Food – FSA provided over £1.5m of grant funding for additional sampling of imported food to local and port health authorities.
- FHRS – FSA provided grant funding to support LAs in England and Northern Ireland adopting the FHRS. During the year 194 local authorities received grants averaging just under £10,000 to undertake a range of ‘start up’ activities identified as critical to its successful launch and implementation of the scheme.
- FHIS – FSA in Scotland provided grant funding of £28,000 assist local authorities in start up and launch activities. Grants averaged £7,000 per local authority.
- Food Fraud – FSA’s food fraud programme seeks to improve the assistance available to LAs through raising awareness and take-up of the existing resources, both advisory and financial, that are available to assist LAs in their investigations into food fraud activity. As part of this work, in 2011, fighting fund money totalling £172,034 was allocated to 13 LAs involved in food fraud investigation.

Guidance for Food Businesses

3.30 The following was provided:

- Imported Food – Guidance for Feed Business Operators (FeBOs) and FBOs on the import provisions for feed and food of non-animal origin of known or emerging risk under Regulation (EC) No. 669/2009 was reviewed and issued in all four national administrations.
- FSA Website – the section on imported food food.gov.uk/foodindustry/imports was completely revised and updated. The Trade Information Sheets, providing advice to importers and food business

operators, were amended, as was the 'Frequently Asked Questions on Commercial imports' section.

- Safe Catering – Your Guide to making food safely – This initiative in NI continues to help catering businesses produce a food safety management plan based on HACCP principles and keep records appropriate to their business.

Defra and Agencies and CRD

BIPs

- 3.31 During 2011 regular keeping-in-touch meetings between Defra, FSA, UKBA and AHVLA were held to ensure co-ordination on import controls across the enforcement agencies involved.
- 3.32 The BIP Manual¹⁰, the instructions for veterinary entry checks, was updated in December 2011. In addition, Defra and FSA issued 54 Official Veterinary Surgeons (OVs) Notes to update BIPs on the changes to EU rules or UK policy on import controls¹¹
- 3.33 AHVLA held training courses for OVs and AHOs at animal product BIPs in June and November 2011.
- 3.34 In May 2011 The Trade in Animals and Related Products Regulations 2011¹² (TARP Regulations) was introduced. This provides enforcement authorities with robust means of enforcing EU legislation in respect of imports from third countries and intra-Union trade in animals and animal related products. The TARP Regulations revoke and replace the Regulations which previously covered imports from third countries, and trade within the EU in animals and animal products.

Organic Standards

- 3.35 Defra uses the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) to assess on an annual basis the UK organic control bodies' compliance with the control requirements set out in Article 27 of Council Regulation 834/2007 and Chapter IV of Commission Regulation 889/2008.
- 3.36 In order to ensure that a joined-up control procedure is maintained, there was regular communication between the parties involved in the control system. Defra and UKAS met quarterly to discuss UKAS' findings during its assessment of control bodies and to discuss any policy developments. The control bodies regularly met Defra at meetings of the United Kingdom Organic Certification

¹⁰ <http://www.defra.gov.uk/animal-trade/files/BIP-Manualedition16-Jan2012.pdf>

¹¹ <http://www.defra.gov.uk/animal-trade/imports-non-eu/enforcement-guidance/>

¹² <http://www.defra.gov.uk/animal-trade/legislation/>

Group where various issues are discussed. There was also liaison between Defra, UKAS and the organic control bodies through stakeholder meetings and ad hoc meetings.

- 3.37 Defra is also in the process of developing guidance for the UK organic sector in areas where the EU Regulations are currently unclear such as testing products for prohibited substances. The guidance is designed to ensure that a consistent approach is adopted across the sector.

Pesticide Residues Monitoring

- 3.38 CRD met control bodies to ensure that they were aware of any changes to the requirements and to discuss contract management matters. The food production and supply industry was asked to provide information on their own pesticide residues monitoring programmes, and CRD met industry groups representing various sectors of the supply chain to update them on developments.

Veterinary Residues Surveillance

- 3.39 A planning meeting for the 2012 National Residue Control Plan (NRCP) was held in September 2011 attending by representatives of the NRLs, major contractors, FSA, the Veterinary Residues Committee (VRC) and VMD. Four meetings of the independent VRC attended by officials from DARD and the FSA were held during 2011. The Committee reviewed progress on the UK NRCP. Papers and minutes of the meetings are published on www.vmd.defra.gov.uk. Meetings with individual contractors were also undertaken during the year.

Inspection of FeBOs

- 3.40 VMD Inspectors took part in regional meetings with LA Feed Enforcement Officers and carried out joint inspections with Local Officers.
- 3.41 A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between VMD and AHVLA was drafted and completed and took effect from 1 April 2011. Also an MOU was drawn up between VMD and the National Agricultural Panel (replacing the one with LACORS) and took effect from 1 September 2011. These documents aim to promote efficient enforcement of EC Regulation 183/2005 in GB through regular liaison between signatory bodies, and to ensure that enforcement is carried out in a manner which minimises duplication of official controls by local authorities and the VMD.

Publicity campaigns for travellers

- 3.42 Due to the freeze on government advertising and marketing spend, Defra has worked together with other Government Departments such as the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) to explore the use of free/low cost communication media to continue to help raise travellers' awareness of the rules on personal imports of POAO. A variety of public awareness raising mechanisms were

deployed with Defra mainly responsible for targeting inland audiences and UKBA leading on information for travellers (i.e. those intending to travel to the UK) through publicity at points of entry, and departure in the UK and overseas.

Co-ordination and Co-operation in the Animal Health and Welfare Sectors

Animal health and welfare sector co-ordination

England

- 3.43 The Chief Veterinary Officers' monthly co-ordination meetings between Defra, SG, WG and DARD NI continued to provide a forum to discuss current health and welfare issues at the domestic and EU/international level.
- 3.44 The Animal Health and Welfare Board for England¹³ was set up in the second half of 2011. The aim was to build trust between government and animal keepers and strengthen arrangements for joint working to develop a true partnership.
- 3.45 On 31 March 2011 LGR ceased to exist. From 1 April 2011, the Local Government Association¹⁴ (LGA) has provided a Regulatory Support Unit which offers support for animal health and welfare functions.

Wales

- 3.46 LAs in Wales continued to work closely with the Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) Wales and Farm Development Division. The national priorities set in 2008 (Sheep Scab and the TB Eradication programme) continued as part of the Framework during 2011 with improvements made in the consistency of enforcement and recording of breaches.
- 3.47 Welsh Government officials worked with Welsh LAs to improve the targeting of inspections and prevent duplicate inspections. The Welsh Government shares its inspection lists and findings with LAs across Wales to avoid the same farms being visited by Rural Inspectorate Wales (RIW). 'Link' officers in LAs and the RIW, appointed in 2009, met bi-monthly to discuss inspection lists, enforcement issues and best practice.
- 3.48 The work of a Red Tape Review stakeholder group continued. It encouraged AHVLA inspectors to record inspection results on the Animal Health & Welfare Management & Enforcement System (AMES), thereby improving co-operation and sharing of information. To avoid visiting holdings already inspected by another statutory body, organisations such as the Environment Agency (EA) and Farm Assured Schemes have requested AMES "view only" access.

¹³ <http://www.defra.gov.uk/ahwbe/> and <http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/2011/04/26/responsibility-animal-health/>

¹⁴ <http://www.lacors.gov.uk/lacors/home.aspx>

Scotland

3.49 During 2011 work was undertaken on the Scottish Animal Health and Welfare Framework¹⁵. AHVLA provided training for LAs on the use of the Framework and the AMES database whilst the Framework's Working Group (composed of SG AHVLA and Convention of Scottish Local Authorities¹⁶ representatives) amended the document following the pilot exercise undertaken during 2010. Subsequently, the Framework Working Group agreed to a transitional year¹⁷ prior to adoption and that during this period further information on the Framework and the possible use of the AMES database be made available to LAs.

Bee Health Co-ordination

3.50 In England and Wales the Food and Environment Research Agency (Fera) is continuing work in partnership with beekeeping stakeholders to deliver the objectives of the Healthy Bees Plan¹⁸. In 2011, there were six meetings of the Plan's Project Management Board (PMB) which includes bee stakeholders and officials from Fera and the Welsh Government. In addition, there were seven meetings of the PMB's working groups which comprise members from Government and stakeholders. The Scottish Government attended some of these meetings as observers. The Healthy Bees Plan is aimed at protecting and improving the health of honey bees. Details of the Plan and the minutes of the PMB and working groups are available on Fera's National Bee Unit's (NBU) Beebase website¹⁹ which is also a voluntary database of beekeepers in England, Wales and Scotland.

3.51 During 2011 close working relationships continued to be developed between the Scottish Government and bee stakeholders²⁰. Links continued to be strong between the Scottish Government and Fera and the NBU where expertise, knowledge and information was shared. The Scottish Government continued to encourage Scottish beekeepers to sign up to the NBU's BeeBase database.

3.52 In Northern Ireland, DARD and AFBI met regularly with beekeeping associations to discuss a range of bee health issues. Ongoing contact between inspectors in Northern Ireland and in the Republic of Ireland aids the maintenance of communication links and permits sharing of information on bee health matters relevant to both jurisdictions. In February 2011 DARD published its '*Strategy for the Sustainability of the Honey Bee*'²¹. The Strategy is currently implemented by DARD in conjunction with the two beekeeping organisations the Institute of Northern Ireland Beekeepers²² and Ulster Beekeepers Association (UBKA)²³. Implementation of the Strategy is carried out by the DARD Implementation Group

¹⁵ <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/278281/0119040.pdf>

¹⁶ <http://www.cosla.gov.uk/scottish-local-government>

¹⁷ www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0039/00392240.doc

¹⁸ <http://www.fera.defra.gov.uk/plants/beeHealth/healthyBeesPlan.cfm>

¹⁹ <http://www.nationalbeeunit.com>

²⁰ <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/farmingrural/Agriculture/animal-welfare/bee/strategy>

²¹ <http://www.dardni.gov.uk/index/publications/pubs-dard-fisheries-farming-and-food/publications-dard-strategy-for-the-sustainability-of-the-honey-bee.htm>

²² <http://www.inibeekeepers.com/>

²³ <http://www.ubka.org/>

and four Sub-groups. The Sub-groups are currently engaged in identifying Priority Areas and Actions Plans around the four key outcomes of the Strategy:

- effective communications and relationships
- effective surveillance and monitoring
- improved and sustained high standards of bee husbandry employed at all levels of beekeeping
- sound science and evidence for future decision making.

Aquatic Animal Health Co-ordination

- 3.53 Defra, the Scottish Government and DARD worked closely with respective official service providers to ensure the effective delivery of aquatic animal health controls. The Competent Authorities and official services in England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland continued to hold an annual meeting in order to consider evolving policy issues, and also to share good practice and ensure that standards of delivery are equivalent across the administrations.
- 3.54 Following extensive consultation by the National Bacterial Kidney Disease (BKD) Group which comprised representatives of the competent authorities, the official services, and stakeholder organisations, a new GB wide domestic policy on the control of BKD was introduced in February 2011²⁴. BKD remains a notifiable disease but statutory controls are only applied in cases of clinical disease. There is no routine targeted surveillance on fish farms for BKD and health attestations for BKD in respect of imports of ova and live fish are no longer required. A further extension to the control measures for BKD in GB under Article 43 of Council Directive 2006/88/EC were not pursued when the controls were reviewed by the European Commission in 2011²⁵.
- 3.55 The Fish Health Inspectorates (FHI) continued to work in partnership with other delivery agencies, to ensure the enforcement of statutory requirements in respect of movements of live aquatic animals. For example the FHI in England and Wales continued to work closely with the Environment Agency to investigate illegal movements of live fish, and with the Gangmasters Licensing Authority, the Marine Management Organisation through forums such as the Government Agency Intelligence Network, in order to improve intelligence gathering, enhance the sharing of resources, and facilitate cooperation in investigations of non-compliance and illegal activities. Northern Ireland FHI maintain close links with FHI in the Republic of Ireland to ensure a joint approach to policy and compliance issues.
- 3.56 The Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas) FHI has also worked closely with AHVLA to improve the inspection and certification checks on imported aquatic animals at BIPs.

²⁴ The new measures replaced existing national controls, colloquially known as additional guarantees, in place since 2004 under Commission Decision 2004/453/EC.

²⁵ eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2006:328:0014:0056:en:PDF

Plant Health Co-ordination

- 3.57 A new UK Plant Health Strategy Board has been established to co-ordinate the UK plant health strategy and oversee delivery of the Tree Health and Plant Biosecurity Action Plan²⁶ and action against Phytophthora-induced diseases under the Phytophthora programme.
- 3.58 In addition control authorities continue to meet twice each year to discuss matters of mutual interest and ensure a common approach to pest and disease problems. The programme to update Standard Operating Procedures in England and Wales continued.
- 3.59 Fera issued several pest notices and updated fact sheets, all of which are available on its website <http://www.fera.defra.gov.uk/plants/plantHealth/>

Training Initiatives – Animal Health

- 3.60 Training events for AHVLA veterinary and technical staff covering animal disease control issues e.g. notifiable and exotic disease course which provided information on a global perspective of notifiable animal diseases and the latest developments in their detection and control.
- 3.61 Ongoing welfare training events in response to specific local and individual training needs delivered through shadowing/mentoring and AHVLA local training initiatives such as the annual events delivered by lead welfare vets in Wales to provide a refresher for veterinary officers on current delivery requirements.
- 3.62 Training on welfare principles for AHVLA Technical Officers as part of the Technical Conferences 2010/11.
- 3.63 AHVLA held update training courses for live animal BIPs liaison officers and AHVLA staff working at live animal BIPs in May and November 2011.
- 3.64 The UK representatives attended various training courses through the European Commission's *Better Training for Safer Food* programme. The BTSF learning materials were cascaded through in house courses.

Northern Ireland

- 3.65 In Northern Ireland over 90 animal disease control and animal welfare training events and conferences were held for veterinary officers and technical staff. The training included issues such as zoonoses transmissions, sheep identification and inspection, development of animal welfare knowledge and expertise particularly in the case of food producing animals, new ABP legislation and how to enhance cooperation and communication with other MSs during a cross cutting food chain emergency.

²⁶ <http://www.defra.gov.uk/food-farm/crops/tree-health/>

Guidance and awareness campaigns

3.66 The UK's administrations continued to contribute to an increased awareness and better understanding of many of the key welfare issues including specific communications on the main areas of non-compliance. In particular Egg Marketing Inspectors and Veterinary Officers proactively contacted relevant laying hen premises ahead of the conventional cage ban on 1 January 2012²⁷, to remind producers of the need to comply with the ban and at the same time find out producers' intentions, as to whether they would cease production or convert to alternative systems. Additionally:

- DARD had a poster on the ban on conventional cages on their stand at a major agricultural show (the Balmoral) in 2011 and issued a concurrent press release stressing the tough enforcement policy. They communicate with private veterinary surgeons through an on-line resource "VetNI";
- Defra highlighted issues by communications through the Veterinary Record relating to late elastrator castration of calves, illegal tail docking in cattle, drenching/bolus injuries in sheep and the risk of botulism posed by the use of poultry litter as bedding for other livestock;
- Scottish Government provided advice to farmers on maintaining Animal Welfare in severe weather conditions (snow and freezing temperatures);
- Welsh Government communicated with the industry via the agricultural magazine "Gwlad" covering short tail docking of lambs, ram health in markets and the changes to the laying hens' requirement. Additionally the CVO Wales contacted Agricultural Show societies about teat sealing in exhibition dairy stock.

3.67 ADAS²⁸, on behalf of Defra, provided welfare advice through a variety of media to producers and private veterinary surgeons on current topics of welfare concern, details of which are provided in Table 3.1

3.68 As part of UK Government's reform of public bodies, the Farm Animal Welfare Council²⁹, an advisory Non-Departmental Public Body, published its Final Report and opinions in March 2011 before being replaced by the Farm Animal Welfare Committee³⁰, an expert committee within Defra. It continued to provide advice to Government on farmed animal welfare in the form of reports, opinions and letters. Final views by the Council included an opinion on mutilations and environmental enrichment in pigs and on lameness in sheep. Two reports were published by the new Committee: Economics and Farm Animal Welfare³¹ and Education, Communication and Knowledge Application³². Consultations were also initiated on farmed deer and fish in 2011.

²⁷ <http://www.defra.gov.uk/food-farm/animals/welfare/on-farm/poultry-welfare/>

²⁸ Information on ADAS is available at: adas.co.uk/

²⁹ <http://www.fawc.org.uk/>

³⁰ <http://www.defra.gov.uk/fawc/>

³¹ <http://www.defra.gov.uk/fawc/files/Report-on-Economics-and-Farm-Animal-Welfare.pdf>

³² <http://www.defra.gov.uk/fawc/files/Report-on-Education-Communication-and-Knowledge-Application-in-Relation-to-Farm-Animal-Welfare.pdf>

Table 3.1: Summary of animal welfare advice provided by ADAS during 2011

Advice provided by ADAS in 2011	
Poultry	<p>5 presentations across England covering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commercial poultry welfare in the egg and meat sectors – what are the main welfare issues and how producers and legislators tackle them • Welfare of hens in enriched laying cages • Current broiler welfare issues including the requirements of the Broiler Directive and practical implementation <p>Welfare topics covered in 2011:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintaining flock health and welfare during cold weather (broilers, cage layers, free range layers, pullets, turkeys) • Litter management (broilers, free range layers, pullets, turkeys) • Heat stress management (broilers) • Red mite (layers) • Feather pecking (layers) • Meat chicken directive requirements • Rearing your own pullets <p>Articles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>'A Reminder on Broiler Heat Stress as Summer Approaches'</i> (March'11): National Farmers Union (NFU) Poultry Forum • <i>'Controlling moisture in the house is essential for reducing Pododermatitis'</i> (March '11): NFU Poultry Forum.
Cattle	<p>Discussion Groups & lectures (8)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Beef Association members & University clinical club/ agricultural colleges: "Prospects for Better Profits in Beef Production". Topic: 'Breeding and Fertility in Suckler Cows'. <p>Press Articles (5)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farmers Guardian and Beef Farmer - Suckler Cow Breeding and Fertility • Farmers Guardian – Welfare of Cattle at Grass • Farmers Guardian – Artificial Calf Rearing • Grass and Forage Magazine - Grazing Management of Spring Calving Cows at Grass to Optimise Fertility and Calf Performance
Sheep	<p>Discussion Groups (sheep producers) (5)</p> <p>'Breeding Ewe nutrition' & 'Feeding the pregnant ewe'.</p> <p>Veterinary surgeon seminars & vet school (3)</p> <p>'Ewe nutrition and Health'. & 'Feeding the pregnant ewe'</p> <p>Press articles (6)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving Lamb Survival (2) • Feeding the pregnant ewe • Welfare of Sheep in Low input systems • Coping with forage shortages • Fly strike and scab control

Training Initiatives - Bee Health

3.69 NBU carried out around 900 training events for beekeepers. The training covered many aspects of beekeeping, pest and disease recognition and control and good husbandry. Detailed information on beekeeping together with advisory and guidance leaflets and other material is available to beekeepers on the NBU's Beebase website.

3.70 Scottish Government supports one full-time Apiculture Specialist at the Scottish Agricultural College to deliver advisory, training and education programmes for

Scottish beekeepers covering all aspects of Integrated Pest Management and good husbandry. Scottish Government inspectors also gave talks to local beekeeping associations, which have proved to be a useful mechanism for disseminating information.

- 3.71 DARD's College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise³³ works in collaboration with the UBKA to provide Beekeeping Training in Northern Ireland. During 2011 a total of nine Preliminary level Beekeeping courses and four Intermediate level Beekeeping courses were delivered in various venues across Northern Ireland. Approximately 235 individuals attended and completed this training.
- 3.72 DARD Bee inspectorate and AFBI staff have provided disease recognition information, inspection findings and outbreak reports for notifiable diseases at beekeeping annual conferences and association meetings during 2011.

Training Initiatives - Aquatic Animal Health

- 3.73 Fish Health Inspectors in England and Wales received training in Investigators Interviewing Skills which covered the legal basis of interviewing under caution, interviewing skills, and Police and Criminal Evidence Act awareness. The training programme for Fish Health Inspectors in surveillance skills is continuing.
- 3.74 The FHI continued to attend trade conferences and stakeholder events, to disseminate good practice and to offer guidance on legislative compliance e.g. a video produced by the Cefas FHI and partner organisations on the illegal import of live fish was disseminated to stakeholders through conferences and meetings. The video was also published on the Defra aquatic animal health and movements website³⁴, and was made available through social media such as 'YouTube'. In addition, guidance was sent out to aquaculture production businesses on trade rules on aquatic animal movements following reports of export certification anomalies.
- 3.75 Significant effort has been invested by the FHI and partner organisations in publication of the *Crimestoppers*³⁵ initiative through articles in the press, leaflets and posters. In addition the scope and effectiveness of the *Crimestoppers* initiative has been extended through the involvement of an additional partner organisation, the EA.

Training Initiatives – Plant Health

- 3.76 Plant Health inspectors continued with formal and informal training to maintain and increase skill levels. ISO³⁶ 17020 accreditation for the Plant Health and Seeds Inspectorate import processes, first obtained in 2010, was renewed.

³³ <http://www.cafre.ac.uk/>

³⁴ <http://www.defra.gov.uk/aahm/guidance/angling-under-threat/>

³⁵ <http://www.defra.gov.uk/aahm/guidance/angling-under-threat/>

³⁶ International Standards Organisation

Emergency and Contingency Planning

Animal health and welfare sectors

- 3.77 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. AHVLA 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 GB and NI Contingency Plan³⁷ which outlines how the four Administrations work together during the response to a disease outbreak.
- 3.78 AHVLA 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 2011 disease simulation exercises covering swine vesicular disease, classical swine fever, foot and mouth disease, avian influenza, African horse sickness and rabies were undertaken.

England

- 3.79 The Defra Contingency Plan was deployed once during 2011, to respond to a suspected rabies incident. A number of cases of suspect notifiable disease were investigated.
- 3.80 Defra's Contingency Plan³⁸ for Exotic Notifiable Diseases of Animals was reviewed and updated in July 2011 to reflect lessons learned from previous disease outbreaks and exercises.

Scotland

- 3.81 The Scottish Government did not need to deploy its generic Contingency Framework plan during 2011. However, Scottish Government participated in Exercise Antonine, which allowed the Scottish Government Generic Contingency Framework plan and Communications Strategy to be tested.

Wales

- 3.82 The Welsh Government, following an annual review, republished its Contingency Plan for Exotic Animal Diseases³⁹ in April. The Welsh Government plan complements the plan for England produced by Defra and incorporates lessons learned from exercises.

³⁷ <http://www.defra.gov.uk/publications/files/pb13714-animal-disease-plan-gbni-120228.pdf>

³⁸ <http://www.defra.gov.uk/publications/files/pb13581-animal-disease-plan-110701.pdf>

³⁹ <http://wales.gov.uk/topics/environmentcountryside/ahw/contingencyplanning/exoticcontingencyplan/contingencyplan/?lang=en>

- 3.83 The two AHVLA offices in Wales ran exercises aimed at testing the operational response to various exotic animal diseases, including High-pathogenic Avian Influenza and Classical Swine Fever. The exercises included policy input from the Welsh Government and representation from partner organisations such as the Police and LAs and successfully tested a multi agency response to disease outbreak.

Northern Ireland

- 3.84 DARD tested their contingency plan at tactical, operational and field level. At tactical level a DARD and Centre for Veterinary Epidemiology and Risk Analysis⁴⁰ exercise was carried out. The primary purpose of the exercise was to achieve a co-ordinated, consistent map of a cross-border zone. At operational level desktop exercises tested the directorates within the Local Epizootic Disease Control Centre. A field exercise tested DARD's capability to carry out a vaccination programme for an outbreak of Foot-and-Mouth disease in Northern Ireland. A further exercise was carried out to test the sampling, packaging and dispatch processes for Foot-and-Mouth Disease suspects. Communications between AFBI and DARD on dealing with suspects and sample results were also tested as part of this exercise. Lessons learned have been incorporated into amended response protocols.

Bee Health

- 3.85 The Contingency Plan for the arrival of exotic pests is reviewed on an annual basis. A tabletop exercise was carried out to test the response procedures to the small hive beetle (an exotic pest of honey bees) which are detailed in the Contingency Plan. Following the exercise, lessons learned and actions were used to refine the contingency plan.

Aquatic Animal Health

- 3.86 Contingency plans⁴¹ for the control of exotic disease outbreaks in GB have been subject to annual review and the relevant operational manuals were finalised. Planning was undertaken for a simulation exercise to be conducted in 2012 for response to an outbreak of an exotic aquatic disease in England and Wales, testing National Disease Control Centre setup and communication between Cefas, Defra and other participating organisations, to be run in Weymouth and London
- 3.87 In Scotland, following a substantial review of the contingency plan for *Gyrodactylus salaris* a revised version of the plan was published.⁴² Generic contingency plans for dealing with exotic, non-exotic and emerging diseases, in accordance with Directive 2006/88/EC, are still under development.

⁴⁰ <http://www.ucd.ie/cvera/>

⁴¹ [Directive 2006/88/EC](#) requires publication of contingency plans for exotic aquatic animal diseases

⁴² scotland.gov.uk/Uploads/Documents/GsConplan.pdf

3.88 Northern Ireland reviewed and updated all fish disease contingency plans and is at an advanced stage in developing a cross-border contingency plan for *Gyrodactylus salaris* in conjunction with the Marine Institute in the Republic of Ireland and the Foyle Carlingford and Irish Lights Commission⁴³. A contingency plan is also in place for Ostreid Herpesvirus1- μ var (OsHV1- μ var), which has had a detrimental effect on Pacific oysters in recent years.

Plant Health

3.89 The contingency plan previously developed for *Anoplophora chinensis* Citrus longhorn beetle was subject to a trial desk-based exercise. The outcome of the trial resulted in improvements to the plan.

⁴³ <http://www.dardni.gov.uk/index/fisheries-farming-and-food/fisheries/fcilc.htm>

Working across the EU

Food

3.90 In 2011 the major categories in which the FSA assisted in or co-ordinated communication between different competent authorities within the EU were: labelling irregularities (42), physical contamination (31), microbiological contamination 10). In each case, details of the complaint were forwarded to the relevant authority, further investigation undertaken where appropriate and reports provided for the originating authority. Enforcement action was taken where necessary and all cases logged on the FSA Incidents Database.

Feed

3.91 No requests for assistance from other MS were received. A request for assistance regarding a pet food labelling issue was received.

Chapter 4 - Raising standards and sharing good practice: what was achieved in 2011?

Feed and food sectors

Official Controls for which the FSA is responsible

Annual Reporting – LAEMS

- 4.1 The FSA published data for the period April 2011 to March 2012 gathered by LAEMS. The data and details of LA enforcement activity, including audit data, can be found at:

<http://www.food.gov.uk/enforcement/monitoring/laems/mondatabyyear/ocd201112/>
<http://www.food.gov.uk/enforcement/auditandmonitoring/>

LA Audit - Local and Port Health Authorities

- 4.2 Details of FSA audit programmes of local and port health authorities are given in Table 4.1.
- 4.3 Individual audit reports and related LA action plans are published on the FSA website. All reports can be found at:
- <http://www.food.gov.uk/enforcement/auditandmonitoring/auditreports/>
- 4.4 Recommendations from audit programmes were accepted by the appropriate authorities and corrective action agreed. Follow-up audit verification checks ensure that the agreed actions were prioritised and remedial action taken within an acceptable timescale.

FSA Internal Audit – Meat Hygiene Controls

- 4.5 The FSA internal Audit team undertook audits of official controls delivered directly by the FSA or by third parties under contract or service level agreements, including meat hygiene controls delivered in Northern Ireland by DARD.
- 4.6 For each audit, an overall audit assurance opinion were given based on Auditors' assessment of the effectiveness of the policy audited and hence assurance that the policy is meeting the objectives that it has been designed to achieve. Three levels of audit assurance opinion were used:- Substantial, Limited and Poor. Audits with a "Poor" assurance opinion will be followed up within 12 months of the report being issued.

Table 4.1 FSA Audit of Competent Authorities ('local authorities') January – December 2011

Programme	Dates	No. of authorities/ DARD Units	No. of establishment 'reality checks'	Final report(s) issued/published/due	No. of new recommendations
ENGLAND					
Audit of Imported Food and Feed Not of Animal Origin	Jan	2	2	Final reports including programme summary report published: http://www.food.gov.uk/enforcement/auditandmonitoring/auditreports/	11
Assessment of Delivery of Official Controls on Imported Feed Not of Animal Origin	Jan - March	5 (+4 meetings)	5	Final reports, including programme summary report published: http://www.food.gov.uk/enforcement/auditandmonitoring/auditreports/	72
LAEMS 2009/10 Returns Follow-up Visits	Apr - July	10	-	-	-
Audit of Official Controls on Feed of Non-Animal Origin and Feed Establishments, including Primary Producers	July – Oct	10	9	Final reports, including programme summary report published: http://www.food.gov.uk/enforcement/auditandmonitoring/auditreports/	155
LAEMS 2010/11 Returns Follow-up Visits	Oct – Dec	8	-	-	-
Audit of Service Delivery and Business Compliance	Nov	1	1	Final reports due to be published:	33
Follow-up audits	When due	23	-	Updated LA action plans are published on the FSA website against the original individual LA audit report.	-
SCOTLAND					
Assessment of Regulation (EC) No. 852/2004 on the Hygiene of Foodstuffs in Food Business Establishments.	Jan-Dec	8	16	Final reports published: http://www.food.gov.uk/enforcement/auditandmonitoring/auditreports/	13
Assessment of Delivery of Official Controls on Imported Feed Not of Animal Origin	Feb-March	2	2	Final reports published: http://www.food.gov.uk/enforcement/auditandmonitoring/auditreports/	15
Focussed Audit of Establishments Approved under Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 Laying Down Specific Hygiene Rules for Food of Animal Origin	Aug-Sept	3	6	Final reports published: http://www.food.gov.uk/enforcement/auditandmonitoring/auditreports/	7

Table 4.1 continued

Programme	Dates	No. of authorities/ DARD Units	No. of establishment 'reality checks'	Final report(s) issued/published/due	No. of new recommendations
WALES					
Assessment of Delivery of Official Controls on Imported Feed Not of Animal Origin	Jan - March	2	2	Individual final report published: http://www.food.gov.uk/enforcement/auditandmonitoring/auditreports/auditwales/ Summary report published: http://www.food.gov.uk/enforcement/auditandmonitoring/auditreports/auditfocus/importedfeedcontrolaudit/	38
Audit of Official Controls on Feed of Non-Animal Origin and Feed Establishments, including Primary Producers	July – Oct	2	1	Individual final reports published: http://www.food.gov.uk/enforcement/auditandmonitoring/auditreports/auditwales/ Summary report published: http://www.food.gov.uk/enforcement/auditandmonitoring/auditreports/auditfocus/audit-inland-feed-ests/	34
NORTHERN IRELAND					
Focused Audit of the Delivery of Official Controls in approved live bivalve mollusc & fishery product establishments (4 LAs selected and 7 establishments selected)	March - May	4	7	Individual final reports published: http://www.food.gov.uk/enforcement/auditandmonitoring/auditreports/auditnireland/#anchor_590614	24
Follow-up audit - Delivery of Official Controls by DARD Quality Assurance Branch in Respect of Animal Feed Establishments in Northern Ireland	June	1	-	-	-
Audit of DARD Veterinary Service VPHU - post-mortem inspection verification in approved fresh meat establishments	Oct	1	3	Draft report issued March 2011	6

Audit findings

- 4.7 Six audits were carried out between January and December 2011 involving visits to 150 approved establishments. Table 4.2 below shows the audit opinion and number of recommendation for each audit.
- 4.8 Based on the results of the audits conducted by Internal Audit, the overall assessment was that delivery of official controls within existing policies has continued to be generally satisfactory.

Table 4.2 FSA Internal Audit - opinions and number of recommendations in 2011

Audit theme	Audit Assurance Opinion	No of establishments	No of Recommendations
FSA Audits of FBO controls	Substantial	23	5
Wild Game Handling Establishments	Limited	10	11
Animal By-Products Controls	Substantial	23	4
GB HACCP Controls	Limited	32	11
UK Post Mortem Verification	Substantial	30	14
GB Animal Welfare at Slaughter	Substantial	32	6

Designated Official Laboratories

4.9 Table 4.3 shows the progress made towards establishing audit arrangements for authorities undertaking controls on behalf of the FSA

Table 4.3 Audit arrangements for authorities undertaking official controls

Competent authority	Control activity	Progress
FSA	Shellfish	All official control laboratories are required to be accredited to ISO 17025 standards by UKAS. UKAS undertakes regular formal audits of accredited laboratories. In addition all UK official control laboratories for microbiological analysis are required to obtain satisfactory scores in a three times per year programme of proficiency tests organised by the Cefas NRL in collaboration with the UK HPA. Poor performance is followed up by formal audit inspections by the NRL.
AHDH	Dairy	Official controls for dairy hygiene in the UK were subject to an in depth review in 2010. Recommendations from the review have now been implemented and Dairy Hygiene Inspectors now will carry out in-house. These will be discussed in future audit plans.
FSA	Approval and inspection of food irradiation facilities	There is one facility authorised to irradiate food in the UK. This facility has not processed any food since the last inspection in 2006 and is deemed to be a low risk. The facility provides an annual report to declare if they have treated food over the preceding 12-months and, in addition, has been asked to notify us if it resumes food processing. Should the licensee resume food processing then a decision on inspection and any associated audit will be taken at that time.
FSA	Testing of raw cows' drinking milk	In England and Wales a statutory programme of sampling and testing of raw cows' drinking milk is carried out on behalf of the FSA by Eclipse Scientific Ltd. Each year sites are audited by UKAS. The 2011 audit was satisfactory.

Official Controls for which the Agriculture/Rural Affairs Departments and Agencies and CRD are responsible

4.10 Details of inspections of BIPs undertaken by AHVLA and DARD Veterinary Service in 2011 are provided below.

Border Inspection posts (BIPs)

4.11 During 2011 AHVLA was responsible for the evaluation of BIP facilities, documentation and procedures in Great Britain. In Northern Ireland, the DARD Veterinary Service undertakes these functions. All BIPs were inspected at least once in 2011.

Table 4.4 Number of visits to BIPs carried out in GB during 2011

No. of visits to assess facilities	No. of visits to assess procedures	No. of visits to assess facilities and procedures at live animal BIPS
27	28	11

4.12 These visits identified some minor deficiencies in the controls, structure and facilities in some BIPs. In most cases, action to correct these deficiencies has been taken or is underway. AHVLA inspections also cover some public health aspects of import controls such as training of personnel and sampling.

Veterinary Medicines Residues Monitoring

Veterinary Residues Surveillance

4.13 Planned audit activity did not take place during 2011. However 2 audits are planned to take place in 2012 at Marine Scotland and AHVLA.

Inspection of Feed Business Operators

4.14 There were no audits carried out on the VMD during 2011. Future audit arrangements are included in the VMD's long term internal audit arrangement with RSM Tenon (previously RSM Bentley Jennison). The VMD anticipates that the next audit on its feed business operators' inspection arrangements will take place in 2013.

CRD

4.15 CRD commissions independent internal audits on the effectiveness of:

- risk management;
- control; and
- governance processes.

4.16 There were no pesticides residue monitoring audits in 2011.

Beef Labelling Controls

- 4.17 There are no specific audit arrangements in place for Beef Labelling; however RPA continued to work closely with DEFRA and the Devolved Administrations to improve on this. Monthly call conferences were initiated between RPA and DEFRA, which proved beneficial. Communication between Local Authorities and the Devolved Administrations continue to be an issue and work continues with DEFRA to improve this.
- 4.18 In Scotland, FSA Scotland issued a training manual to assist Scottish Enforcement Officers in the area of food law. This includes detailed information on the compulsory and voluntary beef labelling schemes to enable Local Authorities (LAs) to enforce beef labelling rules more effectively at retail level. Scottish Government Meat and Livestock Inspectors (SGMLIs), who enforce the rules at abattoir/wholesale level, attended training sessions for LA Enforcement Officers to discuss requirements for beef labelling at retail level.
- 4.19 In Northern Ireland, in addition to management checks carried out on inspection staff, one official audit of the QAB Meat Team took place during 2011.

Organic Produce

- 4.20 Defra's Internal Audit Unit is developing an audit strategy for its official control functions, which includes overseeing the system for the certification of organic produce. The audit strategy will ensure that all major aspects of the official control functions of the Department and its Agencies, and the control functions designated to local authorities, are fully reviewed through a programme of risk-based audits at least once during a five-year period.

Protected Names

- 4.21 Work to improve the transparency and scrutiny of the audit process continued during 2011. This work was planned to be complete by April 2011. However, with the agreement of Defra, this work has been delayed due to ongoing negotiations on new EU legislation covering the Protected Name Scheme which may affect some of the requirements relating to verification checks and controls.

Control Bodies

- 4.22 Details of audits/inspections of control bodies designated by Defra and HSE to carry out feed and food control activities during 2011 are given in Table 4.5. 23 The recommendations made during these audits have been undertaken or are being addressed, as discussed with the FVO.

Table 4.5 Summary of audits/inspections of control bodies designated by Defra and HSE to carry out feed and food control activities during 2011

Control body	Control tasks	Progress
LGC Ltd, AFBI, Fera, Eurofins and Science and Advice for Scottish Agriculture	Official laboratories	All the laboratories are audited by the independent accredited body UKAS.
Fera, Rural Payments Agency (RPA)	Official sample collection agencies	HSE internal audit reported on these bodies in April 2011. No shortcomings in sampling procedures were identified. Follow-up action is being taken on the minor points identified.
Mintel International Group Ltd	Independent sample collection/ market research company	Audit requirements will be explored as part of the process of reviewing the contract for this work.
Approved private organic control bodies	Control and certification of organic production (as required by Council Regulation 834/2007)	UKAS visited all organic control bodies operating in the UK in 2011 to verify compliance with standard EN45011 and to assess their compliance with the control requirements of Council Regulation 834/2007 and Commission Regulation 889/2008. No serious issues were found in the operation of the control bodies' audit/ inspection arrangements.
Private Inspection Body	Ensuring that producers using the protected name are complying with the registered specification for the product in question.	Private inspection bodies are independently accredited and audited by UKAS against European Standard EN 45011 or ISO 65. UKAS maintains a record of those private inspection bodies which have the required accreditation. However, UKAS has no specific audit programme with respect to those bodies. This is something which we are discussing with UKAS. We are planning to publish more information on our PFN web pages relating to the inspection process and the respective responsibilities of the UK control bodies and their contact details.
Public Inspection Body	Ensuring that producers using the protected name are complying with the registered specification for the product in question.	Defra is responsible for ensuring that those bodies are complying with the principles of the EN 45011 standard or ISO 65. We are planning to publish more information on our PFN web pages relating to the inspection process and the respective responsibilities of all the UK control bodies and their contact details.

Table 4.5 continued

Control body	Control tasks	Progress
As part of the implementation of the UK Salmonella National Control Programme in laying chicken flocks, National Britannia Certification (Ltd) maintained its approval in 2011 as an Independent Control Body for the approved industry control programmes the Lion Code Scheme and the Laid in Britain Scheme	Audit operator testing and taking of official samples as required by the sector-specific <i>Salmonella</i> National Control Programme for the designated industry assurance schemes and approved industry control programmes. Provision of monthly reports on official sampling visits carried out and participation in monthly stakeholder meetings in 2011 with AHVLA, Defra and the Devolved Administrations.	Overall, the approved industry control bodies for the layer sector completed 1,031 official sampling visits during 2011 – 99% of all required visits. The 10 outstanding visits were completed in January 2012.
SAI Global Assurance Services Ltd ⁴⁴ were approved as the Independent Control Body for the Quality British Turkeys Assurance Scheme in the turkey sector for 2011	Audit operator testing and take official samples as required by the sector-specific <i>Salmonella</i> National Control Programme for the designated industry assurance schemes and approved industry control programmes. Provision of monthly reports on official sampling visits carried out and participation in monthly stakeholder meetings in 2011 with AHVLA, Defra and the Devolved Administrations.	The approved industry control body took official samples from 134 turkey flocks (123 fattening flocks and 11 breeding flocks) during 2011.

FVO audits undertaken in 2011

Table 4.6: Summary of FVO audits in 2011 to assess the effectiveness of OFFC in the UK

Control activities	Report/UK response
Public Health – Beef Traceability 2011-6023	Report: http://ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/rep_details_en.cfm?rep_id=2708
2011-8955 15 – 25 November 2011 in order to evaluate the implementation of measures concerning official controls on feed legislation	Report: http://ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/rep_details_en.cfm?rep_id=2826#
2011-6025 28 November – 9 December 2011 in order to evaluate the official controls related to slaughter and processing of fresh meat, in particular fresh ovine meat	Report: http://ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/rep_details_en.cfm?rep_id=2840

⁴⁴ saiglobal.com/Assurance/Food/LivestockPoultry/AssuredBritishTurkey.htm

Animal Health and Welfare Sectors

4.23 The following audit programmes were carried out in 2011:

Table 4.7 Audit programmes in relation to animal health carried out in 2011

Audit programme	Conclusions/recommendations
ENGLAND	
The review of the Defra assurance framework for official controls, completed in 2010, was followed up in 2011. The purpose of the original review was to clarify the position across members of the Defra network and other delivery partners regarding compliance with Regulation 882/2004 audit requirements.	6 of the 8 recommendations made in 2010 had been actioned, fully implemented and closed.
SCOTLAND	
The first audits of “discreet OFFC areas” were completed as per the 5 year strategy. This first review focused on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PFNs • Organic Products • Review of Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies Surveillance Monitoring • Animal Strategy, Planning and Exotics Diseases/Disease Control • SG OFFC co-ordinating function involvement with business areas with regard to MANCP and requirements of EC Regulation 882/2004 	While a ‘substantial’ level of assurance was provided, several areas were identified where improvement could be made and 4 medium level recommendations were made and followed-up in-year.
WALES	
Within the 2010/11 audit plan the Corporate Governance and Assurance Division of the Welsh Government carried out one audit on the Bovine TB Compensation Scheme. The scope of the audit included a review of compliance with the requirements set out in the Service Level Agreement between Animal Health and the Welsh Government.	Three minor recommendations were made. The overall opinion was full assurance that controls were operating satisfactorily.
NORTHERN IRELAND	
During 2011, DARD Internal Audit Branch continued with implementation of the audit strategy covering arrangements for animal health and welfare controls for which DARD are responsible. DARD Internal Audit Branch has completed audit work in the following areas:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TB Prevention & Control, Enforcement and Portal controls - EU 18/2010-2011 dated 17 August 2011. 	A total of 17 recommendations were made and a satisfactory opinion was given.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plant Health Controls – EU 20/2010/2011 dated 2 September 2011. 	A total of 5 recommendations were made and a satisfactory opinion was given.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bee Health – EU 1/2011/2012 dated 29 November 2011. 	A total of 5 recommendations were made and a satisfactory opinion was given.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fisheries Inspectorate – second follow up 1/8/2011/2012 dated 8 November 2011. 	Of the 3 recommendations outstanding, 2 have now been implemented.

Control Bodies

Table 4.8: Audits/inspections of control bodies in relation to animal health controls during 2011

Control body	Control tasks	Progress
Orchid Cellmark Ltd ⁴⁵	Scrapie genotyping service under contract to Defra in support of the GB Voluntary Scrapie Flocks Scheme and the Compulsory Scrapie Flocks Scheme ⁴⁶ , and separately to DARD for the Northern Ireland Scrapie Plan ⁴⁷	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1-3 June 2011 - ISO 17025:2005 audit by UKAS: a surveillance assessment of Cellmark's entire scope of accreditation and management systems. Several improvement actions were raised and satisfactorily completed, none of which related directly to the Scrapie genotyping service. UKAS stated in the assessment report: "As demonstrated at previous UKAS visits the Agriculture operations activities are well controlled..." • September 2011 - ISO 9001: 2008 and ISO14001:2004 audit by SGS UK Ltd. Minor non-conformities were raised and satisfactorily addressed. • Overall UKAS and SGS adjudged the systems in place at Cellmark to manage conformity with the required standards for testing to be effective, efficient and robust and continued accreditation/certification was recommended and granted following the audits. • In 2011 Cellmark participated in Defra's proficiency testing scheme. AHVLA submitted blind samples of known genotypes in June and December 2011. All proficiency samples were genotyped correctly. The process (from April 2011) is for twice yearly sampling in the second and fourth quarters of the year. The numbers of samples sent are 8 each time, giving a total of 16 for the year, which will cover all 15 genotypes at least once within the year. No major issues were identified in 2011. • No issues relating to external proficiency testing for these services were identified in 2011.

⁴⁵ The most recent issue of the schedule of accreditation to ISO 17025:2005 is available on the UKAS website at ukas.org (testing laboratory no.2045)

⁴⁶ Information on the Compulsory Scrapie Flocks Scheme is available at animalhealth.defra.gov.uk/managing-disease/notifiable-disease/scrapie/national-scrapie-plan/compulsory-scrapie-flocks-scheme.htm

⁴⁷ Information on the Northern Ireland Scrapie plan is available at: dardni.gov.uk/index/animal-health/animal-diseases/bse/scrapie-introduction/northern-ireland-scrapie-plan.htm

Table 4.8 continued

Control body	Control tasks	Progress
<p>Private laboratories authorised to undertake work in respect of the Animal By-Products Regulations 2011⁴⁸, the Control of Salmonella in Poultry Order 2007⁴⁹, the Control of Salmonella in Broiler Flocks Order 2009⁵⁰, the Control of Salmonella in Turkey Flocks Order⁵¹ and the Poultry Health Scheme⁵².</p>	<p>Laboratory examination of samples for the detection of <i>Salmonella</i>, <i>Enterobacteriaceae</i>, <i>Clostridium perfringens</i> and <i>Mycoplasma</i>.</p>	<p>During 2011, most laboratories complied with the test samples Quality Assurance requirements. Under the Quality Assurance scheme where laboratories suffer two or more failures they are required to be inspected. No inspections were required in 2011. All laboratories involved in testing for <i>Salmonella</i> under the requirements of the <i>Salmonella</i> National Control programmes were accredited to ISO 17025 by UKAS.</p>
<p>PETS - Commercial Transport carrier companies⁵³ approved by Defra to bring dogs, cats or ferrets to the UK</p>	<p>Basic checks of pet passports (including microchips)</p>	<p>In 2011 94,121 cats, dogs and ferrets were imported into the UK under PETS. AHVLA carried out spot checks/inspections on approximately 5-10% of those animals. This surveillance is carried out randomly at entry points throughout a 24 hour period. Where any non-compliance was found, the carrier was informed and 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.</p>

⁴⁸ [The Animal By-Products \(Enforcement\)\(England\) Regulations 2011 \(Statutory Instrument \(SI\) 2011/881\)](#)

⁴⁹ [The Control of Salmonella in Poultry \(England\) Order 2007 \(SI 2007/2574\)](#) and equivalent legislation in the Devolved Administrations

⁵⁰ [The Control of Salmonella in Broilers Order 2009](#) and equivalent legislation in the Devolved Administrations

⁵¹ [The Control of Salmonella in Turkey Flocks Order 2009 \(SI 2009/3271\)](#) giving effect to Commission Regulation (EC) No 584/2008 implementing Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards a Community target for the reduction of the prevalence of *Salmonella* Enteritidis and *Salmonella* Typhimurium in turkeys. Official Journal L 162, 21.06.2008 P3 – 7

⁵² businesslink.gov.uk/bdotg/action/detail?itemId=1082280459&type=RESOURCES

⁵³ Details of PETS, approved commercial transport carrier companies, routes and countries are available at: defra.gov.uk/wildlife-pets/pets/travel/pets/index.htm

FVO missions

Table 4.9 Information about FVO audit in relation to animal health and welfare controls during 2011

Control activities and reference	Report/UK response
<p>FVO audit carried out in the UK 28 March to 7 April 2011. A 'fact finding' audit to gather information on the implementation of EID of sheep and goats. (MR 2012/6587)</p>	<p>The FVO concluded that the UK has made significant progress with implementation of EID requirements in accordance with EU legislation currently in force, noting that UK Competent Control Authorities have adapted official controls and enforcement systems to verify and ensure proper implementation of EID of sheep as required.</p> <p>(The FVO also visited 3 other MS and an overview of their findings is due to be published in 2012 on their website).</p>
<p>Animal health - Intra-Union trade in live equidae, semen, embryos and ova (MR 2011/6056)</p>	<p>Report http://ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/act_getPDF.cfm?PDF_ID=9196</p> <p>UK response plan http://ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/ap/ap_gb_2011-6056.pdf</p>
<p>Animal health - bovine tuberculosis eradication programme (MR 2011/6057)</p>	<p>Report http://ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/act_getPDF.cfm?PDF_ID=9444</p> <p>UK response plan http://ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/act_getPDFannx.cfm?ANX_ID=6599</p>
<p>Border Inspection Post of Manston Airport (MR 2011/6271)</p>	<p>Report http://ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/act_getPDF.cfm?PDF_ID=9315</p> <p>UK response plan http://ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/ap/ap_gb_2011-6271.pdf</p>

4.24 There were no Plant Health FVO missions in 2011. Regular reports were made to FVO on the increase in the level of import inspections following the recruitment of 16 new inspectors.

Chapter 5 – Implementation of Official Controls in 2011

Official controls in the feed sector

5.1 In line with FSA priorities for 2011, enforcement authorities have worked on improving the accuracy of information on the number of feed business operators. Data returns for 2010/11 show an increase in the number of Feed Business Operators (FeBOs) reported: from 185,000 in 2010 to 201,000 during 2011. A breakdown by major feed sectors is listed below - see Table 5.1. The major increase in numbers of FeBOs reported has been primary producers. The FSA and the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) have published lists of the feed businesses approved in accordance with Article 19 of Regulation (EC) 1831/2003 on feed hygiene. These lists have been sent to the Commission and can be accessed at the link below. For more information, see

<http://www.food.gov.uk/enforcement/sectorrules/feedapprove/feedpremisesregister>

Table 5.1 Registered and approved feed businesses – 2010-2011 (only main categories listed)

Type of feed business	Number of businesses
Primary producers/ Livestock farms	166,663
Manufacturers and packers	1,099
Food businesses placing co-products into the feed chain	1,446
Importers	114
Distributors/transporters	1,606

LA and DARD controls

5.2 LAs and DARD data on the number of inspections, re-visits, advisory visits, and sampling visits, also on the number of samples and analyses, as sent to the FSA, is set out in Table 5.2 below.

Table 5.2 Types of control intervention – 2010-11

Type of intervention	Number of businesses
No. of inspections	18,030
No. of revisits	186
No of FeBOs given advice	8,772
No of sampling visits	1,926
Total Number of Samples	3,272

5.3 These figures indicate that the level of enforcement activity compared with calendar year 2010 remained broadly the same as the previous year, although this remains below that required. The total number of samples taken by enforcement authorities appears to have shown a considerable drop from 3,841 to 3,272. At the same time the FSA increased its support for this area of work from £150,000 to £400,000 ensuring that greater priority was given to the testing of feed for the presence of undesirable substances. It is recognised that that levels of control undertaken by individual local authorities vary considerably, an issue which was highlighted by the FSA's programme of audits carried out during 2011/12.

LA and DARD action on non-compliances

5.4 LAs and DARD reported the following use of formal enforcement activity during 2010/11.

5.5 In general terms, there was a good level of compliance by FeBOs with feed law, for which the FSA acts as the central competent authority. LAs issued 184 warning letters (of which 118 were to livestock farmers) for non-compliance identified for the first time and which did not present an immediate threat to feed safety.

5.6 During 2010/11, LAs/DARD issued four improvement notices and made one voluntary closure and one prosecution.

5.7 During 2010/11 competent authorities sampled a wide range of feedstuffs. The results of analysis are set out in Table 5.3

Table 5.3 Results of sampling analysis of feedstuffs

Substances	No of analyses	% satisfactory
Constituents	5,658	90.9
Undesirable Substances	5,822	99.6
Feed Additives	1,955	93.5
Total analyses	13,435	95.1

New Legislation/ Guidance

5.8 The UK introduced minor changes to Regulation (EC) 767/2009 on the Marketing and Use of Feed.

Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) controls

Inspection of FeBOs

Table 5.4: Summary of official controls undertaken by the VMD in 2011

	Commercial Feed Mills	On-Farm Mixers	Distributors
Number of Approved premises at 31/12/11	140	635	373
Inspections Carried Out			
Approval (new)	2	55	29
Scheduled	66	197	65
Special/Follow Up	3	14	5
Other	2	1	1

5.9 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.

5.10 Samples were taken from all categories of manufacturers and a wide range of products, both feedingstuffs and premixtures and were tested for the presence of a range of Veterinary Medicinal Products (VMPs) and Specified Feed Additives (SFAs). A number of samples were also taken as part of coccidiostat residue investigations and tested for residues of those substances. See Tables 5.5 and 5.6

Tables 5.5 and 5.6 Samples taken as part of coccidiostat residue investigations

Total No. of samples tested for declared level of active ingredient: 129	
No. of these within permitted tolerance levels	85
No. outside tolerance	39
No. not analysed	5

Total No. of these samples tested for unintended carryover: 11	
No. of these found to be contaminated	3

Compliance by operators and of products

5.11 Out of 414 FeBO premises inspected (Scheduled/Approval) 155 were found to be fully compliant.

- For Commercial Feed Compounders the main areas of non-compliance were (in descending order): hygiene/tidiness/pest control issues, quality control issues (including testing), labelling issues and HACCP plan issues.
- For on farm manufacturers incorporating VMPs/ SFAs into feedingstuffs for feeding to their own livestock, the main non-compliances observed were (in descending order): quality control issues (including homogeneity testing, carryover testing and sample retention), HACCP plans, Medicated Foodstuffs

(MFS) prescription issues, manufacturing/supply records and hygiene and pest control.

- For Distributors the main areas for non-compliance were HACCP/Documented procedure issues and MFS Prescription issues.

5.12 In general terms, it is considered that there was a good level of compliance with legal requirements by manufacturers and distributors of specified feed additives, premixtures and medicated feedingstuffs in 2011. The non-compliances observed were generally minor and did not warrant more formal action being taken.

5.13 Improvement and seizure notices are published on the VMD website:

http://www.vmd.defra.gov.uk/mswd/enforcement_notices.aspx

Protein in animal feed controls

Inspection programme in 2011

5.14 A summary of the inspection and sampling programme, including breaches and enforcement action, is provided for GB in tables 5.7, 5.8 and 5.9 below. The inspection and sampling programme was fully completed to target requirements.

Table 5.7 Summary of 2011 inspection programme for controls of animal protein in animal feed in Great Britain

Stage	Number of inspections comprising checks on the presence of processed animal proteins	Number of breaches not based on laboratory testing but, for example, on documentary checks
Import of feed materials	43	0
Storage of feed materials	39	0
Feed mills	596	0
Home mixers/mobile mixers	200	0
Intermediaries of feedingstuffs	29	0
Means of transport	32	0
Farms keeping non-ruminants	85	1
Farms keeping ruminants	653	0
Farms keeping both ruminants and non ruminants	844	2
Total	2,521	3

Procedural breaches included the following:

- Livestock farm - at a welfare visit, it was discovered that pigs had been fed chocolate biscuits containing ruminant gelatine. Animal movement restrictions were initially served by the LA and were later removed following further discussion of the low risk incident.
- Livestock farm - at a welfare visit, dry cat food found to be being fed on the edge of a bin containing rolled barley (see [Table 5.9](#)).
- Livestock Farm – incident of botulism on a farm linked to contamination of apple pomace with poultry litter. Further joint enforcement investigation at the farm of origin of the apple pomace suggested likely cause was inadvertent mixing of poultry litter with feed on loading a lorry in poor weather conditions. Letter sent advising of requirements for adequate separation.

Table 5.8: Summary of 2011 sampling programme for controls of animal protein in animal feed in Great Britain

Premises	Number of samples collected by Animal Health tested for processed animal proteins			Number of non-compliant samples					
				Presence of processed animal protein from terrestrial animals			Presence of processed animal protein from fish		
	Feed materials	Compound feedingstuffs		Feed materials	Compound feedingstuffs		Feed materials	Compound feedingstuffs	
		For ruminants	For non-ruminants		For ruminants	For non-ruminants		For ruminants	For non-ruminants
At import	107	25	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Feed mills	691	1220	482	13	0	2	0	0	0
Intermediaries/ storage	120	19	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Means of transport	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Home mixers/ mobile mixers	54	183	123	0	0	0	0	0	0
On farm	161	1,617	588	0	0	1	0	0	0
Fats & vegetable oils	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	1,138	3,064	1,197	13	0	3	0	0	0

Table 5.9: Summary of prohibited processed animal proteins found in samples of feedingstuffs intended for farmed animals

Premises	Month of sampling	Type degree and origin of contamination	Sanctions (or other measures) applied
1. Feedmill -Blending plant	April	Terrestrial animal bone fragments found in sample of barley grass pellets, PCR ⁵⁴ –ve. Origin assumed to be wildlife bones, picked up in harvesting.	Insignificant levels of bone fragments in a plant product. Remaining pellets at blending plant and in silo at feed manufacturers were restricted. Following a veterinary risk assessment it was decided that the product could either be used in non-ruminant feed or be disposed of appropriately.
2. Livestock farm	July	Positive terrestrial animal bone found in sample from pig ration, following finding of cat food on edge of bin.	Rolled barley to be disposed of if necessary by TSE ⁵⁵ 12 Notice.
3. Feedmill – blending plant	October	12 positive samples in biscuit meal contaminated with catering waste – cooked poultry/ ham etc over a period of at least ten days. PCR – avian. Two positive samples in 106 finished compound feeds sampled. TSE risk likely to be negligible as food waste of non-ruminant origin. Exotic Notifiable Disease risk likely to be negligible as dried at high temperatures for long time.	Restrictions applied at blending plant immediately. Tracings to feedmills/ stores and biscuit meal restricted – disposal. Finished feed restricted until test results. Significant dilution factor. Negative feeds placed on market, positive feeds disposed of. No tracing to farm level, no restriction on farmed animals due to negligible likely risk.
4. Feedmill	December- Rapid Alert System for Feed and Food (RASFF) alert from Republic of Ireland	Terrestrial animal bone was found with fish bone and muscle fibres in a pig ration (Ireland samples only). Production date was four months previously. Further investigation has found no likely source and no further indication of historical or continuing contamination. Further batch traced to Ireland. Irish Authorities were informed	No sanctions applied. Following findings of only atypical fish bone in samples from returned ration at GB NRL, samples were forwarded by Ireland to the European Union Reference Laboratory (EURL). Only fish bones found by EURL. Ireland requesting Commission rescind original RASFF.

Animal protein in feed - summary of the effectiveness of controls, non-compliance and enforcement in GB

5.15 The TSE feed ban controls continued to remain effective. Enforcement of the small number of incidents of non-compliance varied depending on the severity and implications of the incident. The Lead Veterinary Officer for the National Feed Audit programme, which is carried out in GB to monitor compliance with Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE)-related livestock feed controls, ensured that risk assessments on feed businesses were carried out, and monitored the performance of the programme through audits.

Actions taken to improve the performance of FeBOs

5.16 Compliance with the TSE feed ban was very high. Any issues were raised with feed industry representatives through contact with trade bodies such as

⁵⁴ Polymerase Chain Reaction

⁵⁵ Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy

Agricultural Industries Confederation. Guidance on the TSE feed ban was available on the AHVLA website.

Inspection programme for Northern Ireland in 2011

5.17 A summary of the 2011 inspection programme for Northern Ireland is provided in Tables 5.10 and 5.11

Tables 5.10 and 5.11: Summary of 2011 sampling programme for controls of animal protein in animal feed in Northern Ireland

Type of premises	Number of processed animal protein inspections
Merchant	7
Feed mill	78
Farm	269
Haulier	0
Stores	62
Total	416

Stage	Number of samples tested for the presence of processed animal proteins	Positive
Import/ Mill store	109	0
Feed mill	227	0
Home Mixer	35	0
Intermediaries	15	0
Farms	320	0
Hauliers	1	0
Total	707	0

Official Controls in the Food Sector

LA and PHA controls

Local Authority Enforcement Monitoring System (LAEMS)

- 5.18 The introduction in 2008/09 LAEMS for reporting LA official controls activity has allowed automatic data transfer from LAs to the Agency. This provides a more accurate and enhanced database, better analysis opportunities and more robust baselines from which to track trends. In addition to quantitative information on LA official control activities and actions, LAEMS collects data on the levels of compliance with food law, as assessed by LA food officers during routine inspections, and food law enforcement officer staffing levels.
- 5.19 The FSA published LAEMS data for the period April 2011 - March 2012. The data and details of LA enforcement activity, including audit data, were reported in November 2012 to the FSA Board.
- 5.20 Primary analyses show that:
- LA returns show a total of 555,350 interventions were carried out in 2011/12 (422,806 food hygiene and 132,544 food standards) – a decrease of 0.3% on the reported number carried out in 2010/11 (557,262).
 - Interventions at higher risk category establishments continue to be prioritised.
 - Food business compliance levels reported by LAs for 2011/12 show continuing improvement. The UK level of Broad Compliance and above (equivalent to Food Hygiene Rating Scheme (FHRS) rating 3 to 5) was 90.2% of rated establishments, compared with 88.9% in 2010/11.
 - 37,321 (6.3%) of registered UK food establishments were not yet food hygiene risk rated, which was an increase from 5.9% in 2010/11. The number of LAs with returned data indicating that over 20% of registered food establishments were not yet risk rated has reduced to 7 (from 10 in 2010/11). However, the number of LAs with levels between 10% and 20% has risen from 45 to 54.
 - 180,177 formal enforcement actions were carried out in 2011/12, an overall reduction of 3.2% from 2010/11 (186,050).

Food Hygiene and Standards Enforcement

5.21 The following charts summarise information for enforcement actions in respect of food hygiene:

Table 5.12: Enforcement actions 2011/12 – Food Hygiene

	Voluntary closure	Seizure, detention and surrender of food	Suspension/ revocation of approval or licence	Emergency prohibition notice	Prohibition order	Simple caution ⁵⁶	Improvement notice	Remedial action & detention notices	Written warnings	Prosecutions concluded
England	624	333	19	245	57	277	4888	62	122,827	299
Northern Ireland	84	45	2	0	0	11	84	3	5,816	9
Scotland	134	29	0	29	1	0	1,004	19	16,549	11
Wales	99	26	0	11	4	27	578	1	13,187	28
UK	941	433	21	285	62	315	6554	85	158,379	347

Table 5.13: Comparisons of enforcement actions from 2009/10 – Food Hygiene

	Voluntary closure	Seizure, detention and surrender of food	Suspension/ revocation of approval or licence	Emergency prohibition notice	Prohibition order	Simple caution	Improvement notice	Remedial action & detention notices	Written warnings	Prosecutions concluded
2009/10	749	325	36	304	142	264	7,276	68	145,181	349
2010/11	915	341	88	246	91	391	7,024	77	162,040	405
2011/12	941	433	21	285	62	315	6,554	85	158,379	347

Table 5.14 Enforcement actions 2011/12 – Food Standards

	Seizure, detention and surrender of food	Simple caution	Written warnings	Prosecutions concluded
England	78	161	7,905	48
Northern Ireland	16	3	1,220	6
Scotland	11	0	2,328	3
Wales	7	111	849	9
UK	112	275	12,302	66

Table 5.15 Comparisons of enforcement actions from 2009/10 to 2011/12 – Food Standards

	Seizure, detention and surrender of food	Simple caution	Written warnings	Prosecutions concluded
2009-10	85	181	10,745	118
2010-11	79	207	14,056	90
2011-12	112	275	12,302	66

⁵⁶ 'Simple cautions' do not apply in Scotland

Import controls

LA and PHA controls – Imported Food

5.22 LA and PHA have continued to apply official controls effectively on imported food, contributing to the strategic objective of ensuring that imported food is safe to eat.

5.23 The FSA provided grants to enforcement authorities for sampling and analysis of imported food for 2010/11. The summary report and key findings for 2010/11 are available at the link below:

http://www.food.gov.uk/business-industry/imports/enforce_authorities/samplingandsurveillance/

5.24 Results for 2011/12 are currently being analysed and will be published in due course.

5.25 In 2011, local and port health authorities undertook official controls on food imported from third countries to check compliance with European Union (EU) food law requirements, and applied EU safeguard measures. The results of these official controls are held at local level. Results of non-compliant products are submitted to the Commission as Rapid Alert System for Feed and Food (RASFF) notifications.

Imported food – Sampling activities

Table 5.16: Results of EU Safeguard Measures on Various Imported Foods

Decision / Regulation	Country	Product	Hazard	Number of consignments tested	Number testing satisfactory	Number testing unsatisfactory
2007/642/EC	Albania	Fishery products (certain species)	Histamine	0	0	0
2008/630/EC as amended by 2011/742/EU	Bangladesh	Crustaceans	Certain pharmacologically active substances	65	65	0
601/2008	Gabon	Fishery products	Heavy metals / sulphites	0	0	0
2010/381/EU	India	Aquaculture fishery products	Certain pharmacologically active substances	80	79	1
2010/220/EU	Indonesia	Farmed fishery products	Certain pharmacologically active substances	55	53	2
284/2011	China	Polyamide and melamine plastic kitchenware	Primary aromatic amines, formaldehyde	71	69	2
258/2010	India	Guar Gum	Pentachlorophenol & dioxins	21	21	0
297/2011, replaced by 961/2011	Japan	All feed and food	Iodine-131, caesium-134, caesium-137	534	534	0

5.26 Regulation (EC) 669/2009 (as amended) provides for increased controls on certain imported food and feed of non-animal origin where there is a known or

emerging risk, including a percentage of sampling for analysis for hazards such as aflatoxins, pesticides, salmonella, Sudan dyes and heavy metals. 2880 consignments were tested in 2011 of which 293 were non-compliant. The results of the controls were sent to the Commission each quarter (in April, July, October, January). The list of products is subject to quarterly review and the level of controls was amended during the year as a result of the assessment.

5.27 Imports of certain feed, food and food contact materials were subject to EU safeguard and additional control measures under Article 53 of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 and Article 48 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004, including a percentage of sampling for analysis. The results of import controls were sent to the Commission in April (for the period January to March), July (for April to June), October (for July to September) and January (for October to December) as appropriate, and for products from Japan weekly or monthly as required. In general the controls showed a good level of compliance with the import requirements.

5.28 Additional controls and prohibitions on imported food were implemented, and the FSA issued guidance on the application of the controls to enforcement practitioners at points of entry for the following new and amended measures introduced in 2011:

- Additional controls on imports of polyamide and melamine plastic kitchenware from China and Hong Kong due to primary aromatic amines and formaldehyde.
- Additional controls on all food and feed from Japan for the radionuclides iodine-131, caesium-134 and caesium-137.
- Prohibition on fenugreek seeds and certain other seeds and beans from Egypt due to concerns with *E.coli* O104:H4.
- 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 crustaceans from Bangladesh – Decision 2011/742/EU of 15 November 2011 (amending Decision 2008/630/EU).
- Extension of period of suspension of certain bivalve molluscs from Peru due to hepatitis A.

5.29 Actions to ensure the effective operation of official controls included the following:

- A major review of the Imported Food Control Resource Pack was completed in February 2011. Following this review the resource pack was updated.
- Training on imported food controls continued to be provided for enforcement practitioners.
- The dedicated imported food web pages were updated.
- The database on Guidance and Regulatory Advice on Import Legislation (GRAIL) was maintained and a review of its use was initiated.

Mycotoxins in Food

- 5.30 The FSA continued to fund a project to assess oat agronomy practices that may affect the amount of the mycotoxins, specifically T2 and HT2, that occur in oats in the UK. This is intended to help inform discussions on practices to manage occurrence of these mycotoxins and the final report will be available later this year.

LA and PHA controls

- 5.31 Official controls for aflatoxins, as prescribed in Regulation (EC) 1152/2009, were carried out by competent authorities e.g. PHAs at the Designated Points of Introduction. Information was collated, recorded and reported to the Commission quarterly. Official controls on consignments were carried out under Commission Decision 2008/47/EC on pre-export checks for peanuts from the United States of America (USA).
- 5.32 Unplanned official controls were carried out on food lots to check compliance with maximum levels of mycotoxins laid down in Commission Regulation (EC) No 1881/2006, as amended, e.g. following suspicion of non-compliance from informal sampling.
- 5.33 The FSA undertook sampling and analysis for mycotoxins as part of its National Coordinated Risk-Based Food and Feed Sampling Programme. Some official control samples for mycotoxins were taken as part of the National Coordinated Risk-Based Food and Feed Sampling Programme. Information on official controls in addition to RASFF data was used to gather intelligence on potential high risk commodities, reinforce existing official controls and help to formulate the high risk list of food of non-animal origin under Commission Regulation (EC) No. 669/2009 (which came into force in January 2010) as regards contamination by mycotoxins.
- 5.34 Controls on mycotoxins in food resulted in 78 RASFF notifications in 2011 as shown in the table below. The majority were border rejections and so affected products did not reach the market. The number of RASFFs raised in 2010 is higher and a large proportion of these were for spices in particular from India. This was attributed to, in part, increased controls on these foods carried out under Commission Regulation (EC) No 669/2009. Reassuringly, the number of RASFFs raised for mycotoxins in herbs and spices was much lower in 2011. Other instances where non-compliance was found included cereals, in particular banku mix from Ghana, and rice and maize from Pakistan.

Table 5.17 Results of controls on mycotoxins in food for 2011

	No of RASFF notifications	No of notifications for nuts, nut products and seeds	No of notifications for herbs and spices
2011	78	42	25
2010	111	28	78

5.35 Over 1100 samples were taken as part of the FSA funded National Coordinated Risk-Based Food and Feed Sampling Programme, some of which were official control samples. Commodities sampled included herbs and spices, oil seeds and cereals. Of the samples taken, just over 2% were found to contain mycotoxins above the maximum levels set in Commission Regulation (EC) No. 1881/2006, as amended. All other samples were compliant for mycotoxins.

Testing carried out under Commission Regulation 1152/2009

5.36 The table below illustrates the number of samples taken as required by Commission Regulation 1152/2009, alongside the number of non-compliances.

Table 5.18 Results of official controls in the UK regarding aflatoxins in imported foods carried out in accordance with Commission Regulation (EC) No 1152/2009, in 2011.

Product	Originating country	No. of consignments	No. with aflatoxin levels above the maximum
Hazelnuts/ Hazelnut products	Turkey	415	1
Other food subject to special import conditions (pistachios, figs, mixtures and compound products)	Turkey	291	8
Peanuts and related products	China	856	13
Roasted pistachios and other foods subject to special import conditions	Iran	2	0
Almonds and other nut products as covered by Voluntary Aflatoxin Sampling Plan (VASP)	USA	472	0
Almonds and other food products <u>not</u> covered by VASP	USA	26	0

5.37 No product subject to the Regulation was imported from Brazil or Egypt in 2011. Overall the level of non-compliance is low and similar to 2010.

Nitrate Surveillance covering the 2011 sampling period

5.38 Under Article 9 of Regulation (EC) 1881/2006, as amended, the UK is required to undertake monitoring for the presence of nitrates in green leafy vegetables. The UK tested a total of 131 domestic lettuce and spinach samples and 26 imported lettuce samples during 2011. The total number of samples which exceeded the permitted maximum nitrate concentration in 2011 was approximately 10%. This mainly reflects an increase in the spinach category. In order to remind growers about the Code of Good Agricultural Practice, the FSA wrote to growers whose samples were above the maximum limit.

5.39 Following agreement of revised EU maximum levels as set in Commission Regulation (EU) 1258/2011 which amended Regulation (EC) 1881/2006, this level of exceedance is likely to be significantly reduced.

Imports of Products of Animal Origin (POAO)

5.40 Regulation (EC) 206/2009 requires details of checks for illegal personal imports of POAO to be sent to the Commission and this was done on 22 May 2012. The Annual Review of Controls on Imports of Animal Products, which will be laid before Parliament in September 2012, recognises the continued joint efforts made during the year across Government Departments to combat the risk of major diseases entering Britain through illegal imports from third countries. It concludes that much has been achieved in raising public awareness and in assessing the risks.

Food Contact Materials

5.41 Official controls for food contact materials for compliance with Food Contact Materials legislation were carried out by competent authorities e.g. Port Health Authorities at the Designated Points of Introduction. Enhanced testing of melamine and polyamide (nylon) kitchenware was undertaken as the result of Regulation 284/2011 on imports of melamine and polyamide (nylon) kitchenware from China and Hong Kong which was introduced as from 1 July 2011.

5.42 The FSA provided funding for some food contact material sampling by local authorities under the UK Food & Feed sampling grants programme. This was for Primary Aromatic Amines in kitchenware and formaldehyde from melamine ware.

Results

5.43 Controls on food contact materials migration into food resulted in 15 UK raised RASFF notifications in 2011, compared with 20 RASFFs in 2010 and 30 in 2009. Of the RASFFs notified in 2011 all were for either for Phthalates, Primary Aromatic Amines (PAAs) or formaldehyde migration. The majority of the findings were for products originating from the Far East, notably China and India.

Table 5.19 RASFFs for food contact materials

Number of RASFFs	Issued for	Result of	Relevant legislation
6	Phthalates	LA Testing	Directive 2002/72/EC (as amended)
4	Primary Aromatic Amines (PAA)	LA Testing	Directive 2002/72/EC (as amended)
5	Formaldehyde	LA Testing	Directive 2002/72/EC (as amended)

Meat hygiene

Current Performance - Meat

- 5.44 In June 2011, the FSA introduced an Operations Assurance Team to provide assurance to senior managers that the delivery of official controls was efficient and effective across a range of different FSA approved meat establishments within Great Britain, on an *ad hoc* and themed basis. Visits are typically unannounced, with findings shared with local managers and also taken collectively to see whether there are emerging themes or trends. This approach supplements internal audit arrangements carried out by the FSA Internal Audit team
- 5.45 FBO compliance and enforcement activity for food and feed controls is provided in the performance report presented to the FSA Board in June 2012:
- <http://www.food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/board/fsa120605.pdf>
- 5.46 The cause for concern initiative continues to have a positive impact on business compliance. 64% of businesses featured on the list since October 2009 have demonstrated sustained improvement (i.e. remaining out of cause for concern for three or more audits), and 89% are not identified as “cause for concern” at March 2012. One business had its approval revoked as a result of this initiative; however, the FBO successfully applied to the High Court for an injunction to allow them to remain open whilst they sought leave for a Judicial Review. At the appeal hearing it was ruled that the appeal decision should be based on the current status of the business, not the original assessment which had resulted in the revocation. During the time which had elapsed since the initial withdrawal of approval and the appeal hearing, the FBO had brought the business within compliance standards.
- 5.47 Audits were completed by OVs using a detailed framework built around an evidence-based assessment. The business could appeal if not satisfied with the outcome. Between 1 April 2011 and 31 March 2012 a total of 2,889 audits of approved meat premises in GB were completed. 17 businesses have appealed the audit findings (less than 0.6%) In Northern Ireland there were 149 audits in 2009/10 and 177 in 2010/11. One appeal was triggered there by listing as a “cause for concern” business.

Approval of Meat Establishments

- 5.48 Following a High Court judgment and subsequent Judicial Review relating to *Allan Rich Seafoods v Lincoln Magistrates Court*⁵⁷ the FSA made changes to the approvals process for food and feed establishments. The judgment established that a new approval is required where there is a new FBO at a premises regardless of whether or not the nature of the business remains unchanged. The

⁵⁷ <http://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWHC/Admin/2009/3391.html>
<http://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWHC/Admin/2010/1232.html>

implementation date for the change of approval process was 31 January 2012 and the FSA is currently carrying out re-assessments to establishments which require a new approval as a result of this judgment.

5.49 Meat establishments were previously licensed under The Fresh Meat (Hygiene and Inspection) Regulations 1995. The introduction of the Food Hygiene Regulations 2006 which came into effect on 1 January 2006 led to the requirement to approve establishments under Regulation (EC) 853/2004. The FSA is responsible for the approval of all fresh meat premises in the UK subject to veterinary audit. The FSA has re-approved meat establishments that were licensed under previous legislation and certain catering butchers and game handling establishments that were previously exempt from approval. The approvals programme has, in the majority of cases, prompted operators to implement necessary improvements to gain approval.

5.50 The re-approval programme for certain catering butchers and game handling establishments is now complete. In the previous annual report it was noted that there were 11 unlicensed catering butchers requiring approval to operate as cutting plants. Of these, nine have now gained full approval, one was refused approval and one altered its activities to remain under the control of the LA.

5.51 A total of ten meat establishments (all in England) subject to veterinary audit were refused approval in 2011. Of these, six subsequently upgraded their establishments and obtained conditional or full approval. The remaining four establishments have ceased operating.

Table 5.20 The number of full approvals granted by the FSA (and DARD) during 2011/12 are detailed in the table below:

Jan 11 – Dec 11	England	Scotland	Wales	N Ireland	Total
Full approvals granted for new establishments	51	8	5	3	67
Full approvals granted for existing establishments applying for additional activities	76	8	7	5	96

Enforcement measures taken against meat premises in the UK

5.52 Table 5.21 indicates the types and numbers of enforcements served by the FSA in slaughterhouses/ game handling establishments and cutting plants in 2011/12.

Table 5.21 Types and numbers of enforcements in the UK in 2011/12

Type of enforcement	Number of enforcements	Number of establishments
Written Advice Notices	2141	292
Hygiene Improvement Notices	197	56
Remedial Action Notices	101	39

Recommendations for Prosecution	60	31
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5.53 Overall, the number of notices served in 2011/12 is higher than the number served in 2010/11, with Hygiene Improvement Notices increasing by 7% and Remedial Action Notices by 19%.

Hygiene Controls at Milk Production Holdings (in UK) and Liquid Milk-Processing Establishments (in Northern Ireland)

5.54 The number of primary inspections carried out in 2011 was 5,209. A further 1,493 secondary inspections took place as a result of non compliance issues highlighted from the primary inspection. This equates to approximately 29% of visits resulting in follow-up checks, at which the majority of cases were satisfactorily resolved.

5.55 There were 3 successful dairy hygiene prosecutions under the Food Hygiene (England) Regulations 2006 in 2011 in relation to hygiene deficiencies at their production holdings.

5.56 Instances of non-compliant dairy inspections in the main related to milking operations and equipment cleanliness. The number of inspections and the extent to which problems are resolved after secondary inspection indicates that the controls are effective.

Table 5.22 Summary of Hygiene Controls on Milk Production Holdings in the UK and Liquid Milk Processing Establishments in Northern Ireland in 2011

	Primary inspections	Secondary inspections	Formal enforcement actions
10,662 Milk production holdings in UK			
AHVLA	5209	1493	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 320 Hygiene Improvement Notices⁵⁸
3489 Milk Production Holdings in NI			
QAB – Milk Production Holdings	3301	992	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 137 warning letters • 428 confirmatory (guidance) letters • 12 hygiene improvement notices
7 Approved Liquid Milk Processing Establishments in NI			
QAB – Liquid Milk Processing Establishments	8	22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13 confirmatory (guidance) letters

Hygiene Controls at Egg Production Units – England and Wales

5.57 AHVLA inspected 381 production sites on behalf of the FSA in England and Wales in 2011, constituting 25% of the 1469 relevant registered egg production sites.

⁵⁸ These are issued if, at a further secondary inspection, the major non compliances have not been rectified. Failure to comply with the Hygiene Improvement Notice would result in the case being referred to the FSA for investigation with a view to prosecution.

- 5.58 90% of producers inspected were judged to be fully compliant with legislative requirements. Seven significant non-compliances were identified during the period, which were dealt with using formal hygiene improvement notices. These premises became compliant within the stipulated timeframes and no further enforcement action was necessary. Minor non-compliances were addressed by providing advice and guidance or by writing to the producer to outline the improvements required.
- 5.59 This suggests that control priorities are effective, that resources are appropriate and that the overall level of compliance with legislative requirements is good.

Hygiene Controls at Egg Production Plants – Scotland

- 5.60 In 2011/12, 147 egg production sites were registered in Scotland, all of which had 350 or more hens. 37 sites were formally inspected. No non compliances were found. Recommendations concerning best practice were provided where this was considered desirable.

Hygiene Controls at Egg Production Plants – Northern Ireland

Table 5.23 Summary of hygiene controls at egg production holdings and egg packing establishments in Northern Ireland in 2011

	Primary inspections	Secondary inspections	Formal enforcement actions
232 egg production sites, housing 3.8 million laying hens			
DARD QAB – Egg production sites	88	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 warning letters • 5 confirmatory (guidance) letters
60 approved egg packing establishments			
DARD QAB – Egg Packing establishments	27	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 confirmatory (guidance) letters

Hygiene Controls at other Primary Producers

- 5.61 In England and Wales the frequency of food and feed inspection at primary production level differs: feed – one, two or five yearly risk rating and food – 2% (low risk) and 25% (high risk) based on local knowledge and membership of an assurance scheme.
- 5.62 In Scotland the frequency of feed and food hygiene inspections has been harmonised: 2% (low risk) or 25% (high risk). Primary Production food and feed hygiene inspections carried out by local authorities and Scottish Government took place at the same level as in previous years. The collection of inspection data fed into a review of primary production enforcement. Approximately 2000 inspections, funded by the Food Standards Agency, were carried out per year. Outcomes of the work in Scotland, from 2008 to 2011, indicated that compliance (“substantially meets requirements” or better) was greater than 99% in those farms inspected.

- 5.63 Informed by the outcomes of the work in Scotland, the FSA could not justify a continuation of inspections at the previous level. The funding available to LAs has therefore reduced by approximately 75% and the number of inspections has reduced by a similar level. Based on the outcomes, the FSA considers that the savings delivered in Scotland will have no negative impact on public or animal health.
- 5.64 In Northern Ireland DARD QAB undertakes on-farm controls on behalf of the FSA. A total of 1846 inspections were carried out in 2011. A summary report is given to the FBO after each inspection. No warning or confirmatory (guidance) letters were issued.

Monitoring of Bivalve Molluscs and Classification and Monitoring of UK Shellfish Harvesting Areas

- 5.65 In 2011 in England and Wales four shellfish production areas included in the official biotoxin monitoring programme in England and Wales exceeded the statutory limits for Diarrhetic shellfish poisoning and three shellfish production areas exceeded the statutory limits for Paralytic shellfish poisoning. In total, seven shellfish production areas were closed due to toxin levels in flesh samples – closures lasted approximately three to seven weeks.
- 5.66 In Northern Ireland a full biotoxin, phytoplankton and microbiological monitoring programme was carried out across classified areas. 15 shellfish beds were closed during 2011 due to 13 official controls shellfish samples exceeding the regulatory limits for marine biotoxins. These closures were achieved through voluntary agreement with the harvesters or by temporary closure notice, enforced by the relevant DC.

Food irradiation

- 5.67 The FSA did not inspect the one food irradiation facility in the UK in 2011 and no food was irradiated in the UK during 2011. .
- 5.68 Data on the results of checks for irradiated food at the product marketing stage for 2011 was sent to the Commission in June 2011 as required by Directive 1999/2/EC⁵⁹. This showed that:
- at the product marketing stage, 130 individual food samples were analysed and 11 (8.4%) were found to be irradiated and either not labelled as irradiated or had not been irradiated at an approved facility;
 - non-compliant products included noodles and dehydrated Asian meals, dried herbs, spices and vegetable seasonings and food supplements; and
 - there is no evidence that the products were irradiated at facilities in the EU and it is likely that most non-compliant products originated from third countries.

⁵⁹ Directive 1999/2/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the approximation of the laws of the MS concerning foods and food ingredients treated with ionising radiation. Official Journal L 66, 13.3.1999, 16-23

PFNs

5.69 Private and public inspection bodies carried out inspections to ensure compliance against the registered specification for PFNs. There were a small number of non-compliances and in some cases those producers were allowed a short period of time within which to make the necessary changes in order to comply with the registered specification. In other cases the non-compliance led the producers to seek an amendment to the registered specification.

Organic Products

5.70 The results for 2011 showed that all organic operators were inspected by the organic control bodies at least once during the year. The results also show that the control bodies were undertaking both announced and unannounced inspections and that some operators received more than one inspection (in most cases these additional inspections were follow-ups to earlier inspections or as a result of a risk analysis).

5.71 There were 5149 announced visits to registered organic operators and a further 75 unannounced inspections. [Table 5.24](#) shows infringements and penalties arising. There were no major incidents of mis-selling of non-organic or contaminated produce as certified organic produce in 2011.

Table 5.24 Number of visits/inspections and infringements in 2011

Announced visits	Unannounced inspections	Infringements of the organic standards	Infringements classed as irregularities	Manifest infringements	Penalties	Penalties applied to lot or production run	Penalties applied on the operator
5149	75	4385	4383	2	74	66	8

Beef Labelling – England and Wales

5.72 There were 776 inspections carried out in 2011. Of these, 63 were at plants situated in Wales. In England and Wales, the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) achieved its planned official controls on traceability and labelling for 2011.

5.73 Where non-compliance was found, plants were revisited as a “follow-up” inspection until a satisfactory outcome was achieved. Of the initial inspections, 331 achieved an unsatisfactory outcome, resulting in a follow-up inspection being required to ensure that corrective action had been taken.

Table 5.25 Type and number of beef labelling non-compliances England & Wales in 2011

Type non-compliance	No.
Lack of full traceability	232
Carcases/boxes/cuts/trays/dolavs/quarters received and not labelled	61
Carcases/boxes/cuts/trays/dolavs/quarters for dispatch and not labelled	255
Minced beef not labelled	97
Approved labelling check unsatisfactory	55

5.74 During 2011 the RPA continued to see an increase in the number of new FBOs notified by the FSA that required inspection. This resulted in an additional 104 inspections which is a 13.4% increase on 2010. The level of compliance has decreased from 60.9% in 2010 to 57.3% in 2011 but this is to be expected taking into account the increased volume of inspections.

Beef Labelling – Scotland

5.75 There were 48 inspections carried out in 2011. The Scottish Government achieved its planned official controls for 2011.

5.76 During the period there were 12 non-compliances by 8 operators and 2 non-compliance letters were issued to 2 operators. The remainder of non-compliances were rectified at the follow up visit. All of the non-compliances were for failing to show compulsory indicators.

Beef Labelling – Northern Ireland

5.77 There were 96 inspections carried out in 2011. DARD QAB achieved its planned official controls for 2011.

5.78 During the period there were 8 non-compliances by 8 operators and 7 verbal warnings were issued to 7 operators. Unscheduled (follow-up) inspections were undertaken where non-compliance was found. No warning letters and no enforcement notices were issued. Non-compliances related to labels with information omitted or inaccurate information and inaccurate company records.

Recognition of non-European Economic Area (EEA) natural mineral water sources

5.79 There were no recognitions, or applications for recognition, of non-EEA NMW in 2011. Neither Defra nor the FSA in any of the devolved administrations has been notified of any non-compliances.

Pesticide Residues

5.80 In 2011 all planned official controls were achieved. There were no unplanned official controls. The results of the 2011 monitoring programme will be used to inform future monitoring. Results have been published online at:

[http://www.pesticides.gov.uk/guidance/industries/pesticides/advisory-groups/PRiF/Latest+results+and+reports/2011 Results and Reports](http://www.pesticides.gov.uk/guidance/industries/pesticides/advisory-groups/PRiF/Latest+results+and+reports/2011+Results+and+Reports)

5.81 Results to date suggest that the largest percentage of non-compliances were found in the fruit and vegetable sector, in particular speciality vegetables. This sector of the programme has been designed to include a wider range of commodities than the other sectors (animal products, cereal products and groceries). Fruit and vegetables also receive proportionally more financial

resources. No changes to overall control priorities and resource allocation were identified as a result of the official controls.

5.82 Results for 2010 (latest published results available) are at

<http://www.pesticides.gov.uk/guidance/industries/pesticides/advisory-groups/PRiF/Latest+results+and+reports/pesticide-residues-committee-prc-reports-2010>

5.83 Table 5.26 shows RASFF notifications prepared by HSE during this period

PRC Sample ID	Food	Country of Origin	Pesticide Detected	Residue Detected (mg/kg)	MRL (mg/kg)	Rapid Alert Number	Action Taken: Official Letter (O) RASFF (R) Unapproved Use (U) Follow up by Compliance (E)
Cucumber							
5183/2011	Cucumber	Spain	formetanate	0.20	0.05 *	2011.0891	O/R
Grapes							
4551/2011	Flame Red Seedless Grapes	South Africa	ethephon	1.20	0.70	2011.0453	O/R
1062/2011	Grapes	Lebanon	ethephon	1.00	0.07	2012.0110	O/R
1301/2011	Grapes	Namibia	ethephon	1.40	0.07	2012.0109	O/R
Pineapples							
3507/2011	Pineapple	Ghana	chlorpyrifos	1.20	0.05 *	2011.0889	O/R
3969/2011	Pineapple	Mauritius	ethephon	3.40	2.00	2012.0057	O/R
Speciality Vegetables							
3811/2011	Turia	Ghana	dimethoate omethoate	0.10 0.08	0.02 *†	2011.0890	O/R
4008/2011	Gourd (Bitter Melon) Karela	Kenya	dimethoate omethoate	0.09 0.06	0.02 *†	2012.0060	O/R
5972/2011	Prickly Pear	Italy	dimethoate omethoate	0.02 0.04	0.02 *†	2012.0026	O/R
5941/2011	Methi	UK	dithiocarbamates	7.30	5.00		O/R
Beans with Pods							
3797/2011	Long beans	Dominican Republic	methomyl	0.90	0.02 *	2011.0893	O/R
4002/2011	Valore beans	Kenya	dimethoate omethoate	0.40 0.50	0.02 *†	2011.1306	O/R
4103/2011	Valore Beans	Kenya	dimethoate omethoate	0.30 0.30	0.02 *†	2011.1757	O/R
Infant Food							
2921/2011	Infant Food	EU	ETU	0.03	0.01		
Potatoes							
5741/2011	Sapphire Potatoes	UK	fosthiazate	0.05	0.02	2012.0052	O/R
Courgette							
0855/2011	Courgettes	Spain	oxamyl	0.10	0.03	2012.0200	O/R

* **Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs) set at the Limit of Determination:** These MRLs are set at a default level, i.e. at the limit of determination, where analytical methods can reasonably detect the presence of the pesticide. Either insufficient trials data are available on which to set a maximum residue level or there may be no use of the pesticide on that crop in the EU. However they may be permitted elsewhere.

† The MRL is for the sum of dimethoate and omethoate expressed as dimethoate. The total dimethoate for the following sample numbers is 3811/2011 - 0.18 mg/kg, 4002/2011 - 0.90 mg/kg, 4008/2011 - 0.15 mg/kg, 4103/2011 - 0.60 mg/kg and 5972/2011 - 0.06 mg/kg.

Veterinary Residues Surveillance

Official controls carried out – results of both planned and additional activities

5.84 Details of the UK results for the UK National Residues Control Plan are provided to the Commission via the EU database at:
<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/residues/SancoResidues/>

The results are categorised in relation to point of sampling.

5.85 Non-Compliance Categories

- **Unauthorised substances** – investigations into non-compliant samples found no evidence of the mis-use/abuse of hormonal growth promoters, beta-agonists or Annex IV substances.
- **Authorised veterinary medicines** – a summary of results is provided in the table below.

Table 5.27 Non-compliant residues confirmed for antibiotics, anthelmintics and Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs)

What tested	Tested for	No. of inspections or samples	Non-compliant residues found
Calves	Antibiotic residues	270	5
Sheep	Anthelmintics	881	5
Milk	Anthelmintics ⁶⁰	178	4
Poultry	Anthelmintics	23	1
Cattle	Ibuprofen ⁶¹	599	1*
Cattle	Phenylbutazone	599	1
Horses	Phenylbutazone	68	1

- **Environmental contaminants and insecticides** – a summary of results is provided in the table below.

Table 5.28 Non-compliant residues confirmed for heavy metals and dyes

What tested	Tested for	No. of inspections or samples	Non-compliant residues found
Calves	Heavy metals	71	2
Sheep	Heavy metals	47	3

Main performance indicators on controls and results

5.86 Service Level Agreements are in place with all of the VMD contractors and these contain performance indicators. All performance indicators for 2011 have been met.

⁶⁰ Anthelmintics – it was not clear from the product data sheets that the product should not be administered to cows producing milk for human consumption, the Summary of Product Characteristics has now been amended to reflect this.

⁶¹ NSAIDs – residues of ibuprofen were confirmed in samples from cattle, due to cross contamination by the sampling officer.

Feed and food incidents in 2011

5.87 In 2011 the FSA investigated 1,714 food incidents. Of these, 7 were classified high level incidents and 63 were medium level incidents. 28 incidents related directly to animal feed. The major categories are set out below:

Table 5.29 Major categories of feed and food incidents for 2011

Category	%
Environmental contamination	21
Labelling/documentation	7
Microbiological contamination	16
Natural chemical contamination (mycotoxins, algal toxins and others)	17
On-farm incidents	7

Table 5.30 Top three reporters of incidents in 2011

Reporter	Number
Border Inspection Post	426
Local Authorities	297
Fire services	246

Table 5.31 Alerts and notifications issued in 2011

	2010	2011
Alerts	49	59
Information notices to LAs	21	47
Notifications to EC via RASFF	507	270

5.88 In Northern Ireland Exercise Larkspur took place in September 2011 to test the incident response protocol, in particular in the areas which had been covered by the MacKenzie review of the dioxins incident which occurred in 2008. Exercise Larkspur achieved the aim and objectives that were set out both in the MacKenzie Report and those developed specifically for each element of the programme.

5.89 The report of the exercise programme was published earlier in 2012 and can be found at:

<http://www.food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/incident-larkspur-exercise-final-report.pdf>

Official controls in the animal health sector

Competent authorities

5.90 AHVLA staff investigated significant numbers of reports of notifiable disease in 2011 (table 5.33) with negative results in every case. TB control in England and Wales remained the largest area of work for AHVLA. Significant activity also took place to regulate Animal By-Products, control salmonella and in animal welfare.

Control activities in 2011

Great Britain

5.91 Under Section 80 of the Animal Health Act 1981 (as amended)⁶² Defra is required to produce an annual report to Parliament on the enforcement actions of the LAs in England and Wales⁶³ and the compensation paid for animals slaughtered to prevent the spread of animal disease. The 2011 report⁶⁴ is available at:

<http://www.animalhealth.defra.gov.uk/about/publications/corporate/expenditure-prosecutions-report.pdf>

5.92 A separate report is produced by the Scottish Government, and is available at:

scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Agriculture/animalwelfare/Diseases/GenControls/Enforcement

⁶² Animal Health Act 1981, c 22.

⁶³ details on legal proceedings which have resulted in criminal convictions under animal health and welfare related legislation

⁶⁴ 'Return of expenditure incurred and prosecutions taken under the Animal Health Act 1981 and incidences of diseases in imported animals for the year 2011'

Table 5.32 Details of the AHVLA inspections/investigations in GB carried out during 2011

WORK PROGRAMME	Number of Investigations or Inspections	Confirmed Cases or Non-Compliances	Action Taken or Compliance Achieved
Animal By-Products	At the end of December 2011 there were 2,733 approved/registered premises in GB (this includes multiple functions at sites) AHVLA completed 4,728 inspections (excluding advisory visits)	There were 414 cases of non-compliance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 326 inspections recorded Minor unsatisfactory results • 56 inspections recorded Major unsatisfactory results (handling of Specified Risk Material, structure, operation or record keeping or tracing was not to the required standard) • There were no cases of Serious Major unsatisfactory results 	Identified non-compliances were rectified prior to the next re-inspection visit ⁶⁵ .
	AHVLA inspected 454 International Catering Waste premises	3 operators were found non-compliant	All premises were compliant when reinspected
Artificial Insemination (Bulls and Boars)	Porcine and Bovine Centres – 31 routine statutory inspections Bovine embryos – 27 routine inspections	None	None
Bovine TB (bTB) * England	76,615 ⁶⁵ herd tests completed	4,830 new incidents with officially tuberculosis free (OTF) status recorded. Of which, 2,965 were Officially Tuberculosis Free Withdrawn (refer to footnote 59)	Movement restrictions were served on herds that were not already under restrictions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 34,175 (refer footnote 59) animals were slaughtered (includes direct contacts and Inconclusive Reactors) • Lesions typical of M bovis were detected in 11,342 of the cattle slaughtered for TB purposes • 383,930 animals were traced from breakdowns where the OTF status had been withdrawn between January and December 2011 • At the end of 2011 2422 herds were under restriction due to overdue tests, the AHVLA zero tolerance policy was applied⁶⁶

⁶⁵ These figures have been taken from the TB statistics published on the Defra internet

⁶⁶ AHVLA operates a zero tolerance policy on overdue tests, where herds not tested by the due date are automatically restricted until the tests are completed. The VETNET IT management and support system, automatically identifies herds with overdue tests and generates reports that are used to issue herd restriction notices and notify Local Authorities.

		1,490 slaughterhouse cases reported to AHVLA. Of which, 1,013 were cultured positive	Movement restrictions were served on herds of origin that were not already under restrictions.
	All high risk cattle movements are centrally monitored to ensure that cattle are subject to a pre-movement TB test.	92% of all consignments of cattle eligible for a pre-movement test in 2011 were compliant. AHVLA undertook a random and targeted check of non-compliant holdings. 1071 ⁶⁷ of the non-compliant movements were investigated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Herd owners were issued with official warnings and advisory letters • 1 non-compliant case was referred to the LA for further action.
Bovine TB (bTB) ⁶⁸ Wales	A total of 12,125 herd tests have been completed against a demand of 12,276 equating to 98.8%. (This includes tests completed from October to December 2010 that were due for completion in 2011)		Of the outstanding tests, 71 were completed in January 2012 leaving 80 tests to be completed, these outstanding tests will follow the AHVLA zero tolerance policy (see footnote 61).
BSE (cattle)	AHVLA inspected 27 suspect cases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AHVLA restricted 222 eligible offspring & cohort animals (report cases) • AHVLA restricted 285 eligible offspring and cohort animals (active surveillance cases) 	Movement restrictions served and passports seized within 5 working days
Salmonella	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult breeding flocks - 1,382 flocks routine official control samples 	One small niche broiler parent flock in GB was found positive for <i>S. Typhimurium</i> DT40. No UK breeding flocks tested positive for <i>S. Enteritidis</i> or monophasic <i>S. Typhimurium</i> 1,4,[5],12:i:- ⁶⁹ strains from NCP sampling during 2011	Mandatory slaughter was carried out in the flock detected positive for <i>S. Typhimurium</i> under the Animal Health Act 1981.

⁶⁷ A lot of manual checking is carried out by the Pre-movement Testing Unit on the holdings selected and a good percentage are found to be compliant, by checking the Cattle Tracing System, Animal Movements Licensing System, Vetnet etc, without the need to send a letter to the farmer for more information

⁶⁸ A lot of manual checking is carried out by the Pre-Movement Testing Unit on the holdings selected and a good percentage are found to be compliant, by checking Cattle Tracing System, Animal Movements Licensing System, Vetnet etc, without the need to send a letter to the farmer for more information

⁶⁹ the antigenic formula for monophasic Salmonella Typhimurium strains

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult laying flocks - 1,485 flocks routine official control samples 	7 adult laying flocks were confirmed as infected with <i>S. Typhimurium</i> or <i>S. Enteritidis</i> . No flocks were positive for monophasic <i>S. Typhimurium</i> strains.	Eggs from positive flocks were diverted to heat treatment or destroyed according to the legislative requirements. Suspect official sampling, enhanced cleansing and disinfection of premises and expert advisory visits were carried out on positive premises. 33 financial penalty notices were issued and 19 warning letters were sent out for incomplete compliance during 2011.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broiler flocks - 156 routine official control samples 	3 broiler flocks were identified with <i>S. Typhimurium</i> 1 flock was positive for monophasic <i>S. Typhimurium</i> strains. No flocks were detected positive for <i>S. Enteritidis</i> .	Additional risk based official sampling, enhanced cleansing and disinfection of premises and expert advisory visits were carried out on positive premises.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breeding and fattening turkey flocks - 272 routine official control samples. 	2 fattening turkey flocks were positive for <i>S. Typhimurium</i> . 5 flocks were positive for monophasic <i>S. Typhimurium</i> 1,4,[5],12:i:- strains . No flocks were detected positive for <i>S. Enteritidis</i> . No (0) adult breeding turkey flocks were detected positive for <i>S. Enteritidis</i> , <i>S. Typhimurium</i> or monophasic strains.	Advisory visits were undertaken by AHVLA and advice was given on zoonoses and management to control salmonella including rodent control and cleansing and disinfection
Scrapie (sheep or goats)	36 suspect cases investigated	10 were negative 135 were classical (6 became new members of the Compulsory Scrapie Flocks Scheme ⁷⁰) 19 were atypical (2 became new members of Atypical Monitoring scheme) 1 inconclusive, 1 no further action, 1 untraceable	Of the 10 flocks in the Compulsory Scrapie Flocks Scheme: 16,569 animals were blood sampled 6,091 animals were culled

⁷⁰ Statutory EU controls on flocks and herds with confirmed cases of Scrapie are implemented through the Compulsory Scrapie Flocks Scheme

Table 5.33 Details of AHVLA Exotic Notifiable Disease Investigations during 2011 in GB

Disease	Negative investigations	Confirmed investigations
Anthrax	6	0
Aujeszky's Disease	7	0
Notifiable Avian Disease	23	0
Bluetongue	8	0
Porcine Brucellosis	4	0
EIA	3	0
Foot and Mouth Disease	9	0
Glanders	3	0
Rabies	6	0
Bat Rabies	1	0
Swine Fever	2	0
Vesicular Stomatitis	0	0

Northern Ireland

5.93 During 2011 DARD carried out 31,838 TB herd tests where cattle were presented at the test. [Table 5.34](#) sets out what the tests showed:

Table 5.34 Results of TB herd tests in Northern Ireland in 2011

2011	Number
Herds which had at least one animal with confirmed TB	1,390 ⁷¹
TB reactor cattle slaughtered	8,136
"confirmed" TB animals	4,425
New incidents	1,386
Slaughterhouse cases	558

5.94 A summary of investigations opened and closed is provided in [Tables 5.36 a & b](#)

⁷¹ Number of TB reactors that were confirmed during the year by the presence of visible lesions at slaughter and/or by laboratory confirmation (histopathology and/or culture) plus the number of animals where *M. bovis* was cultured from TB-like lesions found at routine slaughter (LRS) during the year that were not identified as TB reactor animals (as of 20 March 2012)

5.95 DARD Veterinary Service carried out Salmonella controls⁷².

Table 5.35 Salmonella controls by DARD VS in 2011

Routine official control sampling	No. of samples	No. of enforcement notices
In adult breeding flocks	267	0
In adult laying flocks	129	9
In broiler flocks	37	3
In breeding and fattening turkey flocks	36	8

No flocks were detected positive for *Salmonella Typhimurium* or *Salmonella Enteritidis* during 2011. Enforcement notices were issued for incomplete compliance at record checks and additional risk-based visits organised as necessary.

Table 5.36 a: Progress Summary of DARD VS enforcement investigations opened and still on-going in 2011

Work Programme	Under investigation	Interview arranged	File being prepared	File passed to Public Prosecution Service	Total
Animal By-Products				2	2
Brucellosis	3	2		3	8
Identification, Registration & Movement	10	1	3	5	19
Trade of Animals & Animal Products				1	1
TB	2			1	3
Veterinary Public Health & Food Safety	1				1
Welfare of Animals	3	1	2	7	13
Total investigations	19	4	5	19	47

⁷² Under Regulation 2160/2003

Table 5.36 b: Progress Summary of DARD Veterinary Service enforcement investigations closed in 2011

Work Programme	Cases dropped	Compliance achieved	Warning Letters issued	Herds with animals slaughtered/ carcasses destroyed	MC30 issued - animal can only go to slaughter ⁷³	Simple Caution delivered	Convicted in Court	Dismissed in Court	Referred to other Agency	Subsidy withheld	TOTAL
Animal By-Products	5		1				6			1	13
Aujeszky's Disease	1		2				2				4
Biosecurity		1	2								3
Brucellosis	1	3	5				3	1	1	1	15
Identification, Registration & Movement	21	14	102	7	10	1	19	2	1		177
Trade of Animals & Animal Products	3						1		1		5
Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies	1		2				1				4
TB	3	1		1			4			1	10
Veterinary Public Health & Food Safety	1		2				5		1		9
Welfare of Animals	19	1	16				5	2	1		44
TOTAL OFFENCES INVESTIGATED	55	20	133	8	10	1	47	5	6	2	287

⁷³ An animal under MC30 restriction normally can only move direct from the farm to an abattoir. However, the keeper can apply for a special licence to move the animal to another farm only. This would usually only be granted for welfare reasons.

BIPs

Table 5.37 Number of consignments subject to veterinary checks at BIPs in 2011

Consignments of live animals checked	Consignments of products of animal origin checked*	Consignments rejected	Consignments re-exported	Consignments destroyed
16,184	62,935	676	398	270

*Consignments of POAO received a documentary and identity check, with physical checks being carried out in accordance with the percentages laid down in Decision 1994/360.

5.96 Where the results of the checks revealed a public health risk, the Commission and other MS were alerted via the RASFF system. Where checks on POAO revealed excess residues, serious infringements or repeated infringements additional checks were carried out on the next 10 consignments. Six re-enforced checks were introduced in 2011.

UK Cattle identification and registration

5.97 All inspections were completed on time in 2011 and the report was submitted to the Commission by the 31 August 2011 deadline. The report can be accessed at:

<http://archive.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/farmanimal/movements/cattle/documents/cattle-inspections2010.pdf>

5.98 During the inspection year 2010/2011 132 holdings were placed under temporary whole herd restrictions and 19 animals on one single holding were destroyed as part of sanctions imposed under EC Regulation 494/98⁷⁴. The annual report to the Commission for 2011 shows that, of the 5% of inspected holdings:

- The vast majority (88.5%) of holdings were fully compliant;
- a further 8.5% had only one breach, and
- Only 3% of holdings had more than one breach.

5.99 Only one holding was subject to official sanctions for non-compliance.

5.100 These figures are indicative of a strong UK performance on compliance with Cattle Identification legislation and show a continued improvement on previous years.

UK Sheep and goat identification and movement reporting

5.101 All inspections for 2011 were completed on time and the report will be submitted to the Commission by 31 August 2012 as required. The report will be available at:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/food-farm/animals/movements/sheep/>

⁷⁴ europa.eu/smartapi/cgi/sga_doc?smartapi!celexapi!prod!CELEXnumdoc&lg=EN&numdoc=31998R0494&model=quichett

Bee health controls

England and Wales

5.102 The official bee health control programme in the UK was generally successful in 2011. The programme focuses on the notifiable diseases (European foul brood and American foul brood) and their incidence remains at a low level demonstrating the effectiveness of the current risk based control policies. Specific monitoring is also carried out for two notifiable exotic pests (Small hive beetle (*Aethina tumida*) and *Tropilaelaps spp*) and these remain absent from the UK. The NBU carried out a statutory inspection programme on behalf of Defra and the Welsh Government. Details of the programmes are available on the NBU's BeeBase website www.nationalbeeunit.com

Table 5.38 Summary of the NBU's inspections in England and Wales

England	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Colonies inspected	22,286	22,978	33,937	28,871	32,518
Colonies found to be infected with American Foul Brood	46 (0.21%)	60 (0.26%)	74 (0.22%)	31 (0.11%)	78 (0.24%)
Colonies found to be infected with European Foul Brood	611 (2.74%)	808 (3.52%)	584 (1.72%)	434 (1.5%)	671 (2.05%)
Pyrethroid resistant varroa mites tests	149 (59 positive)	16 (7 positive)	5 (1 positive)	0	0
Exotic pest survey apiaries inspected	480	369	457	511	600
samples submitted by beekeepers	21	13	14	110	123
Wales	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Colonies found to be infected with American Foul Brood	46 (0.21%)	60 (0.26%)	74 (0.22%)	31 (0.11%)	78 (0.24)
Colonies found to be infected with European Foul Brood	15 (0.29%)	38 (0.89%)	4 (0.06%)	11 (0.23%)	24 (0.45%)
Pyrethroid resistant varroa mites tests	7 (4 positive)	1 (1 positive)	0	0	0
Exotic pest survey apiaries inspected	128	60	87	124	125
samples submitted by beekeepers	0	0	0	23	10

5.103 Additional funding allocated to the implementation of the Healthy Bees Plan from 2009 enabled additional inspectors to be employed resulting in the highest level of colony inspections since the late 1990s.

5.104 The number of colonies infected with American Foul Brood (AFB) has remained fairly similar over the last 5 years. The control of AFB is very effective – 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 ongoing research

projects which aim to better understand the disease. The overall incidence has generally been in decline since 2000.

5.105 The NBU has continued to search for the exotic pests – *Aethina tumida* (small hive beetle) and *Tropilaelaps* mites. Neither of these pests has been found in the UK. Surveillance programmes and the use of sentinel apiaries will continue.

5.106 Honey samples are also collected under statutory residue monitoring programmes on behalf of Defra’s Veterinary Medicines Directorate. The stipulated number of honey samples under the National Surveillance Scheme, as directed in the plan, were collected by the required deadlines. Approximately 100 samples are collected each year under Council Directive 96/23/EC.

Scotland

5.107 A surveillance programme for exotic pests was completed in identified “at risk” apiaries. The current contingency plan is under review to ensure that the lessons learned during the disease outbreaks of the previous three years are incorporated and that the plan is fit for purpose.

5.108 Science and Advice for Scottish Agriculture provides a diagnostic service to beekeepers to confirm the presence of Varroa or notifiable bee pests or disease. Scottish Government Bee Inspectors continued to carry out inspections during 2011 following the outbreak of AFB and EFB in the previous two years. A summary of the inspections carried out since 2009 (when inspections began) is provided in [Table 5.38](#)

Table 5.38 Summary of the bee health control inspections carried out in Scotland

BEE INSPECTIONS	2009	2010	2011
No. of colonies inspected	2,995	3,157	3,492
No. of apiaries inspected	257	213	208
No. of EFB positive colonies	310	71	126
No. of EFB positive apiaries	69	25	42
No. of AFB positive colonies	136	11	5
No. of AFB positive apiaries	38	8	3
No. of apiaries infected with both EFB and AFB	2	0	1

5.109 The Scottish Government continues to develop good working relationships with the beekeepers and excellent cooperation has been noted. Disease levels are reducing satisfactorily and a clearer picture has now emerged as to

which beekeepers are holding the highest levels of infection. This is allowing better targeting of resources to deal more efficiently with the outbreak. The Honey Bee Health Strategy is now delivering good benefits and a useful driver for bee health and related issues in Scotland.

Table 5.39: Summary of bee health inspections carried out in Northern Ireland in 2011

Disease/ pest	Outcome of Inspection
American Foul Brood disease	12 Apiaries with 20 colonies were confirmed to have the disease. These 20 colonies along with the hive contents were subsequently destroyed and burnt.
European Foul Brood disease	Although there were some concerns regarding imported bees from infected apiaries no confirmed incidents of the disease were found.
Exotic Pests	Surveys ongoing for the exotic pests <i>Aethina tumida</i> (Small Hive Beetle) using coriboard traps and <i>Tropilaelaps</i> mite by collecting sample from hive debris. At risk apiaries in close proximity to ports and those importing were targeted.
Pyrethroid resistant varroa mites	Sampling continues for Pyrethroid resistant varroa mites. Six samples were submitted to the laboratory in 2011, with the Varroa mites from one bee sample showing significant resistance to pyrethroid treatments.

5.110 Two honey samples were submitted for residue analysis and nothing significant found.

Aquatic animal health controls

England and Wales

5.111 In 2011 the planned official control programme on aquatic animal health was successfully completed. The Fish Health Inspectorate undertake compliance inspections and surveillance for listed and nationally controlled diseases in accordance with a published risk based model. Compliance inspections are increased in frequency on the evidence of previous failures to comply and on an intelligence-led basis.

5.112 There was one outbreak of exotic disease *Bonamia exitiosa*. This was the first identification of *B.exitiosa* in the UK. Statutory controls prohibited the movement of oysters from the confirmed designation for relaying. Movements were permitted for human consumption and into secure depuration facilities. Further samples of shellfish obtained from harvesting areas in the Fal estuary during 2011 proved to be negative for *B.exitiosa*. Contact tests for *B.exitiosa* on stocks from sites that had received oysters from the Fal estuary also proved negative.

5.113 As far as non-exotic notifiable diseases are concerned, all outbreaks were dealt with by the official service in a prompt and effective manner, thus protecting the health of wild and farmed aquatic animals from the spread of infection. There was a slight fall in unplanned control activities in 2011 as compared with the previous year primarily due to a decline in the number of outbreaks of koi herpesvirus disease in managed fisheries. This decline may

be due to a combination of environmental factors and better stakeholder awareness of diseases.

- 5.114 In 2010 GB achieved recognition of freedom from a non-exotic disease spring viraemia of carp (SVC) following the successful completion of a control and eradication programme. However in 2011 an outbreak of SVC occurred in a managed fishery in England. This outbreak was promptly controlled through a cull of fish stocks, followed by the disinfection and fallowing of the infected area. The outbreak was attributed to the introduction of illegally imported fish.
- 5.115 During routine surveillance of edible mussel *Mytilus edulis* stocks in the River Tamar estuary, the notifiable parasite *Marteilia refringens* was detected for the first time in the UK. The disease was controlled by the application of movement controls. Further surveillance of shellfish stocks around the UK has not indicated any further spread of this disease.
- 5.116 The trend across the aquatic animal health sector as a whole has continued to show an improvement in terms of compliance with legislative requirements. In particular compliance by aquaculture production businesses (APBs) is particularly high, possibly reflecting the investment made in earlier years in the provision of advice and guidance to stakeholders following the introduction of the Aquatic Animal Health (England and Wales) Regulations 2009. The number of enforcement notices served on APBs has fallen considerably in 2011 as compared with previous years as regulatory requirements become further embedded into business practices.
- 5.117 Trade related non-compliances have not shown a clear decline in 2011 primarily due to a high number of new businesses becoming involved in this sector, and also a number of new third country sources of aquatic animals commencing trade with the UK. This has resulted in an increased number of health certification anomalies which were resolved through the issue of enforcement notices, and the provision of advice and guidance. It should be noted that the majority of the health certification issues were due to irregularities in certification requirements by third country authorities rather than non-compliance by recipient stakeholder businesses. It is envisaged that the requirements for enforcement actions in this area will decline in 2012.
- 5.118 Preventing the illegal importation of live freshwater fish remains a high priority. The FHI continued to implement a proactive approach to illegal importation and undertook a number of intelligence-led interceptions of consignments of fish resulting in one successful prosecution, and a number of formal warnings. The majority of non-compliances are dealt with through the provision of advice, and enforcement notices followed by further inspections. These actions are generally sufficient to ensure good statutory compliance with only infrequent need to take further action.

Table 5.40 Details of non-compliances found in aquatic animal health in England and Wales during 2011

Category of non-compliances	Number	Enforcement actions
Import / Export	203	9 Formal warnings 193 Enforcement notices 1 Prosecution
Failing to comply with conditions of authorisation	2	2 Formal warnings
Administrative anomalies	7	Advice and informal warnings

Scotland

5.119 Within Scotland there are currently 428 active fish farm sites and 322 active shellfish farm site. All sites are subject to risk based, passive and intelligence led surveillance programmes.

5.120 The surveillance programme concerning the eradication of infectious salmon anaemia virus continued during 2011. Statutory testing was completed in 2011 and all movements of fish outwith the area for processing were certified in accordance with the requirements of 2006/88/EC. Fallowing of the area was proposed for 2012. The case to regain freedom from ISA was in preparation and was planned to be submitted to the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health in early 2012.

5.121 Targeted surveillance for Ostreid herpesvirus 1 μ var (OsHV-1 μ var) continued across shellfish sites holding susceptible species. No evidence of Oyster Herpes Virus was found in Scottish waters.

5.122 Investigations following reports of poor mussel spat settlement were conducted in 2011. The indication is that poor mussel spat settlement and mussel spat mortality is not widespread and is likely to be a result of environmental influences rather than being caused by the presence of disease or a pathogen. This has guided industry to consider focused spat fall monitoring to help predict spat settlement in time and space.

Table 5.41 Details of non-compliances found in aquatic animal health in Scotland during 2011

Category of non-compliances	Number	Enforcement actions
Trade irregularities (import/export)	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 - Regulation 14(3) notices issued, imposing restrictions over imported stock until the irregularity was resolved • 6 - incidents where issues with health certificates. They were resolved directly with the competent authority issuing the certificate
Enhanced inspection in accordance with the Aquaculture and Fisheries (Scotland) Act 2007	20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13- Recommendations were made with deadlines for actions imposed • 7 - cases where less significant – non-compliances were observed, advice was given with no follow up action required
Failing to comply with authorisation conditions	51	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40 - cases were resolved through issuing advice • 10 - cases were resolved through issuing warning letters informing of obligations in line with first stage of the FHI enforcement policy • 1 - case is still outstanding and is subject to continued dialogue with the operator

Northern Ireland

5.123 Aquaculture activities in Northern Ireland are tightly controlled by means of a Fish Culture Licence issued by DARD under the Fisheries Act (Northern Ireland) 1966 and a Fish Health Authorisation issued under the Aquatic Animal Health Regulations (NI) 2009. Compliance is high in this sector due to the official controls imposed and regular inspection visits.

Table 5.42 Details of non-compliances found in aquatic animal health in NI during 2011

Category of non-compliances	Number	Enforcement actions
Record keeping under the Aquatic Animal Health Regulation (NI) 2009	1	Enforcement Notice
Fish movement to ROI without appropriate documentation	1	Interview and written warning (issued in 2012)
Fish movement to Scotland without proper inspection	1	Verbal warning

5.124 DARD maintains regular contact with the UK administrations and the Marine Institute in the Republic of Ireland regarding fish movements, potential disease risks and preventative measures to be taken to reduce risk and possible spread of disease.

Official controls in the animal welfare sector

Competent authorities

5.125 Responsibility for animal welfare controls on-farm, at slaughter and during transport lies with Defra in England and with Scottish Government, Welsh Government and DARD in the Devolved Administrations. Details of the control activities of these authorities during 2011 are outlined below.

Control activities in 2011

5.126 Animal welfare controls in 2011 were primarily the responsibility of AHVLA and LAs in GB and DARD in Northern Ireland. However Defra, the Scottish Government and Welsh Government have delegated the responsibility for animal welfare implementation in slaughterhouses to the FSA Operations team. Welfare at slaughter and killing outside slaughterhouses and during disease control situations is monitored by AHVLA. All welfare inspections where a non-compliance is disclosed, result in a letter being sent explaining what the problem is and advising how to resolve it. Revisits are carried out at a suitable interval following a risk assessment to monitor progress. When necessary, improvement notices are served under the appropriate legislation. In severe cases a report including a witness statement will be submitted so that a prosecution can be considered. During 2011 AHVLA provided 30⁷⁵ witness statements to the enforcement bodies (LAs/Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) in support of legal action.

On-farm animal welfare⁷⁶

5.127 Overall the on-farm inspection programme was successfully delivered. This included the first full year of implementation of the Meat Chicken Directive (2007/43/EC).

5.128 The level of non-compliance (4%) for category assessments on farms in England, Scotland and Wales was similar to that recorded in the previous year.

The main non-compliances were similar to last year and related to:

- **Buildings and Accommodation** – e.g. animals were located in accommodation where there were sharp edges or objects sticking out which may harm or injure the animals
- **Record keeping** – e.g. failure to keep any records or adequate records of medicinal treatments and deaths of animals

⁷⁵ This number should not be compared directly with the 2010 figure of 128 statements which was collected by a different methodology – the total number of statements for 2011 will also include up to 72 further statements recorded as “mixed action” in the data i.e. a total of up to 102 statements

⁷⁶ General information is available at: animalhealth.defra.gov.uk/keeping-animals/caring/onfarmwelfare.html

- **Inspection** – e.g. failure to inspect animals at appropriate frequencies
- **Staffing** – e.g. sick animals had not received the necessary care or attention to treat their illness/injury and staff did not have the necessary skills and competence to provide adequate livestock care
- **Feed, Water and Other Substances** – e.g. animals were being fed either too infrequently or inappropriate feed.

New Legislation

5.129 Defra and devolved administrations continued to provide Codes of recommendation on the keeping of farmed animals⁷⁷ and during 2011 new legislation was introduced in:

- **Scotland** - Scottish Government amended the Prohibited Procedures on Protected Animals (Exemptions) (Scotland) Regulations 2010 to clarify the requirements around tail docking in sheep and antler removal in deer⁷⁸
- **Northern Ireland** - DARD brought into force a new Welfare of Animals (Northern Ireland) Act 2011⁷⁹
- **DARD** also consulted on permitted procedures to be carried out by lay persons under Section 5 of their new Welfare of Animals (Northern Ireland) Act covering activities similar to those exempted in other countries of the UK such as ear-tagging and castration⁸⁰

5.130 The powers under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 (and Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 in Scotland) continued to be available for use where appropriate to remove suffering animals, including those at risk of suffering and for emergency killing of animals in extremis. Improvement notices (care notices in Scotland) were also successfully used to require owners and or keepers of animals to provide an adequate standard of care as required by the relevant Act. The new Welfare of Animals (Northern Ireland) Act 2011⁸¹ allowed, from April 2011, inspectors to issue an improvement notice where a person responsible for an animal is failing to provide for the animal's needs. They enact powers for inspectors to inspect farm premises in order to check compliance with welfare regulations and for Councils to prosecute offences under the Act.

Inspections – monitoring and enforcement:

5.131 In 2011 the level of compliance on farms was similar to that recorded in previous years and overall approximately 96% of category assessments were compliant with European and Domestic legislation.

⁷⁷ animalhealth.defra.gov.uk/keeping-animals/caring/onfarmwelfare.html

⁷⁸ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2011/164/contents/made>

⁷⁹ http://www.legislation.gov.uk/nia/2011/16/pdfs/nia_20110016_en.pdf

⁸⁰ http://www.dardni.gov.uk/index/consultations/archived-consultations/permitted_procedures_consultation.htm

⁸¹ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/nia/2011/16/contents>

Table 5.43 Number of inspections in GB in 2011

No of farm visits	No of farms	No of completed enterprise inspections
2,254	1,743	5,930

5.132 All complaints and allegations of poor welfare on specific farms were immediately assessed by a veterinary officer and treated as a matter of urgency. 356 out of the 358 welfare complaints (99.4%) were visited within 24 hours of receipt of the complaint. The results of inspection visits were classified into four score categories - A to D. The A and B scored inspections reflect compliance with the legislation and did not require any further statutory action. Details of C and D scored inspections during 2011 are provided in [Table 5.44](#)

5.133 DARD completed 1,114 enterprise inspections with an overall compliance rate of 89%. Of the 259 non-compliances reported on 122 sites detected by DARD, 45% of these non-compliances were serious enough for formal action through prosecution (category C as per Commission Decision 2006/778/EC)⁸². The most common failures related to inspection, staffing, provision of feed and water, buildings and accommodation and record keeping.

Table 5.44 Details of C & D scores from animal welfare inspections in GB during 2011

Type of inspections	Number
A score of C is recorded when there is a non-compliance with the welfare legislation, welfare potentially or actually compromised but no unnecessary pain, suffering or distress identified	Across 5,930 enterprise inspections, non compliance with the legislation and potential compromise of animal welfare was found in 1,821 categories out of a total of 55,336 assessments. This resulted in an overall C score for 881 enterprises, for which 355 advisory letters instructing the farmer on action to take to resolve the problems were issued.
A score of D is recorded when unnecessary suffering was disclosed at any AHVLA welfare inspection.	Across 5,930 enterprise inspections, results show that unnecessary suffering was disclosed in 340 categories out of a total of 55,336 assessments. This resulted in an overall D score for 213 enterprises. The majority of infringements related to inadequate animal care, lack of inspection of livestock and inadequate staffing. The national average number of days taken to resolve D scores in GB was 21.7 days against a target of less than 21 average days. AHVLA have investigated why the clear-up rate has increased and it was caused by a small number of serious incidents which do not reflect the national trend.

⁸²eurlex.europa.eu/smartapi/cgi/sga_doc?smartapi!celexplus!prod!DocNumber&type_doc=Decision&an_doc=2006&nu_doc=778&lg=en

5.134 The UK implemented the Meat Chicken Directive (2007/43/EC)⁸³ through the Welfare of Farmed Animals Regulations⁸⁴. During 2011 AHVLA and FSA Operations delivered a system for all eligible flocks resulting in all trigger reports generated being assessed for further action.

5.135 During 2011 AHVLA received 2,151 trigger reports from FSA Operations in GB and DARD processed a total of 94 trigger reports. Following assessment and initial contact with the producer the actions taken are shown in Table 5.45.

Table 5.45 Actions taken following receipt of trigger reports by AHVLA and DARD in 2011

Actions	AHVLA	DARD
Cases assessed as "resolved or not eligible under 2007/43/EC"	1448	65
Classified as "current action under 2007/43/EC is sufficient"	465	10
Action Plans requested	199	19
Advisory visits conducted	27	2
Inspections carried out	2	2
Totals	2141⁸⁵	98

Animal welfare during transport⁸⁶

5.136 An Annual Report on the Protection of Animals during Transport⁸⁷ is produced and submitted to the Commission by 30 June each year⁸⁸.

5.137 Inspections are carried out in the UK on a risk basis and in response to intelligence received. Inspection programmes are planned by AHVLA and LAs through local liaison. Findings are kept under review and local action taken as appropriate where any major deficiencies are detected.

5.138 During 2011 1,076 applications for transporter authorisations in GB were received. In addition to this, authorisations issued at the commencement of the implementation of Regulation EC 1/2005 and which were valid for five years (the maximum permitted by the Regulation), were due to expire in 2012. In order to ensure continuity for those transporters whose authorisations were due to expire at the beginning of 2012 and who wished to be able to continue transporting live animals, AHVLA processed 5,433 applications for re-authorisations in December 2011. In Northern Ireland DARD issued 63 transporter authorisations, of which none (0) were conditional.

⁸³ defra.gov.uk/food-farm/animals/welfare/on-farm/poultry-welfare/ and archive.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/farmanimal/welfare/onfarm/meatchks-require.htm

⁸⁴ WOFAR legislation amendments available at:
 England: [Welfare of Farmed Animals \(England\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2011](http://legislation.data.gov.uk/sdsi/2011/9780111010228/data.htm?wrap=true)
 Scotland: legislation.data.gov.uk/sdsi/2011/9780111010228/data.htm?wrap=true
 Wales: [The Welfare of Farmed Animals \(Wales\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2011](http://legislation.data.gov.uk/sdsi/2011/9780111010228/data.htm?wrap=true)

⁸⁵ The figures in the totals for Table 5.45 do not match the figures in paragraph 5.145 because, for example, in one instance you may get an advisory visit, an action plan and then a further inspection.

⁸⁶ General information available at: <http://animalhealth.defra.gov.uk/keeping-animals/caring/welfareintransport.html>

⁸⁷ As required by Regulation (EC) 1/2005

⁸⁸ ec.europa.eu/food/animal/welfare/transport/inspections_reports_reg_1_2005_en.htm

Table 5.46 Number of transporter authorisation applications and re-authorisations in 2011

Applications	Authorised	Refused	Applications for re-authorisations
1,076	1,075	1	5,433

5.139 In GB 1,260 journey logs were submitted for authorisation. In Northern Ireland DARD approved an average of 11 journey logs per month during 2011.

Table 5.47 Number of journey logs in GB in 2011

2011	Number
Journey logs submitted for authorisation	1,260
Journey logs approved by AHVLA	1,150
New journeys	809
Repeat journeys	341
Journey logs rejected (did not comply with Reg. EC 1/2005)	28

5.140 The bulk of routine checks of animals and means of transport are carried out by LA inspectors in conjunction AHVLA in GB and by DARD in Northern Ireland.

Table 5.48 Number of checks of animals and means of transport in UK in 2011

2011	Number
Vehicles inspected (including documentary checks)	126,081
Non-compliances	1,896
Documentary only checks	4,830
Non-compliances	244
AHVLA checks of vehicles transporting livestock and horses at ports through GB	321
AHVLA supervised loading inspections	57

5.141 In 2011 DARD inspected 4,691 vehicles in Northern Ireland of which over 98.5% were compliant. Overall infringements were detected at a level of 1.39% across departure, destination and market inspections.

5.142 The above inspections resulted in:

Table 5.48 Breakdown of Enforcement action taken in UK in 2011

	Total 2011	Total 2010
Oral Warnings	907	1,145
Written warnings	394	383
Statutory Notices issued	118	176
Home Office cautions	9	2
Prosecutions	8	10

5.143 Additionally, 36 incidents involving transporters based outside GB were reported to Defra, as the National Contact Point, for referral to the Competent Authorities in other MS.

5.144 The UK continued to communicate and work with MS contact points regarding potential contraventions of Regulation EC 1/2005 and information exchange under Article 26. As in 2010, there were no serious infringements reported by other MS regarding UK transporters during 2011. In 2011 there were 7 notifications regarding UK transporters from other MS, 3 of which referred to a failure to return journey logs and included a continued case from the previous year. This is an improvement on 2010 where 8 out of a total of 12 notifications related to failed return of journey logs. Information exchange included confirmation of a transporter's competence following relocation to another MS and enquiries on AHVLA guidance on requirements for transport of horses through Eurotunnel.

5.145 30 formal notifications were made by the UK to other MS in 2011 including a one to all other MS of the temporary suspension of a UK transporter's authorisation. Whilst this was a 200% increase in number of MS notifications from 2010, only one of the notifications related to an unfit animal, the remainder being technical or documentary non-compliances where animal welfare had not been directly impacted. This is in contrast with and an improvement to 2010 where 9 of the total 11 notifications had been related to the transport of unfit animals. It is believed that the UK's persistence in reporting such activities and widespread communication to both trade and professional journals in 2010 - 2011 had a positive impact in reducing the risk of unfit animals being transported to the UK from other MS.

Animal welfare at slaughter or killing⁸⁹

5.146 AHVLA followed up reports and allegations of poor animal welfare practice at slaughter or killing and, when necessary, conducted investigations with a view to provide advice for prosecution.

5.147 Defra and the Welsh Government consulted on a proposal to make changes to WASK to:

- permit the use of a biphasic carbon dioxide gas mixture to kill poultry in slaughterhouses;
- extend the range of birds which may be killed on-farm by gas mixtures; and
- extend the time limit for bringing a prosecution under WASK .

5.148 DARD consulted on similar changes to slaughter legislation in Northern Ireland and laid the amendment order before parliament in 2011⁹⁰.

5.149 In 2011, welfare standards during slaughter or killing outside licensed slaughterhouses were similar to those reported in previous years with very few reported problems. All but 22 of the 94 inspections during 67 visits carried out by AHVLA in GB during 2011 were undertaken during the pre-Christmas peak period. No serious non-compliance was found. 179 slaughterman's licences were issued.

⁸⁹ General information available at: animalhealth.defra.gov.uk/keeping-animals/caring/welfareatslaughter.html

⁹⁰ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisr/2011/407/contents/made>

Welfare forensic pathology and advice

5.150 During 2011 the Regional Laboratories (RLs) of the AHVLA received 54 welfare forensic submissions, of which approximately 60% were whole/part carcasses, the remainder of the samples ranged from wool samples in suspect sheep scab cases to faeces samples for endoparasite monitoring. This was a marked reduction on the 2010 figure (98 submissions). RLs worked with AHVLA and LAs to provide witness statements for serious non-compliances detected, 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 2011.

Official controls in the plant health sector

England and Wales

Imports

5.151 During 2011-12, 83,819 imported consignments were subject to documentary and identity checks, and 29,898 of these were subject to physical checks. By country, Kenya sent most consignments, followed by South Africa. The most numerous import was mango, followed by citrus. 1,987 non-regulated consignments were inspected.

Exports

5.152 28,775 phytosanitary certificates were issued for exported consignments of plants, plant products and other items to meet the importing country's requirements. The top destinations were the Canary Islands and the USA, while ware potatoes and seeds were among the most frequently exported commodities.

Plant passports and licences

5.153 775 producers registered for plant passporting were subject to 6,036 inspections of their premises. 181 premises held 224 licences for work on harmful organisms.

EU Surveys

5.154 13 surveys required under EU legislation were carried out and the reports provided to the FVO. These included:

Table 5.49 EU Surveys carried out in 2011

	Inspections/samples
<i>Ralstonia solanacearum</i> and <i>Clavibacter michiganensis</i>	2082 tuber inspections no findings
Water survey for <i>Ralstonia solanacearum</i>	168 samples taken from 21 watercourses
<i>Diabrotica virgifera</i> survey	110 fields trapped no findings
<i>Phytophthora ramorum</i> EU minimum requirement survey	2419 visits made (results below)
Potato cyst nematode survey	56 farms visited 582 samples taken

Pest Outbreaks

5.155 There were 44 ongoing outbreaks of quarantine pests at the end of the year, 17 of which were of *Tuta absoluta*. 31 outbreaks of *Bemisia tabaci* were eradicated during the year, leaving only 3 ongoing.

Laboratory Diagnoses

5.156 Fera carried out 32,102 laboratory diagnoses of samples from imports, exports, passporting visits and general surveillance.

Scotland

Imports

5.157 41 import consignments were inspected in Scotland. Mangoes from Pakistan was the top import, followed by fruit/vegetables from Thailand; other commodities were herbs (Canary Islands), Bonsai (Japan), Grass Seed (New Zealand) and Orchids from (Taiwan).

Exports

5.158 During 2011 2,241 phytosanitary certificates were issued:

- 1,511 were issued for seed potatoes totalling 77,277 tonnes being exported to third countries, with Egypt, Israel and Morocco topping the list of destinations
- 456 issued for ware potatoes totalling 7160 tonnes, with Canary Islands receiving the largest tonnage, followed by Russia
- 158 were issued for plant/plant products, with USA receiving the most; Narcissus was the largest commodity
- 90 were issued for hops, with Russia and Colombia topping the list of destinations
- 26 were issued for farm machinery, with Norway the main destination.

Plant passports and licences

5.159 For plant passports 62 businesses were inspected at 64 premises, 124 visits were made and 891 inspections were carried out. There were 32 licensed premises holding 81 licences as follows:

Table 5.51 Licensed premises in Scotland during 2011

Licence	Number
Plant health licences	44
Soil import licences	29
Licences for import of potatoes via United Kingdom Potato Quarantine Unit	8

Laboratory diagnoses

5.160 24,810 laboratory diagnoses were carried out, broken down as follows:

Table 5.52 **Laboratory diagnoses in Scotland during 2011**

Diagnoses	Number
Viroids	1676
Virology	36
Bacteriology (including ring rot/brown rot)	3432
Mycology	548
Nematology/entomology	19118

5.161 Potato quarantine testing carried out by the United Kingdom Potato Quarantine Unit consisted of seven lines of Potatoes from outside the EU 7 lines, plus in the Commonwealth potato collection – 1,239 from 70 true seed accessions.

Northern Ireland

Imports

5.162 In 2011, seven third country import inspections were carried out in Northern Ireland, from the 151 consignments imported. By country, USA was the most frequent origin, followed by Colombia, with imports of Malus and Dianthus topping the list. There were no pest or disease findings in any imports.

Exports

5.163 Northern Ireland issued 194 phytosanitary certificates, with USA being the commonest destination, and Narcissus the largest number of consignments.

Plant passports and licences

5.164 586 inspections of the 94 premises approved for plant passporting were carried out. 644 hectares of seed potatoes were inspected twice and 166 hectares of ware potatoes were inspected once. 8,457 tonnes of seed and 10,008 tonnes of ware potatoes were also inspected. Four premises held plant health licences to allow work on prohibited organisms.

EU Surveys

5.165 2,456 inspections had been carried out for a range of organisms, including those required under protected zone surveys – see [Table 5.53](#)

Table 5.53 The pests sought, number of inspections and findings in Northern Ireland during 2011

Organism	No of Inspections	New positive sites
<i>Bemisia tabaci</i>	79	0
<i>Liriomyza bryoniae</i>	79	0
<i>Leptinotarsa decemlineata</i>	439	0
<i>Erwinia amylovora</i>	549	9
<i>Anoplophora</i> spp	36	0
<i>Phytophthora lateralis</i>	67	16
<i>Phytophthora ramorum</i>	728	17
<i>Clavibacter michiganensis</i> and <i>Ralstonia solanacearum</i>	134	0
<i>Dickeya solani</i>	59	6
<i>Diabrotica virgifera</i>	9	0
<i>Rhizomania</i>	7	0

- 38 hectares of ware potato land was inspected with 42 samples lifted for the Potato Cyst Nematode (PCN) ware survey.

Pest Outbreaks

5.166 During 2011 Northern Ireland dealt with pest outbreaks as follows:

Table 5.54 Pest outbreaks in Northern Ireland during 2011

Organism	Action
<i>Erwinia amylovora</i>	destruction completed at 6 sites 3 in process
<i>Phytophthora lateralis</i>	statutory notices (biosecurity) issued at 8 sites
<i>Phytophthora ramorum</i>	destruction completed at all sites
<i>Dickeya solani</i>	3 outbreaks controlled
Potato Cyst Nematode (PCN)	9 fields restricted 63 fields cleared

Laboratory Diagnoses

5.167 Northern Ireland's laboratory AFBINI carried out 2,752 diagnoses of pests and diseases.

Phytophthora programme in Great Britain

5.168 Under the Phytophthora programme in England and Wales, 16,777 inspections of commercial premises were made. 0.17% of plants were found to be infected, compared to 0.16% in the previous year. 12 new outbreak sites were identified. 37 commercial sites are subject to statutory control. 4,412 inspections of parks, gardens and woodland were carried out, with positive findings in 3.0% of cases. 25 new outbreak sites were identified. For vaccinium infections, 1829 inspections were carried out and only 0.01% of plants found to be infected. 91.7 hectares of Rhododendron was cleared and 1,043 hectares of Japanese larch. 0.15 hectares of vaccinium was cleared.

5.169 In Scotland there are 30 distinct active outbreak sites. A further 20 sites were found within the wider surveillance area of the initial outbreak. The number of sites infected and samples taken are set out in the table below:

Table 5.55 Sites infected and samples taken in Scotland during 2011

Organism	No of sites infected
<i>P. ramorum</i>	31
<i>P. kernoviae</i>	12
<i>P. ramorum</i> and <i>P. kernoviae</i>	7
Number of samples taken	2826
Number of samples showing positive for either <i>P. ramorum</i> or <i>P. kernoviae</i>	682

Table 5.56 Number of sites receiving visits in Scotland during 2011

	No of sites
Number of sites receiving monthly visits	24
Number of sites receiving quarterly visits	10
Number of sites receiving annual visits	16

5.170 There are 5 non-active sites where controls have been lifted (*all P. ramorum*). A further 6 sites initially identified on forestry land are now managed by the Forestry Commission.

Forestry, timber and wood products in Great Britain

5.171 In 2011, the Forestry Commission maintained an inspection regime of wood and wood products imported into GB from third countries in accordance with Community legislative requirements and also carried out a range of surveys in accordance with Community provisions. A total of 4030 inspections of imports of controlled wood and wood products, and a further 2000 inspections of wood packaging material associated with goods of various commodities, were carried out.

5.172 Inspections of controlled timber were supplemented by specific surveys in relation to various species.

5.173 Also in 2011 the Forestry Commission performed seven inspections of sawn timber and wood packaging material imported directly via a very limited trade from Portugal and submitted seven samples to Forest Research for analysis to check for the presence of Pine Wood Nematode (*Bursaphelenchus xylophilus*). All samples proved negative for the presence of the forestry pest.

5.174 In 2011 the Forestry Commission and Fera dealt with further outbreaks of *Phytophthora lateralis* on Lawson's Cypress. In Scotland there were two notable new outbreaks at country parks near the original outbreak site at Glasgow and one finding in a forestry plantation on the Kintyre peninsula (west Scotland). In England there was one outbreak in a shelter-belt of trees beside a garden centre near Plymouth and another in a small stand of trees at

a rural location in Yorkshire. Investigation has revealed that a unique genotype of *P. lateralis* is involved in 3 of the Scottish outbreak sites while all others are the same genotype as present in Oregon and other parts of Europe.

- 5.175 Forest Research scientists confirmed that *Phytophthora austrocedrae* was the organism responsible for death of juniper bushes on a nature reserve at Upper Teesdale in the North of England. Die-back and death of bushes had been monitored at the reserve for at least eight years before scientists were able to isolate *P. austrocedrae*. A second juniper site in central Scotland was subsequently diagnosed with *P. austrocedrae*. Fera and Natural England are working together to determine how widely the disease has established in other areas of juniper. Four additional sites have since been confirmed in Cumbria.
- 5.176 Two new harmful pathogens have been recorded for the first time in the UK. Two findings of *Cryphonectria parasitica* were made on plantations of sweet chestnut using varieties of trees from France for nut production. Consignments of sweet chestnut from the same supplier were traced forward and further evidence of infection was found plants supplied in 2008, 2009 and 2010. Plants supplied by the same French nursery in 2011 were held for inspection and subsequently released as there was no evidence of infection. We will continue to monitor the health of large plantings of sweet chestnut from this supplier. An interception of *Chalara fraxinea* was made on ash plants supplied to a nursery in England from a trader in the Netherlands. The infected trees are being destroyed under national emergency measures and a pest alert notice was published.

Notification of Non-compliance

- 5.177 1,296 notifications of interception of harmful organisms were made to the EU Food and Veterinary Office. These included documentary problems, particularly in respect of the failure to include additional declarations in phytosanitary certificates. By country the largest numbers of interceptions were from India, Pakistan, Vietnam and Kenya, with *Liriomyza* spp, *Bemisia tabaci*, thripidae and non-European tephritidae the top four pests. 56 cases of non-compliance with phytosanitary requirements were recorded by the Forestry Commission in respect of wood and wood products, including imports of goods with associated wood packaging material which accounted for 41 of them.

Annexe - Abbreviations

AFB	American Foul Brood
AFBI	Agri-Food Biosciences Institute for Northern Ireland
AFLELG	Animal Feed Law Enforcement Liaison Group
AHDH	Animal Health Dairy Hygiene
AHVLA	Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency
AIC	Agricultural Industries Confederation
AMES	Animal Health and Welfare Management and Enforcement System
BTSF	Better Training for Safer Food
BIP	Border Inspection Post
BKD	Bacterial Kidney Disease
BSE	Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy
BTB	Bovine Tuberculosis
Cefas	Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science
CIEH	Chartered Institute of Environmental Health
CRD	Health and Safety Executive's Chemicals Regulation Directorate
CVO	Chief Veterinary Officer
DARD	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development for Northern Ireland
DC	District Council
Defra	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
EA	Environment Agency
EC	European Community
ECA	European Court of Auditors
EEA	European Economic Area
EEC	European Economic Community
EFB	European Foul Brood
EIA	Equine Infectious Anaemia
EID	Electronic Identification
EU	European Union
EURL	European Union Reference Laboratory
FBO	Food Business Operator
FeBO	Feed Business Operator
Fera	Food and Environment Research Agency
FHI	Fish Health Inspectorate
FHIS	Food Hygiene Information Scheme
FHRS	Food Hygiene Rating Scheme
FLG	Food Liaison Group
FSA	Food Standards Agency
FVO	Food and Veterinary Office
GB	Great Britain

HACCP	Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point
HMRC	Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs
HPA	Health Protection Agency
HSE	Health and Safety Executive
IFFWG	Imported Food and Feed Working Group
ISO	International Standardisation Organisation
LA	Local Authority
LACORS	Local Authorities Co-ordinators of Regulatory Services
LAEMS	Local Authority Enforcement Monitoring System
LGA	Local Government Association
LGR	Local Government Regulation
MANCP	Multi-Annual National Control Plan
MFS	Medicated Foodstuffs
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MS	Member States
MRL	Maximum Residue Level
NAFPP	National Animal Feed Ports Panel
NBU	National Bee Unit
NFU	National Farmers Union
NRCP	National Residue Control Plan
NRL	National Reference Laboratory
NSAIDs	Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs
OFFC	Official Feed and Food Controls
OsHV-1 μ var	Ostreid Herpesvirus-1 μ var
OTF	Officially Tuberculosis Free
OVS	Official Veterinary Surgeons
PAA	Primary Aromatic Amine
PCB	Polychlorinated Biphenyl
PCN	Potato Cyst Nematode
PETS	Pet Travel Scheme
PFN	Protected Food Name
PHA	Port Health Authority
PMB	Project Management Board
POAO	Products of Animal Origin
QAB	Quality Assurance Branch
RA	Welsh Government, Department for Rural Affairs (previously the Welsh Assembly Government, Department for Rural Affairs)
RASFF	Rapid Alert System for Feed and Food
RIW	Rural Inspectorate Wales
RL	Regional Laboratory
RPA	Rural Payments Agency
RSU	Regulatory Support Unit

SFA	Specified Feed Additive
SG RED	Scottish Government Rural and Environment Directorate
SI	Statutory Instrument
SLG	Shellfish Liaison Group
SVC	Spring Viraemia of Carp
TARP	Trade in Animals and Related Products
TB	Tuberculosis
TSE	Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy
TSI	Trading Standards Institute
UK	United Kingdom
UKAS	United Kingdom Accreditation Service
UBKA	Ulster Beekeepers Association
UKBA	United Kingdom Border Agency
UKFSS	United Kingdom Food Surveillance System
USA	United States of America
VASP	Voluntary Aflatoxin Sampling Plan
VMD	Veterinary Medicines Directorate
VMP	Veterinary Medicinal Products
VPHU	Veterinary Public Health Unit
WASK	Welfare of Animals (Slaughter or Killing) Regulations 1995