

2012 UK Annual Report

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



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs



**The Scottish
Government**



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



Department of
**Agriculture and
Rural Development**

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CONTENTS

<u>Contact point</u>	3
<u>Executive summary</u>	4
<u>Chapter 1 – Introduction and scope of the Report</u>	11
<u>Chapter 2 – Effectiveness of official controls</u>	13
Official controls in the food and feed sectors.....	13
Official controls in animal health and welfare sectors.....	40
Official controls in the plant health sector.....	79
<u>Chapter 3 – National systems of audit</u>	87
Food and feed sectors.....	87
Animal health and welfare sectors.....	93
<u>Chapter 4 – Resources</u>	96
Food and feed sectors.....	96
Plant health sector.....	97
<u>Chapter 5 – Actions Taken To Improve Performance of Control Authorities</u>	99
Co-ordination in the food and feed sectors.....	99
Co-ordination in the animal health and welfare and plant health sectors.....	111
<u>Chapter 6 - Actions Taken To Improve The Performance of Food And Plant Business Operators</u>	124
Food and feed sectors.....	124
Animal health and welfare and plant sectors.....	125
<u>Glossary</u>	128

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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.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Overall effectiveness of controls

Results of main performance indicators

Food and feed sectors

- The United Kingdom (UK) level of Broad Compliance and above (equivalent to Food Hygiene Rating Scheme (FHRS) rating 3 to 5) in 2012/13 was 91.2% of rated establishments, up from 90.2% in 2011/12.
- Local Authorities (LAs) reported that a total of 525,588 interventions were carried out in 2012/13, a decrease of 5.4% on the reported number carried out in 2011/12. 183,566 formal enforcement actions were carried out by LAs in 2012/13, an overall increase of 1.9% from 2011/12.
- As at March 2013, 74.2% of meat plants were considered to be fully meeting legislative requirements or to be broadly compliant.
- The number of approved and operational meat establishments on the Cause for Concern list rose from 12 to 18 between April 2012 and March 2013. This still represented less than 2% of all premises.
- At the end of 2012 93% of all LAs in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (NI) (up 12% from 2011) were operating the FHRS, 72% of LAs in Scotland (up 3% from 2011) were operating the Food Hygiene Information Scheme (FHIS). FHRS information was available on 369,000 food businesses (up 79,000) and FHIS information on 30,000 food businesses (up 2,000).

Animal health and welfare and Plant health sectors

- In Great Britain, the Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency (AHVLA) investigated 173 reports of suspect exotic diseases in 2012. In the 5 confirmed cases, restrictions were applied until the cases were resolved.
- The Welsh Government (WG) launched a Strategic Framework for Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) Eradication in Wales including the launch of a five-year badger vaccination programme within the Intensive Action Area in West Wales.
- Since February 2012 there have not been any confirmed cases of Brucellosis in NI. In November 2012 NI was recognised as a region free of Aujeszky's Disease.
- Since the implementation of the *Salmonella* National Control Programmes (SNCPs), there has been a continued reduction in the contribution of *Salmonella* to the overall burden of food-borne zoonoses observed in the UK.
- In GB, overall compliance during inspections for welfare on-farm was over 96% and for vehicle inspections (welfare during transport) over 99% (up 3% from 2011). In NI, overall compliance rate during welfare on-farm inspections was 95% (up 6% from 2011) and during transport 97%.
- In the UK, no serious non-compliances were found during inspections of welfare at slaughter on farms.
- 2012 was a challenging year for plant health and forestry sectors, but despite the detection of a major new tree disease *Chalara fraxinea* in England and Scotland, all the plant health objectives were met.

2. Information and trends on controls

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

- Main priorities in relation to official controls remained the same in 2012 as in 2011.
- The trend for LAs to target higher risk category establishments at the expense of lower risk establishments has increased. For food hygiene, 98.9% of interventions at Category A and 98.5% of Category B establishments were achieved, compared with 55.5% of interventions at Category E establishments.
- A 16% decrease in food standards interventions from 2012/13 compared with 2011/12 indicates LAs giving programmed inspections a lower priority, with LAs making greater use of intelligence-based targeting.
- National sampling priorities for food composition and labelling were issued to LAs; over 5,000 samples were taken as part of programme.
- There was a 15% increase in samples put on the UK Food Sampling System, although a 6.8% decrease in samples taken by LAs.
- The *Chalara fraxinea* outbreak in October 2012 prompted a major review of plant health risks and the priority given to them within Defra.
- A successful programme of work was delivered to safeguard an incident-free Olympic and Paralympic Games.

3. Trend analysis of non-compliance

Statement of overall trends in compliance

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

Main types of non-compliance

Food and feed sectors

- Food hygiene and safety breaches
- Standards breaches
- Imported food

Animal health and animal welfare and Plant health sectors

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

Identified causes

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

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

Statistics on enforcement/enforcement trends

- 183,566 formal enforcement actions were carried out by LAs in 2012/13, an overall increase of 1.9% from 2011/12.
- There was a 150% increase in remedial action and detention notices (due mostly to remedial action notices being extended to registered premises in Scotland, Wales and NI during 2012) and a 101.6% increase in prohibition orders. There were 19.5% less improvement notices and 29% less cautions.
- There was a substantial increase in numbers and types of enforcements served by the FSA in slaughterhouses/game handling establishments and cutting plants in 2012/13 in the UK.

Fines imposed

- 27 penalty notices were issued in 2012 for incomplete compliance with the requirements of the SNCP in laying chicken flocks.
- In NI, fines totalling £13,500 were imposed for serious breaches of animal health and welfare legislation.

Prosecutions/convictions

- Food and feed sectors –320 food hygiene prosecutions (347 in 2011) and 78 food standards prosecutions (66 in 2011) by LAs.
- Animal health and welfare sectors –158 convictions achieved (157 in 2011) by LAs and DARD.

5. National Audit Systems

Implementation of audit plan

Food and feed sectors

- The FSA carried out 141 audits (at LAs/ reality checks at higher risk food businesses/ Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) Units) and carried out audits of official controls of official controls at 94 approved meat establishments.
- The WG Internal Audit Service (IAS) undertook an Audit Needs Assessment (ANA) exercise.

Animal health and welfare sectors

- Nine full audits (five in Scotland and four in NI) plus four follow-up audits (one in England and three in NI) carried out covering animal health, animal welfare and plant health.
- In GB, AHVLA carried out a full review of its quality assurance arrangements during 2012.

Main summary of audit results

Food and feed sectors

- Individual audit reports are published on the FSA website at food.gov.uk/enforcement/auditandmonitoring/auditreports/
- 314 recommendations arising from audits of LAs/ DARD units, most arising from the audit of service delivery and business compliance and a Scottish feed audit.
- 31 recommendations arising from audits of official controls at approved meat establishments, most concerning post mortem verification.
- Overall, the audit results were satisfactory.

Animal health and Plant health sectors

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

Main actions taken

Food and feed sectors

- Summary reports on focused audit programmes detail key issues identified and good practice.
- Recommendations agreed by the appropriate authorities and corrective action taken.

Animal health and Plant health sectors

- In Scotland, 10 recommendations were implemented, two partially completed or still ongoing. In NI, 15 recommendations were completed. In addition, 10 recommendations from previous years were also completed.

6. Resources

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

Food and feed sectors

- Substantial increases in funding from 2011/12 to 2012/13 for FHRS (£200,000 up to £295,000), FHIS (£28,000 to £41,000) and tackling Food fraud (£172,000 to £252,000).

Animal health and welfare and Plant health sectors

- In England the outbreak of the *Chalara fraxinea* required 23 additional staff (seasonal bee inspectors) in winter. Defra recruited nine additional policy staff in autumn 2012 to deal with the outbreak and an associated major review of plant health policy and implementation.
- Following the *Chalara fraxinea* outbreak in Scotland, immediate deployment of all available Forestry Commission Scotland and Forest Research staff cost in the region of £195k.
- Significant increases in resources for tree health were implemented by Forestry Commission Scotland with budgetary provision for 'rapid response' rising from £70k in 2011/12 to £208k in 2012/13 to enable early detection and rapid confirmation of forest tree health pests in Scotland.

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

- No significant changes.

7. Actions taken to improve performance of control activities

Legislation

- Materials and Articles in Contact with Food Regulations 2012 consolidate existing Regulations.
- Amendments to the Welfare of Animals (Slaughter or Killing) Regulations in England and NI.
- Legislation passed to increase controls to prevent the spread of *Chalara fraxinea* and other tree diseases by requiring operators to notify imports of ash, oak, chestnut and plane trees and to allow inspectors to inspect imported consignments.
- Orders passed to prevent the import of potatoes from Poland carrying *Clavibacter michiganensis sepedonicus*, the causative organism of Potato ring rot.

Organisation

- FSA Field Operations staff took over responsibility for delivery of milk production hygiene inspections in England and Wales.
- FSA took over responsibility for shellfish sampling in three areas of Scotland.
- Decision taken to create new Food Standards body in Scotland.
- The Plant Health Policy Team transferred from the Food and Environment Research Agency (Fera) to Defra.

Procedures

- Review of Delivery of Official Food Controls continued and extended to include delivery of feed controls.
- Codes of Practice revised in England and NI; Practice Guidance revised in Scotland.
- Action taken on mechanically separated meat (MSM) as result of a Food and Veterinary Office (FVO) report.
- Controls applied to imports of paan leaves.
- Guidance for enforcement officers on new EU import measures.
- New Exports Branch set up within FSA.
- Defra delegated control of UK organic operators to control bodies.
- Defra review of bee health pest and disease control policies in England and Wales.
- AHVLA implemented reduction in time taken (from 5 to 2 days) to identify and restrict eligible offspring and cohorts of BSE suspects and surveillance cases.
- AHVLA implemented a programme of additional checks on vehicles about ABP leakage.

- 40 Official Veterinary Surgeons (OVS) guidance notes were issued covering a variety of subjects from safeguard measures for fishery products to changes in import conditions for meat and eggs.

Information systems

- Improvements made to Safer Food, Better Business packs.
- Continued development of National Food Fraud database.
- Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) continued development of Inspections Management System (IMS) database.
- Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas) continued redevelopment of the Starfish database.
- Marine Scotland Science concentrated on a wider roll out and use of the Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS).

Training

- National programme of LA food and feed safety update events – 97 courses attended by over 2000 LA staff, including representatives of all LAs, for further cascade.
- Workshops with LAs on implementation of FHRS.
- Extensive training for LAs in preparation for Olympics.
- Numerous UK representatives attended various training courses organised through the European Commission's Better Training for Safer Food (BTSF) programme. The BTSF learning materials were cascaded to staff of Competent Authorities involved in official controls through in-house courses.
- Fera's Plant Health and Seeds Inspectorate arranged for an exchange of inspectors with the Netherlands to better understand implementation of import controls.
- Update training events for AHVLA and DARD veterinary and technical staff.
- UK Bee inspectors attended various on-going training events.
- Fish Health Inspectors received training in the disclosure of evidence in criminal proceedings for specialist reporting agencies and in Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA).

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

- MANCP reviewed and extended to 2013.

8. Actions taken to improve performance of Food Business Operators (FBOs)

Training

- Food safety coaching for poor/ non-compliant takeaway establishments
- Rendering industry liaison day (GB)
- Course on the welfare of farmed fish (Scotland)
- Over 500 training events for over 23,000 beekeepers (UK)

Safety, quality and information campaigns

- Food Safety Week
- Communications campaign for Olympic Games
- Multi-faceted information campaign by Fera at the Royal Horticultural Society Chelsea Flower Show and a pilot “train the trainers” approach for the heritage garden sector
- Awareness campaign to prevent the introduction of *Gyrodactylus salaris* into the UK.

Guides to good practice

- FSA guidance for meat processors to comply with moratorium on production of “desinewed meat” (DSM).
- FSA guidance on setting up a mobile food stall during the Olympic Games.
- VMD guidance for Feed Business Operators on medicated feedingstuffs prescriptions.
- DARD guidance to the industry on the introduction of the Welfare of Animals at the Time of Killing Regulations (Northern Ireland).
- Cefas FHI guidance to businesses involved in the import of live fish on suitable quarantine facilities and on amended trade rules and controls on aquatic animal movements.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION AND SCOPE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The first UK MANCP covered the period from January 2007 to March 2011. In 2011 and 2012 this MANCP was extended and updated until March 2013. A new MANCP has since been written covering the period April 2013 to March 2015. This document is published on the FSA website at: food.gov.uk/enforcement/regulation/europeleg/feedandfood/ncpuk
- 1.2 Each MANCP is prepared jointly by the 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), Scottish Government Agriculture, Food and Rural Communities (SG AFRC), the Welsh Government Sustainable Futures (WG SF) and the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (Northern Ireland) (DARD). The plan satisfies the requirements of Regulation (EC) 882/2004 on official controls,¹ 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.
- 1.3 Regulation 882/2004 also requires Member States (MS) to produce annual reports on the implementation of their MANCP. This is the sixth report and has been prepared jointly by the departments and agencies mentioned above.
- 1.4 The scope of this report is consistent with that of the MANCP and covers control systems in the UK in respect of feed and food law, animal health and animal welfare rules, and plant health rules under Directive 2000/29/EC.²
- 1.5 The Commission's guidance on the content of annual reports on implementation of MANCPs has been taken into account.³
- 1.6 It should be noted that in the UK much of the data on official controls and associated activities is collected on a financial year (April to March) rather

¹ 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.

² 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.

³ 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.

than a calendar year basis. Accordingly, 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 2012/13 is not always possible. Where this is the case, data for the 2011/12 period has been reported and has been indicated where appropriate.

1.7 This sixth report:

- reports on the effectiveness of controls, including information about trends on controls and non-compliance, and about enforcement measures
- gives details of how audits were implemented and results of audits
- gives details of changes in the allocation of funding, in laboratory networks and NRLs gives details of actions taken to improve the performance of control bodies and of FBOs.

CHAPTER 2

EFFECTIVENESS OF OFFICIAL CONTROLS

Official controls in the food and feed sectors

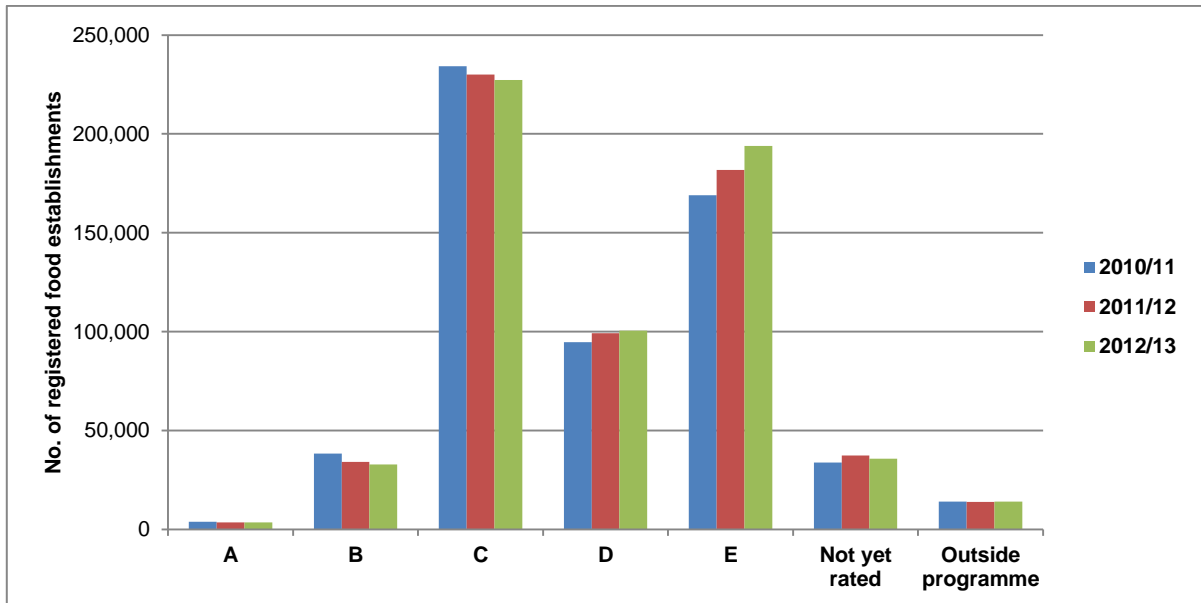
FSA Operations

- 2.1 The FSA Operations Annual Report for the period 1 April 2012 – 31 March 2013, which contains detailed information about those areas below where the FSA has direct responsibility for food safety enforcement such as meat hygiene and dairy hygiene, is due to go before the Board in January 2014 and will be published on the FSA website in the Board papers at: food.gov.uk/about-us/how-we-work/our-board/board-meetings/
The Operations Annual Report for 1 April 2011 – 31 March 2012 is at: food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/board/fsa121205-annual-report-2011-12.pdf

UK Local Authority food law enforcement

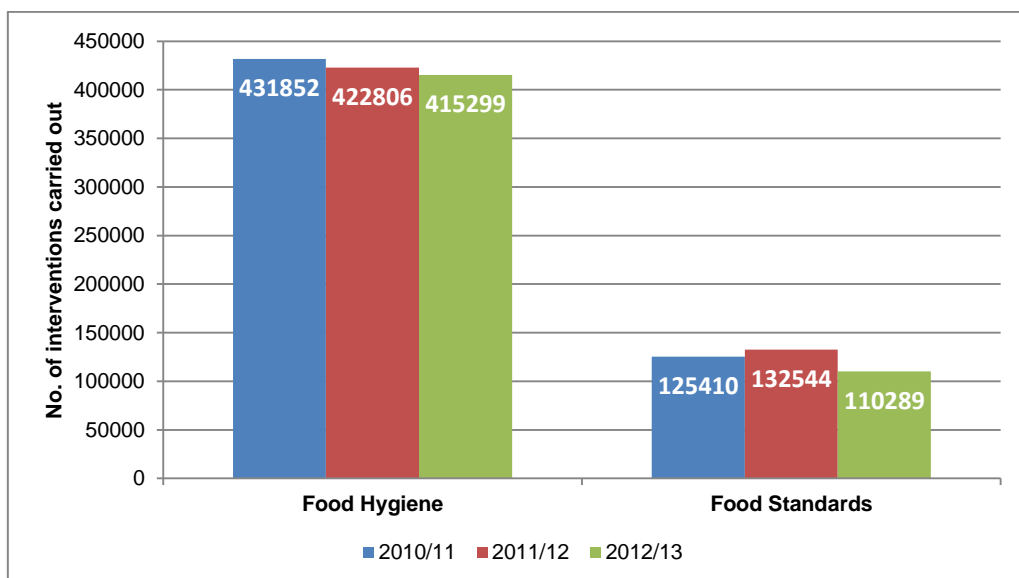
- 2.2 All relevant information for the first three months of 2012 was included in the annual report on the MANCP for 2011. The information in this Chapter covers the period 1 April 2012 – 31 March 2013.
- 2.3 Further detail can be found in the annual report on UK Local Authority (LA) food law enforcement 1 April 2012 – 31 March 2013, which was considered by the FSA Board in November 2013. This report, together with individual LA enforcement activity statistics, is available on the FSA website at: food.gov.uk/enforcement/monitoring/laems/mondatabyyear/ocd201213/
- 2.4 A total of 608,143 food establishments were registered with LAs in the UK as at 31 March 2013, an increase of 1.4% on 2011/12 (599,880). A comparison of the split between risk categories indicates a reduction of 1.5% in premises rated A to C (from 267,708 in 2011/12 to 263,788 in 2012/13) and an increase in premises rated D and E (from 280,929 in 2011/12 to 294,574 in 2012/13). This is likely to reflect the increasing compliance levels discussed below.

Comparison of food establishments profiles by food hygiene risk category⁴



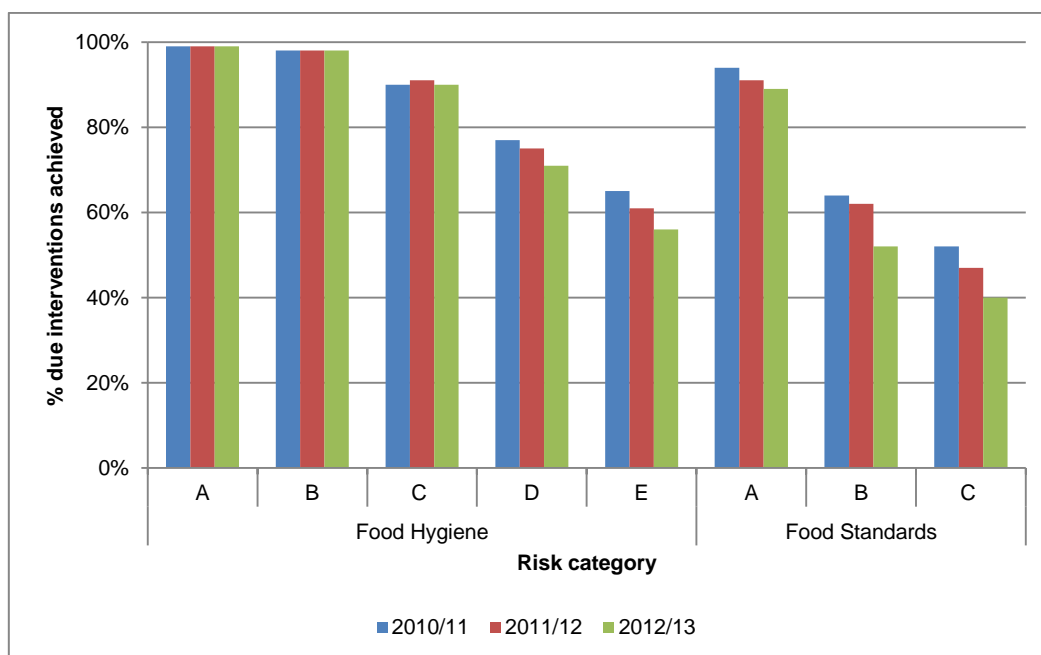
- 2.5 35,743 (5.9%) of registered UK food establishments were not yet rated for food hygiene risk, a decrease from 6.2% in 2011/12. The number of LAs with levels over 10% has reduced from 61 to 44.
- 2.6 A total of 525,588 interventions were carried out in 2012/13 (415,299 food hygiene and 110,289 food standards) – a decrease of 5.4% on the reported number carried out in 2011/12 (555,350). As in previous years, LAs are continuing to prioritise interventions at higher risk category establishments.

Comparison of interventions carried out



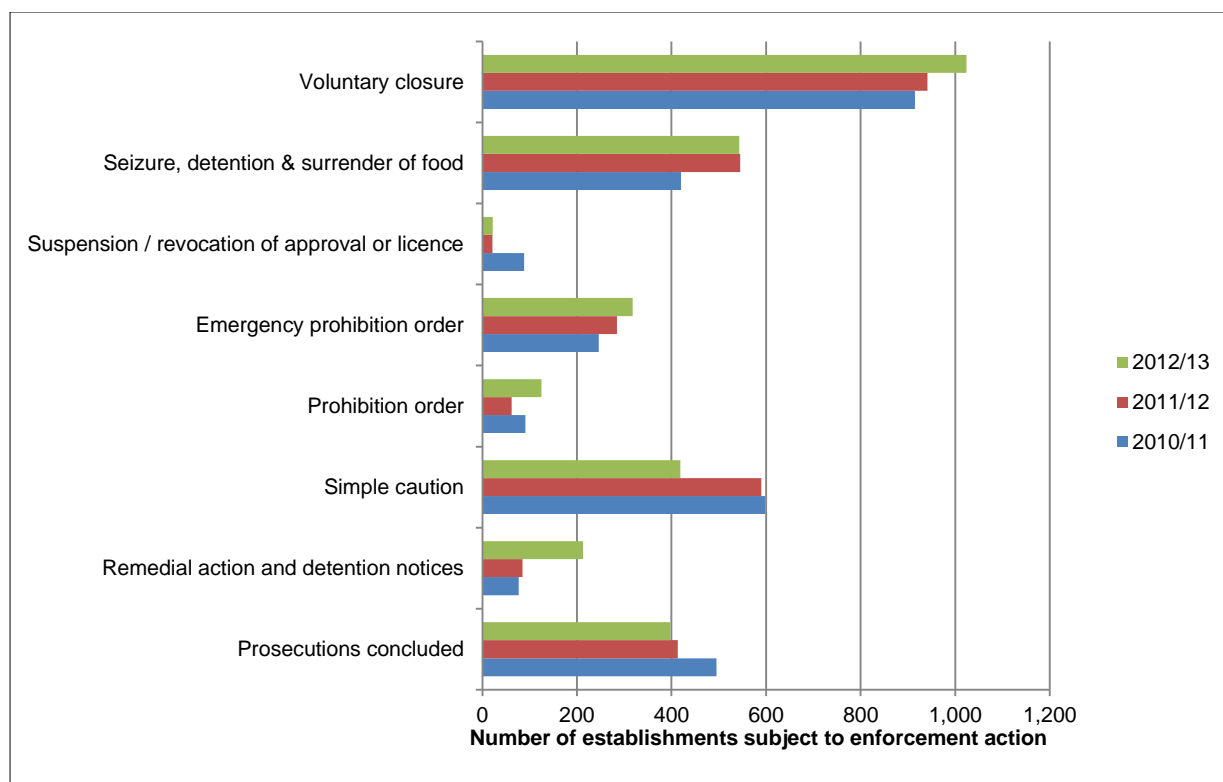
⁴ The criteria for rating an establishment on the scale from A-E are in Annex 5 of the Food Law Code of Practice - food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/codeofpracticeeng.pdf / Outside programme – those establishments assessed by LAs to be of such low risk as to not be included in the intervention programme.

Comparison of percentage of due interventions achieved



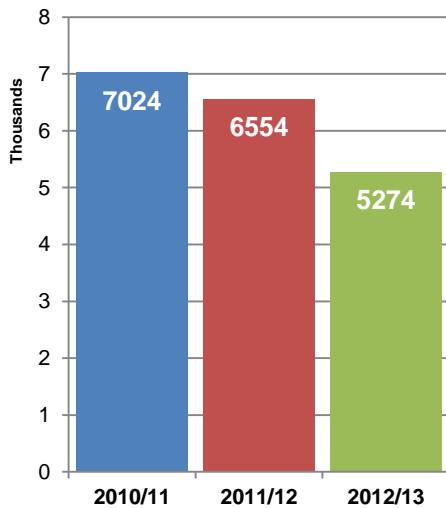
2.7 183,566 formal enforcement actions⁵ were reported in 2012/13, an overall increase of 1.9% from 2011/12 (180,177).

Comparison of enforcement actions

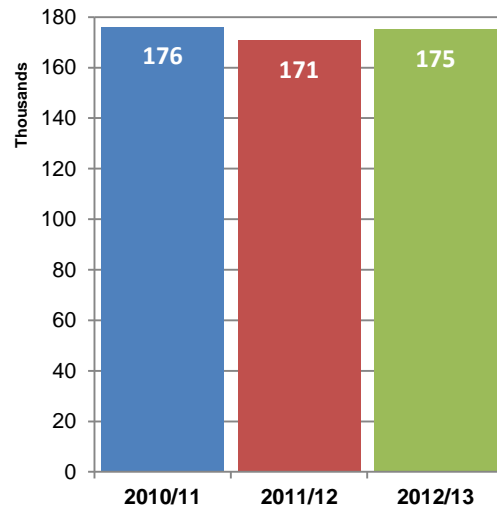


⁵ The data records the number of establishments subjected to the individual types of enforcement action. The total number of individual enforcement actions taken by LAs is likely to be higher.

Number of establishments subject to improvement notice

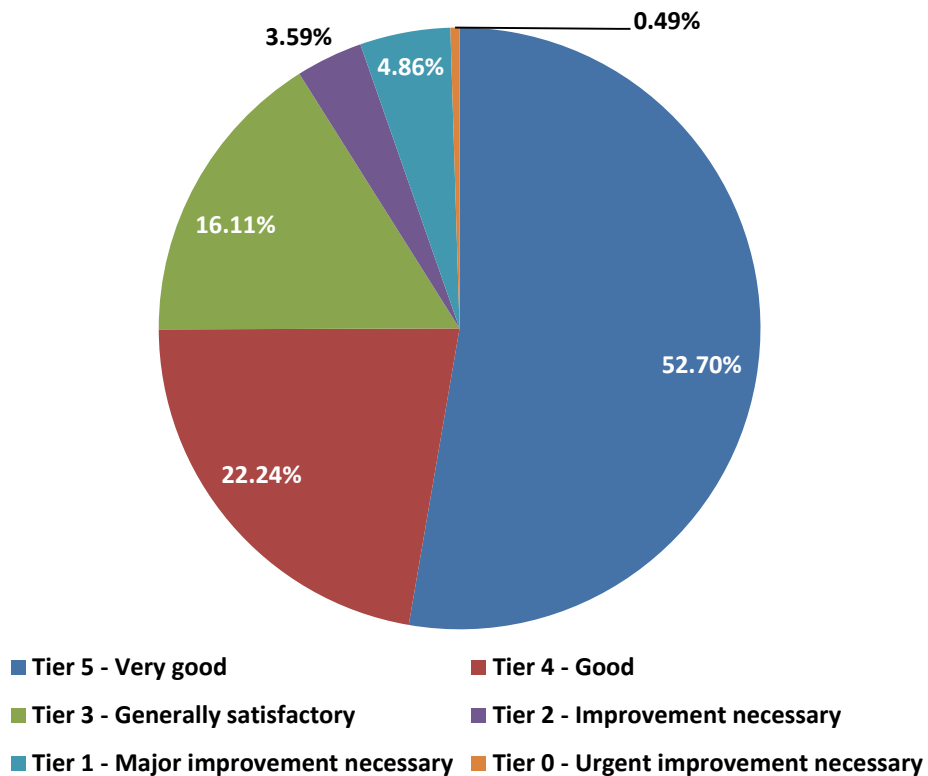


Number of establishments subject to written warnings



2.8 The UK level of Broad Compliance and above (equivalent to the UK's Food Hygiene Rating Scheme (FHRS) rating 3 to 5) was 91.2% of rated establishments, compared with 90.2% in 2011/12. The substantial increase in Remedial Action and Detention Notices was mostly due to these being extended to registered premises in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Level of food hygiene compliance of food establishments in the UK (based on FHRS equivalent tiers)



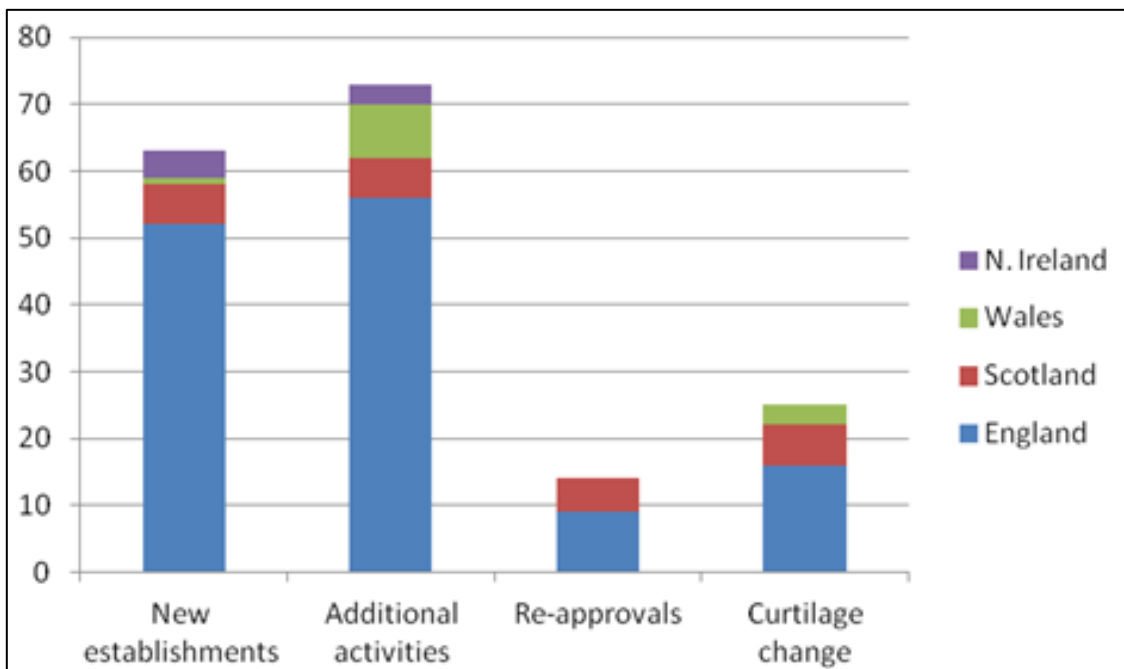
Meat Hygiene – GB

2.9 The FSA delivered official controls in 1,361 approved meat premises in England, Scotland and Wales with DARD providing official controls in 147 approved meat premises in NI in 2012/13. The FSA's Operations Assurance Team continued its unannounced visits programme during 2012. This approach supplemented internal audit arrangements carried out by FSA internal audit and gave senior managers assurance that delivery of official controls was efficient and effective across a range of approved meat establishments.

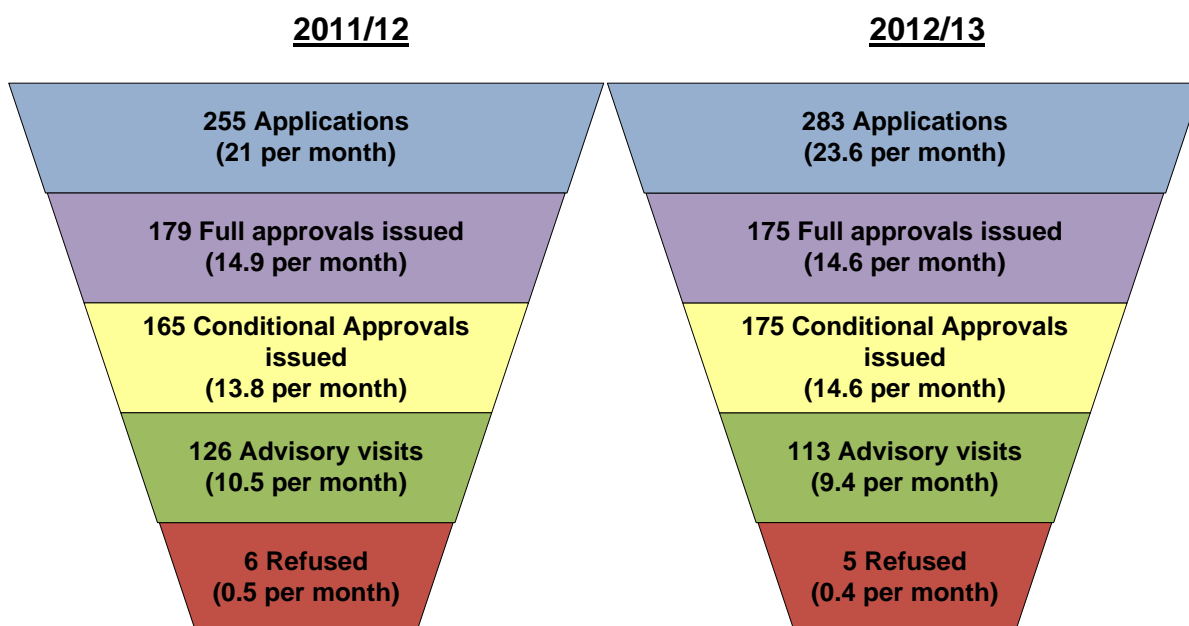
Approval of Meat Establishments

2.10 For the period 2012/13, across the UK, the FSA received 283 applications for approval or approval related activity.

Number of approval applications received by country during 2012/13



2.11 With regard to the applications received in 2012/13, the split of approval activity/outcomes during this period in comparison with 2011/12 can be demonstrated as follows:

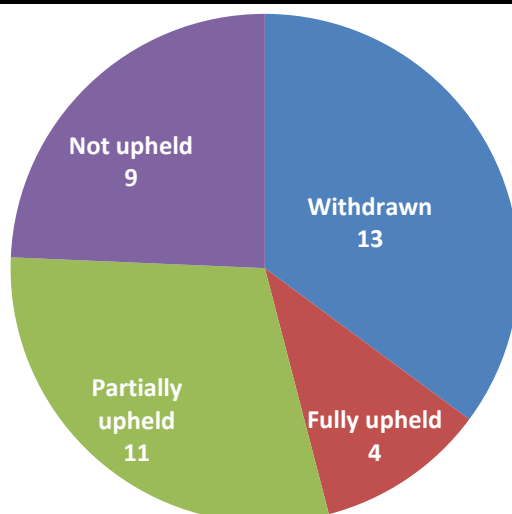


FBO audits

2.12 Between 1 April 2012 and 31 March 2013 a total of 2,635 FBO audits of approved meat premises in the UK were carried out. The FSA aims to complete at least 90% of FBO audits on time; however, some reasons for delay are beyond our control, such as the FBO being unable to attend on the scheduled date. Any delays are closely monitored. By the last quarter of 2012/13 the FSA had completed 95% of FBO audits on time.

2.13 The FBO has the right of appeal against the audit score achieved. Between 1 April 2012 and 31 March 2013, a total of 37 audits were appealed (1.3%). The outcomes are set out in the chart below:

Breakdown of appealed audits during 2012/13



FBO Compliance in meat plants

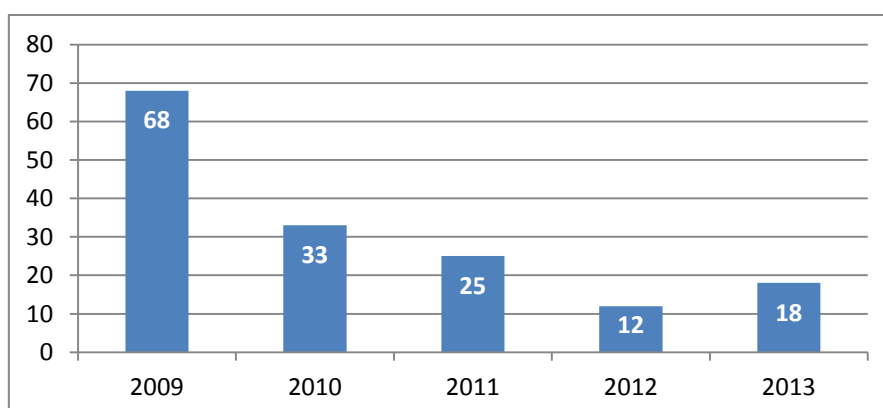
- 2.14 Audit scores for hygienic production, environmental hygiene and Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) are used to determine the compliance levels of food businesses.
- 2.15 Based on scores from routine audits, as at April 2013, 11.1% of establishments across the UK were considered to be fully meeting legislative requirements, or actively compliant, so their FBO controls were effective and HACCP based procedures were being applied effectively. A further 63.1% of establishments were considered to be broadly compliant (57.0% of slaughterhouses and 65.8% of cutting plants). A significant proportion were not achieving active or broadly compliant scores for the hygienic production, environmental hygiene and HACCP sections of the audit.
- 2.16 An explanation of compliance scoring is set out below:

Scores	Description
Active compliance	Active compliance is awarded where the FBO controls and HACCP-based procedures are considered effective
Broad compliance	Awarded where there may have been occasional lapses in FBO compliance, but with no significant implications for public health. Minor corrections are needed after intervention by authorised officers
Weak compliance	Weak compliance is where authorised officers have needed to intervene to prevent significant potential public health risks, because the FBO's procedures were not adequate.
Poor compliance	Poor compliance will be relevant where authorised officers have had to made significant interventions to prevent potential and actual immediate serious risk to public health, as statutory requirements are not being complied with

Cause for concern (C4C)

- 2.17 The C4C initiative, which categorises certain establishments as a cause for concern based on compliance trends and audit scores relating to hygiene, continued to have a positive impact on business compliance. The chart below shows the trends in numbers of establishments on the C4C list since its implementation in November 2009.

Number of establishments on the C4C list by year



2.18 Of the 18 FSA approved meat establishments in the C4C category in the UK at 31 March 2013, 16 were in England, 1 in Scotland and 1 in Wales. This is from a total of 185 that had featured on the C4C list as at March 2013. The list of current C4C establishments is published on the FSA website at food.gov.uk/business-industry/meat/food.gov.uk/business-industry/meat/audit/concernaudit/concern

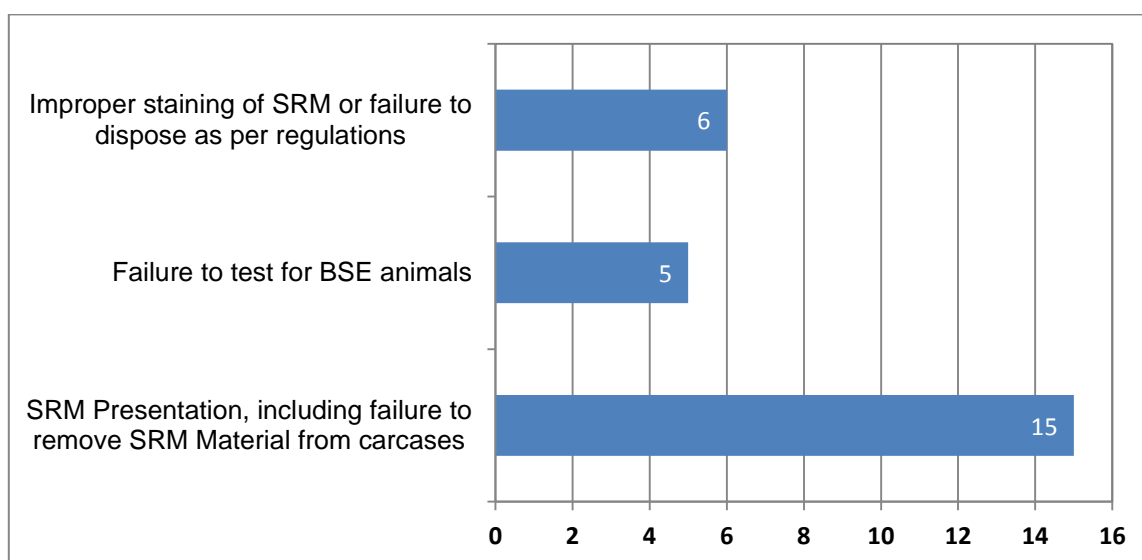
Re-approval assessments for establishments change of FBO

- 2.19 Following a Judicial Review, the approval process changed in January 2012 so that after that an establishment that changed its FBO requires a re-approval assessment.⁶ By the end of March 2013, 106 establishments were identified as requiring new approval of which 89 had been granted approval, 11 had surrendered their approval and 2 had been refused approval.
- 2.20 A total of five meat establishments (four in England and one in Wales) subject to veterinary audit were refused approval in 2012/13. Four of these subsequently gained approval and the remaining establishment has ceased operating.

Specified Risk Material (SRM) controls

2.21 During 2012/13, 100% inspection of bovine and ovine carcasses for SRM removal at slaughterhouses was carried out. Verification and audit of FBO processes for removal, storage, staining and disposal of SRM was carried out in authorised slaughterhouses and cutting plants on a risk-based frequency. The following graph shows SRM breaches for the UK:

SRM breaches referred for investigation during 2012/13

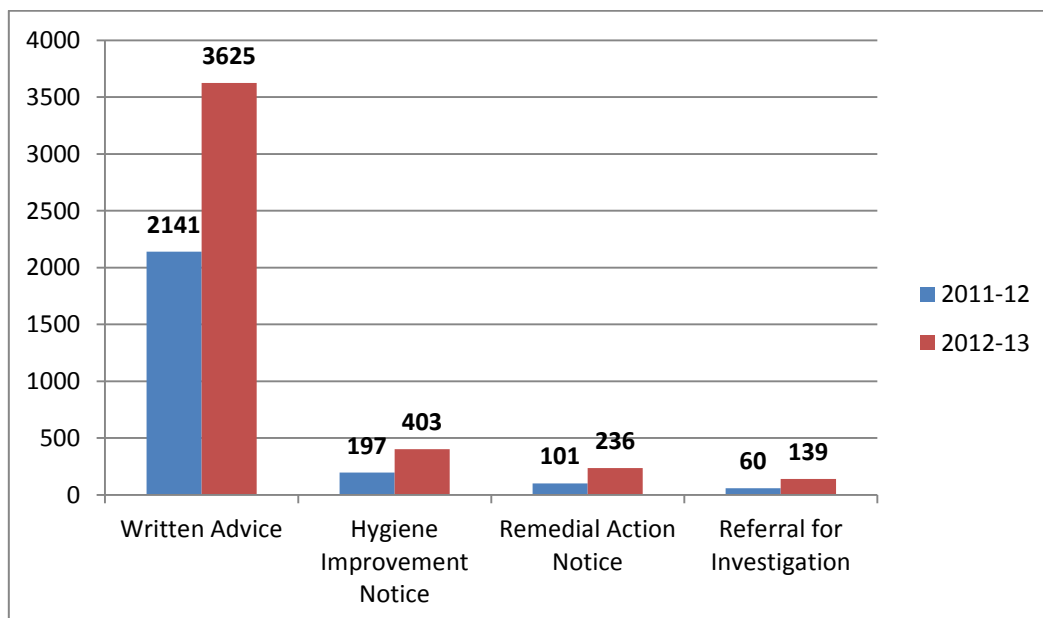


⁶ See section 5.48 of 2011 UK Annual Report for further details.

Enforcement

2.22 The following graph shows the numbers and types of enforcements served by the FSA in slaughterhouses/game handling establishments and cutting plants in 2012/13 in the UK.

Number and types of enforcements



2.23 New supplier arrangements and changes to the field management structure introduced in April 2012 led to a renewed focus on FBO compliance. Monitoring of compliance through new suppliers indicated an increase in non-compliance with regulations by business and therefore an associated increase in enforcement activity.

Milk Production Hygiene

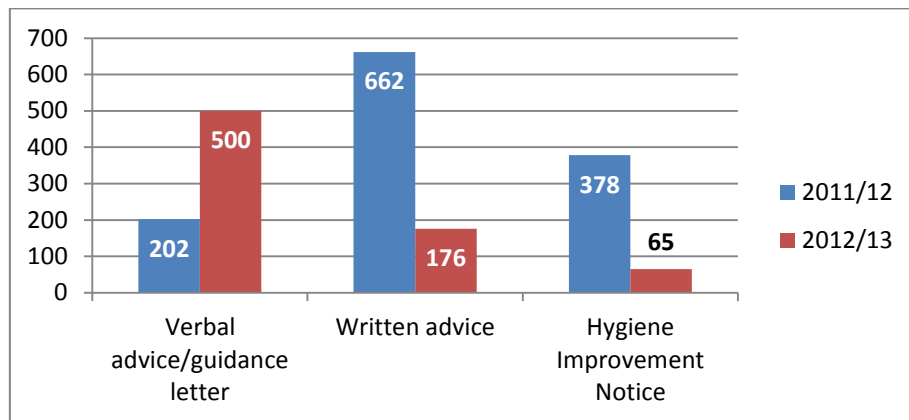
2.24 The FSA took on responsibility for direct delivery of dairy hygiene inspections in milk production holdings from AHVLA in England and Wales in April 2012. In Scotland these inspections are carried out by 32 individual LAs. NI inspections in milk production holdings and liquid milk processing establishments are carried out by DARD.

2.25 The table below sets out the combined number of primary and secondary inspections (which took place as a result of non-compliance issues highlighted from the primary inspection) in 2012/13. This equated to approximately 35% of visits resulting in follow up checks, at which the majority of cases were satisfactorily resolved. The reason for the relatively high proportion of inspections in NI is because although there are more farms in GB than NI, there is also a much higher percentage of Assured Dairy Farms (ADF) membership, therefore giving those premises a 10 year visit frequency. NI has over 3,000 farms on 2 year visit schedule against about 2,500 for GB.

2012/13	GB	NI	UK
No. of milk production holdings / milk processing establishments	10,511	3,468	13,979
No. of primary inspections	1,169	1,671	2,840
No. of secondary inspections	348	1,371	1,719

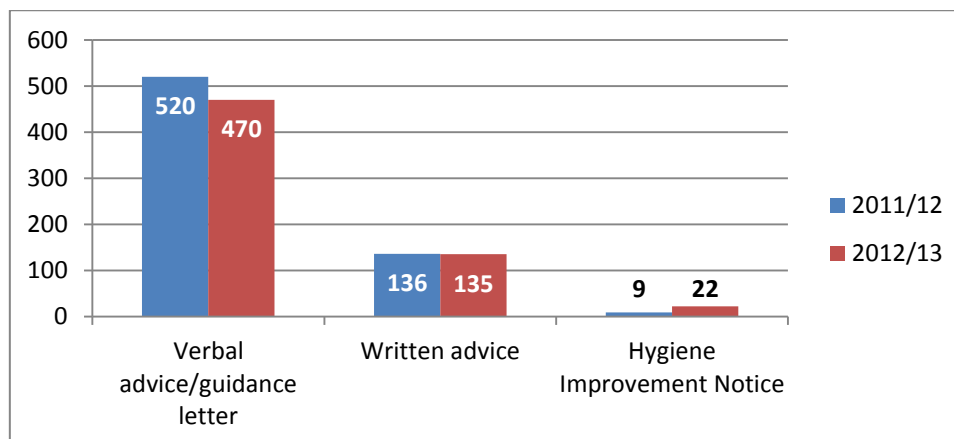
Enforcement

England and Wales



2.26 There were three convictions of dairy operators in 2012/13 for hygiene offences and official cautions were issued in respect of hygiene breaches at a further six holdings.

NI



Summary

2.27 The number of inspections and the extent to which problems were resolved after secondary inspection indicated that controls were effective. The main non-compliances noted related to:

- failure to maintain hygiene standards. The most predominant of these being dirty walls in the dairy and milking parlour and dust/ dirt on the outside of the bulk storage tanks.
- unnecessary items in the dairy, primarily veterinary medicines not stored correctly.

Egg Production Hygiene

2.28 Inspections of egg production sites in England and Wales are carried out by AHVLA on behalf of the FSA to ensure compliance with the Food Hygiene Regulations. In Scotland, the Scottish Government (SG)'s Egg and Poultry Unit carry out inspections on the FSA's behalf. In NI this work is carried out for the FSA by DARD.

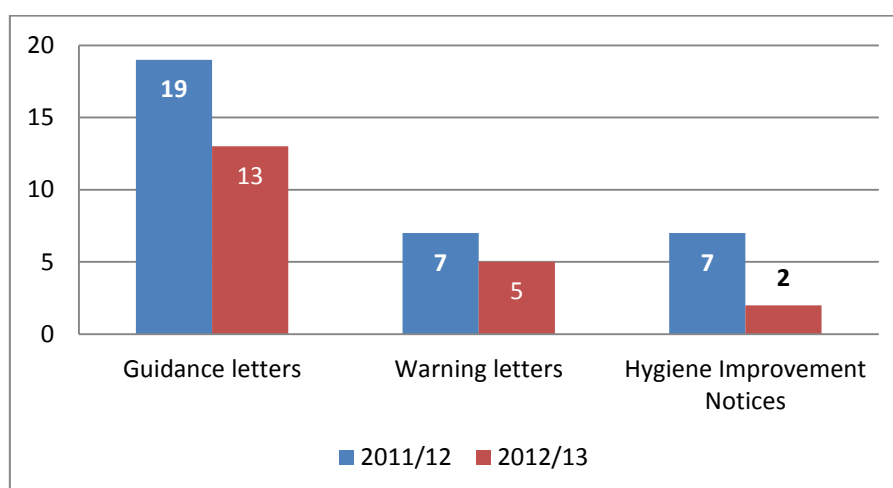
2.29 The following table shows the total number of visits in the UK for 2012/13:

2012/13	England	Scotland	Wales	NI	UK
No. of registered egg production sites	1,234	288	151	234 ⁷	1,907
No. of Inspection Compliant	312	53	43	57	465
No. of Inspections not compliant	92	1	14	16	123

2.30 One reason for the relatively high number of non-compliant inspections was that inspectors were being encouraged to record even the most minor non-compliances on their system as this built up intelligence about individual producers.

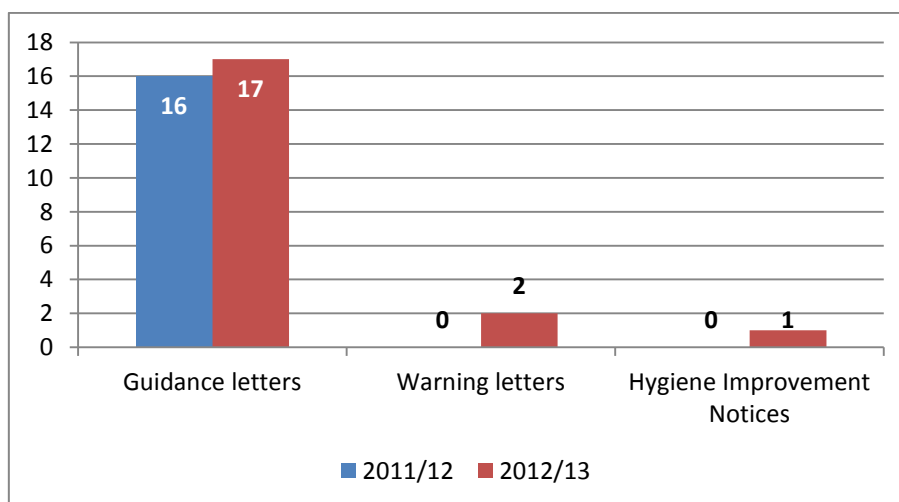
Enforcement

England and Wales – number and type of enforcement over past 2 years

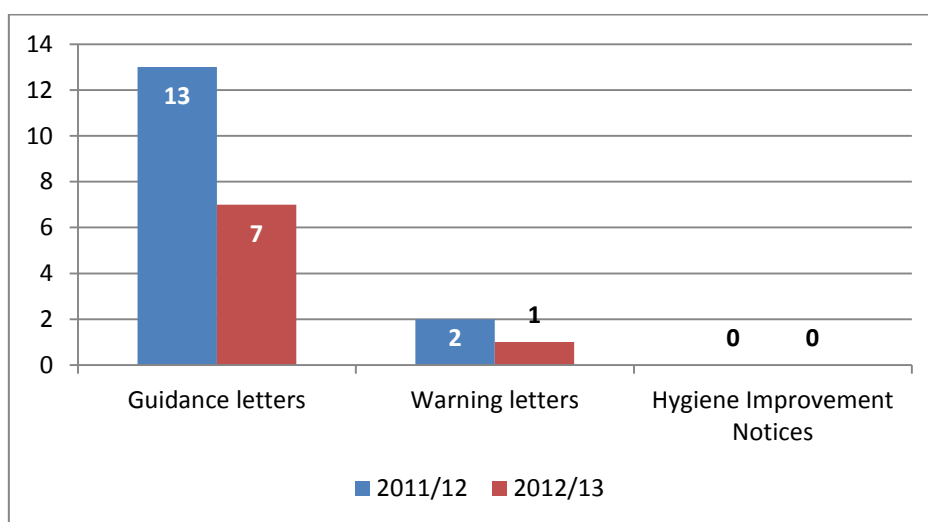


⁷ Figure at 31 December 2012
Page 23 of 130

Scotland – number and type of enforcement over past 2 years



NI – number and type of enforcement over past 2 years



Shellfish Hygiene

England and Wales

- 2.31 In England and Wales in 2012, 935 shellfish samples were received as part of the routine biotoxin monitoring programme. No shellfish production areas in England and Wales exceeded the statutory limits for Lipophilic Toxins (LT) (the group of toxins responsible for Diarrhetic shellfish poisoning (DSP), Paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP) and Amnesic shellfish poisoning (ASP)). By comparison, in 2011 four shellfish production areas in England and Wales exceeded the statutory limits for DSP and three shellfish production areas exceeded the statutory limits for PSP.
- 2.32 No samples were found insufficient for any of the required tests or unsuitable due to poor quality.

Scotland

2.33 In Scotland between April 2012 and March 2013 2,848 shellfish samples were analysed.

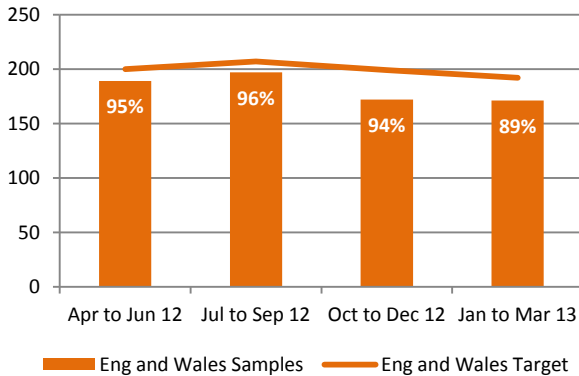
2.34 In 2012 on 47 occasions representative samples triggered closures of shellfish production areas (in some cases more this resulted in closures of more than one production area) , compared with 52 occasions in 2011. Of the 47 closures in 2012, 39 exceeded the statutory limits for LTs, 7 exceeded the limit for PSP toxins, and 1 exceeded the limit for ASP toxins.

NI

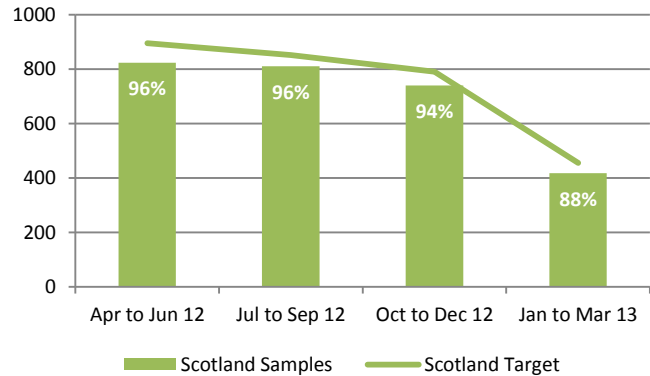
2.35 In NI in 2012 369 samples were taken for shellfish toxins out of an expected 379 (97% compliance). 543 samples were reported for phytoplankton of which two were rejected (99.6% compliance) and 377 microbiological samples against a sampling plan of 379 (99.4% compliance).

2.36 In 2012 five shellfish production areas were closed. Four shellfish production areas exceeded the statutory limits for ASP and one shellfish production area exceeded the statutory limits for E. coli. By comparison, in 2011 15 shellfish production areas were closed which exceeded the statutory limit on DSP. Levels of shellfish sampling against the sampling plan in the UK as a whole are shown in the following charts:

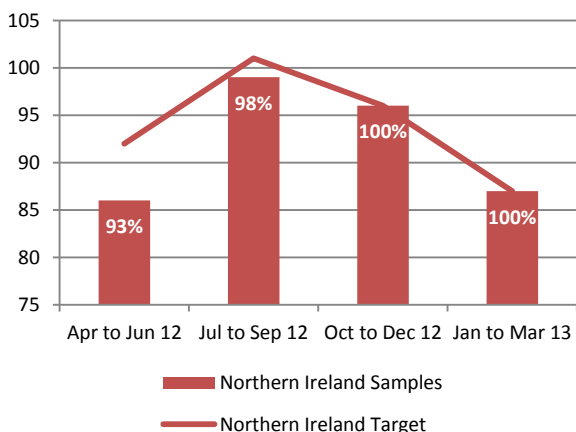
England and Wales



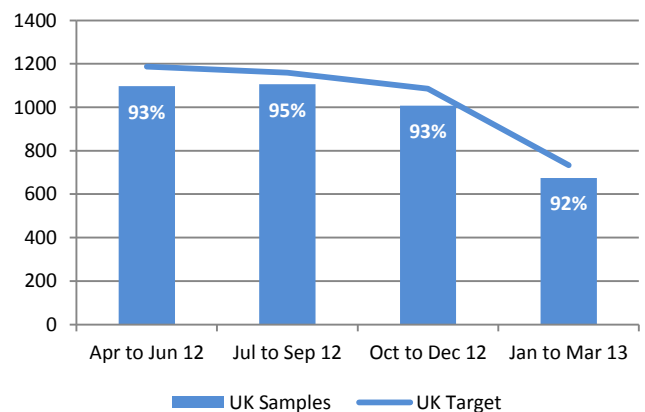
Scotland



NI



UK samples taken against sampling plan

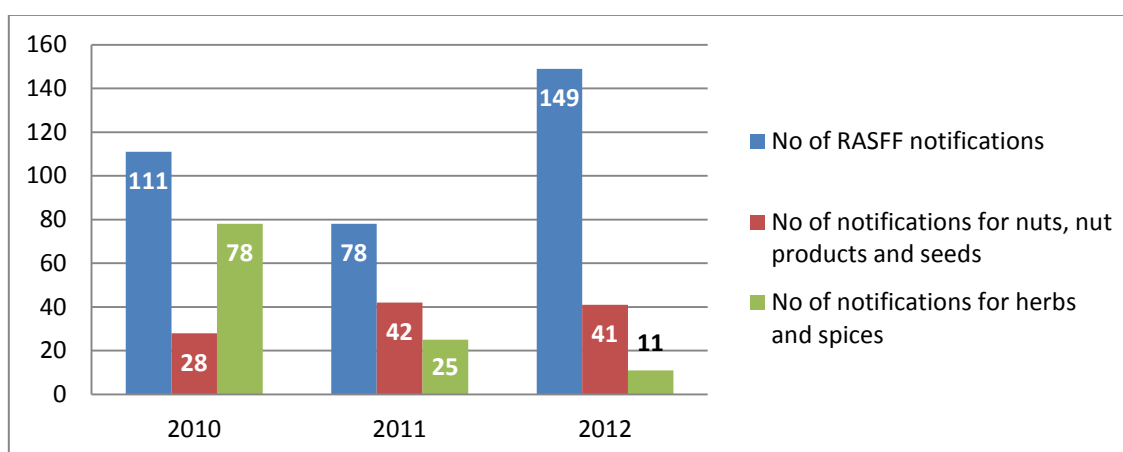


Mycotoxins

2.37 The number of Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF) notifications raised for mycotoxins in herbs and spices was much lower in 2012 than in 2010 or 2011, due to increased controls being put in place. Other instances where non-compliance was found included cereal and bakery products and fruit and vegetables.

2.38 The chart below gives the number of RASFF notifications for mycotoxins in food in the previous three years:

Number of RASFF notifications for mycotoxins in food



2.39 Over 1,500 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 1.5% 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. In case of non-compliance samples that were reported, either a product withdrawal or a product recall was carried out based on a risk assessment. If appropriate, a RASFF was also issued.

Testing carried out under Regulation (EC) 1152/2009

2.40 The table below illustrates the number of samples taken for aflatoxins as required by Regulation (EC) 1152/2009, alongside the number of non-compliances.

Product	Originating country	No. of consignments	No. with aflatoxin levels above the maximum
Almonds and other nut products as covered by Voluntary Aflatoxin Sampling Plan (VASP)	USA	701	1
Almonds and other food products not covered by VASP	USA	15	0
Hazelnuts/ Hazelnut products	Turkey	502	2
Other food subject to special import conditions (pistachios, figs, mixtures and compound products)	Turkey	281	10
Peanuts and related products	China	832	9
Roasted pistachios and other foods subject to special import conditions	Iran	2	0

2.41 No product subject to the Regulation was imported from Brazil or Egypt in 2012. Overall the level of non-compliance is low and similar to 2011.

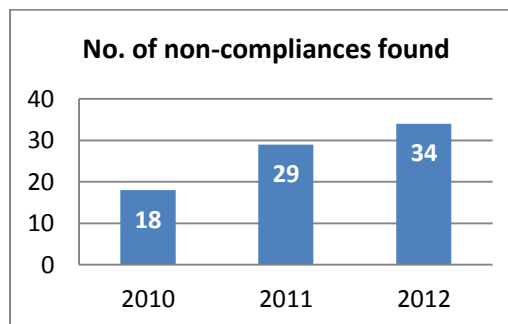
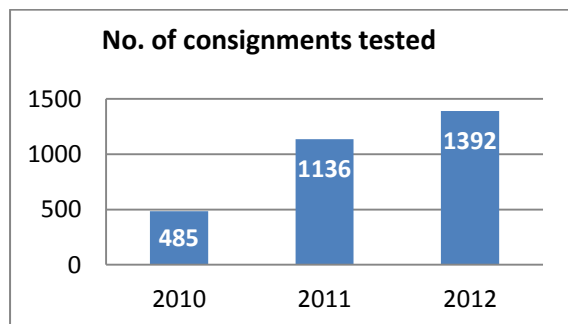
Import controls

2.42 During 2012 operational targets for controls on imported food at points of entry were met, including the additional controls required at points of entry under EU safeguard measures and Regulation (EC) No 669/2009.

2.43 In 2012, LAs and Port Health Authorities (PHAs) undertook official controls on food imported from third countries to check for compliance with European Union (EU) food law requirements, including controls required under EU safeguard measures and Regulation (EC) No 669/2009 as amended on certain imported food, feed and food contact materials from certain third countries where increased controls were required due to the risk to public health. The controls were applied on products listed under the relevant regulations including 100% documentary controls and the prescribed levels for identity and physical checks including sampling for analysis.

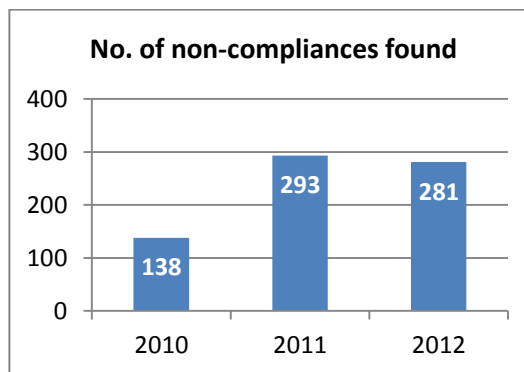
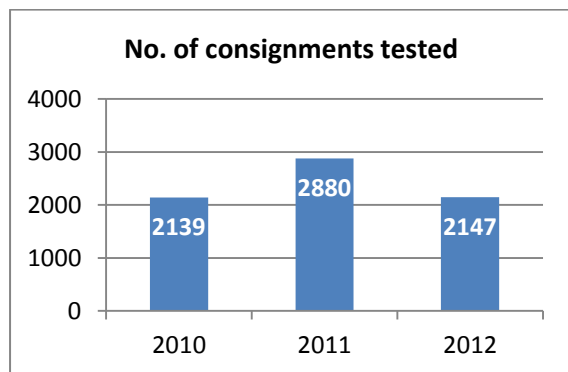
2.44 Under EU safeguard measures 1,392 consignments were tested in 2012. The following graphs show the numbers of consignments tested and the number of non-compliances over the past three years:

EU Safeguard Measures



2.45 2,147 consignments were tested under Regulation 669/2009 in 2012. The following graphs show the numbers of consignments tested and the number of non-compliances over the past three years:

Regulation (EC) No. 669/2009



- 2.46 The results of the controls as required under Regulation (EC) 669/2009, EU safeguard and additional control measures in Article 53 of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 and Article 48 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 were sent to the Commission each quarter. Some measures were amended or revoked during the year and the levels of controls changed as a result.
- 2.47 The table below sets out imported food sampling activities under EU safeguard measures and Regulation (EC) No 669/2009 as amended⁸. The Commission has full details on their website of sampling activities under Regulation (EC) 669/2009:

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

Decision/Regulation	Country	Product	Hazard	Consignments tested	Unsatisfactory tests
2007/642/EC	Albania	Fishery products (certain species)	Histamine	0	0
284/2011	China	Melamine & polyamide plastic kitchenware	Formaldehyde & primary aromatic amines (PAAs)	174	0
2011/884/EU	China	Rice products	Unauthorised GMOs	144	16
2010/381/EU, amended 2012/690/EU	India	Aquaculture fishery products	Certain pharmaceutically active substances	101	0
258/2010	India	Guar gum	Pentachlorophenol & dioxins	22	0
2010/220/EU, amended 2012/690/EU	Indonesia	Farmed fishery products	Certain pharmaceutically active substances	35	0
961/2011 amended, 284/2012 amended, 996/2012	Japan	Food, feed	Iodine-131, caesium-134, caesium-137	636	0
1152/2009	Several	Groundnuts, certain other nuts/ dried fruit	Aflatoxins	280	18
Total in 2012				1,392	34

- 2.48 Significant levels of non-compliance were found for okra from India, and over three years for groundnuts for feed use from India. Under national measures, high levels of non-compliance in controls on imports of paan (betel) leaves from Bangladesh in particular and India were found. It is likely that these were due to poor compliance in parts of the sector in the exporting country.

⁸ Note the statistics cover number of consignments tested, rather than number of consignments imported, because for some (not all) of these EU measures, that is all the UK needs to collect for the European Commission.

2.49 This presented a potential public health risk as paan leaves are consumed in a raw state. The root cause may be less stringent standards in parts of some sectors in the country of origin, and weather conditions as regards aflatoxins. The UK continues to sample consignments on arrival at UK borders.

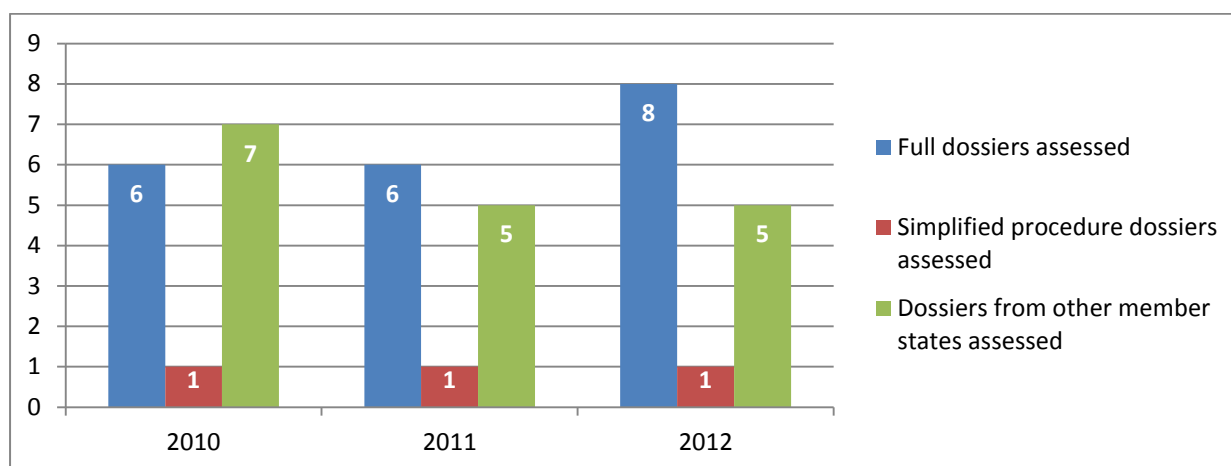
Genetically Modified (GM) Foods

2.50 As GM is not considered high risk, there is little testing by LAs. There is evidence from LA surveys that many small FBOs such as fast food outlets operate in ignorance of the GM labelling requirements and do not provide the necessary information on, e.g. the use of GM cooking oil, to their customers. Advice has previously been circulated to all LAs on this topic in 2010.

Novel Foods

2.51 The graph below shows the number of dossiers assessed by the UK over the last three years.⁹

Number of dossiers assessed by UK



2.52 The total number of dossiers assessed by the UK has remained approximately consistent over the three year period, although there is an increase in dossiers coming into the UK.

Food Contact Materials

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

2.53 Controls were carried out by Designated Points of Introduction in accordance with the Regulation. 1,316 (100%) consignments underwent documentary checks, of which approximately 10% were subject to identity checks and physical checks.

2.54 In total 23 consignments were rejected (less than 2% of total consignments). Approximately half of the rejected consignments were due to a failure

⁹ The figures reflect the numbers of applications assessed for each year and includes applications that have been carried over, where assessment is ongoing.

following physical checks and half for other reasons such as lack of documentation. Of the consignments that were physically checked, 8% of these were found to be non-compliant and rejected.

- 2.55 These results represent an increase in the rate of non-compliance compared with the last two quarters of the previous year, when the Regulation had first come into force

Other controls by Food Enforcement Authorities

- 2.56 Additional controls were carried out by food enforcement authorities during 2012 principally on melamine and polyamide kitchenware for formaldehyde and PAAs respectively to supplement Regulation (EU) No. 284/2011 but also included tests for overall migration and testing for Bisphenol A in infant feeding bottles.
- 2.57 The overall number of controls carried out on food contact materials in 2012 represented an increase compared with the previous two years, which may be partly explained by the introduction of Regulation (EU) No. 284/2011.

Food contact material RASFFs

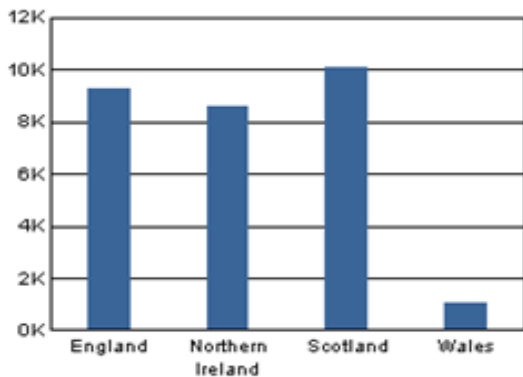
- 2.58 In 2012, the UK notified the RASFF 21 times in relation to food contact materials. These all related to the migration of formaldehyde or PAAs in plastic kitchenware originating in or consigned from China or Hong Kong. This represented an increase from 2011 for the same commodities although it should be noted that Regulation (EU) No. 284/2011 only applied for the second half of that year.

Sampling

UK Food Sampling System (UKFSS) coverage and test results

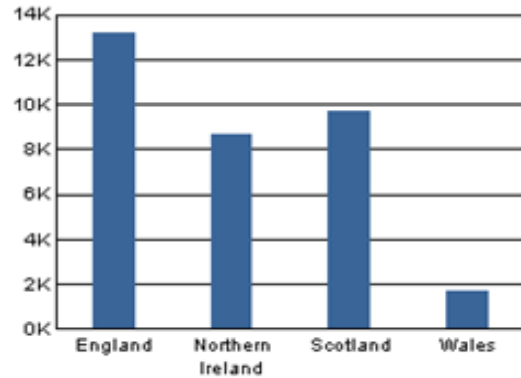
- 2.59 The UKFSS is a national database that centrally holds a record of all samples submitted for food and animal feed analysis by official control laboratories on behalf of LAs and PHAs.
- 2.60 44% of all LAs are currently using the system. The majority of users are in NI (100% of LAs) and Scotland (94% of LAs). Grants have been allocated to increase the numbers of users in Wales (currently 77%) and England (currently 34%). Over 60% of LAs carrying out food controls which involve chemical analysis of foods were using UKFSS in 2012.
- 2.61 The graphs below show the number of LAs placing food data on UKFSS between April 2012 and March 2013 compared with April 2011 to March 2012. Year on year there was a 15% increase in samples.
- 2.62 The FSA is looking to increase its focus on using UKFSS to record feed sampling. Reporting functionality is currently being developed, as part of the collation of annual feed returns data from LAs. This additional reporting will be available by April 2014.

**Samples by country from
1 April 2011 - 31 March 2012**



No of Samples 29034

**Samples by country from
1 April 2012 - 31 March 2013**



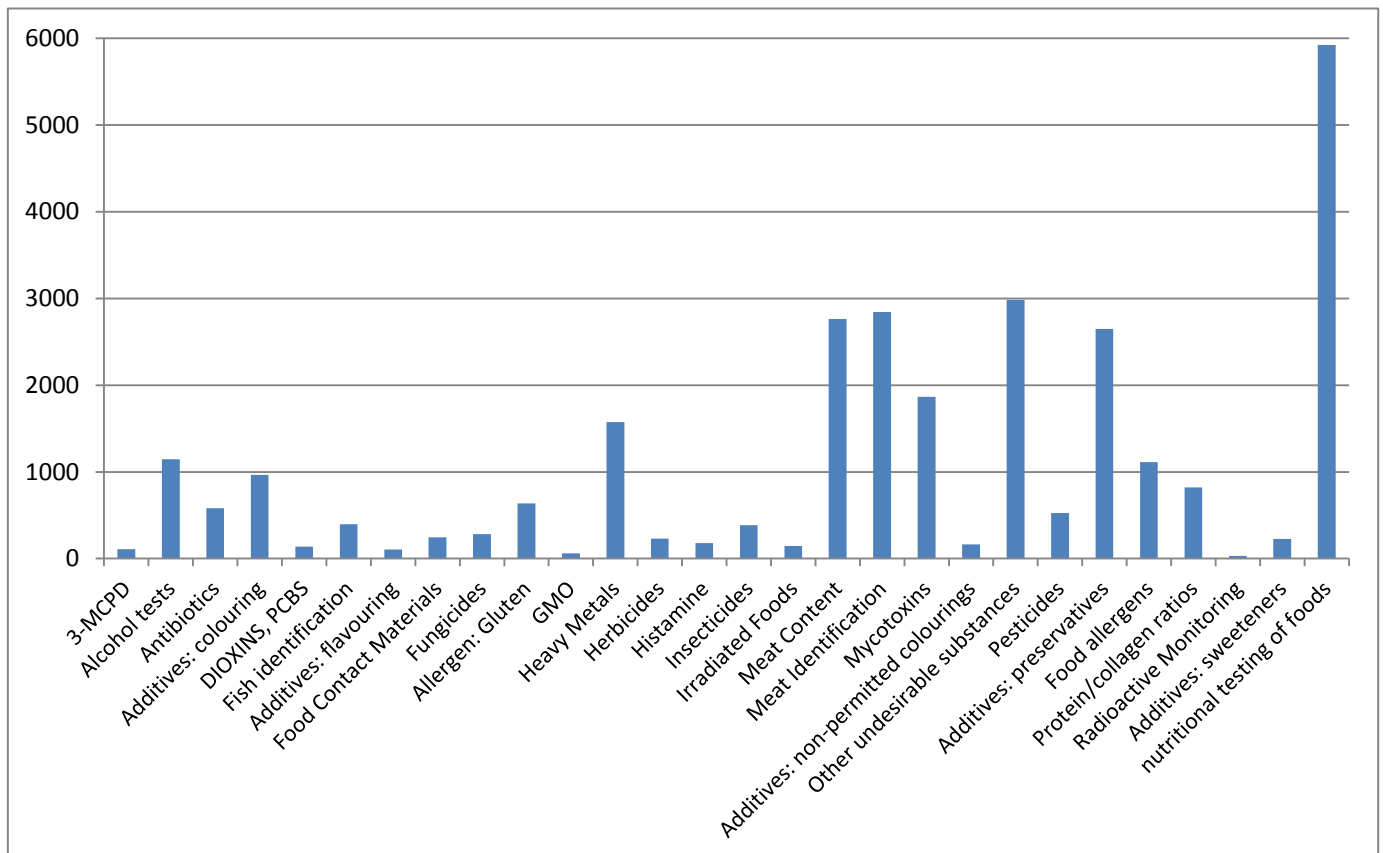
No of Samples 33252

2.63 Further sampling information, including a case study, is available on pages 19-21 of the Annual report on UK LA Food Law Enforcement:

food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/board/board-papers-2013/lafoodlaw-annual-report-1213.pdf

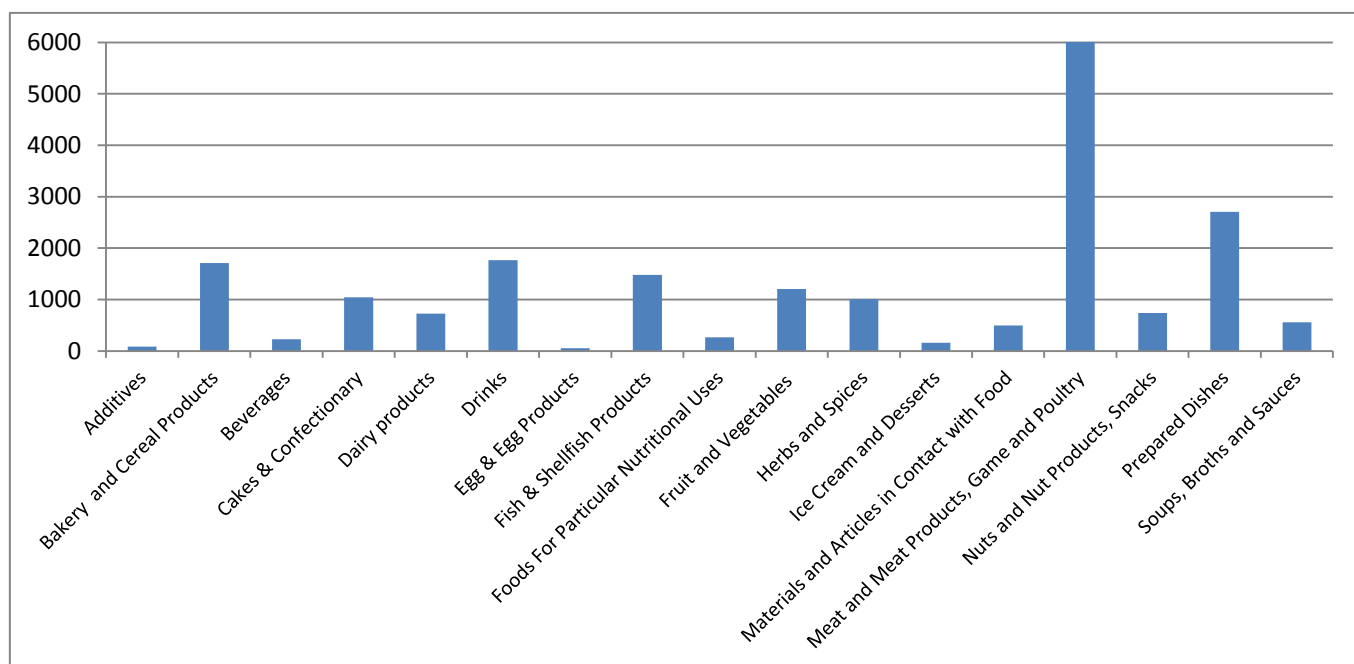
2.64 The following charts show food samples tested in 2012/13 for chemical analysis type and food type:

Numbers of samples per hazard type¹⁰



¹⁰ 3-MCPD = 3-Monochloropropane – 1,2 – diol; PCB = Polychlorinated biphenyl; GMO = Genetically Modified Organism.

Numbers of samples by products

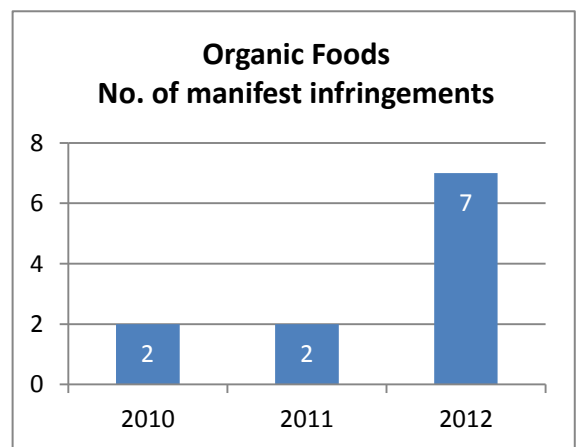
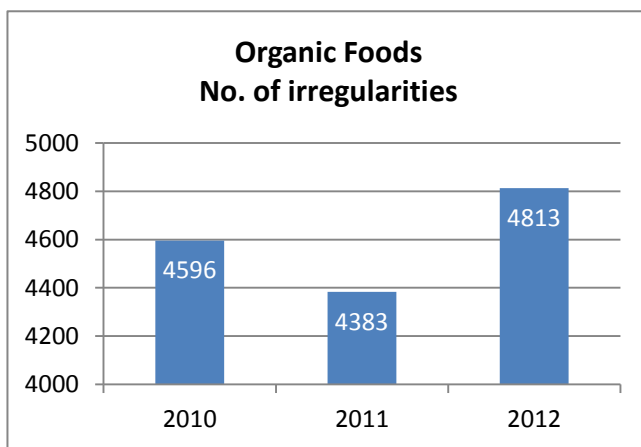
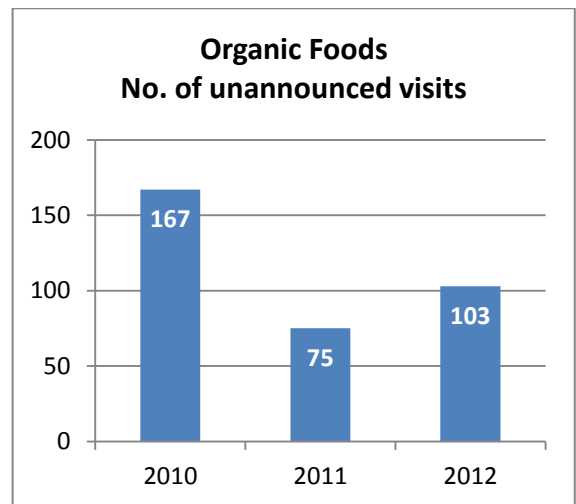
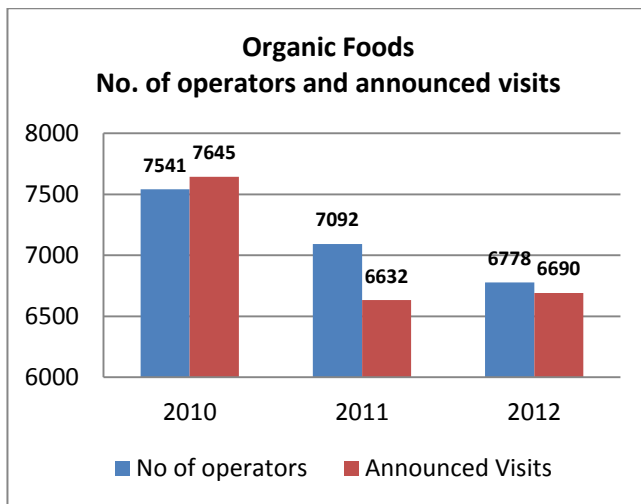


Animal feed

- 2.65 Enforcement figures on feed for 2011/12 and 2012/13 have yet to be collated and will be reported early in the next financial year. Since April 2008 the FSA has been funding a programme of feed sampling by LAs targeting undesirable substances in feed materials and additives.
- 2.66 Direct funding is also made available to LAs to support the inspection of feed business establishments across all sectors of the feed industry including checks at main points of entry. Funding for this work has remained constant since 2011/12.

Organic products

- 2.67 All organic operators were inspected by organic Control Bodies at least once during 2012. Control Bodies undertook both announced and unannounced inspections and where appropriate, some operators received more than one inspection. In most cases these additional inspections were follow-ups to earlier inspections or due to concerns received from a third party or as a result of a risk analysis. The charts below show the number of operators, announced and unannounced visits and infringements for the previous three years:



2.68 There were no major incidents of mis-selling of non-organic or contaminated produce as certified organic produce.

2.69 UKAS visited all organic control bodies based and operating in the UK in 2012. No serious issues were found in the operation of the control bodies' audit/inspection arrangements, and all were recommended for re-approval in 2013. One Control Body, ASISCO, ceased to operate from 31 December 2012.

Protected Food Names (PFNs)

2.70 Approximately 18 non-compliances were notified in 2012. Previous years' data is not available however compliance is likely to have improved as inspections are taking place with regularity and inspection bodies are reporting back to the competent authority. In addition, producers are more aware of the inspection process.

2.71 Non-compliance in the PFN sector is necessarily mixed and varied depending on the product being inspected. There is no overall pattern as each non-compliance can be due to many reasons such as the raw materials not being sourced from within the geographical area, or the recipe not being followed as expressly stated in the technical file. Currently most non-compliance is due to incorrect use of the logo, which does not involve risk to humans, animals or plants.

Natural Mineral Waters

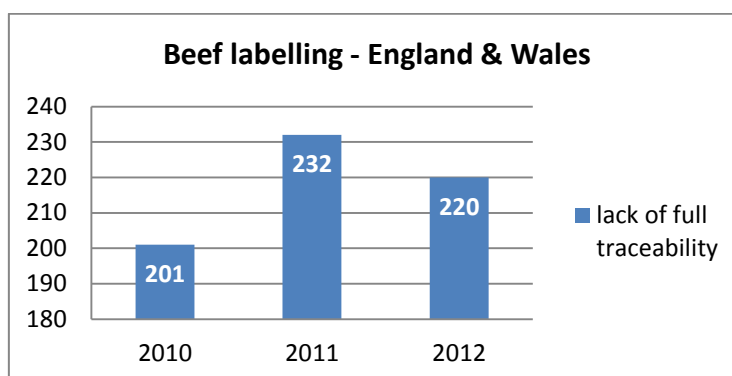
2.72 Defra performed one non-EEA recognition in 2012.

Beef labelling

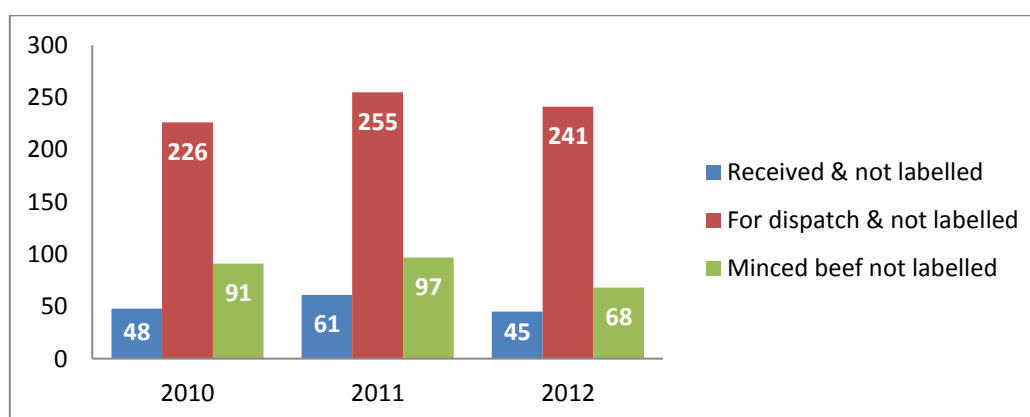
England and Wales

2.73 In England and Wales, the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) achieved its planned official controls for 2012, completing a total of 669 initial inspections. Of these 50 were plants situated in Wales. Where non-compliance was found, plants were revisited as a follow-up inspection (usually within 4-6 weeks) until a satisfactory outcome was achieved. Of the 669 initial inspections, 297 achieved an unsatisfactory outcome, resulting in a follow-up inspection being required to ensure that corrective action had been taken. The main types and numbers of non-compliances identified in 2012 and the previous two years were:

Lack of full traceability¹¹



Main types of non-compliances



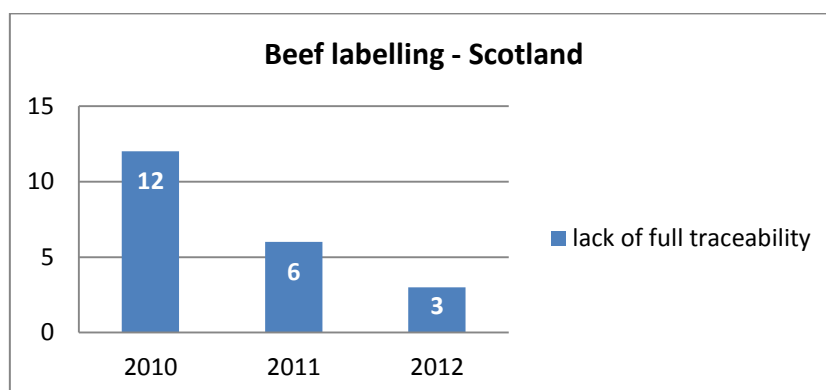
2.74 In England and Wales, the overall level of non-compliance in 2012 was 44.3%, compared to 57.3% in 2011 and 60.9% in 2010.

¹¹ Lack of full traceability includes instances where information on labels was missing but the products checked were traceable by reference to other information held by the FBO. The majority of cases would not have involved a total loss of traceability.

Scotland

- 2.75 The SG achieved its planned official controls for 2012, completing a total of 44 inspections. Where non-compliance was found, plants were revisited as a follow-up inspection (usually within 14 days) until a satisfactory outcome was achieved. Of the 44 initial inspections, 3 achieved an unsatisfactory outcome, resulting in a follow-up inspection being required to ensure that corrective action had been taken.
- 2.76 The number of non-compliances identified in 2012 and the previous two years were:

Scotland – lack of full traceability



- 2.77 There has been a marked improvement in compliance over the three years reported. Modern technology in the period has helped improve traceability, as shown in the year on year improvement results.
- 2.78 No prosecutions were brought in Scotland in 2012.

NI

- 2.79 In NI, DARD Agri-Food Inspection Branch Technical Inspectors achieved their planned official controls for 2012, completing a total of 117 inspections.
- 2.80 Unscheduled (follow-up) inspections were undertaken where non-compliance was found. These inspections had little or no impact on planned inspections. Non-compliances related to labels with information omitted, inaccurate information, inaccurate company records and unapproved voluntary beef labelling claims.

Year	Number of Premises Inspected	Number of Inspections carried out	% Compliance of NI Businesses ¹²
2010	40	126	75
2011	36	96	78
2012	39	117	79

¹² % Compliance of NI Businesses is calculated as the total number of businesses where non-compliance occurred during the year against the total number of businesses inspected, expressed as a percentage.

Year	Verbal Warning	Follow Up Inspection	Warning Letter	Enforcement Notice
2010	6	8	6	1
2011	6	6	0	0
2012	7	7	2	0

- 2.81 A gradual increase in compliance with beef labelling requirements has been observed across businesses in NI over the period 2010 to 2012.
- 2.82 No significant deviations in types of non-compliance have been found. The main types of non-compliance were inaccuracies in, or omission, of compulsory information on labels. In the past three years no evidence of deliberate non-compliance with the regulations for fraudulent purposes has been identified.

Protein in animal feed controls

National Feed Audit (NFA)

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

Documented inspections

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	
	GB	NI	GB	NI
Import of feed materials	31	104	0	0
Storage of feed materials	49	3	0	0
Feed mills	588	112	1	0
Home mixers/mobile mixers ¹³	162	34	0	0
Intermediaries of feeding stuffs	36	0	0	0
Means of transport	31	5	0	0
Farms keeping non-ruminants	70	2	1	0
Farms keeping ruminants	535	22	0	0
Farms keeping both ruminants and non-ruminants	752	26	0	0
Total	2,254	308	2	0

¹³ In the figures above the category of home mixers mainly includes those farms producing non-ruminant feed containing fishmeal where ruminants are kept. Visits to ruminant home mixers are a priority in the livestock farm inspection programme and are included in figures for farms keeping ruminants or both ruminants and non-ruminants.

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

Premises	Number of samples collected by AHO staff tested for processed animal proteins in GB and NI						Number of non-compliant samples in GB ¹⁴		
							Presence of processed animal protein/animal protein from terrestrial animals		
	Feed materials		Compound feeding stuffs				Feed materials	Compound feeding stuffs	
	GB	NI	For ruminants		For non-ruminants			For ruminants	For non-ruminants
GB			NI	GB	NI				
At import	85	110	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Feed mills	945	147	1,286	282	417	65	17	3	0
Intermediaries/storage	203	51	26	2	7	0	0	0	0
Means of transport	5	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	0
Home mixers/mobile mixers	69	8	142	11	98	30	0	0	0
On farm	164	19	1,472	64	467	47	3	0	0
Fats & vegetable oils	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	1,472	336	2,927	359	993	142	20	3	0

2.84 The total number of samples taken was 5,392 samples. Two of the breaches were low level and in the other case the manufacturing plant has decided to cease farm animal feed production.

2.85 The NFA programme operates from April to March. The target number of inspections from 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013 was 2,351 inspections, with a sampling budget to enable 5,600 Microscopic Analysis Test samples to be collected and analysed. During this period 2,362 inspection visits were completed and 5,534 samples were collected and analysed. Operational targets were fully met.

2.86 The risk assessment criteria have remained the same as for the previous 2 years.

2.87 The number of control inspections completed in relation to the last 2 years is as follows:

Year	Number of inspection visits		Number of samples collected	
	GB	NI	GB	NI
2010	2,691	176	6,562	242
2011	2,521	416	5,399	713
2012	2,254	308	5,392	837

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

¹⁴ Figures relate to GB only: there were no non-compliant samples in NI; there was no presence of processed animal protein from fish.

Veterinary Residues Surveillance

2.89 Out of 31,612 samples taken under the National Surveillance Programme, 106 (0.34%) of these were found to contain residues. This compares with 0.5% and 0.4% in 2010 and 2011 respectively.

2.90 Non-compliances can be categorised into three groups.

- **Unauthorised substances** – investigations into non-compliant samples found no evidence of the mis-use/abuse of hormonal growth promoters, beta-agonists or prohibited substances.
- **Authorised veterinary medicines** – Antibiotic residues in excess of the Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) were confirmed in samples from calves, sheep and honey. The incidences in other species were low and a summary of results of non-compliant residues for antibiotics, anthelmintics and Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs is set out in the table below. Evidence shows that the main cause of these residues showed that the instructions for use of the Veterinary Medicinal Products had not been adhered to.

What tested	Tested for	No. of inspections or samples	Non-compliant residues found
Calves	Antibiotic residues	293	8
Sheep	Anthelmintics	1,116	5
Milk	Anthelmintics	438	2
Cattle	Anthelmintics	596	1
Salmon	Avermectins	96	2
Horses	Ibuprofen ¹⁵	92	1
Milk	Ibuprofen	174	1
Horses	Phenylbutazone	92	5
Cattle	Phenylbutazone	209	1

- **Environmental contaminants and insecticides** – non-compliant residues confirmed for heavy metals and dyes. Heavy metals – non-compliant samples confirmed in sheep, horses and cattle. The cause of these residues was either due to environmental pollution or the accumulation of the substance over time. No non-compliant samples for dyes were found.

Survey on whether horses sent for slaughter have been treated with Phenylbutazone

2.91 To establish whether horses presented for slaughter had been treated with Phenylbutazone, the FSA carried out increased surveillance for residues of this medicine at approved equine slaughterhouses from 16 July to 14 September 2012, in addition to the National Surveillance programme carried out by VMD.

2.92 Kidney samples were collected from 5% of the total throughput of horses sent for slaughter during the surveillance period and tested by the Food &

¹⁵ This residue was due to cross-contamination by the sampling officer.

Environment Research Agency (Fera). Of the 63 (5%) samples collected, 59 (94%) were compliant and 4 (6%) were non-compliant. All 4 samples found to be non-compliant have been reported to the Food Incidents Branch for investigation.

- 1 carcase was disposed of as Category 1 material.
- 2 LAs were notified for carcasses that were sent to plants within their area to follow up.
- 2 RASFF were sent to the EU to inform the French authorities of distribution to France of non-compliant carcasses.

Pesticides Residues Monitoring

2.93 A successful monitoring programme was carried out in 2012. The graph below shows numbers of samples taken and the percentage of samples tested containing residues over the MRL, over the previous 4 years. In 2012 Animal product and infant food samples didn't contain any residues above the MRL.

Year	No. of samples	Types of food	% of samples containing residues	% containing residues above the MRL
2010	3,750	40	42	3
2011	3,642	40	46	3
2012	3,657	46	37	2

2.94 Reports were published every quarter as well as the results for four commodities being published monthly as part of the rolling reporting programme.

pesticides.gov.uk/guidance/industries/pesticides/advisory-groups/PRiF/Latest+results+and+reports/2012_Results_and_Reports and pesticides.gov.uk/guidance/industries/pesticides/advisory-groups/PRiF/PRiF-archive/2012/2012_rollingresults

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

2.96 There were multiple residues over the MRL in many of the cumin samples tested; however these are thought to all be from the same supplier and therefore will have all have been treated with the same pesticides. 28 samples were passed to the CRD Compliance Department to investigate due to residues found in UK produce of pesticides that were not approved for that use in this country.

2.97 All samples with residues are examined using a risk assessment screen. In 2012, only nine samples contained a pesticide residue that had intakes over the ARfD (Acute Reference Dose). All of these nine samples were passed to the FSA with a RASFF notification.

Official controls in animal health and welfare sectors

GB

2.98 AHVLA staff investigated a number of reports of suspect exotic diseases in 2012. All confirmed cases were reported to the OIE (World Organisation for Animal Health) and the EU as appropriate, followed up and the events resolved. For more information please refer to:

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

Disease	No. of investigations in 2012	Confirmed case(s) of disease
Anthrax	1	0
Aujeszky's	4	0
Avian Notifiable (Avian Influenza/ Newcastle Disease)	35	0
Bluetongue	17	0
Brucellosis (excl. bovine brucellosis)	11	0
Vesicular Disease (Foot-and-Mouth Disease/ Vesicular Stomatitis / Swine Vesicular Disease)	4	0
Bat Rabies	1 ¹⁶	0
Rabies	4	0
Swine Fever	4	0
Equine Viral Arteritis	65	1
Contagious Equine Metritis	2	2
Glanders	3	0
Equine Infectious Anaemia	4	2
Dourine	3	0
African Horse Sickness	1	0
West Nile	2	0
Enzootic Bovine Leukosis (EBL)	9	0
Bovine Brucellosis	3	0
TOTAL	173	5

2.99 Under Section 80 of the Animal Health Act 1981 (as amended)¹⁷ Defra is required to produce an annual report to Parliament on the enforcement actions of the LAs in England and Wales¹⁸ and the compensation paid for animals slaughtered to prevent the spread of animal disease. The 2012 report¹⁹ is available at:

defra.gov.uk/ahvla-en/files/pub-expend-prosecutions-rpt.pdf

2.100 A separate report is produced by the SG, and is available at:

scotland.gov.uk/Topics/farmingrural/Agriculture/animal-welfare/Diseases/Enforcement

¹⁶ Refers to the number of clinical suspect cases of bat lyssavirus infection and does not include the surveillance of bats for European bat lyssavirus infection.

¹⁷ Animal Health Act 1981, c 22.

¹⁸ Details on legal proceedings which have resulted in criminal convictions under animal health and welfare related legislation.

¹⁹ 'Return of expenditure incurred and prosecutions taken under the Animal Health Act 1981 and incidences of diseases in imported animals for the year 2012'.

NI

- 2.101 NI enforcement bodies were busy in a number of significant areas including livestock identification, movement and registration, animal welfare, Brucellosis and Tuberculosis (TB). Cattle identification inspections and sheep identification inspections were core activities for DARD Central Enforcement Team during the reporting year. The importance of movement and registration is reflected by the level of Veterinary Service monitoring, supervision and enforcement. In the most serious cases, files were prepared for prosecution and in the case of livestock whose identity and origin was not proven, a total of 8 herd keepers had cattle destroyed without compensation.
- 2.102 Following a presentation to SCoFCAH²⁰ on 11 September 2012, MS voted unanimously to recognise NI as a region free of Aujeszky's Disease. This follows a detailed submission to the European Commission in March 2012. The Decision 2012/701/EU was formalised on 13 November 2012.
- 2.103 Since February 2012 there have not been any confirmed cases of Brucellosis in NI. The relatively small numbers of reactors since then are considered to be due to false positive reactions. There are no current confirmed annual herd incidences.
- 2.104 273 case files were opened on Veterinary Service Investigation Database (VSID), for 352 investigations into alleged offences under ten separate Veterinary Service work areas. Progress with these investigations is summarised below.

²⁰ The Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health.

Progress summary of the Veterinary Service enforcement investigations opened²¹

WORK PROGRAMME	Under Investigation	Interview Arranged	File being prepared	File Passed To Public Prosecution Service (PPS)	File passed to VSEB²²	Case Closed	TOTAL
Animal By-Products (ABP)	5		1	3	2	8	19
Aujeszky's disease						1	1
Biosecurity	2		1			8	11
Brucellosis	1					9	10
Identification, Registration & Movement	31	1	2	6		125	166
Trade of Animals & Animal Products	6		1	1		10	18
Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSEs)	1					15	16
TB	32		2	6		19	35
Veterinary Public Health & Food Safety	4			1		5	10
Welfare of Animals	20	2	5	7	2	30	66
TOTAL INVESTIGATIONS (CASE FILES)	102 (64)	3 (3)	12 (12)	24 (12)	4 (2)	230 (184)	352 (273)

2.105 In the reporting year 184 case files were closed on VSID, for 230 investigations into alleged offences under 10 separate Veterinary Service work areas. Details are summarised below.

²¹ 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013

²² Veterinary Services Enforcement Branch

Outcomes of the Veterinary Service enforcement investigations closed²³

WORK PROGRAMME	Case Dropped	Compliance Achieved	Warning Letter Issued	Animals Slaughtered/ Carcase Destroyed	MC30 issued can only go to slaughter	Formal Caution Delivered	Convicted In Court	Dismissed in court	Referred To Other Agency	MC29 withdrawn	Subsidy withheld	TOTAL
ABP	3		1				4					8
Aujeszky's Disease		1										1
Biosecurity		3	5									8
Brucellosis	1	4					4					9
Identification, Registration & Movement	17	23	56	5	9	1	9	2		2	1	125
Trade of Animals & Animal Products	3	3	2	1				1				10
TSEs	2	13										15
TB	8	2	1				7	1				19
Veterinary Public Health & Food Safety	1	2	1				1					5
Welfare of Animals	4	9	5				11		1			30
TOTAL INVESTIGATIONS (CASE FILES)	39 (32)	60 (46)	71 (62)	6 (5)	9 (9)	1 (1)	36 (22)	4 (3)	1 (1)	2 (2)	1 (1)	230 (184)

Progress summary of case files passed to the PPS²⁴

PPS	Not Directed For Prosecution	Directed For Prosecution – case on-going	Waiting on direction	Directed For Prosecution And Convicted	Formal caution delivered	Total Sent To PPS
Case Files	4	15	2	9	1	31

²³ 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013

²⁴ 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013

2.106 In the reporting year 19 persons were convicted in court (including three persons convicted on two occasions), closing 22 case files (covering 36 investigations).

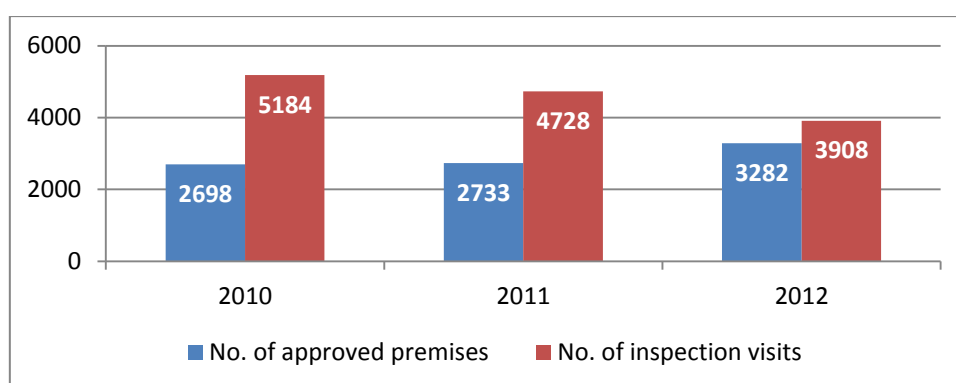
2.107 The penalties for serious breaches of animal health and welfare legislation are significant. In the reporting year, fines totalling £13,500 were imposed and three people received custodial sentences (two of which were suspended). Furthermore, on two occasions the offenders were banned from keeping livestock, one offender for ten years and another for a year.

Animal By-Products

2.108 During financial year 2012/13, AHVLA carried out 366 approval/registration related activities to new or existing ABP²⁵ premises. The overall number of visits to ABP premises has fallen over the three year period²⁶. The implementation of the risk based approach to visits has resulted in visits being focussed on higher risk operators and those previously non-compliant with the requirements of the ABP regulation.

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

Number of ABP premises and number of inspection visits²⁷



2.110 The numbers of ABP operators requiring approval or registration has risen over the past three years. This reflects a general growth in key areas of ABP such as compost and anaerobic digestion plus changes in the ABP regulations requiring registration of new areas of ABP operation such as hauliers.

²⁵ defra.gov.uk/ahvla-en/disease-control/abp/premises/ and dardni.gov.uk/index/animal-health-and-welfare/animal-by-products/approved-premises.htm.

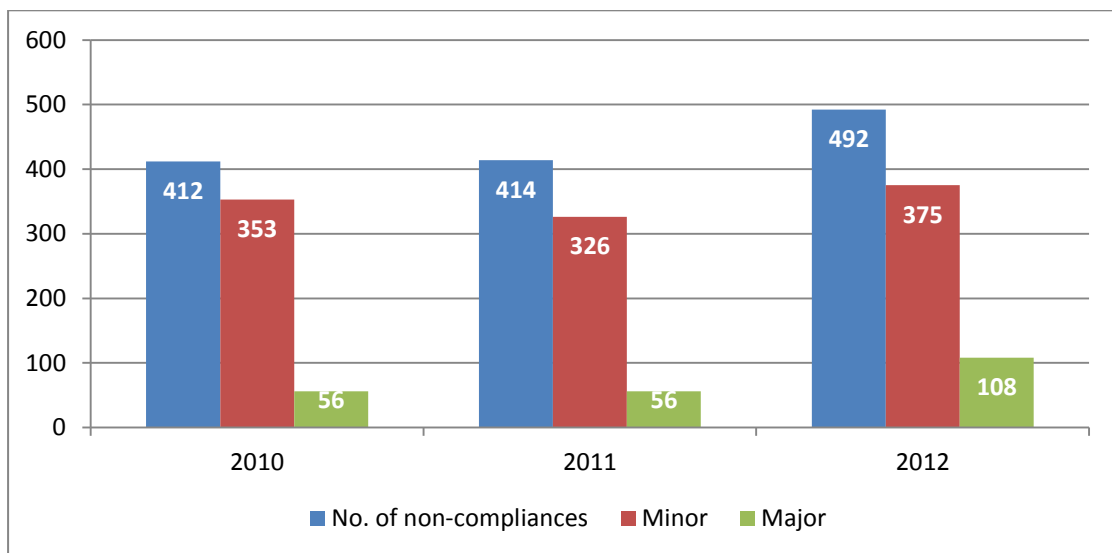
²⁶ In 2011, Defra and AHVLA developed and implemented a risk based model to determine visit frequency.

²⁷ The number of new approvals/registrations was subject to industry fluctuations but the number of new approvals and subsequent visits was in line with expectations.

2.111 As in previous years, the main cause of non-compliance was due to record keeping and operational issues. There was a general increase in the total number of non-compliances identified at visits to ABP premises relating to record keeping and operational issues. The reason for this increase appears to be a result of a greater degree of scrutiny on records²⁸ and controls at site visits and is probably a consequence of the implementation of a risk based visit model in 2011/12²⁹. It was anticipated that focussing resource based on risk would result in an increase in the number of non-compliances identified at visits and this appears to be borne out by the figures presented below.

2.112 In 2010 there were 3 serious major³⁰ non compliances, none in 2011 and 9³¹ in 2012. The increase in the numbers of serious major non-compliances in 2012 was due to multiple serious issues identified at a single composting site. These were disclosed at an initial risk based inspection and multiple follow-up visits post suspension of the site. The site has subsequently ceased operation.

Number of overall ABP non-compliance scores for AHVLA risk based and follow-up visits^{32 33}



²⁸ Driven by increase training and support of the inspectors within 2011 and 2012 following the implementation of the new ABP regulation.

²⁹ This approach focuses resources towards the highest risk operations/operators with lower risk enterprises receiving fewer or no visits.

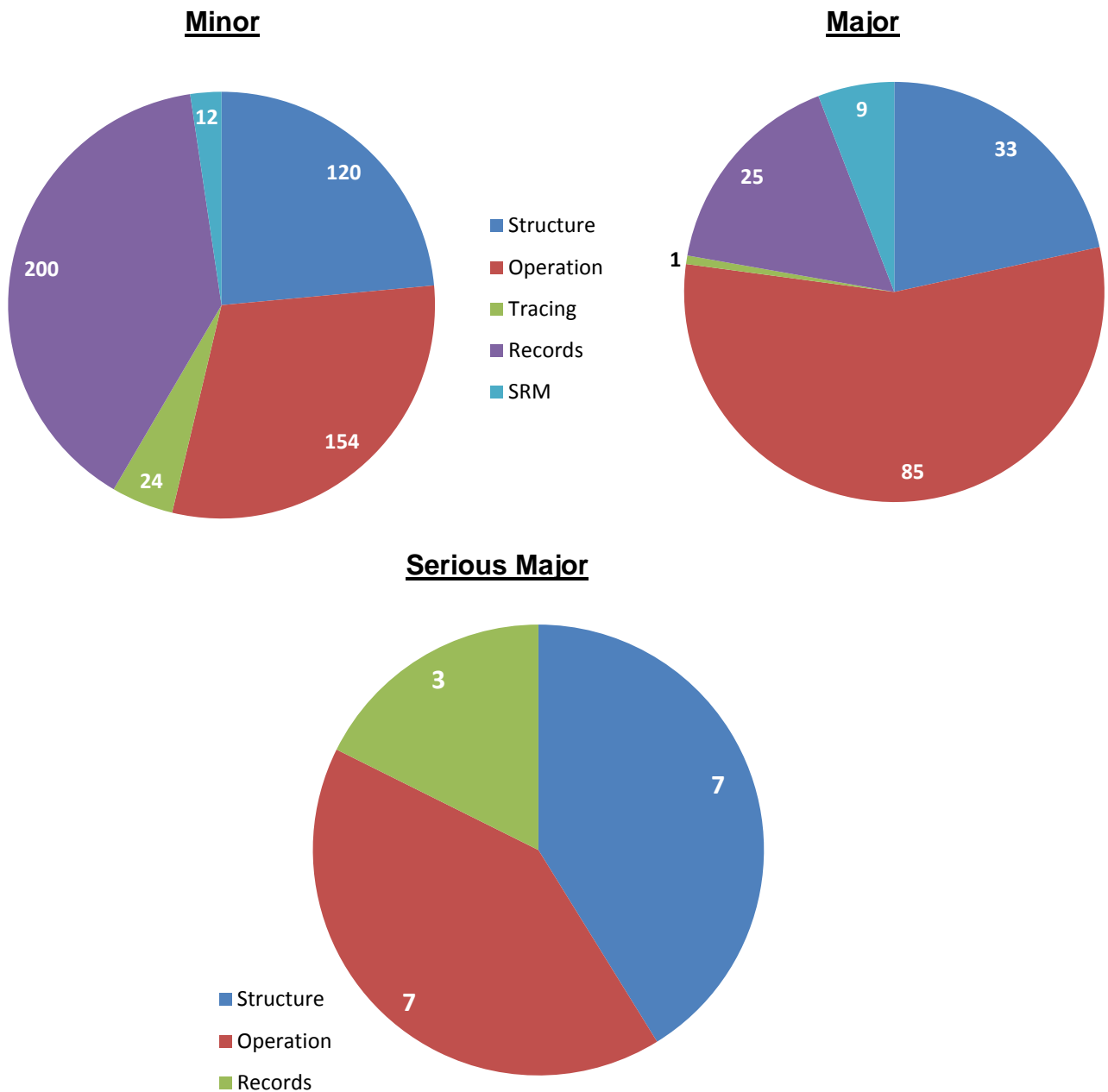
³⁰ Serious Major non-compliance - A serious animal or public health risks for example, wrong category of waste consigned to an operation, by-products getting into the environment or animals having access to by-products.

³¹ Four serious major issues relate to one operator.

³² Minor non-compliance - Low to negligible risk to public or animal health, for example, a technical breach, poor commercial documents, pest control slightly overdue, improved bio-security required.

³³ Major non-compliance - Medium or severe risk to animal or public health for example, by-products uncovered or unstained, containers not labelled or labelled incorrectly.

Number of individual non-compliances disclosed at visits in 2012 by reason³⁴

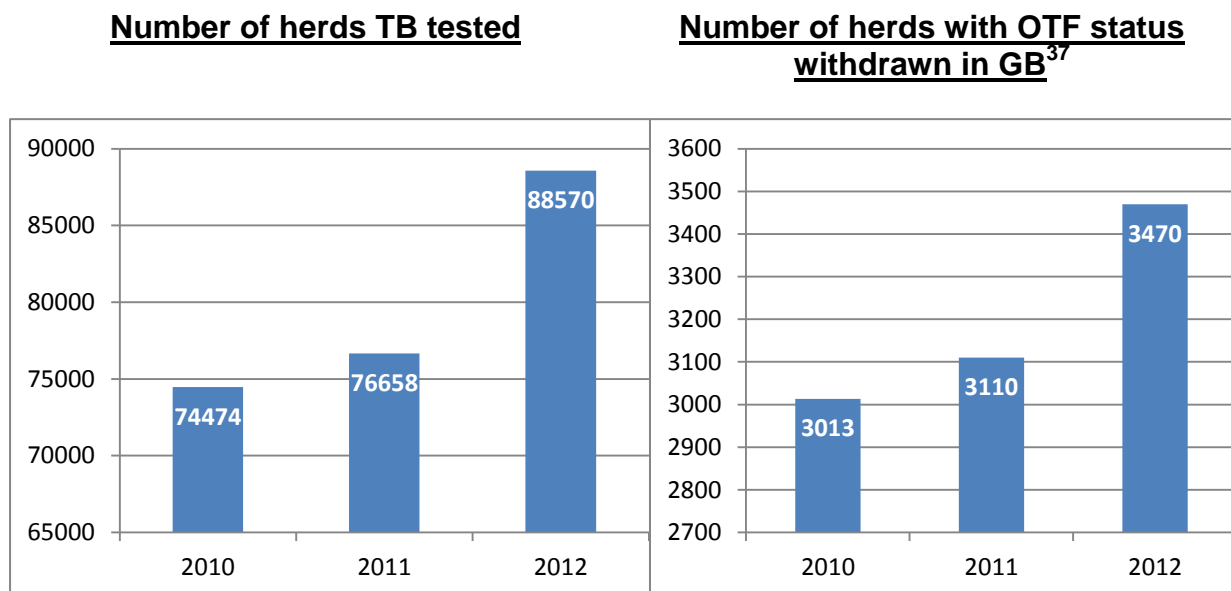


2.113 In NI there are 281 ABP premises. DARD completed 287 inspections during 2012. This is broadly in line with previous years 321 in 2011 and 291 in 2010. During reporting year 70 minor non-compliances centred on around structure, operation and record keeping. These were discussed verbally with the operator at the time of inspection and followed up with a letter. One major non-compliance resulted in temporary suspension of a haulier registration. This has subsequently been reinstated following an investigation.

³⁴ Multiple individual non-compliances may be identified at a single visit. Each individual non-compliance is shown above.

Bovine Tuberculosis

2.114 AHVLA recorded 88,570 herd tests in GB, with 9,079 herds recorded as not Officially TB Free (non-OTF herds). 3,470 herds had OTF status withdrawn in 2012. 37,734³⁵ cattle were slaughtered for TB control purposes across GB in 2012³⁶. Further information is available in AHVLA's TB Surveillance Report for 2012: defra.gov.uk/ahvla-en/publication/pub-survreport-tb/



2.115 AHVLA traced bovines which had moved to or from premises with confirmed disease within a timeframe calculated on the time of completion of the last herd test. 66,171 forward tracing tests were carried out in 2012.

2.116 In 2012, Defra introduced new cattle TB controls in England. These included changes to cattle TB compensation, changes to pre-movement TB testing exemptions, and changes to holdings linked on the Cattle Tracing System and Sole Occupancy Authorities. Further information on these changes is available at: defra.gov.uk/animal-diseases/a-z/bovine-tb/publications/

2.117 The WG launched a Strategic Framework for Bovine TB Eradication in Wales in 2012. This included a number of proposed policy changes including the launch of a five-year badger vaccination programme within the Intensive Action Area in West Wales. Further information on the Wales TB Eradication Programme and the badger vaccination programme is available at: wales.gov.uk/topics/environmentcountryside/ahw/disease/bovinetuberculosis/bovinetberadication/?lang=enlang=en

2.118 DARD carried out 32,991 herd tests where cattle were presented at the test. The table below sets out what the tests showed.

³⁵ Source: Gov.uk updated 13th November 2013.

³⁶ This includes reactors, inconclusive reactors, direct contacts and gamma interferon positives.

³⁷ Source: Gov.uk updated 13th November 2013.

TB surveillance in NI during 2012

Number of confirmed TB Breakdowns	1,739 herds had at least one animal with confirmed TB during 2012 ^{38*}
Number of TB reactors slaughtered	10,896
Number of " confirmed" animals	4,836*
Number of new incidents	1,695
Number of slaughter house cases	600

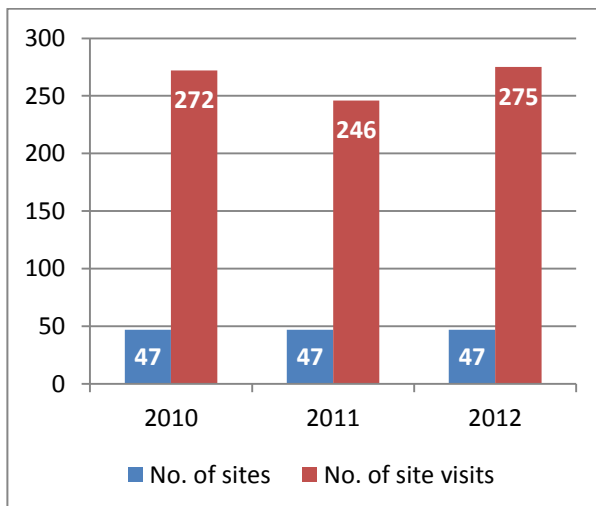
TSE

2.119 AHVLA delivered on almost all performance indicators within agreed criteria for the 2012 period. The only exceptions were two deadlines that were not met for tracings from confirmed Scrapie cases.

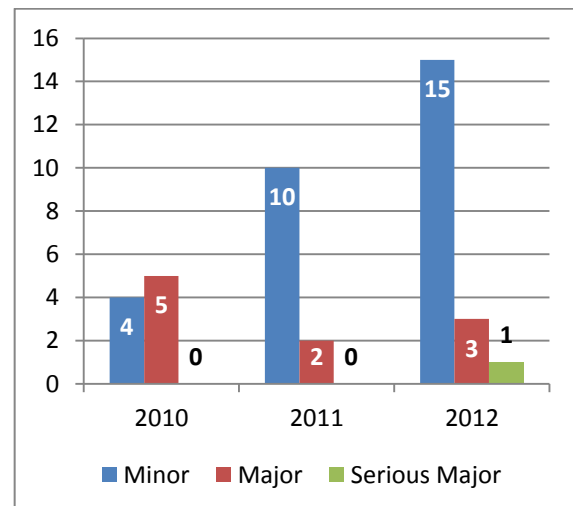
Performance indicators for 2012, including percentage delivery against agreed targets

Action	Number	% completed within agreed target
Investigation of 'on-farm' suspect Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathies (BSE) reports	12	100%
Investigation of 'on-farm' suspect Scrapie reports	5	100%
Tracing of confirmed classical and atypical Scrapie cases	11	90%
Risk based inspection of all approved TSE sampling sites and controlled hide stores	299 ³⁹	NA
Restriction of eligible BSE offspring and cohorts.	152	100%

Number of TSE approved sampling sites, visits



Number of non-compliances identified by category



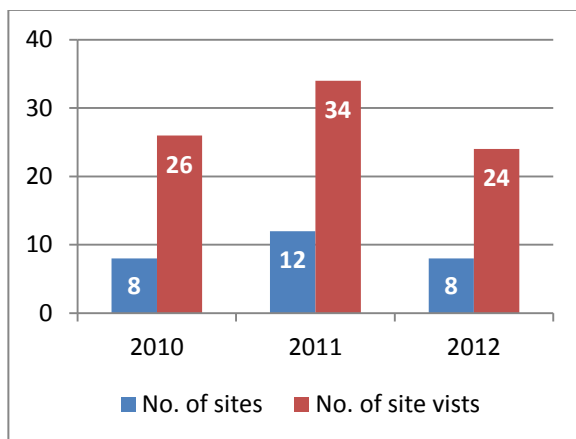
³⁸ *Number of TB reactors that were confirmed during the year by the presence of visible lesions at slaughter and/or by laboratory confirmation (histopathology and/or culture) plus the number of animals where *M. bovis* was cultured from TB-like lesions found at routine slaughter during the year that were not identified as TB reactor animals.

³⁹ Of these 22 non-compliant operators were identified.

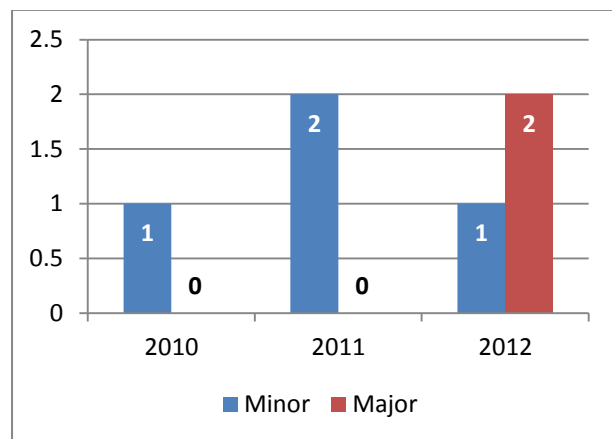
2.120 The number of TSE approved sampling sites has remained constant over the three year period. The number of risk based inspections has also remained generally constant.

2.121 The main non-compliance issues disclosed at TSE sampling sites and controlled hide plants related to records and operational issues. Corrective actions and follow-up checks took place in all cases. One serious major issue was identified in 2012 at a TSE sampling site, due to poor sample identification. This issue was investigated identifying deviation from agreed protocol and an impact assessment carried out. All testing for the site was negative. The operator returned to the agreed protocol. Further checks ensured that corrective actions were effectively implemented.

Number of controlled hide plants and visits



Number of non-compliances identified by category



2.122 There were no serious major non-compliances identified between 2010 and 2012.

2.123 The number of controlled hide plants and number of site visits has remained generally consistent over the three year period. All non-compliances disclosed at risk based visits were related to records and minor operational issues. There is a similar picture in NI.

2.124 BSE in cattle in GB:

- Two cases resulted from active surveillance. No cases resulted from passive surveillance. There was an atypical case and a Born After the Reinforced Ban case, i.e. a case born after the revised feed ban which came into force on 1 August 1996. The numbers of confirmed BSE cases have continued to fall in line with predictions. The numbers of suspect BSE cases reported have also continued to fall. Further details are available at: defra.gov.uk/ahvla-en/publication/tse-stats-cattle/

2.125 Sheep scrapie surveillance in GB:

- For the second year since scrapie became a notifiable disease, there were no clinical cases confirmed in sheep in 2012. The number of clinical suspects remained very low with 5 notifications from 3 holdings.

- For the first time no cases of classical scrapie were confirmed in the Abattoir survey.
- Quotas allocated by the EU for the number of samples to be tested by the UK in active surveillance were the same as in the previous year, 10,000 each in the abattoir and fallen stock survey. In GB the quotas were 9,300 in fallen stock and 9,400 in the abattoir survey.
- Only 6 cases of classical scrapie were confirmed, 2 in fallen stock and 4 cases in the Compulsory Scrapie Flock Scheme (CSFS) (5 holdings under restriction for part of the year).
- 28 cases of atypical scrapie were detected in 2012, mainly from the fallen stock survey. Despite the increasing trend observed in proportion of atypical cases year on year, there have been no significant changes year on year.
- There was a single multicase holding detected in North Yorkshire in 2011, which in 2012 submitted 69 fallen sheep and 46 healthy slaughtered sheep to active surveillance. Two more cases of classical scrapie were confirmed, which is much less than the 122 cases confirmed in 2011.
- Changes to the operation of the abattoir survey in 2011 continued to deliver benefits.
- Only one new holding was enrolled in the CSFS in 2012, whereas the Atypical Scrapie Monitoring Scheme established in 2011, saw a substantial increase in membership.
- Further details are available at defra.gov.uk/ahvla-en/publication/tse-stats-sheep/
- In NI there was one case of atypical scrapie confirmed, and no cases of classical scrapie.

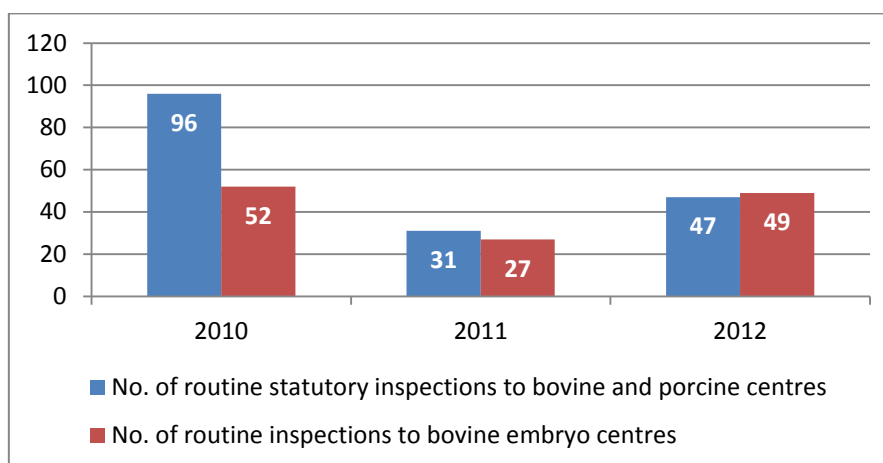
2.126 Goat scrapie surveillance in 2012:

- Cases from two new goat holdings were confirmed in 2012: one clinical case could not be traced back and did not result in any holding joining the CSFS and one fallen goat that triggered a new goat holding in England joining the CSFS.
- Twenty other cases were confirmed in goats submitted under the different testing routes of the CSFS: clinical cases (8), Fallen Stock (8) and the Annual Culls (4). All cases came from the three holdings under restrictions, showing that the existing and new infected holdings are heavily infected (20 cases from 603 samples submitted by 3 holdings), unlike the sheep holdings in the CSFS (4 cases from 621 samples submitted by 7 holdings).
- England was over-represented in the Fallen Stock survey, with significantly greater numbers of samples and holdings submitting goats for testing than expected, Wales for the first time was not represented in the Fallen Stock survey in 2012.
- To date there has still not been any case of atypical scrapie confirmed in goats in GB. A case of co-infection with BSE was suspected on the basis of molecular and pathology characteristics. The bioassay results did not confirm the suspicion of BSE.
- Further details are available at defra.gov.uk/ahvla-en/publication/tse-stats-goat/

Artificial breeding controls

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

Number of inspections carried out between 2010 and 2012



Number of control activities undertaken for the 2011/12 and 2012/13 financial years

Activity	2011/12	2012/13
Number of bovine embryo collection/production/transfer teams approved.	9	6
Number of bovine and porcine semen collection, processing and storage centres approved	7	2
The number of animals licensed for on farm domestic semen collection.	242	273
The number of animals approved to move onto approved AI centres.	148	239
The number of animals licensed for semen export.	712	923
Number of samples collected from bovine semen production	158	126
Number of samples collected from porcine semen production	1,025	1,015

Sheep and goats identification and tracing inspections

2.128 Each UK Administration ensured that the requirement in Regulation (EC) No 21/2004⁴⁰ to inspect 3% of sheep/goat holdings covering 5% of national sheep and goat populations was met. The UK results for 2012 are published at:
gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/236533/sheep-goat-inspections-2012.pdf

⁴⁰ In accordance with Regulation EC No. 1505/2006 a programme of unannounced farm inspections was undertaken to monitor keeper's compliance with EU rules on the identification, recording, and reporting of sheep and goat movements laid down in Regulation EC No 21/2004.

General information on holdings, animals and checks

Year	2010	2011	2012
Total number of holdings in the Member State as registered at the beginning of the reporting period ⁽¹⁾	99,220	112,929	114,319
Total number of holdings checked	3,441	4,261	4,072
Total number of ovine and caprine animals in the Member State as registered at the beginning of the reporting period ⁽¹⁾	18,416,606	19,570,877	18,595,792
Total number of ovine and caprine animals in holdings checked during the reporting period ⁽¹⁾	1,480,613	1,996,526	1,915,052
⁽¹⁾ Or other national reference date for animal statistics.			

Findings of non-compliance

	2010	2011	2012
Number of holdings with non-compliance	729	1,080	1,474

Penalties imposed

	2010	2011	2012
Number of holdings with penalties imposed	154	227	323

- 2.129 There have been no significant changes in the risk selection criteria and the assessment of compliance, which are allied to Regulation 1505/2006 and EU Statutory Management Requirement (SMR) 8⁴¹.
- 2.130 New requirements for individual recording and reporting of sheep and goat movements⁴² were introduced in 2010. Allied with an increase in the overall number of farms being inspected there was a noticeable increase in instances of record keeping errors picked up in farm inspections in each of these years and consequently in the numbers of penalties imposed.
- 2.131 The main sanctions applied to sheep and goat keepers for non-compliance were reductions imposed to their claim for Single Payment Scheme (SPS) support where non-compliance under SMR 8 was discovered during the farm inspections. The reductions ranged from a warning letter through to a reduction to a claim. In 2012 the numbers of UK businesses (farm holdings) with such reductions imposed on their claims was 323.
- 2.132 The most common types of non-compliance related to failure of the keeper to record and report all movements accurately, failure to record or report the result of their annual inventory of the numbers of animals on the holding and incomplete records in the holding register.

⁴¹ SMR 8 - sets out which elements of EU sheep and goat ID rules are to be covered by cross compliance checks.

⁴² Underpinned by the mandatory introduction of electronic ID for sheep.

Cattle identification and registration

2.133 All inspections were completed on time and the report was submitted to the Commission by the 31 August deadline⁴³.

General Information on holdings and (bovine) animals in GB

Reporting period 1 June 2012 to 31 May 2013	
Total number of holdings in the Member State at the beginning of the reporting period	85,209
Total number of holdings checked during the reporting period	4,307
Total number of (bovine) animals registered in the Member State at the beginning of the reporting period	8,015,265
Total number of (bovine) animals checked during the reporting period	338,692

General Information on holdings and (bovine) animals in NI

Reporting period 1 June 2012 to 31 May 2013	
Total number of holdings in the Member State at the beginning of the reporting period	23,167
Total number of holdings checked during the reporting period	742
Total number of animals registered in the Member State at the beginning of the reporting period	1,577,962
Total number of animals checked in holdings during the reporting period	106,711

2.134 The results of the Cattle Identification inspection annual programme over the past 3 years show continued improvement in compliance with the cattle identification regulations. Farms were selected using a computerised risk analysis. The criteria included timely compliance in notifications to the central database, results of previous years' inspections, and specific high-risk indicators, such as e.g. high numbers of replacement tag purchases. Less than 20% of inspected holdings (that is, less than 2% of registered cattle farms) had more than 1 breach reported on inspection in 2012. Only 2.5% of inspected farms (0.1% of registered holdings) were subject to further enforcement action following inspection.

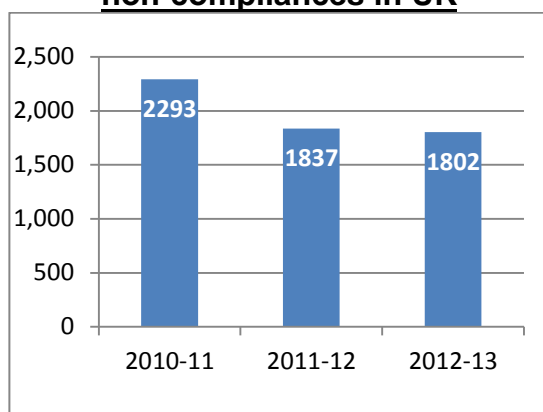
2.135 For the past 3 years, some 4.5% of the national cattle herd has been inspected in the annual programme⁴⁴. Over 90% of cattle inspected have been found to be fully compliant with the cattle identification regulations in each of the past 3 years.

2.136 A variety of activities are inspected while on farm, such as standards of tagging or record-keeping, and making notifications to the central database. There were no statistically significant differences in the types of breach made by farmers overall; under 3% of animals inspected were recorded for any one type of breach in any of the 3 years.

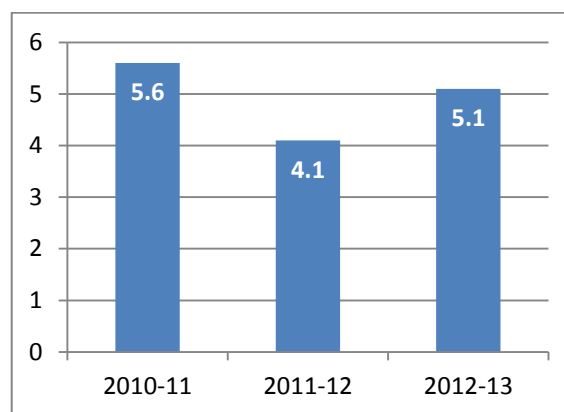
⁴³ The selection percentage for inspection was dropped from 5% to 3% of registered cattle holdings in January 2011, in accordance with the amendments to EC requirements as set out in amending Regulation (EC) 1034/2010.

⁴⁴ Cattle identification inspections cover all cattle present on each holding inspected.

Number of holdings with non-compliances in UK



Percentage of holdings inspected



Zoonoses

2.137 Substantial progress continued to be made in controlling *Salmonella* in the UK poultry sectors⁴⁵. A reducing contribution of *Salmonella* to the overall burden of food-borne zoonoses was observed in the UK, especially for *S. Enteritidis*, where a significant decreasing trend in laboratory reports of infection in humans has been reported in recent years. Further information on data from 2012 is available in the 2012 UK Zoonoses Report at:

gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/236983/pb13987-zoonoses-report-2012.pdf

2.138 The SNCP⁴⁶ monitoring results for 2012 indicate that the levels of the regulated *Salmonella* serovars are well below the EU designated targets. All official sampling, as required by the EU legislation, was completed during the year for each sector: in total for all poultry sectors, 3,332 poultry flocks were subject to annual routine official sampling.

2.139 No breeding chicken flocks were detected positive for the regulated (target) serovars *Salmonella* Enteritidis, Typhimurium, Hadar, Infantis or Virchow. In laying chicken flocks during 2012, only one adult flock was detected positive for *S. Enteritidis* and two flocks for *S. Typhimurium* out of the total 4,042 flocks included in the programme, giving an overall prevalence of 0.07%. The prevalence of the target serovars in broiler flocks was 0.01% in 2012, with three broiler flocks detected positive for *S. Typhimurium* and one flock for monophasic *S. Typhimurium* (*S. 4,5,12:i:-*) out of a total of approximately 37,946 flocks tested. No broiler flocks were detected positive for *S. Enteritidis* during the year.

2.140 For turkeys, the 2012 prevalence of the target serovars was 0.06% in fattening flocks. *Salmonella* Typhimurium was detected in one fattening flock and a further one fattening flock tested positive for monophasic *S.*

⁴⁵ The *Salmonella* National Control Programmes (NCPs) continued to be implemented in 2012, according to the requirements of Regulation (EC) No. 2160/2003, in breeding chickens (programme in place since 2007), laying chickens (since 2008), broiler chickens (since 2009) and breeding/fattening turkeys (since 2010).

⁴⁶ As per the requirements of Regulation (EC) No. 2160/2003.

Typhimurium (S. 4,5,12:i:-). These data are out of a total of 3,558 fattening flocks tested under the programme. No fattening turkey flocks were detected positive for S. Enteritidis during the year. For breeding turkeys, the prevalence of the target serovars was 0%, with no breeding flocks testing positive for S. Typhimurium or S. Enteritidis in 2012.

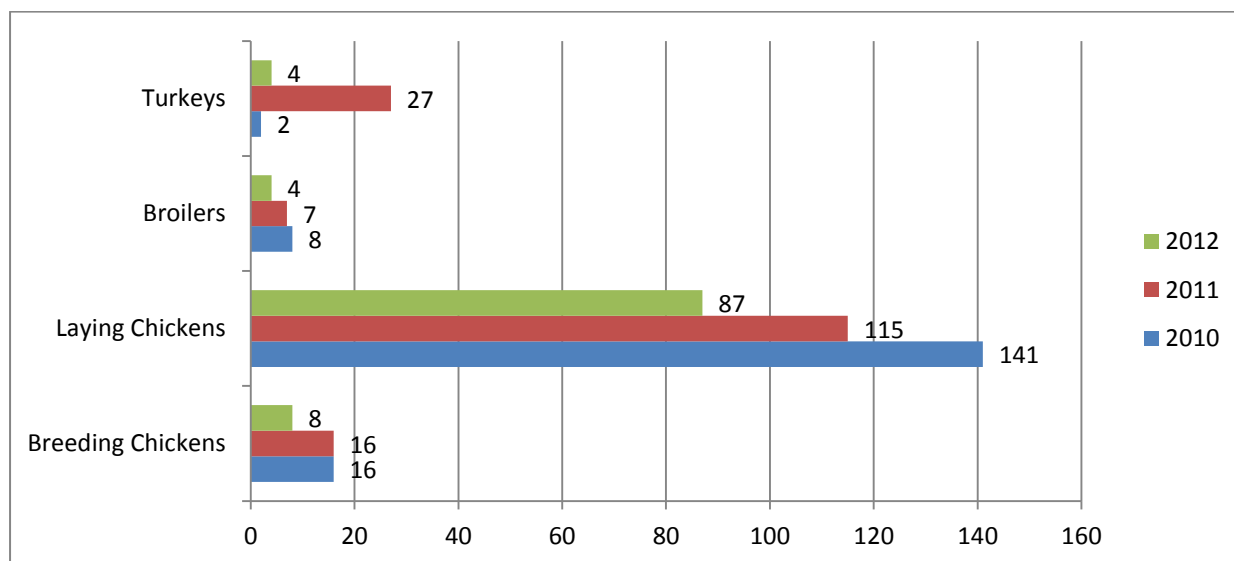
2.141 The requirements for official sampling are laid out in Regulation 2160/2003 and implementing legislation. There were no significant changes in the intensity and type of controls from 2010-12.

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

Sector	2010	2011	2012
Breeding chickens	1,550	1,382	1,473
Laying chickens	1,566	1,485	1,371
Broilers	160	156	155
Turkeys	353	311	333

2.142 Overall, assessment of FBO compliance with the requirements of the SNCP for all sectors in the UK indicated a generally decreasing trend in non-compliance, especially major non-compliances detected over the last 3 years. Most non-compliances were minor deviations from the required sampling schedule, or farm records being unclear or not kept fully up to date. A smaller number of major non-compliances, for example late sampling or incorrect samples taken, were detected between 2010 and 2012 and are also included in the data in the chart below. The criteria for defining a non-compliance and the number of compliance inspections varies between poultry sectors, so data can only be compared within a specific sector for the years reported and should not be compared between sectors. Overall, no significant deviation in compliance patterns has been observed from 2010 – 2012.

Number of non-compliances by sector with requirements of the SNCP in UK



Year	2010	2011	2012
Total non-compliances	167	165	103

2.143 In England and Wales, laying chicken farms where there are major non-compliances detected, have financial penalty notices issued for incomplete compliance with the requirements of the SNCP. The penalty notice data for the years 2010–2012 indicates a significant decreasing trend in operator non-compliance: 27 penalty notices and 16 warning letters were issued in 2012 and 33 financial penalty notices and 19 warning letters were issued in 2011. In 2010, 88 financial penalty notices were issued. This financial penalty system is not used in Scotland and NI.

Border controls

2.144 EU legislation⁴⁷ requires that border inspection posts carry out 100% documentary and identity checks on imports of animals and animal products. During 2012 physical checks were carried out on all consignments of live animals and a set percentage of animal products laid down in Commission Decision 94/360 (1-10%, 20% or 50% depending on the product).

2.145 The level and nature of import controls are laid down in EU legislation so there is no flexibility to target particular types of consignments. Therefore, there were no significant changes during 2012. 14,309 consignments of live animals were checked in 2012. This is broadly in line with previous years (16,141 in 2011 and 14,401 in 2010). The number of consignments of animal products imported in 2012 was lower than in previous years at 52,284. Previous year's figures were 62,935 consignments in 2011 and 62,460 in 2010. This is likely to be a temporary drop due to the current economic circumstances.

2.146 Compliance remains high for third country imports of animals and animal products. The 2012 figures show small increase on previous years. The major non-compliances are documentary errors, in particular absence of a health certificate or an invalid health certificate. This is likely to be because a lack of understanding or knowledge of the EU rules in the third country exporting authority. For live animals, 110 consignments were rejected in 2012. 67 consignments were rejected in 2011 and 72 in 2010. For animal products 728 consignments were rejected. 676 consignments were rejected in 2011 and 694 in 2010.

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

⁴⁷ Directive 97/78/EC requires 100% documentary and identity checks on imported animal products and Commission Decision 94/360/EC lays down the levels of physical checks. Directive 91/496/EEC requires that all imported animals are checked on entry to the EU. Operational targets are checked during AHVLA audits.

UK controls on imported consignments: Animal Products

Certificates			Rejects		Reject conclusion		
Total number	Number controlled	% controlled	number	% of total	Re-exported	Transformed	Destroyed
57,698	57,685	100.0%	790	1.4%	245	4	530

UK controls on imported consignments: Live Animals

Certificates			Rejects		Reject conclusion		
Total number	Number controlled	% controlled	number	% of total	Re-exported	Slaughter	Euthanasia
15,263	15,259	100.0%	103	0.7%	92	0	10 ⁴⁸

Bee health

England and Wales

- 2.148 In England and Wales, the National Bee Unit (NBU) carried out a statutory inspection programme on behalf of Defra and the WG. Details of the programmes are available on the NBU's BeeBase website⁴⁹. Full details of the NBU's inspections and pest and disease incidence in 2012 and in previous years, are available on BeeBase.
- 2.149 The number of colonies infected with American Foul Brood (AFB) has remained fairly similar in recent years, and historically are at their lowest levels since records began. 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 on-going research projects which aim to better understand the disease. The overall incidence has generally been in decline since 2000.
- 2.150 The NBU continued to search for the exotic pests – *Aethina tumida*⁵⁰ and *Tropilaelaps mites*. Neither of these pests was found in the UK. Surveillance programmes and the use of sentinel apiaries will continue.
- 2.151 Honey samples were also collected under statutory residue monitoring programmes on behalf of VMD. The stipulated number of honey samples under the National Surveillance Scheme, as directed under the plan, were collected to the required deadlines. Approximately 100 samples are collected each year under Council Directive 96/23/EC.
- 2.152 A total of 35,708 colonies in 6,631 apiaries (8,331 apiary visits) were inspected across England and Wales by the NBU's bee inspectors.

⁴⁸ Fish and Gastropoda.

⁴⁹ nationalbeeunit.com

⁵⁰ Small hive beetle.

2.153 Key Performance Indicators for laboratory diagnosis and field inspections were met. Details are provided below:

Turnaround times on laboratory diagnosis and control measures on diseased apiaries

Type of sample	Target (working days within which 95% of samples should be done)	% within target	Number of samples received
Statutory Exotics	1	100	43
Voluntary Exotics	1	100	166
Import Samples	4	75	3
Statutory Foulbrood	1	99	1,061
Voluntary Foulbrood	1	100	28

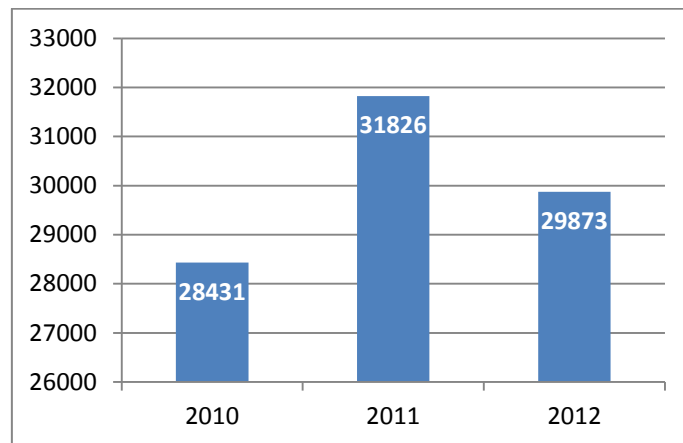
Field work/inspection:

- treatment and destruction of foul brood infected colonies: 95% within 10 days from diagnosis
- 492 colonies in 233 separate apiaries were treated by shook swarm/or OTC antibiotic: 95% within 10 days (mean treatment time 2 days)
- 601 colonies in 303 separate apiaries were controlled by destruction: 98% within 10 days (mean treatment time 2 days).

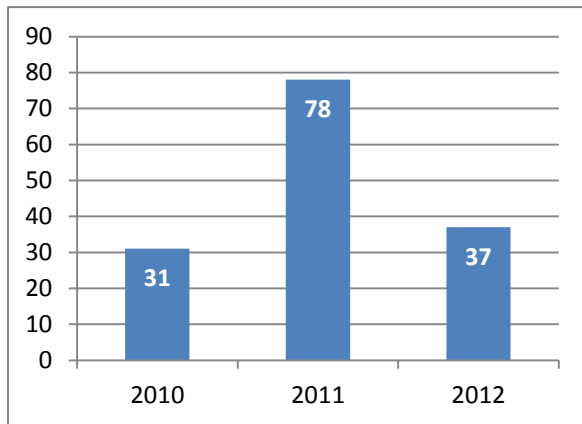
2.154 The NBU's inspection priorities are the detection and management of the statutory notifiable diseases, AFB and EFB, and surveillance for exotic pest species the Small hive beetle (SHB) (*Aethina tumida*) and *Tropilaelaps mites*. The average number of AFB cases over the past 10 years (excluding those for the exceptional 2002 major outbreak), is fairly stable at around 50–60 cases/year. In terms of distribution, with the exception of Northern England, at least one case of AFB was detected in each region. Incidence was low in North East England, South West England, Southern England and South East England. The majority of AFB diseased colonies were found in Wales (35% of all cases) but these cases were confined to a small number of apiaries; Western England and Eastern England together account for a further 46% of the total incidence. It should be noted that while overall incidence is low, the distribution of cases is not confined to specific regions of England and Wales but is widespread.

2.155 Cases of EFB disease in England and Wales (948 cases) were higher than in 2011 (695 cases). There is no single reason why EFB incidence has risen. However, very poor weather during the beekeeping season is a significant factor. Poor weather limits the bees' ability to forage and poor nutrition is a recognised stress factor. It is documented that the incidence of EFB increases in stressed colonies.

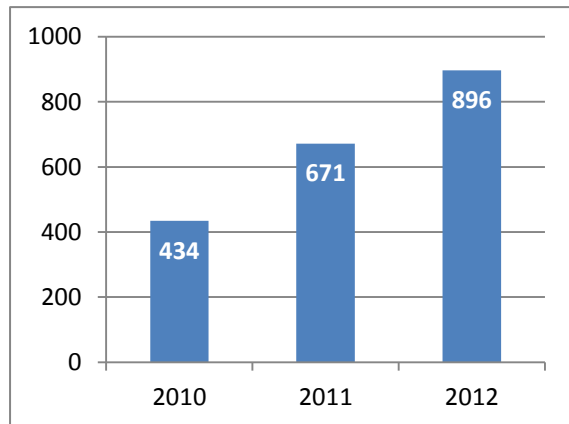
Total number of colonies inspected in England



Number of colonies found to be infected with AFB

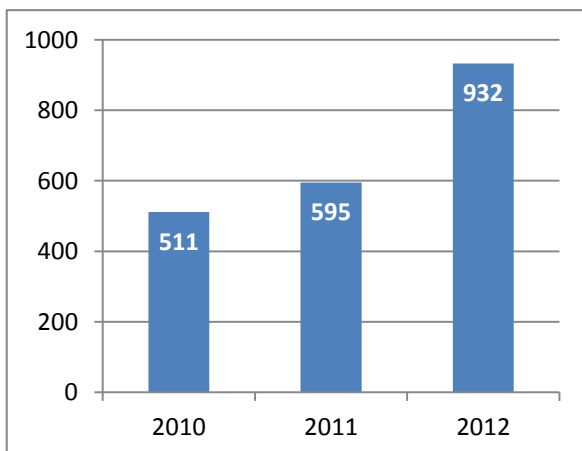


Number of colonies found to be infected with EFB

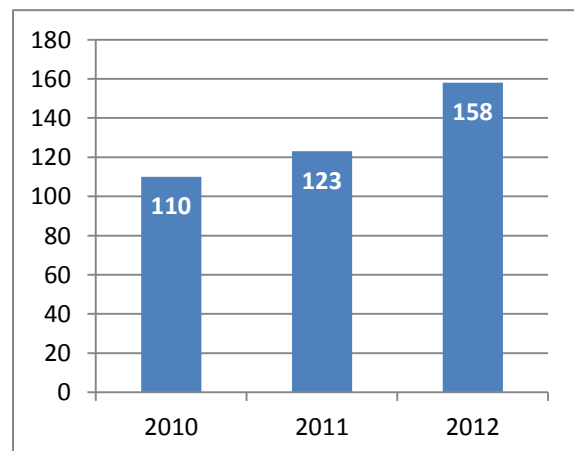


Exotic pests

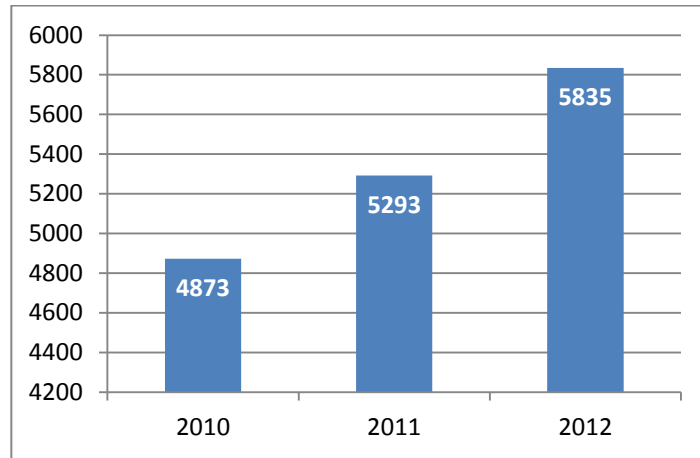
Number of exotic pest survey apiaries inspected



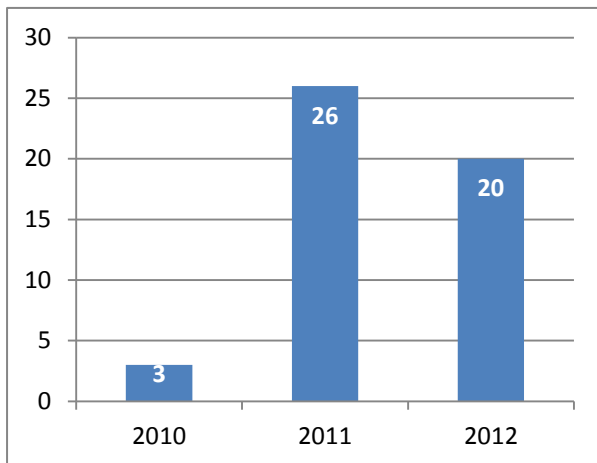
Number of samples submitted by beekeepers



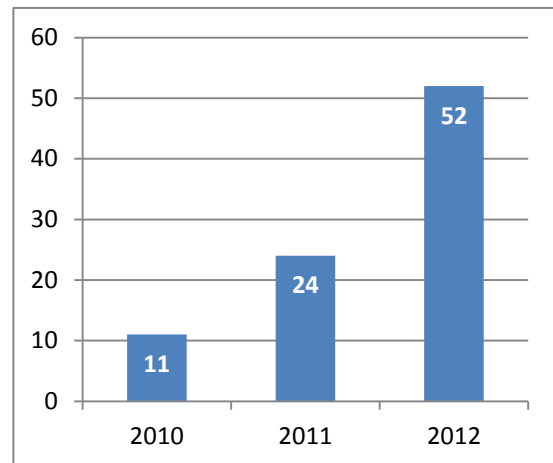
Total number of colonies inspected in Wales



Number of colonies found to be infected with AFB

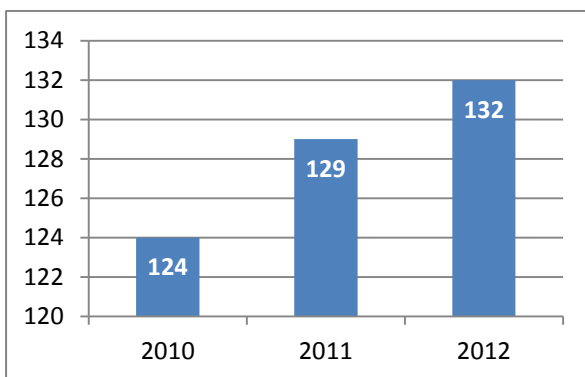


Number of colonies found to be infected with EFB

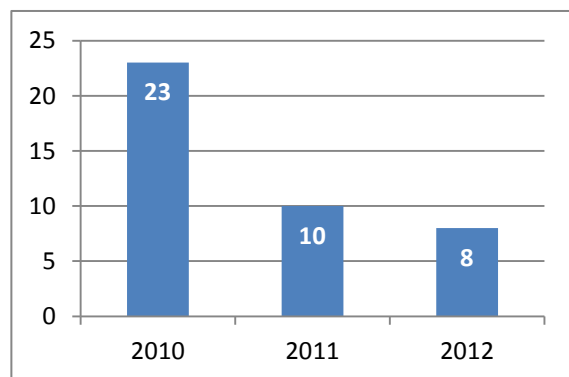


Exotic pests

Number of exotic pest survey apiaries inspected



Number of samples submitted by beekeepers

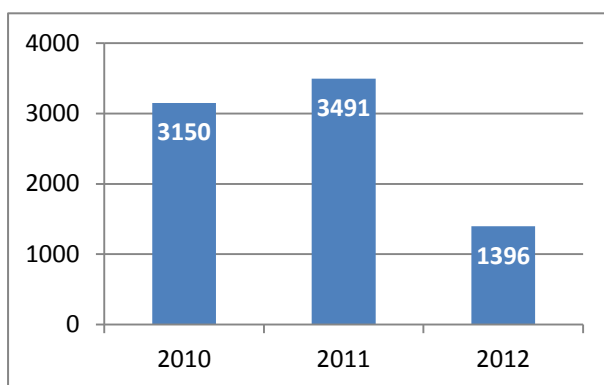


Scotland

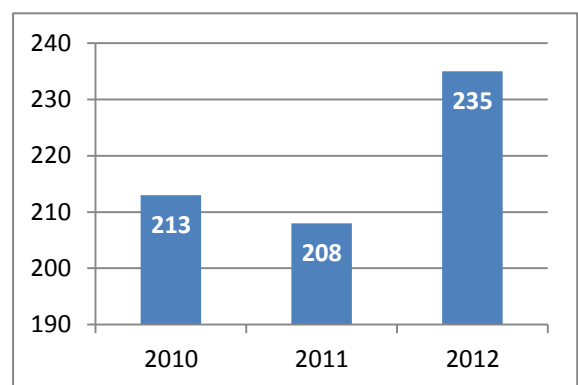
2.156 A Scottish Honey Bee Health Surveillance Programme was in operation in 2012 and was successful in uncovering several cases of AFB as well as providing a detailed picture of bee health. In addition, it allowed the bee inspectors to make their presence known in their areas and improved engagement with beekeepers.

2.157 An EFB Control Plan has been in operation since 2010 where the main element was dealing primarily with cases of the disease in Tayside. The level of EFB has significantly reduced since the programme started. This reduction is not only in the number of colonies infected but also the density of disease which has been radically reduced. The EFB Control Plan brought together several agencies and stakeholders to deliver what is clearly a useful route to dealing with a crisis. Several simple measures adopted with a great degree of cooperation on all sides working in close partnership have been the marker of success.

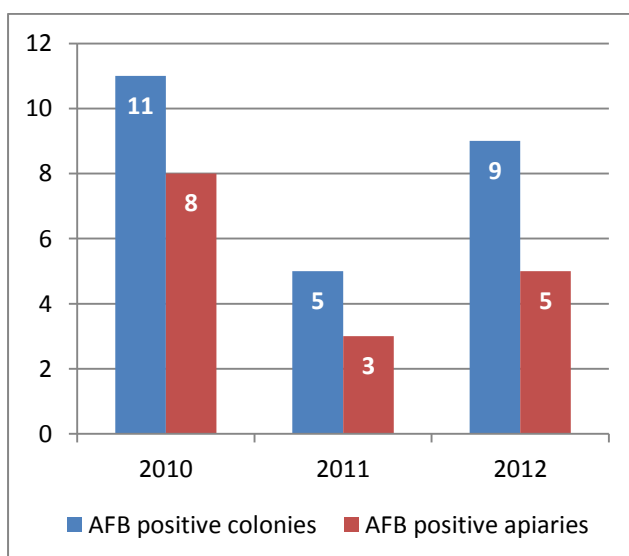
Total number of colonies inspected



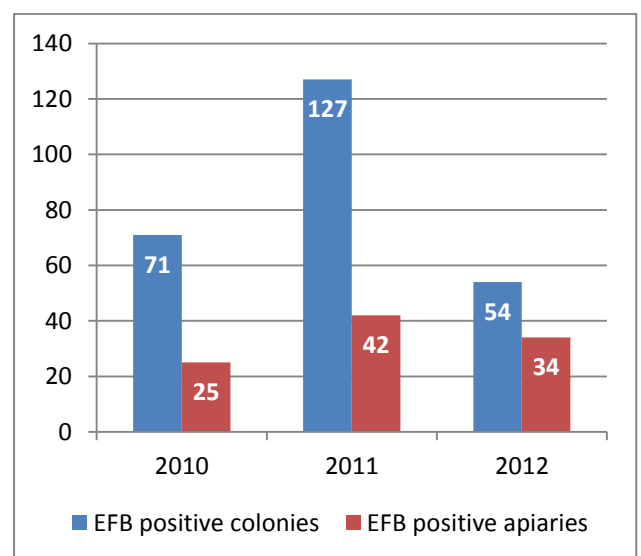
Total number of apiaries inspected



Number found to be infected with AFB



Number found to be infected with EFB



NI

- 2.158 In NI, Bee Inspectors from DARD's Agri-food Inspection Branch carried out statutory Bee Health inspections for the notifiable pest and diseases controlled by the Bee Diseases and Pests Control Order (Northern Ireland) 2007.
- 2.159 The number of colonies infected with AFB has fallen in 2012, with 14 colonies in 10 apiaries recorded with the disease. All infected colonies were destroyed and apiaries within a 3 mile radius receiving a Foul Brood inspection. EFB has not been reported for many years but inspections continue in order to intercept this disease at an early stage should it appear.
- 2.160 The Bee Inspectors continue to search for the exotic pests – *Aethina tumida* and *Tropilaelaps mites*, mostly at targeted apiaries. Samples submitted have all remained negative for these pests.
- 2.161 Honey samples were collected under statutory residue monitoring programmes on behalf of VMD. No controlled residues have been recorded from the submitted samples.
- 2.162 A total of 157 apiaries (190 apiary visits) were inspected in NI by DARD's Bee Inspectors.

Aquatic Animal Health

- 2.163 The planned official control programme on aquatic animal health was successfully completed and met the objectives and targets set out in the MOU between Defra and Cefas in England and Wales, SLAs established within Marine Scotland, and the MOU between DARD and the Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute Fish Disease Unit (FDU)⁵¹. The successful completion of the official control programme supported the maintenance of approved zone status for the UK for a number of serious diseases of fish and shellfish and contributed to the protection of our high aquatic animal health status.
- 2.164 Compliance across the aquatic animal health sector as a whole has continued to show an improvement in terms of compliance with legislative requirements. Compliance by aquaculture production businesses (APBs) was good, reflecting the effectiveness of the compliance inspection programme, and the prompt and consistent actions taken in event of non-compliance.
- 2.165 Generally, the industry was compliant with the requirements of the aquatic animal health legislation. The majority of non-compliances were administrative in nature and are dealt with through the provision of advice, and enforcement notices followed by further inspections. These actions were generally sufficient to ensure good statutory compliance, with only infrequent need to take further action.

⁵¹ Responsible for the fish disease testing programme in NI.

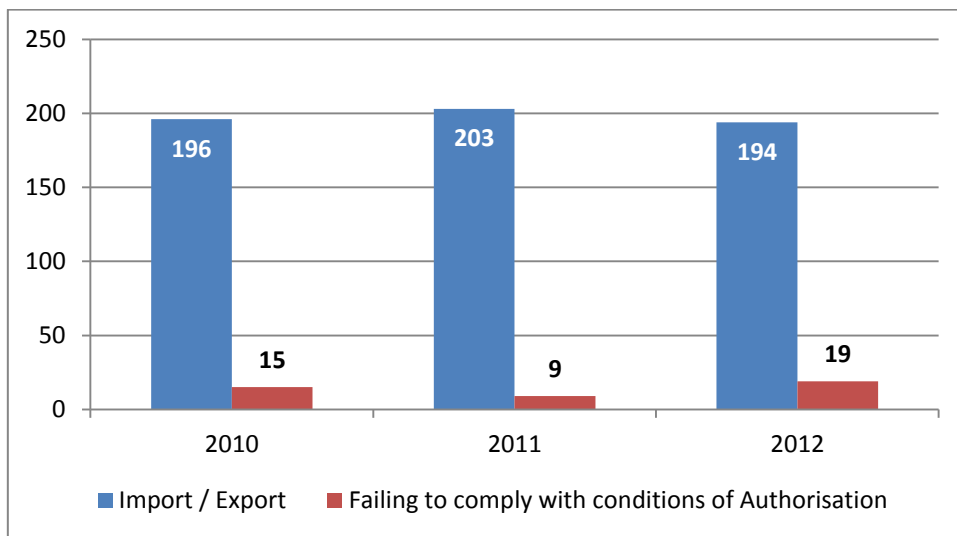
England and Wales

- 2.166 The intensity and the type of controls have remained relatively consistent over the past three years. With regard to APBs, 361 fish farms and 75 shellfish farms were subject to compliance inspection. A total of 124 samples from fish and 23 samples from shellfish were submitted for diagnostic testing for listed diseases, new and emerging diseases and cause of mortality. In addition, 126 official controls were undertaken relating to the application of disease controls on infected sites. The risk based import surveillance programme continued to be directed towards sources of live fish that have been demonstrated to be of higher risk in respect of the introduction of disease. A total of 72 samples of fish were subject to diagnostic testing for listed diseases under the 2012 import surveillance programme. A total of 14 statutory samples were taken from shellfish farms in relation to the *Oyster Herpesvirus* (OsHV-1 μ var) surveillance programme, and in support of disease freedom status for *Marteilia refringens*, and in continuance of the control programme for *Bonamia ostreae*. Finally 92 inspections were undertaken relating to the authorisation of new APBs, and the de-authorisation of businesses.
- 2.167 As far as unplanned official controls are concerned there was a significant outbreak of the non-exotic disease OsHV-1 μ var in the Blackwater estuary, Essex. This is the largest Pacific oyster producing area in the UK, and the disease has the potential to detrimentally affect production levels. Statutory controls were placed on the infected area, and the Fish Health Inspectorate (FHI) worked in close conjunction with the shellfish interests in the development of local management plan to further control the spread of the disease within the designated area.
- 2.168 Outbreaks of the non-exotic disease of fish Koi Herpesvirus disease were fewer than in previous years, possibly due to better biosecurity awareness by fish farm and fishery operators, combined with cooler weather conditions that were not conducive to the clinical expression of the disease. However a new and emerging disease caused by carp edema-like virus was detected in a number of fisheries, and further work is underway to characterise this condition.
- 2.169 The number of enforcement notices served on APBs increased slightly in 2012 as compared with the previous year. This was, to an extent, due to a single business that failed to comply with statutory requirements until prosecution appeared to be a likely outcome. This business was subject to an increased level of compliance inspection and has subsequently proved to be fully compliant.
- 2.170 Trade related non-compliances remained at a stable level despite the high number of new businesses that enter this sector, and also a number of new third country sources of aquatic animals commencing trade with the UK. There was 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

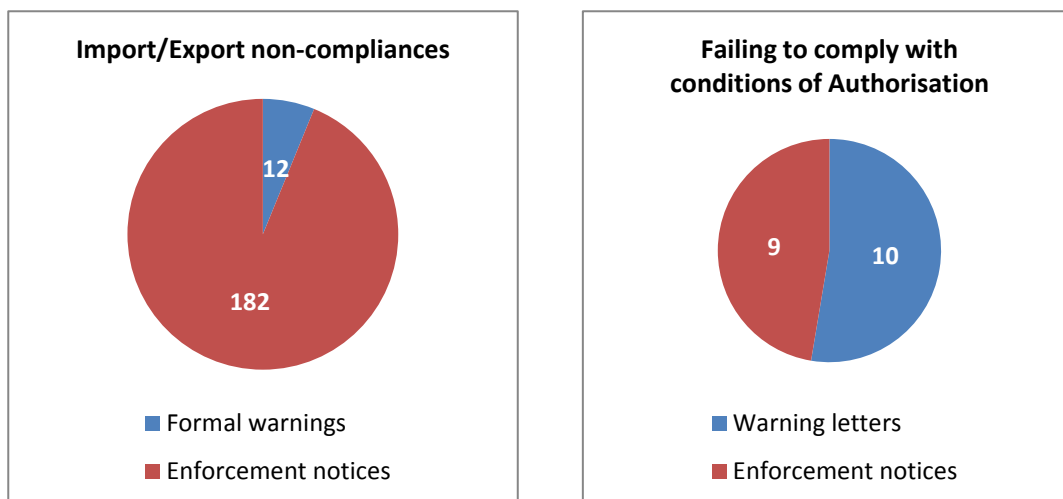
authorities rather than non-compliance by recipient stakeholder businesses. This type of non-compliance presents a relatively low risk to aquatic animal health in England and Wales as most fish are destined for secure facilities. Nevertheless it is important to maintain levels of enforcement in this area in order to prevent this type of non-compliance spreading to higher risk activities.

2.171 A FHI initiative to further engage with businesses importing live fish was initiated in 2012 in order to improve levels of compliance, and it is envisaged that this investment will be reflected in a lower level of non-compliance in forthcoming years.

Number and category of non-compliances between 2010 and 2012



Breakdown of outcomes on non-compliances in 2012 - England and Wales



2.172 Illegal importation of live freshwater fish presents the biggest risk to the aquatic animal health status of England and Wales. In 2012, the FHI continued to implement a proactive approach to illegal importation and undertook a number of intelligence-led interceptions of consignments of fish. The Inspectorate has developed an intelligence sharing network, and work in

close cooperation with other Government Agencies such as the UK Border Force (UKBF) and the Environment Agency (EA) in the investigation of illegal activities.

- 2.173 During 2010-12 no businesses were closed as a result of actions arising from official controls.

Scotland

- 2.174 In accordance with the Risk Based Surveillance scheme⁵², 189 inspections relating to fish farms and 115 inspections relating to shellfish farms were conducted. In addition, a total of 18 statutory samples were taken for *Viral hemorrhagic septicemia* (VHS) in response to the outbreak of non-exotic disease. A total of 13 statutory samples were taken for OsHV-1 µvar to support Scotland, as part of GB, in its application for disease freedom for OsHV-1 µvar. Throughout the inspection process a total of 20 unannounced inspections were conducted.
- 2.175 A total of 43 diagnostic samples were taken from fish and shellfish in response to notifications of mortality, suspicion of disease, or through routine inspection involving the observation of clinical and post mortem signs of disease.
- 2.176 Through a contractual arrangement with the VMD a total of 1,580 samples were collected from finfish aquaculture sites. These samples were submitted to the VMD for analysis with respect to residues of chemotherapeutants or environmental contamination.
- 2.177 Paperwork checks associated with consignments of live aquatic animals introduced into Scotland from neighbouring EU countries were conducted for 129 introductions. All seven applications to import stock from third countries into Scotland were processed. Inspection of all consignments for placing on the market along with the issuing of appropriate animal health certificates was conducted in 31 cases to facilitate trade.
- 2.178 Targets of inspecting 10% of consignments introduced were met for the first six months of the year (eight inspections made). The target was not met for the second six months of 2012 (two inspections made). The failure to meet the target associated with the inspection of consignments introduced into Scotland, within the second half of the 2012, is a direct consequence of legislative change through the introduction of the Trade in Animals and Related Products (Scotland) Regulations 2012 (TARP). There are presently queries as to whether the FHI have appropriate legal powers regarding the detention, isolation, destruction and return of consignments which do not meet the appropriate conditions concerning their health certification. Marine Scotland policy officers along with the SG's Legal Directorate are presently addressing the issues identified.

⁵² Conducted in line with Council Directive 2006/88/EC

- 2.179 A total of 18 fish farms had movement restrictions placed on suspicion of the presence of VHS following the outbreak of VHS in December of 2012⁵³. One site was confirmed in 2012. Five other sites went on to be confirmed in 2013. Areas containing confirmed sites have been suspended from the GB approved zone. The proposal for eradication and regaining disease freedom is being drafted for consideration through the SCoFCAH process. Movement restrictions for *Bonamia ostreae* remained in place in two sea water lochs in Scotland, as they have been since 2006 and 2007.
- 2.180 Following the outbreak of VHS in December of 2012⁵⁴ an epidemiological investigation was undertaken to look at the likely origin and spread of the virus. It should be stressed that the outbreak was initially identified in wrasse species which are stocked as a biological control for dealing with infestation from sea lice⁵⁵. Wrasse have been depopulated from the infected sites. Statutory testing and post mortem observations have been conducted on the remaining fish populations. Numerous site inspections have been made. A total of 18 sites had movement restrictions placed on suspicion of the presence of VHS. One site was confirmed in 2012. Five other sites went on to be confirmed in 2013.
- 2.181 Freedom for ISA virus was granted in 2012 following an outbreak towards the end of 2009 which was fully contained and eradicated. Movement restrictions in place for ISA were removed from 41 sites in 2012 following declared freedom. These restrictions had been in place since 2009 / 2010.
- 2.182 In 2012, two put-and-take fisheries and five fish farms had active orders in place for the presence of clinical Bacterial Kidney Disease (BKD). The number of movement restrictions placed on suspicion or confirmation of BKD in 2011 and 2010 were 12 and 37 respectively. A policy change was introduced in 2011 which resulted in control measures being placed on the presence of clinical disease only as opposed to the previous policy of clinical disease and/or the presence of the pathogen *Renibacterium salmoninarum*, the causative agent of BKD. This change explains the reduction in controls placed over this period.
- 2.183 The aquaculture sector in Scotland shows a high level of compliance with legislation to control aquatic animal disease. This is evidenced by the number of instances of non-compliance compared to the number of active sites⁵⁶.

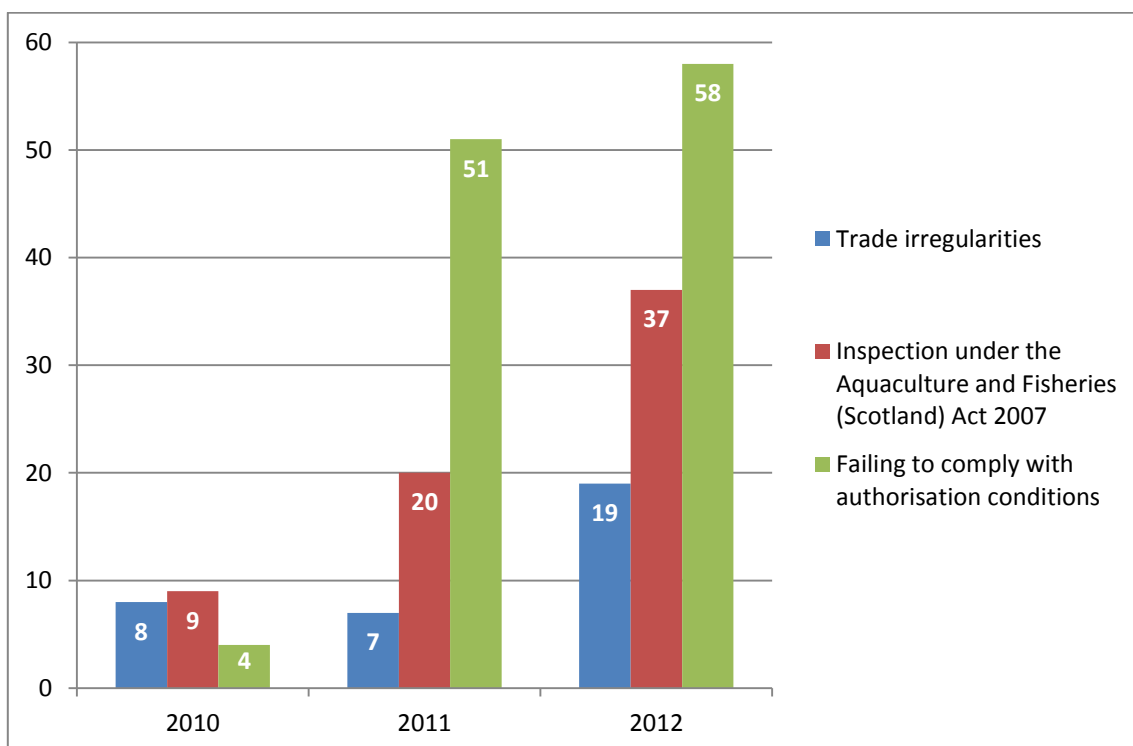
⁵³ The outbreak was initially identified in wrasse species which are stocked as a biological control for dealing with Salmon infestation from sea lice.

⁵⁴ In the two years prior to 2012 there were no controls in place in Scotland for VHS.

⁵⁵ There was no evidence of any infection of VHS within Atlantic salmon.

⁵⁶ There are presently over 700 active fish and shellfish sites in Scotland. Similar numbers would have been relevant to the years 2012, 2011 and 2010.

Number of non-compliances between 2010⁵⁷ and 2012



Details of outcomes of the non-compliances found in Scotland during 2012

Category of non-compliance	Number	Enforcement Actions
Trade irregularities	19	3 Regulation 14(3) notices were issued imposing restrictions over imported stock until the irregularity was resolved. 16 cases involving minor non-compliances which were resolved through communication with the importer.
Inspection under the Aquaculture and Fisheries (Scotland) Act 2007	37	30 cases where recommendations were made with deadlines for actions imposed. 7 cases involving minor non-compliances and where advice was given with no follow up action required.
Failing to comply with authorisation conditions	58	44 cases were resolved through issuing advice. 14 cases were resolved through issuing warning letters informing of obligations in line with the first stage of the FHI enforcement policy.

⁵⁷ The figure 4 shown in 2010 for failing to comply with authorisation conditions includes one failing to report mortalities.

- 2.184 The main types of non-compliance are administrative in nature, most notably relating to 'failing to comply with authorisation conditions'. The above data indicates a significant increase between 2010 and 2012. This is a result of more thorough enforcement of new requirements introduced through the Aquatic Animal Health (Scotland) Regulation 2009 following an initial grace period.
- 2.185 The programme of enhanced inspection, in accordance with AFSA⁵⁸, temporarily ceased in 2009 and 2010. Hence there was a lower number of inspections in 2010 which resulted in fewer non-compliances being detected. There was a significant increase in the number of non-compliances detected under the AFSA programme between 2011 and 2012, from 20 to 37. It should be noted that the number of inspections increased throughout this period from 24 (in 2011) to 45 (in 2012).
- 2.186 The increase in trade irregularities in 2012 in comparison to previous years has resulted through an increased activity concerning the introduction of shellfish into Scotland. The operators involved have been unaware of the legal requirements regarding such trade and often anomalies have been evident between the proposed destination and the actual destination of animals being introduced. It should be highlighted that there is no increased disease risk associated with this type of non-compliance.
- 2.187 During 2010-12 no businesses were closed as a result of actions arising from official controls.

NI

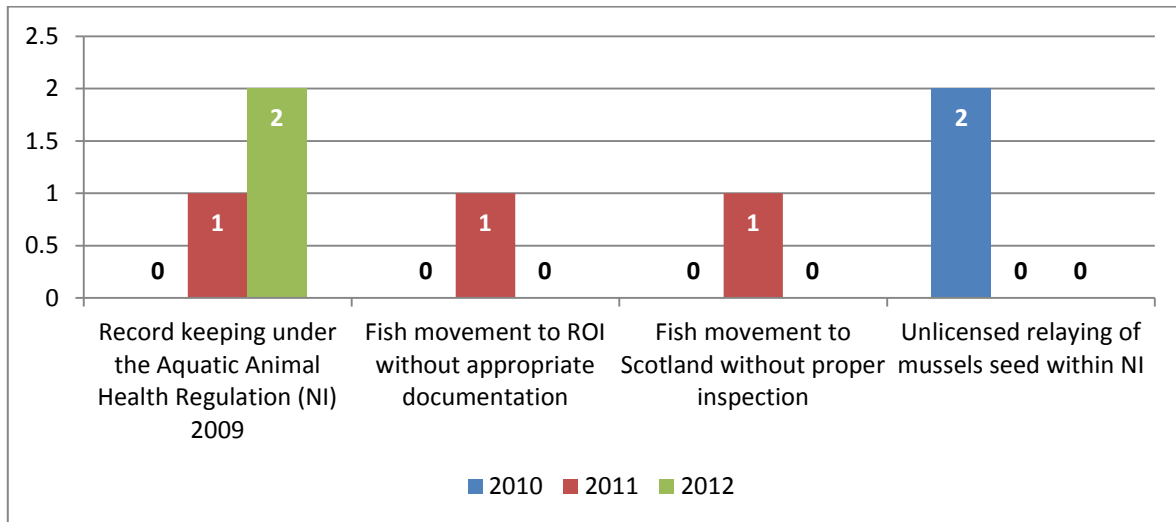
- 2.188 The intensity and the type of controls have remained relatively consistent over the past three years and, given the relatively small number of farms⁵⁹ and close geographical location in NI, all operational farms are inspected annually.
- 2.189 With regard to APBs, 24 fish farms and 44 shellfish farms were subject to compliance inspections. In addition, a total of 18 samples from fish and 15 samples from shellfish were submitted for diagnostic testing for listed diseases, new and emerging diseases and cause of mortality. Inspection targets were achieved and included inspection of 100% of live salmonid imports, 100% of exports for fish health purposes, 100% of all live coldwater exports to open systems and 40% of all live coldwater imports to open systems.
- 2.190 In late summer 2012 there was a large increase in mussel exports from England and Wales to NI. This increase was a consequence of new harvesting areas being opened to fishing. The Cefas and DARD FHIs worked together with industry to ensure health certificates were completed and movements relayed in NI waters with minimal disruption to industry.

⁵⁸ Aquaculture and Fisheries (Scotland) Act 2007.

⁵⁹ 24 authorised finfish farms and 51 authorised shellfish sites.

- 2.191 DARD investigated one disease outbreak of OsHV1- μ var in 2012 and issued a Confirmed Designation Notice in Strangford Lough in August 2012⁶⁰.
- 2.192 Compliance across the aquatic animal health sector in NI is high with a good working relationship and communications between FHI and APB operators.

Number of non-compliances between 2010 and 2012



- 2.193 In 2010-12, there were 7 instances of non-compliance, all of which were dealt with by way of formal written warning. There were only 2 minor instances of non-compliance in NI in 2012, both were in respect of poor record keeping and were dealt with by way of formal written warning.

Official controls in the animal welfare sector

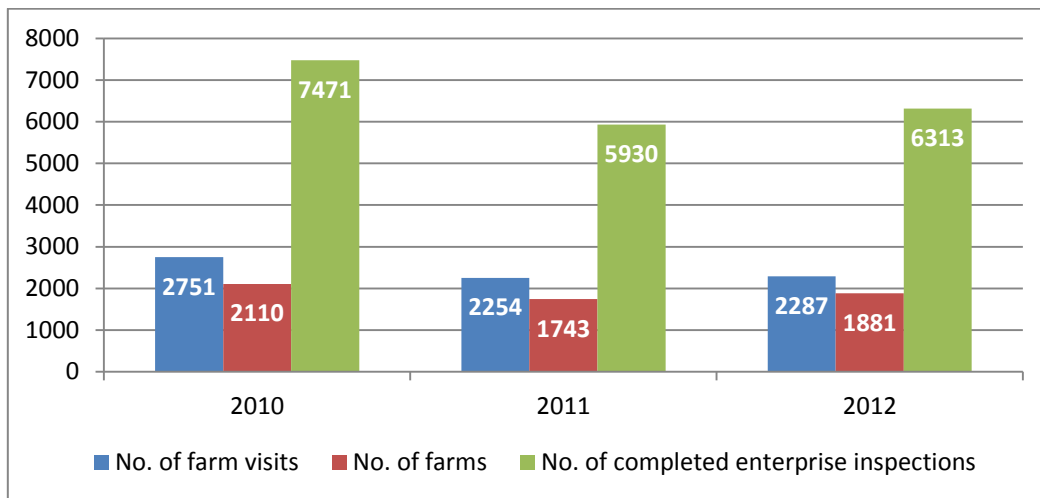
- 2.194 Animal welfare controls in 2012 were primarily the responsibility of AHVLA and LAs in GB and DARD in NI. However Defra, the SG and WG have delegated the responsibility for animal welfare implementation in slaughterhouses to the FSA Operations team. Welfare at slaughter and killing outside slaughterhouses and during disease control situations is monitored by AHVLA.

On-farm animal welfare

- 2.195 In 2012, 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, as in the previous two years. The number of repeat visits (to a farm inspected the same year) reduced to 18% of total visits compared with 23% in 2010 and 2011. The number of enterprise types inspected at each visit (for example different species or different rearing systems) remained at similar levels in previous years of approximately 2.8 enterprises per visit.

⁶⁰ dardni.gov.uk/index/fisheries/fish-health/ni-disease-status/designation-notices-fisheries.htm

Number of farm inspections in GB between 2010 and 2012



2.196 The UK has implemented the Meat Chicken Directive (2007/43/EC)⁶¹ through the Welfare of Farmed Animals Regulations⁶². Since June 2010, AHVLA and FSA Operations delivered a system for all eligible flocks resulting in all trigger reports generated being assessed for further action. DARD has operated similar procedures.

2.197 During 2012 AHVLA received 2,490⁶³ trigger reports from FSA Operations in GB. Following assessment and initial contact with the producer the actions taken are shown in table below. This is an increase on reports received in 2011, (NB: 2010 was only 6 months as collection commenced midway through year) summarised in tables below. Indications are that an increase in the mean prevalence of post-mortem conditions has increased across the industry in recent years, which may lead to a review of trigger thresholds following a post-implementation review due to report in 2013.

Actions taken following receipt of trigger reports by AHVLA

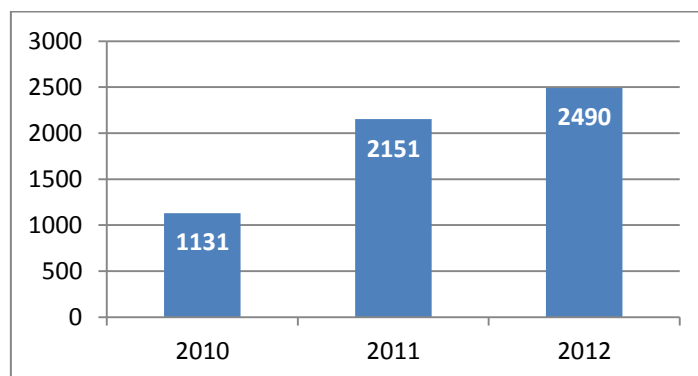
Actions	2010 (last 6 months only)	2011	2012
Cases assessed as "resolved or not eligible under 2007/43/EC"	970	1,448	1,742
Classified as "current action under 2007/43/EC is sufficient"	89	465	379
Action Plans requested	66	199	245
Advisory visits conducted	2	27	47
Inspections carried out	4	12	13

⁶¹ defra.gov.uk/food-farm/animals/welfare/on-farm/poultry-welfare/ and archive.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/farmanimal/welfare/onfarm/meatchks-require.htm.

⁶² WOFAR legislation amendments available at:
 England: [Welfare of Farmed Animals \(England\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2010](http://Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2010).
 Scotland: legislation.data.gov.uk/sdsi/2011/9780111010228/data.htm?wrap=true.
 Wales: [The Welfare of Farmed Animals \(Wales\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2010](http://The Welfare of Farmed Animals (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2010).

⁶³ This figure differs from the number of actions taken, shown in the table, as some farms will have action plans, advisory visits and enforcement action and a further inspection.

Total number of actions taken between 2010⁶⁴ to 2012

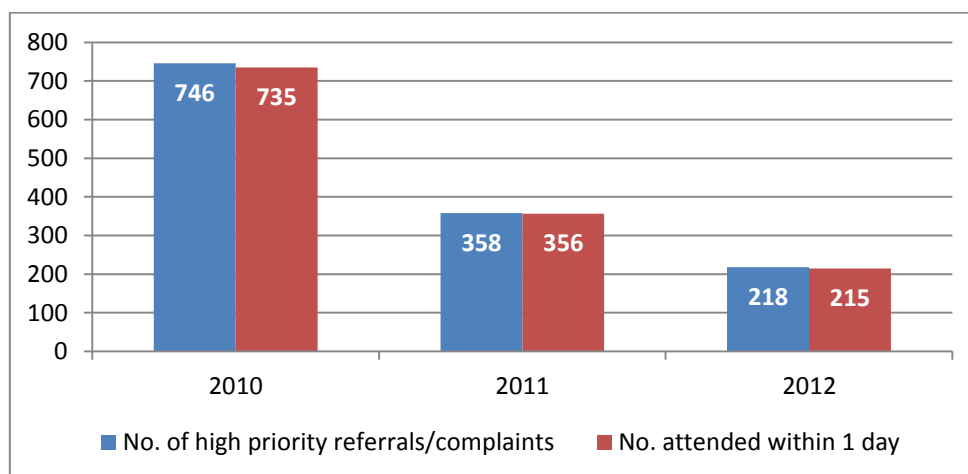


2.198 The level of non-compliance (4%) for category assessments on farms in GB in 2012 remained the same as the previous two years.

2.199 As in previous years, the main non-compliances in 2012 related to buildings and accommodation hazards, record keeping, provision of feed, water and other substances, disease treatment and staff training.

2.200 All complaints and allegations of poor welfare are risk assessed by a veterinary officer and carried out as a matter of urgency. 218 of these were risk assessed as High priority of which 215 (98.6%) were visited within 24 hours of receipt of the complaint. This was similar to 2010 and 2011.

Number of high priority referrals / complaints alleging unnecessary suffering attended by AHVLA inspectors in GB

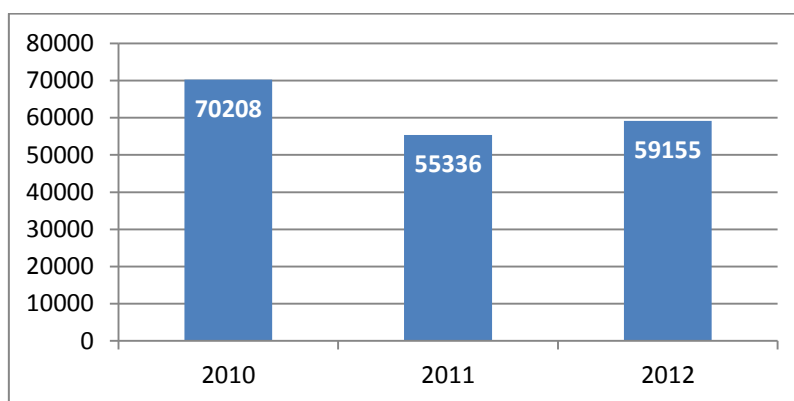


2.201 The results of inspection visits were classified into four score categories - A to D. The A and B scored inspections reflect compliance with the legislation and did not require any further statutory action.

⁶⁴ Figures for last six months of 2010 only

2.202 A score of C was recorded when there was a non-compliance with the welfare legislation with no welfare compromise (e.g. records failures) or where welfare was potentially or actually compromised but no unnecessary pain, suffering, injury or distress identified for urgent action. Non compliances overall remain similar over the last 3 years but with unnecessary suffering assessments tending to decrease as well as the percentage of enterprises with an overall D score decreasing. The approach to complaint and targeted inspections (which comprises the majority of D scores recorded) has not changed which would suggest there is a genuine reduction in unnecessary suffering being detected, but the significance of this is not clear.

Total number of enterprise assessments in GB between 2010 and 2012



Welfare non-compliance only (C score) in GB

Year	Number of non-compliances per 1,000 assessments	Number of enterprises (% of total inspected) with overall C score	Advisory letters issued
2010	32	881 (12%)	376
2011	33	839 (14%)	355
2012	31	775 (12%)	274

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

Year	Unnecessary suffering found per 1,000 assessments	Number of enterprises (% of total inspected) with overall D score	Average number of days to clear D score
2010	8	286 (3.8%)	11.8
2011	6	213 (3.6%)	20.6
2012	5	187 (3.0%)	16.0

2.203 During 2012 AHVLA provided 10⁶⁵ witness statements to the enforcement bodies (LAs/Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) in support of legal action. In NI, any farm animal non-compliances found were referred to the Single Farm Payment paying agency and an improvement notice was served.

⁶⁵ The total number of statements for 2012 will also include up to 72 further statements recorded as "mixed action" in the data i.e. a total of up to 82 statements.

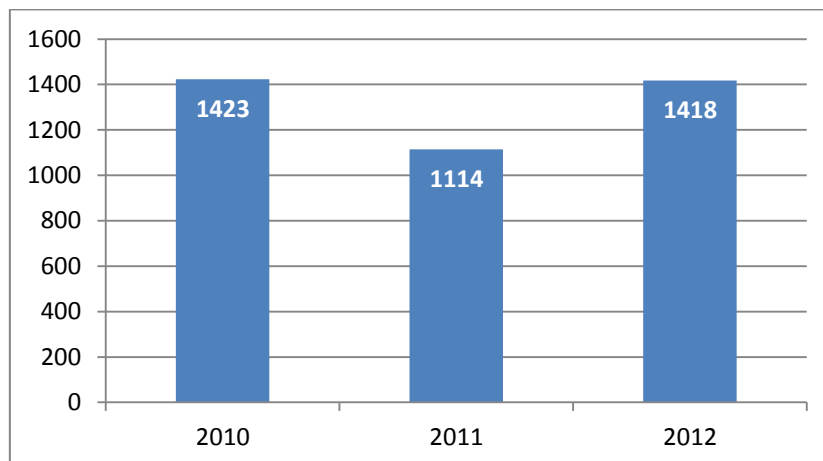
Number of witness statements and actions including statements in GB



2.204 In NI the most common failures related to inspection, staff training, provision of feed and water, buildings and accommodation hazards and breeding procedures. These are similar to 2011 except record failures featured in 2011 rather than breeding procedures.

2.205 In 2012 DARD completed 1,418 enterprise inspections with an overall compliance rate of 95%. Of the 405 non-compliances reported on 65 sites detected by DARD, 16% of these non-compliances were serious enough for formal action through prosecution⁶⁶.

Total number of enterprise inspections between 2010 and 2012



Year	Compliance rate at enterprise inspection level	Number of non-compliances at assessment level	Number of sites with non-compliances	% of non-compliant sites with category C ⁶⁷ non-compliance
2010	84%	307	132	7%
2011	89%	259	122	45%
2012	95%	405	65	16%

⁶⁶ Category C as per Commission Decision 2006/778

⁶⁷ Category C as described by Commission Decision 2006/778/EC

Animal welfare during transport⁶⁸

2.206 An Annual Report on the Protection of Animals during Transport⁶⁹ was produced and submitted to the Commission by 30 June⁷⁰.

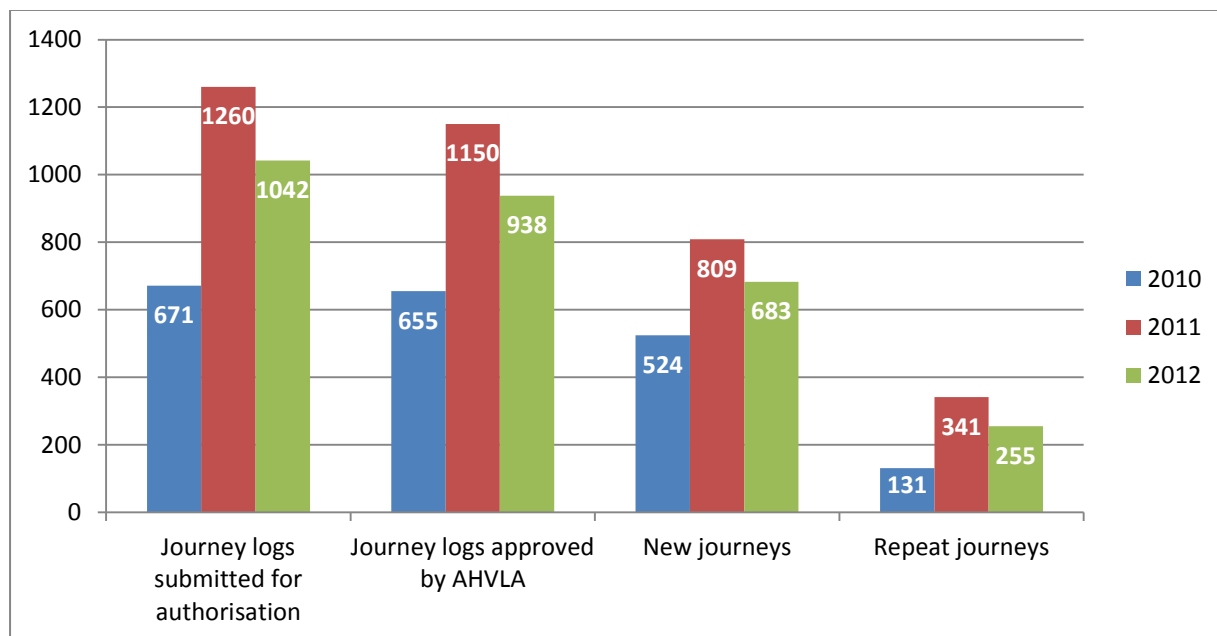
2.207 Inspections are carried out in the UK on a risk basis and in response to intelligence received. Inspection programmes are planned by AHVLA and LAs through local liaison. Findings are kept under review and local action taken as appropriate where any major deficiencies are detected.

Year	Applications	Authorised	Refused	Applications for re-authorisations
2010	985	983	2	N/A
2011	1,076	1,075	1	5,433
2012	895	895	0	19,584

2.208 In NI, DARD issued 126 transporter authorisations, of which one was conditional. This compares with 63 transporter authorisations in 2011, none of which were conditional.

2.209 In GB 1,042 journey logs were submitted for authorisation in 2012, less than in 2011 but not as low as in 2010. In NI, DARD approved 132 journey logs in 2012, this is compared with an average of 11 journey logs per month during 2011 and 14 per month in 2010.

Number of journey logs in GB

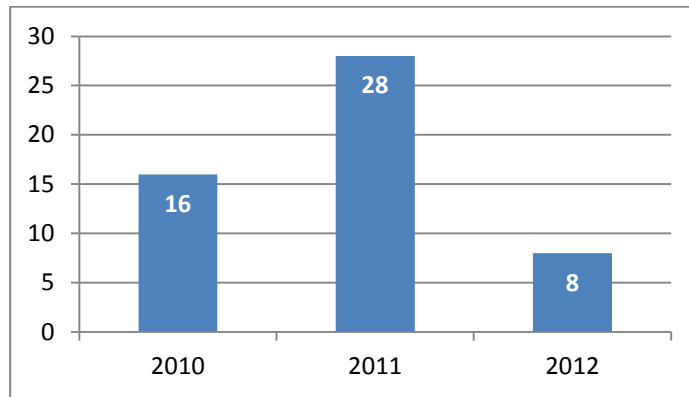


⁶⁸ General information available at: animalhealth.defra.gov.uk/keeping-animals/caring/welfareintransport.html

⁶⁹ As required by Regulation (EC) 1/2005

⁷⁰ ec.europa.eu/food/animal/welfare/transport/inspections_reports_reg_1_2005_en.htm

Number of journey logs rejected (did not comply with Reg. EC 1(2005))



2.210 The bulk of routine checks of animals and means of transport were carried out by LA inspectors in conjunction with AHVLA in GB and by DARD inspectors in NI.

Number of checks of animals and means of transport in GB

Checks and non-compliances	2011	2012
Vehicles inspected (including documentary checks)	126,081	136,973
Non-compliances (excluding documentary non-compliances)	1,896	1,115
Documentary only checks (vehicles inspected)	4,830	5,238
Non-compliances documentary checks only	244	90
AHVLA checks of vehicles transporting livestock and horses at ports through GB	321	188
AHVLA supervised loading inspections	57	79

2.211 DARD inspected 4,559 vehicles in NI of which over 97% were compliant. Overall infringements were detected at a level of 3% across departure, destination and market inspections. These figures are similar to previous years.

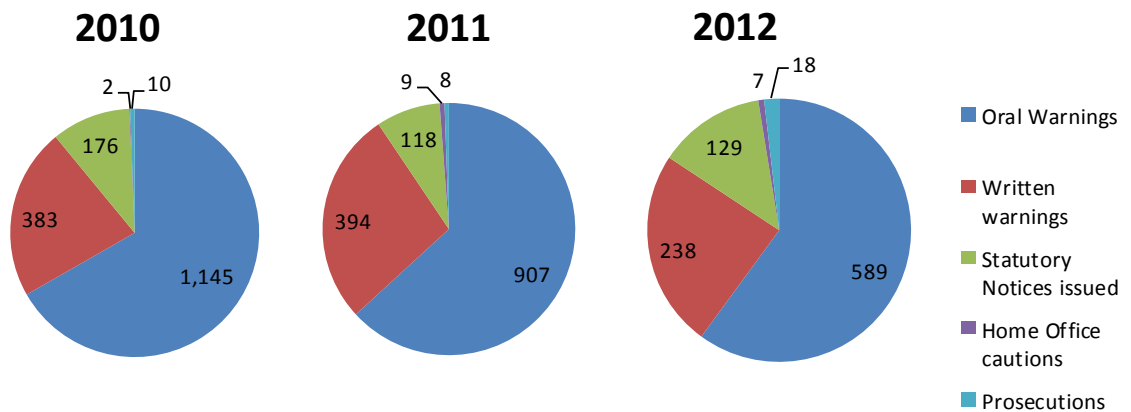
Number of checks of animals and means of transport in NI

Checks and non-compliances	2010	2011	2012
Vehicles inspected (including documentary checks)	3,540	4,691	4,559
Percentage compliance	98%	98.5%	97%
Infringement detection across departure, destination and market	2%	1.39%	3%

2.212 In 2012, DARD published a document on the internet laying down its enforcement policy on animal transport⁷¹.

⁷¹ dardni.gov.uk/index/animal-health-and-welfare/animal-welfare/welfare-of-animals-during-transport.htm

2.213 The GB inspections resulted in a range of enforcement action ranging from oral warning to prosecutions.



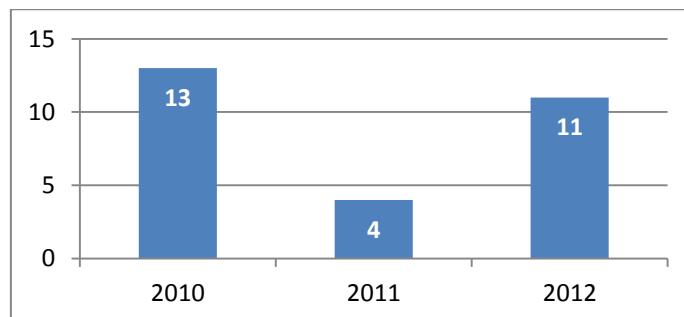
Breakdown of transport enforcement action taken in GB

Enforcement type	2010	2011	2012
Oral Warnings	1,145	907	589
Written warnings	383	394	238
Statutory Notices issued	176	118	129
Home Office cautions	2	9	7
Prosecutions	10	8	18

2.214 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.

2.215 As in 2010 and 2011, there were no serious infringements reported by other MS regarding UK transporters during 2012; no unfit animals reported and only one technical infringement as in previous years. In 2012, 10 of the 11 infringements related to missing or incorrect paperwork, two of which included a failure to return journey logs, which has returned to a level seen in 2010.

Total number of reports of infringements by GB authorised transporters raised by other MS

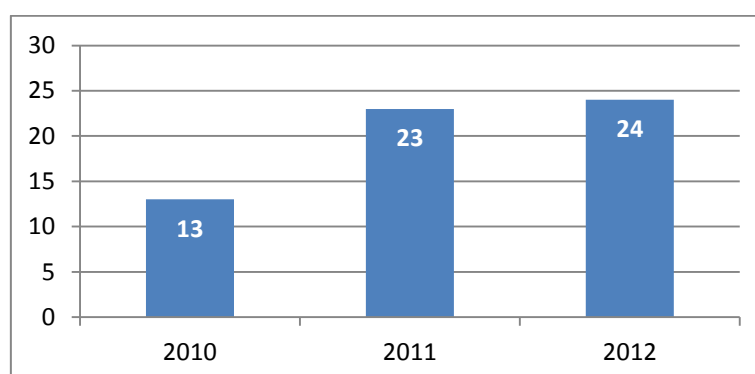


Breakdown of types of infringements raised by other MS

Year	Number relating to Unreturned journey Logs	Number of infringements involving unfit animals/welfare concerns reported by other MS	Number of infringements involving technical concerns e.g. Journey times and vehicle issues reported by other MS	Number of infringements involving missing or incorrect paperwork reported by other MS
2010	8	0	1	12
2011	2	0	1	3
2012	2	0	1	10

2.216 Forty seven formal notifications (including reminders) were made by the UK to other MS in 2012, remaining similar to 2011. The large increase between 2010 and 2011/ 2012 in notifications but similarly large reduction in proportion of unfit animal notifications has previously been discussed in the 2011 annual report; mostly technical and documentary infringements are now being reported to other MS where animal welfare was not directly affected and an improved regular Contact Point meeting since 2010 between all MS to discuss enforcement issues has helped clarify and support reporting processes between MS. Three reports related to unfit animals in 2012, more than 2011 but not approaching the levels seen in 2010 where 9 notifications had been related to the transport of unfit animals.

Total number of reports to other MSs for infringements by non-GB transporters



Breakdown of types of infringements by non-GB transporters

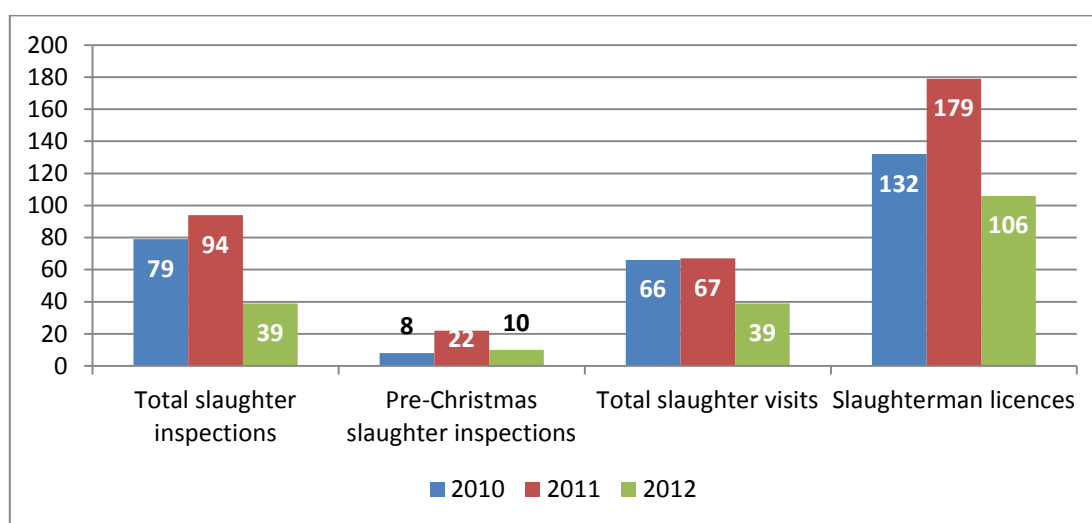
Year	Number of Notifications (including reminders)	Number of infringements involving unfit animals/welfare concerns	Number of infringements involving technical concerns e.g. Journey times and vehicle issues	Number of infringements involving missing or incorrect paperwork
2010	19	9	3	3
2011	43	1	16	11
2012	47	3	12	15

Animal welfare at slaughter or killing⁷²

2.217 AHVLA followed up reports and allegations of poor animal welfare practice at slaughter or killing in GB and, when necessary, conducted investigations with a view to provide advice for prosecution. DARD performed similar functions.

2.218 In 2012, welfare standards during slaughter or killing outside licensed slaughterhouses were similar to those reported in previous years with very few reported problems. All but 10 of the 39 inspections carried out by AHVLA in GB during 2012 were undertaken during the pre-Christmas peak period. No serious non-compliance was found. 106 slaughterman's licences were issued.

Inspection visits regarding welfare during slaughter or killing outside licensed slaughterhouses in GB

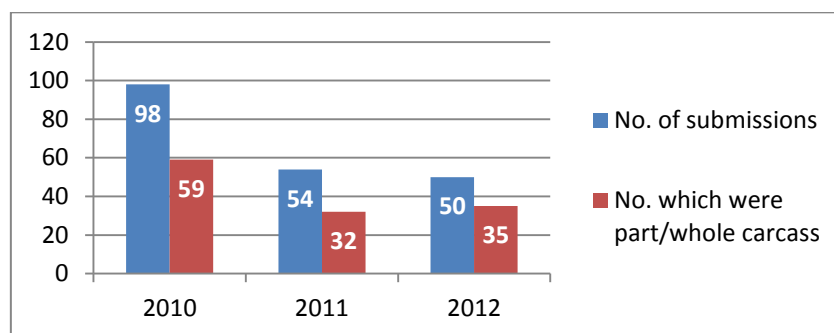


2.219 In NI warning letters were issued to the operator of a small poultry premises in response to improper control and monitoring of poultry stunning. 180 slaughter licences were issued under Welfare of Animals (Slaughter or Killing) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1996; 86 of these were provisional licences.

⁷² General information available at: animalhealth.defra.gov.uk/keeping-animals/caring/welfareatslaughter.html

Welfare forensic pathology and advice

Submissions to Regional Veterinary laboratories (GB)



2.220 The Regional Laboratories (RLs) of the AHVLA received 50 welfare forensic submissions, of which 35 (70%) were whole/part carcasses; the remainder of the samples were wool or skin samples in suspect sheep scab cases. This was a similar number of submissions as in 2011 (54 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 2012.

Official controls in the Plant health sector

England and Wales

- 2.221 In England and Wales the main operational targets were met for import inspections, with the exception of the inspection of lower risk controlled material, i.e. controlled material other than planting material, soil and that subject to reduced checks.
- 2.222 The outbreaks of *Anoplophora glabripennis* and *Chalara fraxinea* affected other activities, given the need to survey, trace consignments, destroy etc. The *Chalara* outbreak required extra staff in winter, using 23 seasonal bee inspectors for this work and inspections for *Phytophthora ramorum*.
- 2.223 In England and Wales, for imports, 100% of higher risk material (consignments of planting material, soil and potatoes) was inspected and the percentages required for reduced checks were met. Material imported or held under scientific licence was subject to the required level of inspection.
- 2.224 Four additional inspectors were recruited to fill vacancies. The lack of staff had contributed to the earlier failure to meet the inspection targets for lower risk controlled material.
- 2.225 The first UK finding of Asian Longhorn beetle was detected in March 2012 in a rural location in Kent. Surveillance showed a significant outbreak. The finding was made as part of a routine follow-up by Forest Research of suspect

sites and this was early enough in the year to initiate a contingency programme to carry out felling and destruction of host trees before adult beetles emerged in the summer. Over 2,000 trees were felled and incinerated in order to achieve eradication; many of these were in private properties. The pest is thought to have been introduced in infested wood packaging associated with stone importations from China to premises close to where the heaviest infestation was found. Follow-up surveillance will continue for at least 4 years around the outbreak area.

- 2.226 The control programme for *Phytophthora ramorum* and *Phytophthora kernoviae*⁷³ was adjusted to increase focus on Japanese larch, with millions of trees felled in an area now totalling over 5,000 hectares⁷⁴.
- 2.227 Additional resources were deployed on containment action against the oak processionary moth outbreak in south-west London. Surveillance was carried out around certain London Olympic events in order to avoid potential disruption. Action to eradicate the outbreak in Pangbourne, Berkshire continues; other outbreaks of the pest in Sheffield and Leeds are considered as eradicated. A new outbreak was discovered in Bromley, Kent and this is currently under eradication.
- 2.228 A single finding of *Phytophthora lateralis*, in *Chaemacyparis lawsoniana* was detected in the south of England. Further outbreaks of *Phytophthora austrocedrae* have been diagnosed in wild juniper trees in the north of England. Treatment to eradicate the first findings of *Cryphonectria parasitica* on imported sweet chestnut plants in England was completed.

Disease outbreaks at the end of 2012

Disease	Outbreak
<i>Synchytrium endobioticum</i>	1 field descheduled
<i>Bemisia tabaci</i>	14 ongoing outbreaks - 4 outbreaks eradicated
<i>Mycosphaerella pini</i>	2 ongoing outbreaks
<i>Tuta absoluta</i>	8 ongoing outbreaks - 12 outbreaks eradicated
Plum Pox	1 ongoing outbreak
<i>Pepino mosaic virus</i>	7 ongoing outbreaks - 1 outbreak eradicated
<i>Potato Spindle Tuber Viroid</i>	1 ongoing outbreak
<i>Liriomyza huidobrensis</i>	1 ongoing outbreak - 1 outbreak eradicated
<i>Erwinia amylovora</i>	5 ongoing outbreaks - 3 outbreaks eradicated
<i>Phytophthora lateralis</i>	2 ongoing outbreak
<i>Phytophthora austrocedrae</i>	14 ongoing outbreaks
<i>Anoplophora glabripennis</i>	1 ongoing outbreak
<i>Helicoverpa armigera</i>	1 ongoing outbreak
<i>Chrysanthemum stem necrosis virus</i>	1 outbreak
<i>Aculops fuchsiae</i>	1 outbreak
<i>Cryphonectria parasitica</i>	2 outbreaks
<i>Dothistroma</i>	1 outbreak
<i>Globodera pallida</i>	1 outbreak

⁷³ Which began operation on 1st April 2009.

⁷⁴ New isolates of the organism found in NI and Scotland underlined the belief that there have been multiple entries of the organism in consignments.

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

Disease	Action
<i>Bemisia tabaci</i>	2 outbreaks prevented
<i>Chalara fraxinea</i>	Destructive action at over 75 mail order sites
<i>Cryphonectria parasitica</i>	Destructive action at 7 sites

Surveillance surveys⁷⁵ carried out during 2012

Disease	Surveillance
<i>Ralstonia solanacearum</i> (Brown rot) tuber survey and <i>Clavibacter michiganensis</i> (Ring rot) tuber survey	1,441 tuber samples taken out of an estimated 1,800
Brown rot river survey of treated/scheduled water courses completed	24 samples from 3 watercourses
Brown rot river random survey	168 samples from 21 watercourses
Diabrotica survey completed	111 fields trapped
EU minimum <i>Phytophthora ramorum</i> survey	2,137 visits made
PCN survey	78 sites inspected with 533 samples taken from 511 hectares
Pepino mosaic virus, <i>Anoplophora chinensis</i> , <i>Leptinotarsa decemlineata</i> , <i>Erwinia amylovora</i> , Potato spindle tuber viroid, <i>Rhynchosporium ferrugineus</i> , <i>Gibberella circinata</i> , <i>Dryocosmus kuriphilus</i> & <i>Bemisia tabaci</i> (all ongoing as EU reporting periods vary)	No set targets, plants inspected as part of quarantine surveillance risk matrix inspections

Scotland

- 2.229 2012 was a challenging year but despite the adverse weather and the detection of the major new tree disease, *Chalara fraxinea*, all the plant health objectives were met by the team.
- 2.230 The pine tree lappet moth population, involved in the Scottish outbreak, has decreased in size and has not extended its distribution suggesting that the strategy to contain this pest has been successful.
- 2.231 Five further findings of *Phytophthora lateralis*, in *Chaemacyparis lawsoniana* were reported in Scotland. Further outbreaks of *Phytophthora austrocedrae* have been diagnosed in wild juniper trees in central and northern Scotland.
- 2.232 5,809 inspections were carried out in surveys required under EU legislation and reports were submitted to FVO.

⁷⁵ Required under EU legislation.

Enforcement activities for Single Market and EU surveillance activities

Disease	Surveillance
<i>Chalara fraxinae</i> Ash Dieback	Nursery and garden site inspections of Ash showed that two nurseries were found to have infected stock. One had 30,000 young trees and the other 712. Two garden sites were infected. The plants were destroyed.
<i>Dothistroma</i> Needle Blight of Pine	Growing season inspections to forestry nurseries were undertaken jointly with Forest Research. 4 businesses with 16 stocks of Pine were infected. This was an improvement on the previous year where 7 nurseries (33 stocks) were found to have the disease.
<i>Phytophthora</i> – Nursery Trade	<i>Phytophthora ramorum</i> was identified on <i>Rhododendron</i> hybrids at two nurseries. Both consignments of plants were from mainland Europe (Germany and Holland). Inspections have also included visual checks of <i>P. austrocedrae</i> and <i>P. lateralis</i> hosts.
<i>Phytophthora</i> – Gardens/Landscaped sites	The control programme for <i>P. ramorum</i> and <i>P. kernoviae</i> continues and 8 new outbreaks in mature <i>Rhododendron ponticum</i> were identified. There are now 54 active outbreaks in Scotland consisting of 35 (31) ⁷⁶ sites infected with <i>P. ramorum</i> ; 13 (12) with <i>P. kernoviae</i> and 6 (7) with both pathogens. The surveys also identified <i>P. lateralis</i> , on a mature <i>Chamaecyparis lawsoniana</i> and <i>P. austrocedrae</i> was detected on mature ornamental juniper.

NI

- 2.233 In NI, all operational targets were met. All inspections and sampling of pre-notified seed for planting from outside NI tested negative. Further guidance notes to stakeholders will improve compliance rates to over 97% of imported material with the aim of 100% compliance.
- 2.234 Increased imports of ware potatoes from Poland, Spain, Romania and Portugal direct or traded through other EU MS required a reassessment of the risk of a pest introduction and additional import control checks are being introduced.
- 2.235 In addition there was an increased inspection volume on *Phytophthora ramorum* due to outbreaks in larch. New inspection work was initiated on ash to detect *Chalara fraxinea*.
- 2.236 There are now 26 sites thought to be infected with *Phytophthora lateralis*.

Summary of disease outbreaks during 2012

Disease	Outbreak sites
<i>Erwinia amylovora</i>	32
<i>Phytophthora ramorum</i>	24
<i>Chalara fraxinea</i>	20
Potato Cyst Nematode (PCN)	7 fields restricted, 30 fields cleared

- 2.237 2,456 inspections were carried out for a range of organisms, including those required under protected zone surveys.

⁷⁶ Figures in brackets are for 2011.

Surveillance pests surveys⁷⁷ carried out during 2012

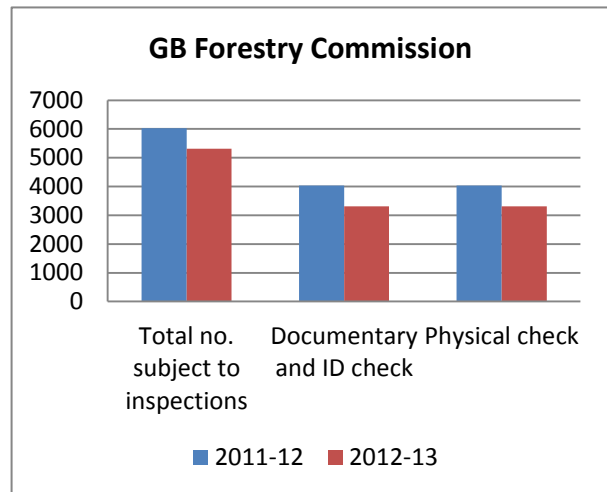
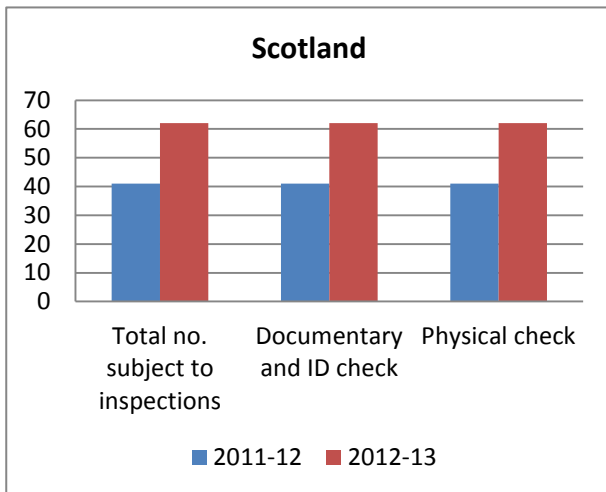
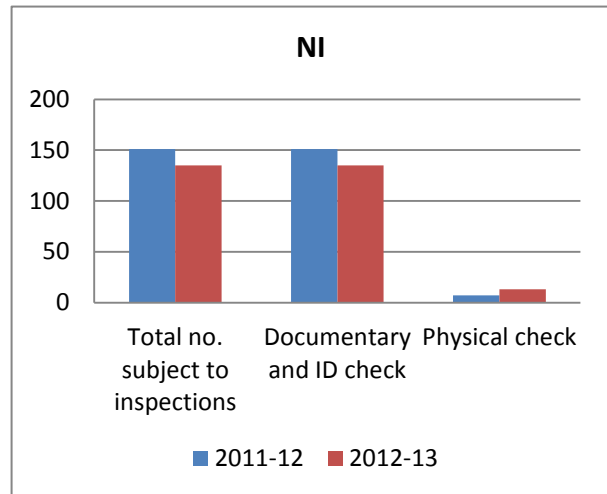
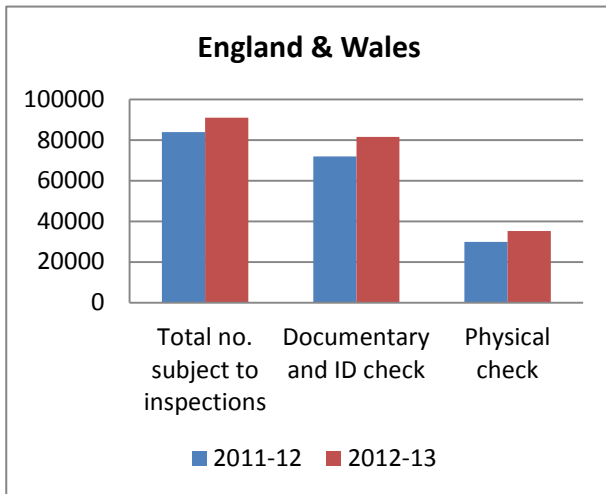
Disease	Surveillance
<i>Bemisia tabaci</i>	111 inspections, no findings
<i>Liriomyza bryoniae</i>	111 inspections, no findings
<i>Leptinotarsa decemlineata</i>	439 inspections, no findings
<i>Erwinia amylovora</i>	544 inspections, 32 positive sites
<i>Anoplophora spp</i>	36 inspections, no findings
<i>Phytophthora ramorum</i>	1,004 inspections, 24 positive sites
<i>Clavibacter michiganensis and Ralstonia solanacearum</i>	110 inspections, no findings
<i>Diabrotica virgifera</i>	9 inspections, no findings
<i>Rhizomania</i>	12 inspections, no findings

Summary of intensity and type of plant controls in the UK

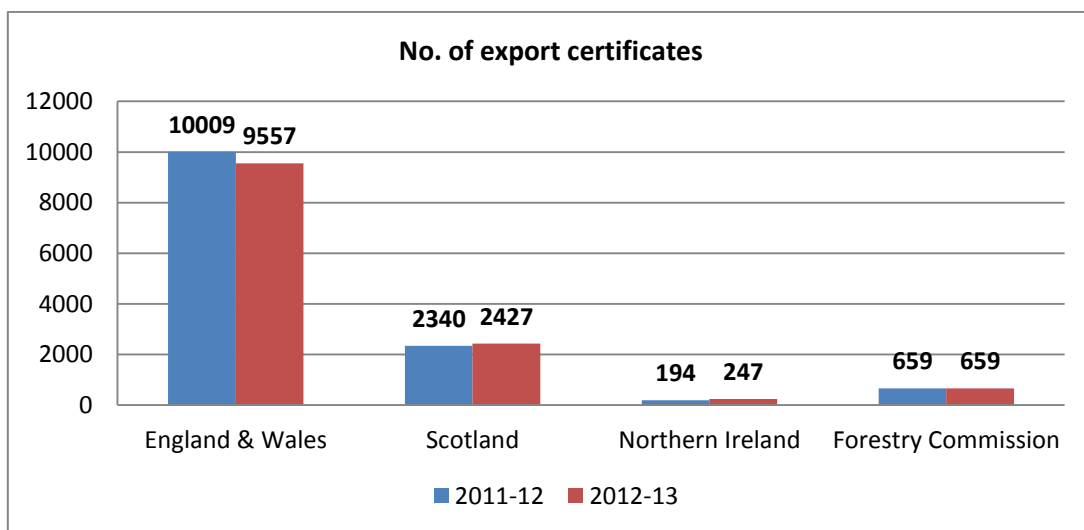
- 2.238 Overall the same trades have remained a problem in terms of non-compliance over the last 3 years though some have improved. Notably, interceptions of specific pests from Israel and Thailand have declined. The vast majority of businesses co-operate with PHSI and other inspectors in destroying stock when outbreaks are found, entering imports correctly into the advance notification system (PEACH), producing records for plant passport inspections, etc. There have been individual cases of non-co-operation, e.g. forest owners not complying with felling orders of trees infected which are likely to be infected with *Phytophthora ramorum*. Inspectors needed to explain the need for destruction of mature trees to prevent the spread of Asian longhorn beetle.
- 2.239 The pests present in import consignments all pose a risk to crops and the wider environment in the EU. The root causes were lack of awareness or understanding of the EU import requirements and a callous disregard for the risks presented by sending plants and plant products infested by pests and diseases into or within the EU, with the profit motive outweighing the long-term threat to crop production and biodiversity.
- 2.240 UK notified Europhyt about 1,296 interceptions during 2011/12 and 1,338 during 2012/13.

⁷⁷ Required under EU legislation.

Summary of imports subject to inspections⁷⁸

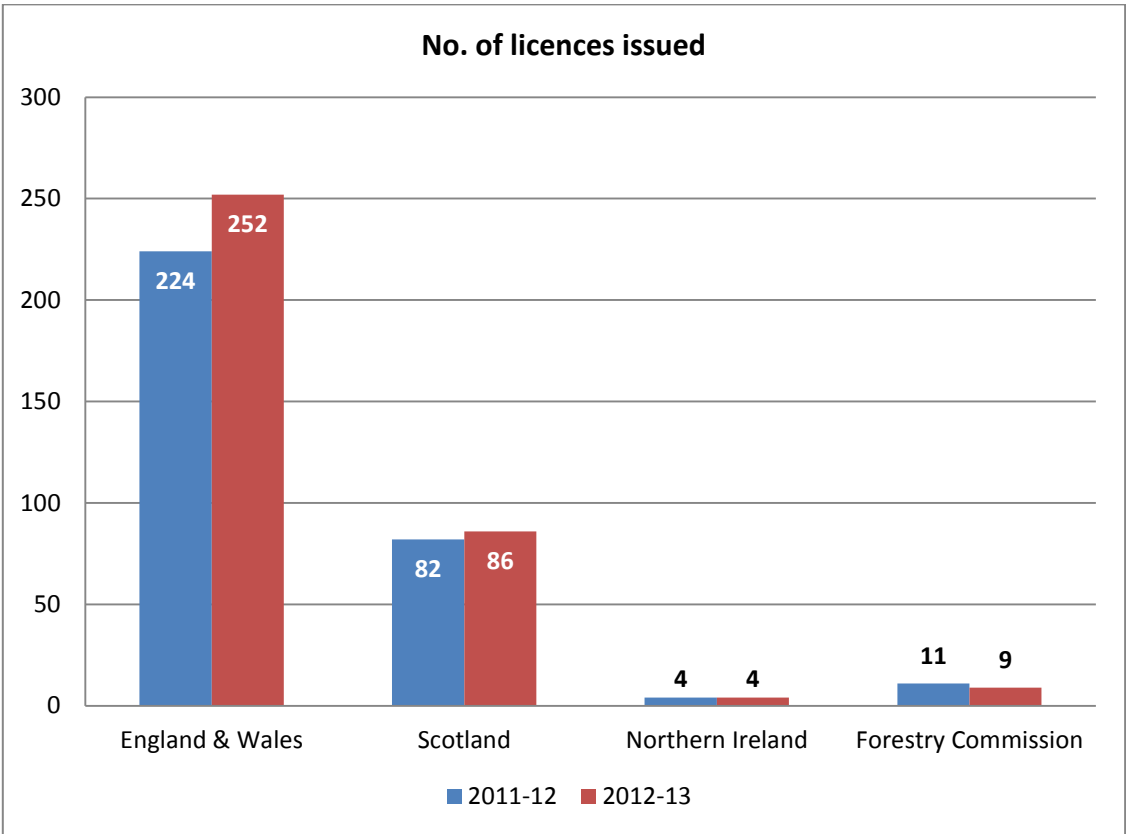
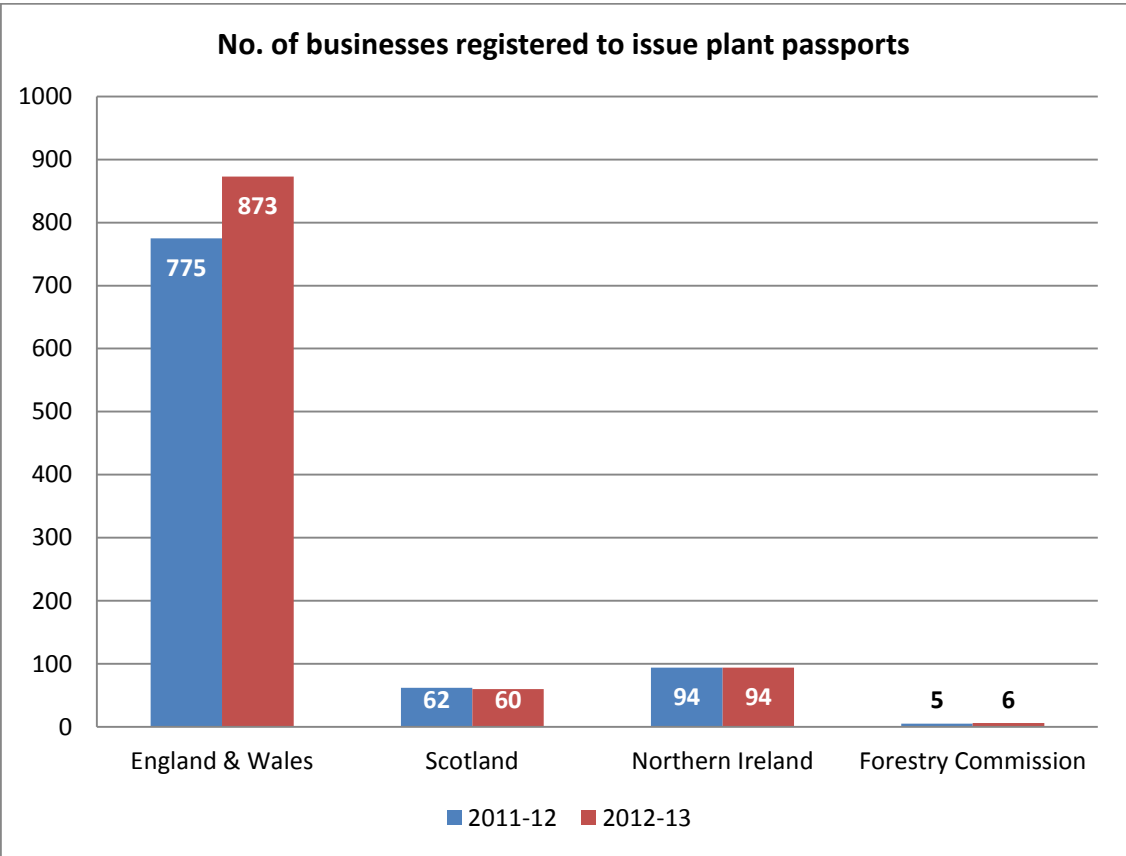


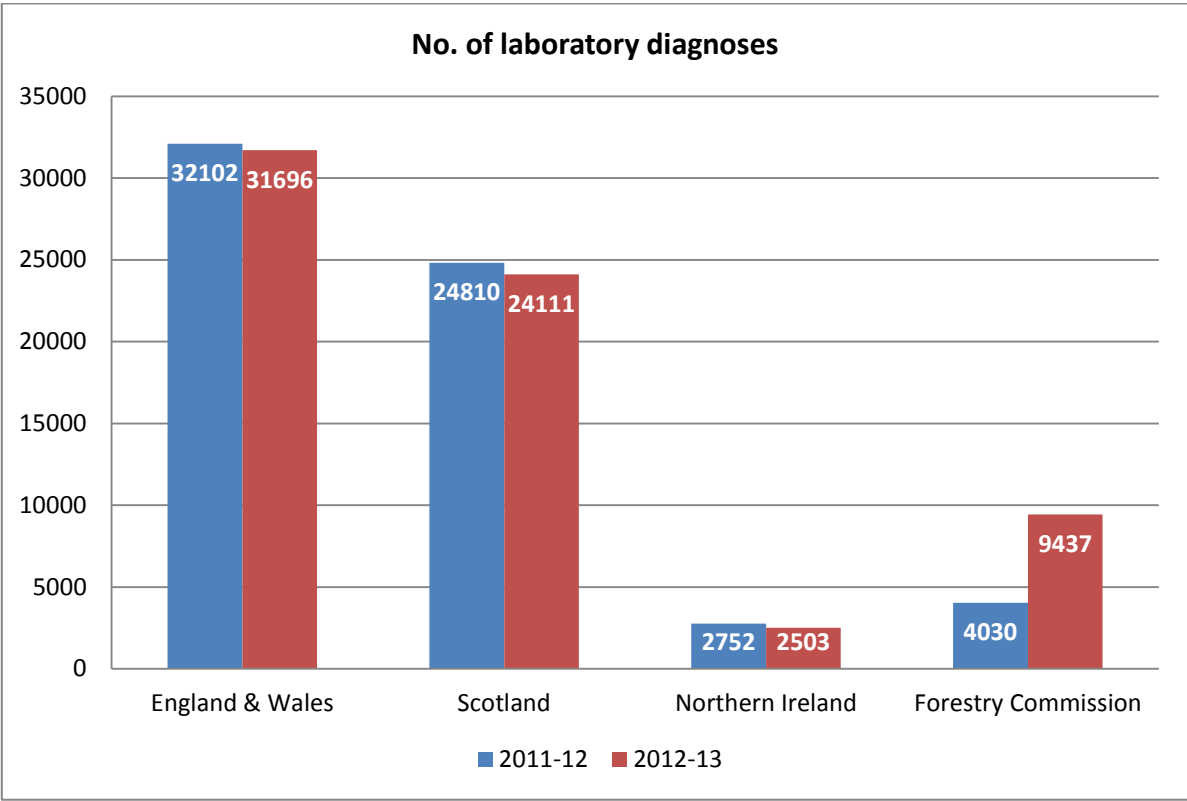
Summary of exports to third countries



⁷⁸ The total for physical plant health inspections is less than total imports because some “safer” trades are subject to reduced rates under EU legislation. Some trades e.g. cut flowers require rates as low as 5%.

Plant Passports and Licences (to work on regulated organisms)





CHAPTER 3 NATIONAL SYSTEMS OF AUDIT

Food and feed sectors

Official Controls for which the FSA is responsible

LA Audit – LAs and PHAs

- 3.1 In England the approach to audit of LAs (including port health authorities) has involved an assessment of the performance of all these authorities (using LA Enforcement Monitoring data) in delivering their food safety services. Authorities were then prioritised for a range of appropriate follow up audit actions from full on site audits to focused audits, one day audit visits and desktop assessments. Core and focused audits were carried out of around 70 authorities in 2012 in England as planned.
- 3.2 In Scotland the following audits were carried out: delivery of official controls on feed establishments (including primary production of both food and feed) (5) and delivery of official controls on dairy farms (2) and the final audit of a programme of 16 audits completed on LA assessment of Regulation 852/2004. In addition, an audit of the delivery of official controls covering food and feed hygiene primary production, was undertaken under a memorandum of understanding with the SG, on behalf of FSA.
- 3.3 In Wales a review of full audit protocols and checklists was commenced when a new team of auditors was recruited, in preparation for a planned three year full audit cycle. Follow up work continued on the audits carried out in 2011.
- 3.4 In NI two audit programmes took place during 2012. The main audit programme covered the food standards food law enforcement controls delivered by LAs in NI. Four LAs were included in the programme, two were audited in 2012 the remaining two were audited in 2013. The other audit programme was a focused audit of food law enforcement controls of imported food not of animal origin (FNAO) at a port authority at one LA.
- 3.5 Individual audit reports and related LA action plans are published on the FSA website. All reports can be found at:
food.gov.uk/enforcement/auditandmonitoring/auditreports

Audit findings

- 3.6 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.

- 3.7 Main recommendations have varied depending on the scope of the audit. In relation to the Service Delivery and Business Compliance audits, the majority of the recommendations raised related to Food and Feed Establishments Interventions and Inspections (50), Authorised Officers (40), Internal Monitoring (29), Enforcement (21) and Organisation and Management (19).
- 3.8 Summary reports on focused audit programmes detail key issues identified from the audits together with any good practice.
- 3.9 Details of the FSA audit programme of LAs and PHAs are given in the table below.

FSA Audit of Competent Authorities January to December 2012

Programme	Dates	No. of authorities/ DARD NI Units	No. of establishment 'reality checks'	Final report(s) or other correspondence issued/published/due	No. of recommendations
ENGLAND					
Local Authority Enforcement Monitoring System (LAEMS) 2009/10 Food Hygiene Returns Follow-up Visits	Jan 2012	1	-	Correspondence with individual LAs	-
Implementation of FSA guidance on control of cross-contamination	Feb – March 2012	12	-	food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/board/fsa121105.pdf	
Approval of Food and Feed Establishments	Mar – May 2012	23	-	Correspondence with individual LAs and findings referred to policy/delivery colleagues	-
LAEMS 2010/11 Food Hygiene Returns Follow-up Visits	May – June 2012	10	-	Correspondence with individual LAs	-
LAEMS Food Standards Returns Follow-up Visits and Food Fraud approach	Aug – Oct 2012	15	-	Correspondence with individual LAs and findings referred to policy/delivery colleagues	-
Audit of Service Delivery and Business Compliance	Oct – Dec 2012	11	11	Final reports published: food.gov.uk/enforcement/auditandmonitoring/auditreports/audengreport/	198
Follow-up audits	When due	17	-	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 2012	1	2	Final reports published: food.gov.uk/enforcement/auditandmonitoring/auditreports/	0
Focussed Audit Programme on Official Controls on Feed of Non Animal Origin (FeNAO) and Feed Establishments including Primary Production of Food and Feed	Feb – Nov 2012	5	5	Issued April 2012 – Jan 2013 (with one exception, still under negotiation) Final reports published: food.gov.uk/enforcement/auditandmonitoring/auditreports	63
Focussed Audit of the Delivery of Official Controls in Dairy Farms subject to the requirements of Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 on the Hygiene of Foodstuffs	May – June 2012	2	4	Issued July – Aug 2012 Final reports published : food.gov.uk/enforcement/auditandmonitoring/audit	7

Programme	Dates	No. of authorities/ DARD NI Units	No. of establishment 'reality checks'	Final report(s) or other correspondence issued/published/due	No. of recommendations
and Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 laying down Specific Hygiene Rules for Food of Animal Origin (FNAO)				reports	
Focussed Audit on the Delivery of Official Controls subject to the Memorandum of Understanding between the FSA in Scotland and the SG AFRC: Rural Payments and Inspections Division (RPID) Covering Primary Production of Food and Feed contained in Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 on the hygiene of foodstuffs and Regulation (EC) No 183/2005 laying down requirements for feed hygiene	Dec 2012	1 (RPID)	1	Issued April 2013 Final reports published : food.gov.uk/enforcement/auditandmonitoring/auditreports	3
WALES					
Assessment of Delivery of Official Controls on Imported Feed Not of Animal Origin	Jan 2012	1	0	An audit follow up visit took place in January 2012. Follow up work continues following the official control of feed review and in coordination with the ongoing LA feed service collaboration agenda in Wales.	0
Report on the Focused Audit of Local Authority Assessment of Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 on the Hygiene of Foodstuffs in Food Business Establishments	Aug – Dec 2012	3	0	Desk-based follow up work took place with progress made in addressing action plans.	0
FSA Audit of Local Authority Official Controls and FBO Controls in Approved Establishments	Aug – Dec 2012	2	0	Desk-based follow up work took place with progress made in addressing action plans.	0
NI					
LA - Focused audit of Food Law Enforcement Controls of Imported FNAO at a port authority	Jan 2012	1	1	1 issued	0
DARD - assessment of systems and controls for approval of Meat establishments requiring Veterinary control	Feb – Mar 2012	1	1	1 issued (UK wide report)	14

Programme	Dates	No. of authorities/ DARD NI Units	No. of establishment 'reality checks'	Final report(s) or other correspondence issued/published/due	No. of recommendations
across UK					
DARD - assessment of Official Controls in approved Cutting Establishments in the UK	May – Sept 2012	1	3	1 issued (UK wide report)	7
LA – Focused Audit of Food Law Enforcement Controls of Imported Food at an inland authority	Sept 2012	1	1	1 issued	5
LA - Audit of Food Standards Food Law Enforcement Controls Delivered by LAs in NI	Nov – Dec 2012	2	2	2 issued	17

FSA Internal Audit – Meat Hygiene Controls

- 3.10 The main objective of the programme of audits conducted by the FSA internal audit team in 2012 in relation to official controls was to provide assurance to management and the FSA Board that enforcement was effective, consistent, risk-based and proportionate.
- 3.11 The three grades of audit opinion used in 2012 were Substantial, Limited and Poor. The following audits were completed and reports issued between January and December 2012, involving 94 approved meat establishments across the UK.

Policy area audited	Audit Opinion	Recommendations
Animal welfare at slaughter	Substantial ⁷⁹	6
HACCP based controls in meat establishments	Limited ⁸⁰	11
Post mortem verification	Substantial	14

- 3.12 The majority of the recommendations identified a need for improved guidance for officials implementing official controls to ensure consistency of official controls outcomes.

Defra internal audits

Beef labelling – Scotland

- 3.13 There was an internal audit on beef labelling in February 2012. The Internal Audit team advised that internal management checks should be done on inspection reports. A system is now in place where 10% of inspection reports are checked by internal management annually. In November 2012 the FVO undertook a follow up to their 2011 audit on the Traceability of Beef and Beef Products.

Protein in animal feed ban

- 3.14 The national Lead Veterinary Officer carried out an audit of some inspection reports and an overview of regional performance. Field skills assessments were used to monitor the performance of inspection and sampling inspectors.
- 3.15 See Chapter 5 for more detail on action taken in respect of the audit on mechanically separated meat.

⁷⁹ “Substantial” means that there is a sound system of internal control designed to achieve the system objectives (any weaknesses observed during the audit are not judged significant enough, individually or collectively, to impede the achievement of business objectives).

⁸⁰ “Limited” means that there is some risk that objectives may not be fully achieved and some improvements are required to enhance the adequacy and / or effectiveness of the risk management, control and governance.

Animal health and welfare sectors

- 3.16 The audit programme was successfully completed and action has been taken to address any issues raised.
- 3.17 During the year, the Chartered Institute of Internal Auditors⁸¹, HM Treasury and central government audit teams were working to review the standards of audit for the public sector. This resulted in a new standard being introduced in 2013.

Audit programmes in relation to animal health carried out in 2012

Audit programme	Conclusions/recommendations
ENGLAND	
<p>Follow-up of audit of OFFC audit-assurance arrangements and advisory work to ensure the assurance coverage across Defra and its agencies was complete. This was confirmed by the FVO follow up audit DG (SANCO)/2012 6424-MR in November 2012.</p>	<p>AHVLA carried out a full review of its quality assurance arrangements during 2012 and is now implementing the recommendations of the review to ensure an increasingly systematic and risk based internal audit system which fully satisfies the requirements of Regulation 882/2004.</p>
SCOTLAND	
<p>Scottish Government Internal Audit Division (SGIAD) carried out audits of 'discreet OFFC areas' (as per their 5 year audit strategy). SG audits covered the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SG OFFC Co-ordinating function's involvement with business areas as regards the UK MANCP and requirements of EC Regulation 882/2004 • ABP • Beef Labelling • Import Controls - animals/wild animals • Authorisation of Premises and collection Teams for Germplasm (Semen, Embryo and Ova) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SGIAD concluded that overall there was reasonable assurance for the areas covered. • 12 recommendations were made - audits identified some areas where improvement could be made and 10 medium and two high level recommendations were included in our audit report • 10 recommendations were implemented, one was partially completed and one is still on-going.
WALES	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In addition, the WG IAS undertook an ANA exercise during the course of 2012. The ANA took account of the views of Additional Accounting Officers and Senior Process owners; the WG Corporate Risk Register and associated Departmental Risk Registers. The ANA also drew upon existing audit knowledge of the WG's risk management, control and governance processes. IAS has selected from the ANA the high level and medium risk areas they consider to be most appropriate for inclusion in the 2013/2014 audit plan. 	<p>No audit reports were issued that related specifically to Official Feed and Food Controls. However, the ANA recognised that the requirements of Art. 4(6) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 had not been fully addressed. Therefore the audit plan for 2013/2014 includes a scoping exercise to determine the Internal Audit work that needs to be undertaken to fully cover the Regulation. This scoping exercise will in turn inform the audit plan for 2014-15.</p>

⁸¹ jia.org.uk/about-us/

Audit programme	Conclusions/recommendations
<p>NI</p> <p>DARD IAB continued to implement the audit strategy covering arrangements for animal health and welfare controls for which DARD are responsible. DARD IAB completed audits in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Veterinary Service - EU15/2011/2012 dated 21 May 2012; Follow up on EU 18/2010/2011 dated 17th August 2011. • Official Feed and Food Controls – Mart Biosecurity EU18/2011/2012 dated 29 May 2012. • Plant Health Controls - Follow-up EU4/2012/2013 Management Letter dated 22 June 2012. • OFFC Enzootic Bovine Leukosis (EBL) EU20/2011/2012 dated 7 August 2012; Follow-up EU 20/2012/2013 dated 11 December 2012. • Animal Health and Welfare Policy Division - Animal Disease Control and Trade EU1/9/2012/2013 dated 7 December 2012. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DARD IAB provided satisfactory assurance for each area. • 24 recommendations were made and 15 were completed. • In addition, 10 previous recommendations were followed up and completed.

FVO audits

3.18 The following is a summary of the FVO audit information for the UK for 2012, with links to the reports:

Inspection No.	Title	Inspection Period	Links to Reports
2012-6470	Organic fertilisers and soil improvers	Jan-Feb 2012	Report details
2012-6432	Mechanically separated meat	Mar 2012	Report details
2012-6469	Bivalve Molluscs	Apr 2012	Report details
2012-6606	Evaluate the proposed Border Inspection Post (BIP) at Edinburgh airport	Jun 2012	Report details
2012-6570	Protected Designations of Origin (PDOs), Protected Geographical Indications (PGIs) and Traditional Specialities Guaranteed (TSGs)	Oct 2012	Report details
2012-6582	Evaluate the follow-up action taken by the Competent Authorities with regard to the import/transit control system and border inspection posts	Oct 2012	Report details
2012-6424	General follow up audit to update the Country Profile	Nov 2012	Not yet available ⁸²

⁸² Action plan concerning recommendation 2012-6424-1 (Defra and WG audit arrangements) was submitted to the FVO on 22 April 2013. The FVO considered the Plan satisfactory and implementation of proposed measures will be monitored in future FVO audits.

Control Bodies

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

Control body	Control tasks	Progress
Orchid Cellmark Ltd ⁸³	Scrapie genotyping service under contract to Defra in support of the GB Voluntary Scrapie Flocks Scheme and the CSFS ⁸⁴ , and separately to DARD for the NI Scrapie Plan ⁸⁵ .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 29 to 31 May 2012 - ISO 17025:2005 a full re-assessment audit by UKAS of Cellmark's entire scope of accreditation and management systems. Several improvement actions were raised and satisfactorily completed. Two minor actions, relating to a typographic error in a procedure and an incomplete training record, were raised regarding the Scrapie testing activity. Both of these were closed out by the required date. • 24-27 September 2012 - ISO 9001: 2008 and ISO14001:2004 audit by SGS UK Ltd⁸⁶. Several non-conformities were raised and satisfactorily addressed. No findings relating to Cellmark's agricultural testing activities were raised. • 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 2012, Cellmark participated in Defra's proficiency testing scheme. AHVLA submitted blind samples of known genotypes in June and December 2012. 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 2012. • No issues relating to external proficiency testing for these services were identified in 2012.
The Pet Travel Scheme (PETS) - Commercial Transport carrier companies ⁸⁷ approved by Defra to bring dogs, cats or ferrets to the UK	Basic checks of pet passports (including microchips).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2012, 154,338 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.

⁸³ 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).

⁸⁴ Information on the CSFS is available at defra.gov.uk/ahvla-en/disease-control/notifiable/scrapie/csfs/

⁸⁵ Information on the Northern Ireland Scrapie plan is available at: dardni.gov.uk/index/animal-health-and-welfare/animal-diseases/tse/scrapie-an-introduction/compulsory-scrapie-flock-scheme.htm.

⁸⁶ sgs.co.uk/

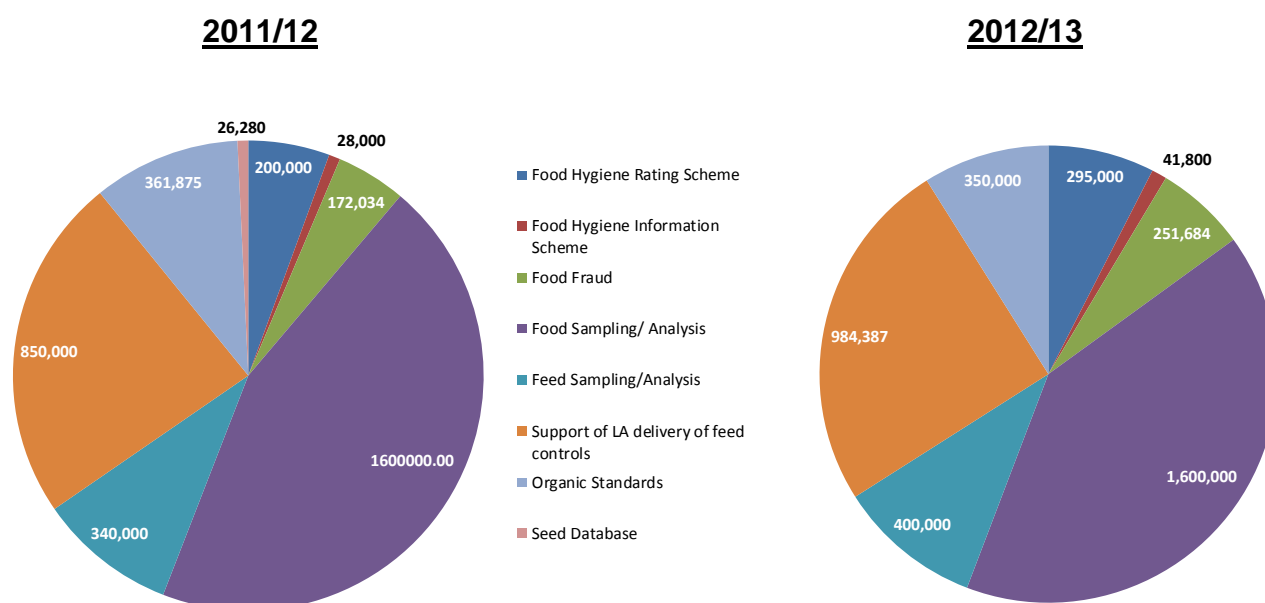
⁸⁷ Details of PETS, approved commercial transport carrier companies, routes and countries are available at: defra.gov.uk/wildlife-pets/pets/travel/pets/index.htm

CHAPTER 4 RESOURCES

Food and feed sectors

Grants

4.1 The following charts show what financial support was provided in grants to LAs and control bodies by central government for feed and food controls work over the past 2 financial years:



4.2 These amounts were provided to:

Programme	Provided to
FHRS	FSA provides launch funding to LAs in England and NI. Grants averaged just under £8,500 per LA
FHIS	FSA provides launch funding to LAs in Scotland. Grants averaged £10,450 per LA
Food Fraud	FSA provides funding to LAs to assist in investigations into food fraud activity
Food Sampling/ Analysis	Provided to LAs across GB and DARD in Northern to undertake targeted sampling for the presence of undesirable substances in food.
Feed Sampling/Analysis	Provided to LAs across GB and DARD in Northern to undertake targeted sampling for the presence of undesirable substances in feed.
Support of LA delivery of feed controls	Provided to LAs in GB to undertake a programme of inspections of feed business establishments across all sectors.
Organic Standards	Defra provides an annual grant to Control Bodies to carry out specific obligations
Seed Database	Defra provides funding to the Soil Association to run the seed database for operators to identify available organic seed

NRLs

- 4.3 The official tender for re-procuring NRLs was submitted to the Official Journal of the European Union in November 2012. The tender exercise is now complete and those NRLs which required re-tendering are now in place. There was minimal change in the contractors. Details of NRLs can be found at:
food.gov.uk/enforcement/monitoring/foodlabs/nrl

Shellfish Monitoring

- 4.4 The general memorandum of understanding between the FSA and Cefas on shellfish monitoring programmes was agreed and commenced in April 2012. Within the MOU there is an agreed charges schedule for the services provided (including discounts).

Plant health sector

- 4.5 The finding of *Chalara fraxinea* in England and Scotland (see below) had resource implications not just for the plant health activities but also for the forestry sector. UK territories worked closely together to combat this disease and regular operational management meetings were held between government officials and interested parties. In England, resources also had to be diverted to tackle outbreaks of Asian longhorn beetle and Potato ring rot, while in NI the Chalara work and that on *Phytophthora ramorum* required some re-prioritising of work.
- 4.6 Significant increases in resources for tree health were implemented by Forestry Commission Scotland with budgetary provision for 'rapid response' rising from £70k in 2011/12 to £208k in 2012/13 to enable early detection and rapid confirmation of forest tree health pests in Scotland.
- 4.7 Work during 2012 to trace forward the first findings of *Chalara fraxinea* revealed that a large number of consignments of ash had been potentially infected and imported from continental Europe over a 5 year period. The Forestry Commission undertook a rapid survey (2- 6 November) of four ash sites in each 10km square within GB. In Scotland, this required the immediate deployment of all available Forestry Commission Scotland and Forest Research staff, with further assistance from other SG colleagues, to assess 2,730 sites in 735 10km squares at a total cost in the region of £195k (of which £110k was the cost of diverting staff from other work and £85k for travel costs and overtime payments). The survey and subsequent validation generated some 1,700 samples for laboratory analysis by Fera. As awareness improved, surveyors were able to locate the first wider environment outbreaks in East Anglia in October and in response, official surveillance was extended to the wider environment throughout Britain. By the end of the year the disease had been confirmed at 17 nursery sites, 130 new

plantings and 160 wider environment sites. A further 300 sites had been identified for follow-up investigation. In response to the emerging disease situation the Government consulted with core stakeholders and published a control plan for Chalara in England in December. Devolved Administrations subsequently produced their own plans.

CHAPTER 5

ACTIONS TAKEN TO IMPROVE PERFORMANCE OF CONTROL AUTHORITIES

Co-ordination in the food and feed sectors

Review of the delivery of official food and feed controls in the UK

5.1 The Review of the Delivery of Official Food Controls continued in 2012. In November 2012 the FSA Board accepted the need to improve UK delivery of feed controls and a programme of work was established to implement change. The programme constitutes several projects designed to deliver change in key areas including:

- improved co-ordination of LA delivery through regional co-operation
- the development and implementation of earned recognition as part of a risk based approach to delivering feed controls
- improved information and data sharing between LAs, other Government departments and the FSA; and
- improved co-ordination of activities between other agencies involved in feed related work.

5.2 The FSA Board will be updated regarding progress and it is expected that improvements to the delivery of UK feed controls will take effect from 2014. Further details can be found at:

food.gov.uk/business-industry/farmingfood/animalfeed/review-of-official-feed-controls-delivery

Revision of the Code of Practice

5.3 The Codes of Practice were revised in England and NI on 6 April 2012 to reflect developments in policy in respect of the delivery of Official Controls for food. The key changes relate to the embedding of the recommendations from the Public Inquiry following the *E.Coli* O157 outbreak in South Wales in 2005 and changes to the qualification requirements for officers to seize and detain food.

5.4 The Food Law Practice Guidance (Scotland) was revised in February 2012 and replaced all previous guidance in the Code of Practice. The review and update took account of the Food Hygiene (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended), the Official Feed and Food Controls (Scotland) Regulations 2009 (as amended) and relevant EC Regulations. It also took account of recommendations made by the FVO following their inspections of the UK's food control services.

General Hygiene

Training for authorised officers

- 5.5 The FSA continued its programme of update training for LA food and feed law authorised officers at little or no cost to LAs. 97 courses were held and 2,093 officers trained, including representatives of all LAs.
- 5.6 The programme, delivered throughout the UK, covered training on a wide range of issues, including:
- HACCP Assessment for Enforcement Officers
 - Auditing Food Safety Activities and Processes
 - *E. coli* Cross-Contamination Guidance
 - Feed Safety (import controls, feed safety management and sampling)
 - Import Controls
 - Shellfish Hygiene
 - Food Fraud

Training specific to NI

- 5.7 The following training courses were identified by the NI Food Liaison Group and were delivered by FSA's trainers throughout 2012/13:
- Evidence Gathering & Interview Skills
 - Working Effectively with Ethnic Minority Food Businesses
 - Basic Understanding of Investigation Skills
 - Food Standards Update Course
 - *E. coli* Cross Contamination Course
- 5.8 Online training was also made available to enforcement officers (District Councils and DARD). Approximately 360 officers attended.
- 5.9 The following meat hygiene training was carried out:
- Official Veterinarian (OV) meat hygiene
 - Systems-based auditing
 - HACCP for enforcers
 - Enforcement
 - FBO audit proforma

Meat controls

- 5.10 In 2012 the FSA introduced:
- a strengthened field structure for delivery official controls for meat within GB to facilitate effective, risk-based and proportionate regulation and enforcement, and provide a robust platform for future delivery

- improved SLA arrangements focusing on outcomes and value for money across UK
- new contracts for the supply of contracted Official Veterinarians and Meat Hygiene Inspectors in meat establishments.

5.11 At the end of October 2012, we introduced new audit reporting arrangements across the UK. These incorporated two key changes – placing a greater emphasis on food safety in relation to scores awarded, and also combining audits for co-located slaughterhouses and cutting plants. Reports now provide a more accurate assessment of standards and compliance.

Action taken following a Commission FVO audit of UK official controls on MSM

5.12 In March 2012, the FVO carried out a routine programmed visit to the UK to audit official controls on the production of MSM (see Chapter 3). The FVO concluded from its audit that the UK's interpretation of the definition of MSM in EU food law was not in line with that of the Commission. Consequently, any product that had been identified as DSM in the UK, and considered to fall within the definition of 'meat preparations' was considered by the FVO to be MSM.

European Commission's interpretation of EU Food Law

5.13 The effect of the Commission's interpretation of EU food law was twofold. DSM from ruminant (cattle, sheep, goats) bones was prohibited because EU TSE legislation prohibits the use of bones and bone-in cuts from ruminant animals to produce MSM. DSM from non-ruminant (poultry, pork) bones must be produced and treated in all respects as MSM which, under EU Food Labelling legislation, must be indicated on labelling when used as an ingredient and cannot count towards the meat content declaration which must appear on products containing meat.

Initial Enforcement Action Following FVO Audit

5.14 As an initial response to the FVO's findings, the FSA issued an Action Plan and guidance to enforcement bodies requiring them to visit all UK DSM and MSM establishments and those visited by the FVO which used DSM/MSM as raw material in their products. Enforcement bodies were required to verify that establishment approvals reflected the activities carried out and to ensure that FBOs:

- took action to address any food hygiene deficiencies (including those identified by the FVO); undertook microbiological testing in accordance with the legal requirements
- ensured that commercial documentation and product labelling provided clear and accurate product descriptions.

UK Moratorium on the Production and Use of DSM

- 5.15 In the light of the FVO audit and subsequent discussions with and communications from the Commission, the UK Government agreed to a change in policy. On 4 April 2012 the FSA announced a moratorium on production and use of DSM which aligned UK policy with the Commission's interpretation of EU food law.
- 5.16 The moratorium came into effect in two stages. From 28 April, the production and use of DSM from ruminant bones was required to cease. From 26 May, DSM from non-ruminant bones was required to be produced and labelled as MSM.

Action Following Announcement of Moratorium

- 5.17 Initial technical guidance outlining the expected terms of the moratorium was then provided to industry representative bodies and enforcement bodies. All UK establishments producing DSM/ MSM were visited by enforcement bodies by mid-April and follow up inspections undertaken as appropriate. Where necessary action plans were developed to address deficiencies identified which were subsequently implemented bringing establishments into line with the terms of the moratorium.
- 5.18 Guidance on the ruminant element of the moratorium was sent to enforcement bodies and industry representative bodies. The four establishments engaged in the production of DSM from ruminant bones ceased such production in accordance with the terms of the moratorium. The FSA carried out inspection visits to these establishments to verify compliance.

Non-Ruminant Element of Moratorium

- 5.19 Guidance on the non-ruminant element of the moratorium was published on the FSA website on 24 May 2012 and also sent to enforcement bodies and industry representatives. Enforcement bodies sent letters to FBOs affected or likely to be affected, by the non-ruminant element of the moratorium and provided advice on its terms including the likely effect on establishments' operations and approvals.

Updates to Official Guidance

- 5.20 The Meat Industry Guide, the Manual of Official Controls for FSA enforcement officers and the Food Law Practice Guidance for LA enforcement officers were all amended to reflect the introduction and requirements of the moratorium.

Compliance Review: September 2012

- 5.21 In September, the FSA requested a formal update from enforcement bodies on compliance with the terms of the moratorium. This exercise was completed in mid-October and confirmed that establishments producing DSM prior to the

moratorium were all compliant with the terms of the moratorium. In the vast majority of cases compliance had been achieved without the need for formal enforcement action. The majority of establishments engaged in the production of DSM from non-ruminant bones at the time of the FVO audit did not want to continue to manufacture the product as MSM under the moratorium and changed their production activities.

Dairy Hygiene

- 5.22 Following preparations during 2011/12, at the beginning of April 2012 FSA Field Operations staff took over responsibility for delivery of milk production hygiene inspections in England and Wales from AHVLA, who had been delivering this service on the FSA's behalf. Official controls within milk production establishments in Scotland and NI continue to be delivered by LAs (Scotland) and DARD (NI). This followed an external procurement tender exercise - delivering the controls in-house was deemed the most cost effective option for delivering consistent, risk based controls and the best level of consumer protection.
- 5.23 The inspection regime to regulate hygiene standards on dairy farms in England, Wales and NI was revised in July 2011, to give earned recognition to dairy farmers who are members of an industry assurance scheme - the Red Tractor Assured Dairy Farm Scheme. These changes led to a reduction in official inspections in England and Wales from more than 11,000 to about 3,000 per year.

Egg Hygiene – England and Wales

- 5.24 For egg hygiene inspections in England and Wales a risk matrix was implemented by AHVLA to enable them to prioritise their inspections of egg production sites.

Shellfish Hygiene – England, Scotland and Wales

- 5.25 A Memorandum of Understanding for the implementation of shellfish monitoring was agreed by the FSA with Cefas beginning in March 2012. A sanitary survey risk matrix was established to enable the prioritisation of shellfish harvesting areas that require a full sanitary survey in order of the necessity to do so based on risk to public health.
- 5.26 The FSA took over direct responsibility for shellfish sampling in three areas of Scotland (Dumfries and Galloway and North and South Ayrshire) from LAs at the beginning of April 2012.

Shellfish Hygiene –NI

- 5.27 During breaches of regulatory shellfish limits or outwith results (microbiological values that exceed the classification category for the shellfish bed) FSA NI coordinated with Sampling Officers, District Councils, NI

Environment Agency, DARD Fisheries Department, Loughs Agency and laboratories to arrange for the resampling of shellfish, and if required, enforcement action i.e. bed closures and investigatory action to take place for the possible reasons for these results.

Mycotoxins

- 5.28 The FSA completed funding on a project to assess oat agronomy practices that may affect the amount of the mycotoxins, specifically T2 and HT2 toxins that occur in oats in the UK. The findings of this project will be published shortly.
- 5.29 The FSA continued its four year mycotoxins surveillance programme. The data will also be used to assess the effectiveness of codes of practice and legislation and to identify emerging areas of concern, for example mycotoxins occurring in foods not previously recognised as commodities likely to be affected by mycotoxins.

Imported Food

- 5.30 Under national measures, controls were applied to imports of paan (betel) leaves with high levels of non-compliances for salmonella being found in paan leaves from Bangladesh.
- 5.31 Additional controls on imported food were implemented, and the FSA issued guidance on the application of the controls to enforcement practitioners at points of entry for new and amended measures introduced in 2012:
- additional controls on rice products from China and Hong Kong for the presence on unauthorised GMOs in rice
 - additional controls on certain feed and food listed in Annex I of Regulation (EC) 669/2009 as amended following each quarterly review
 - amendment measures to Regulation (EC) no 1152/2009 on controls for aflatoxins on certain products from certain third countries
 - amendment measures on aquaculture products from India, and repealing measures on farmed fishery products from Indonesia
 - amendment measures on food and feed from Japan for the radionuclides iodine-131 (part), caesium-134 and caesium-137
 - amendment to the Annex to Decision 2002/994/EC on products of animal origin from China due to veterinary residues
 - extension of period of suspension of certain bivalve molluscs from Peru due to hepatitis A
 - advice on import of pine nuts from China.
- 5.32 As part of the FSA's growing intelligence network, it has established an Imported Food intelligence database linking directly to our Incidents, Emerging Risks and Food Fraud databases. This new system will facilitate greater information and intelligence sharing on imports, helping targeting of ongoing surveillance and checks on imports. It also completed a review of the

GRAIL database (Guidance and Regulatory Advice on Imported Legislation) with all 400 web-pages checked and updated.

- 5.33 The FSA developed a manual on Effective Import Controls for food and feed of non-animal origin at smaller seaports and airports with the Association of Port Health Authorities . The manual was specifically aimed at PHAs/ LAs/Enforcement Authorities throughout the UK, responsible for controls at points of entry for occasional and/or low levels of consignments of feed or food of non-animal origin (FNAO). The manual is available at: food.gov.uk/business-industry/imports/enforce_authorities/smaller-seaports-and-airports/
- 5.34 A range of imported food training courses was provided for enforcement officers, both inland and port health officers, covering enforcement of import controls, sampling, imported food/feed control at smaller ports, and guidance on investigation and enforcement.

Third Country Exports

- 5.35 In August 2012, a new Exports Branch was set up within the FSA. The remit of the Branch is to coordinate the FSA's role in supporting Defra, as the lead UK competent authority for third country exports, by providing the necessary assurances about exporter compliance, not only with EU food law, but also any specific requirements of the destination country. The Branch works closely with the FSA's own veterinary inspectors and LA officials to support activity to approve (where necessary) UK businesses for export and to carry out ongoing assessments of compliance in exporting businesses, particularly where they are exporting to countries with specific conditions on food/feed exports.

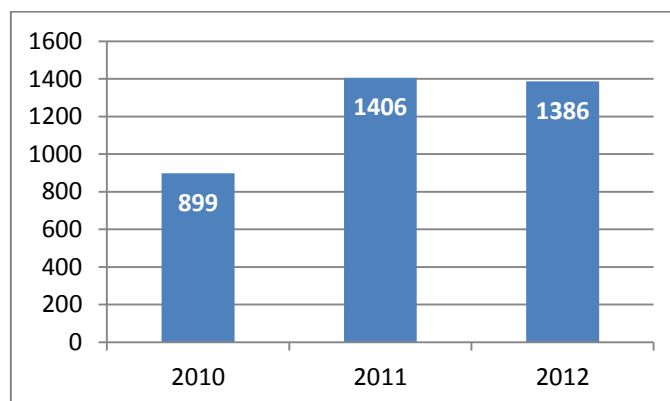
Materials in contact with Food

- 5.36 The Materials and Articles in Contact with Food Regulations 2012 were introduced in 2012. These Regulations provide a single point of reference for businesses and enforcement authorities by consolidating three main Statutory Instruments on materials and articles intended to come into contact with food into one set of Regulations and ensure continuity of enforcement provisions for existing directly applicable European legislation.

Food fraud

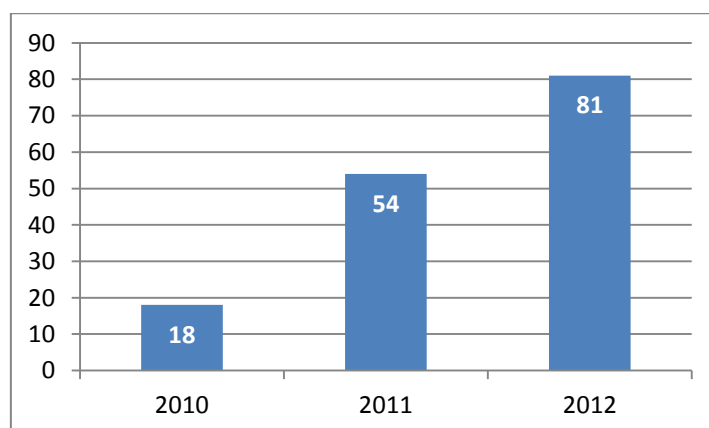
- 5.37 In 2012 the FSA fraud team continued its development of the National Food Fraud Database. The amount of information submitted by LAs has increased considerably since its inception.

Number of records created since 2010



- 5.38 Although numbers were slightly down on 2011 figures, this continued level of intelligence reporting clearly demonstrated the success of the awareness raising work undertaken by staff and the success of joint collaborative enforcement action and publicity from acting on shared intelligence. The level of intelligence received also reflected the increase in direct contact the FSA has received during 2012 from members of the public who have reported concerns and issues they have with food premises. All such intelligence received was disseminated to LA food law enforcement teams for investigation at a local level. The continued availability of a larger data set enabled production of improved intelligence allowing the FSA to provide greater assistance with LA investigations.
- 5.39 In 2012, the Food Fraud team handled a record number of cases originating from whistle-blowers (where this information originates from someone working within industry), a marked increase from the previous two years.

Number of cases originating from whistle-blowers since 2010



Regional presence in England

- 5.40 During 2012/13 the team organised a series of regional update events, attended by over 500 LA officers. Priority in Food Liaison Groups was given to: LA adoption and operation of the FHRS; raising the profile of the FSA's Compliance and Enforcement Strategy, Earned Recognition and Primary Authority and providing timely intelligence on LA delivery of official controls to inform Agency policy.

Incidents

- 5.41 The Incident Response Team improved its capability through documented, focused incident and emergency exercise reviews. Strategic Reviews of two high level incidents and one emergency exercise were carried out by the Incidents Review Group.
- 5.42 Implementation of FSA participation in the National Resilience Extranet platform together with further expansion of involvement and internal training was undertaken throughout 2012.

FSA Internal Audit

- 5.43 Discussions between the FSA and Defra Internal Audit teams took place to improve collaborative working, aimed at avoiding duplication of audit effort and gaps in assurance, where arrangements for official controls delivery involve both the FSA and Defra.
- 5.44 Reporting procedures for internal audit work have also been subject to a continuing review aimed at ensuring that audit reports are finalised more expeditiously.

Food Hygiene Rating Scheme/ Information Scheme

- 5.45 The FSA continues to work with LAs to support the Scheme and increase adoption. At the close of 2012, 93% of LAs in England, Wales and NI (including all those in Wales) were operating the FHRS. 72% of those in Scotland were operating the FHIS.
- 5.46 FHRS information was available on around 369,000 food businesses, an estimated 75% of those within the scope of the scheme, and FHIS information was available on around 30,000 food businesses, an estimated 61% of those within scope.
- 5.47 Guidance to ensure consistency in implementation and operation of the FHRS by LAs – the Brand Standard – was revised in January 2012 to reflect the experience of those LAs operating the scheme.

- 5.48 The FSA ran five FHRS workshops for LAs in 2012 with particular emphasis on achieving greater consistency in operating the scheme and developing the communication strategy to promote consumer awareness.
- 5.49 The FHRS continued to generate significant local press coverage and the FSA produced an online communication toolkit for LAs with communications toolkits containing template press releases and ideas for promoting the scheme at a local level. In February 2012 the FSA in Wales ran a six week campaign to further raise awareness of the scheme.

Review of the FSA in Scotland

- 5.50 In June 2012 the SG's review of the functions performed by the FSA in Scotland (scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0039/00391041.pdf) was published. The review followed the UK Government's decision in 2010 to absorb some of the policy areas overseen in England by the FSA into other Government departments.
- 5.51 Following publication of the review in June 2012, Ministers agreed to create a new Scottish body for food safety, food standards, nutrition, food labelling and meat inspection. As a change in legislation is not required for the transfer of meat inspection delivery, this will happen before the new body is created. The FSA is working closely with the SG to assist with these changes.

Olympic and Paralympic Games 2012 food hygiene initiative

- 5.52 The FSA London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games project worked across a number of delivery partners including the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH), Health Protection Agency (HPA) and the London Olympic Committee. The FSA co-ordinated LA inspection and sampling and the roll out of hygiene monitoring equipment and instant water testing equipment (where no mains water was available) to LAs.
- 5.53 The FSA co-ordinated a bespoke training course in food safety for additional officers and undertook specific training for officers in food fraud, inspection and sampling prior to the Games.
- 5.54 A dedicated Regional Team member supported London LAs, introducing FHRS in all London LAs and training of officers.
- 5.55 There was a slight drop in incident numbers across the UK (133 compared with 148) for the period during which the 2012 Olympics and Paralympics (27/7/12 – 12/8/12 and 29/8/12 – 9/9/12) were on compared to the same periods the previous year. There were just 21 Olympics related incidents, which were quickly investigated.
- 5.56 Effective liaison took place with other Government Departments and with LAs and PHAs at points of entry to the UK with regard to food imports for the Games.

Defra, its Executive Agencies and CRD (HSE)

Veterinary Medicines Directorate

- 5.57 The VMD delegated the inspection of fish farmers manufacturing medicated feed in England & Wales to Cefas under a Service Level Agreement (SLA).
- 5.58 In October 2012 amending Statutory Instrument 2012 No. 2711 was issued which enacted EU legislation in the UK and made relevant technical amendments.

Beef labelling – England, Scotland & Wales

- 5.59 Since the FVO audit on the traceability of beef and beef products undertaken in March 2011, RPA has been supporting Defra in their engagement with FSA over improved LA enforcement of the compulsory beef labelling rules at retail premises and other premises under their enforcement control. RPA also passed on intelligence gathered during its control visits to the relevant LA (where applicable) for their follow-up action as required. RPA also liaised on an ongoing basis with the Devolved Administrations on cross border enforcement issues.
- 5.60 RPA is currently working with Defra to review the compulsory beef labelling enforcement processes with the aim of making more effective use of the enforcement powers available under both domestic and European legislation.
- 5.61 In Scotland, SG is working in conjunction with the Scottish Federation of Meat Traders, which is advising retail butchers on beef labelling guidance. SG also liaises on an on-going basis with the RPA on cross border enforcement issues.

Beef labelling – NI

- 5.62 Enforcement responsibility for beef labelling in NI continued to be split between DARD (approved premises) and local council (retail), with the FSA having a peripheral role. Co-ordination between DARD and environmental health was strengthened by Environmental Health Officers (EHOs) attending DARD beef labelling and traceability courses.

Organic standards

- 5.63 In 2012 Defra delegated the control of UK organic operators to seven Defra-approved UK organic control bodies and three control bodies that are based in Ireland. All organic operators in the UK must be certified by at least one of these bodies.
- 5.64 In addition to regular meetings between Defra and United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS)/ Control bodies, Defra consulted on draft

guidance on the Testing of Pesticide Residues for the UK organic sector in areas where the EU Regulations are currently unclear.

Protein in animal feed ban

5.65 In addition to the twice yearly meetings which AHVLA holds with enforcement authorities and agencies involved with the control and enforcement of farm animal feed legislation, they have held additional meetings with Defra, the FSA, LAs and industry assurance bodies in relation to incidents involving the use of surplus foodstuffs in farm animal feed and also the control of waste streams from supermarkets to returns depots.

VMD

5.66 VMD continued development of the IMS database. One significant change allowed inspectors to log more detailed information about deficiencies.

5.67 Inspectors attended four 2-day meetings, during which technical issues were discussed and a 1-day Feed Safety Management Course, arranged by the FSA.

Emergency and contingency planning

Olympics

5.68 The activities in the lead up to the Olympic and Paralympic Games focused on ensuring that the FSA's role during any food incident was clear, that internal resources were rehearsed and in place, and that the FSA could provide support to LAs.

5.69 The FSA worked closely with LAs to provide incident training, particularly to those with venues and training camps in their areas. A one-day training workshop, Exercise Acanthus, was held in January 2012, for host LA Lead Food Safety Officers, to raise awareness of roles and communication requirements during an incident.

5.70 The FSA engaged with the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) to raise awareness of the FSA's role during any Olympics food incident and ensure procedures were clear.

Incidents

5.71 The FSA Incidents Team continued its involvement in the cross-government emergency exercises programme. They regularly participated in a range of exercises. Also, before the London Olympics they organised and took part in several workshops and exercises involving other Government Departments and LAs, focussed on ensuring that all partners were aware of each other's procedures and protocols in the event of a food safety incident. Exercise

Apollo was a five-day exercise with the HPA testing laboratory and results reporting aspects.

Working across the EU

Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF)

5.72 The Incidents Unit sent 517 notifications to the European Commission, via the RASFF. FSA Incidents Branch is the UK contact point for RASFF notifications. More information can be found at: ec.europa.eu/food/food/rapidalert/index_en.htm

Organic products

5.73 During the year Defra worked together with other MS to co-ordinate action to investigate a number of cases of organic products found to contain prohibited residues. This involved liaison with other MS' Competent Authorities and Control Bodies.

VMD

5.74 Following the seizure of illegal medicated feed in the UK, the VMD contacted the Dutch Veterinary Products Regulatory Authority to report the import of feed which was manufactured in and imported from the Netherlands. The Dutch authority inspected the manufacturer and raised the issue with the Product Board Animal Feed and reported back that based on this visit, the manufacturer had indicated that they would stop production and export of the feed.

5.75 In addition, prior to the seizure, the VMD liaised with the Irish Medicines Board (IMB) as it had been incorrectly suggested that they supported the use of the illegal product in medicated calf milk replacer feed. The IMB confirmed that they did not support this use.

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

Olympics

5.76 The PHSI held meetings with AHVLA, EA and DEFRA during the run up to the Olympic Games in order to share and understand potential risks. During the course of the Olympic and Paralympic games regular briefings were provided on issues that could be of importance. Particular attention was paid to ensuring that medal winners' bouquets were free from pests and diseases, in case they were taken back, and information was provided to all participating countries' National Plant Protection Organisations on the action taken.

5.77 Defra worked closely with the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games to ensure that all Olympic and Paralympic Teams were aware of the import controls legislation and that no derogation from the import controls would be permitted. Special instructions⁸⁸ were issued to BIPs to cover the period of the Games with contact details for relevant games logistic partners. Other official import controls were not affected by the Games.

CVO meetings

5.78 The four UK administrations' CVOs met monthly in 2012, focusing on the specifically veterinary aspects of animal health policy and delivery. The CVOs from the UK, England, Scotland, Wales and NI were joined by the most senior veterinary official from the AHVLA and the FSA. On a 6 monthly basis CVOs from the Isle of Man, Guernsey and Jersey also attended. Standing agenda items included global threats to animal and public health, international trade and a formal report and assessment of risks to animal health and welfare identified by the Veterinary Risk Group. If risks identified were not considered to be sufficiently mitigated they were escalated to the highest levels of the administrations for further action.

5.79 The group considered specific issues in greater depth as needed, for example in 2012 targeted surveillance for brucellosis; FMD risk based controls; rabies risks for illegal trade in puppies; changes to TSE controls; sheep identification and traceability; contingency planning exercises and management of food contamination incidents. Finally the group maintained an overview of negotiations on EU legislation and potential impacts on animal health; in 2012 focusing on the new EU Animal Health Law.

Animal Health and Welfare Framework

5.80 Defra and AHVLA continued to work with the LAs' National Animal Health and Welfare panel to exchange and disseminate information and to identify and address common issues. The panel met quarterly, was led by LAs and included representatives from each region allowing a national picture to be understood. Working through a small focussed national framework steering group a framework was prepared and published to help LAs plan and deliver against Defra's animal health and welfare national priorities. This framework set out national priorities whilst providing flexibility to focus activity to respond to local financial pressures and priorities.

NI

5.81 In 2012 DARD Veterinary Services Enforcement Branch developed close links with the Police Service of NI at operational level. The co-operation between

⁸⁸ defra.gov.uk/animal-trade/2012/ovs-note-12-08/

the organisations, assisted by the farming community, led to a more coordinated response to incidents.

Bee health

- 5.82 In England and Wales, Fera continued to work in partnership with beekeeping stakeholders to deliver the objectives of the Healthy Bees Plan⁸⁹. In 2012, there were three meetings of the Plan's Project Management Board which includes bee stakeholders and officials from Fera, the WG, and the SG. In October 2012, the Project Management Board was replaced by the Bee Health Advisory Forum⁹⁰.
- 5.83 In NI, DARD published the Strategy for the Sustainability of the Honey Bee in 2011. This was developed in the context of the Bee Health strategies introduced for England Wales and in Scotland. During 2012 the Strategy Implementation Group agreed priority areas and action plans for each of the sub groups.

Aquatic animal health

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

England and Wales

- 5.85 To ensure consistency in sampling methodologies, the Cefas FHI together with the EA fish health team reviewed the methodology for epizootic ulcerative syndrome (EUS) sampling along with mortality investigation and communication protocols, and the inter-agency joint working document.
- 5.86 The FHI investigation and enforcement Inspector was seconded to the Defra Better Regulation Programme to assist Defra in developing a plan to facilitate the introduction of the National Intelligence Model (NIM) across the Defra family.
- 5.87 The FHI was also represented on the Government's National Investigators Group. This group promoted the need for all Government Departments to participate in the new National Crime Agency Integrated Operating Model (Threat, Harm and Risk from Organised Crime Groups).
- 5.88 The FHI has established links with the PHSI advising on patterns of intra-Community trade in aquatic animals and plants, and has conducted joint inspections to familiarise the PHSI with procedures for detaining and inspecting at points of import and in developing contacts with other Agencies.

⁸⁹ fera.defra.gov.uk/plants/beeHealth/healthyBeesPlan.cfm

⁹⁰ The aim of the Forum is to provide an opportunity for early discussion on emerging or developing issues, as well as increasing transparency and understanding for all participants of positions across the range of interests.

- 5.89 In 2012 the FHI undertook the inspection of fish farms holding veterinary medicines mixing licences on behalf of the VMD.
- 5.90 Cefas worked with the Competent Authority in the Republic of Ireland to resolve anomalies in exports of Pacific oysters from England to farms in the Republic of Ireland.

Scotland

- 5.91 Improved communications were maintained between Marine Scotland and the FSA following the outbreak of VHS in 2012. Co-operation was established in relation to the sampling of aquatic animals from restricted areas for the purpose of environmental monitoring, and with respect to issues relating to human health implications of fish and shellfish consumption from infected areas.

NI

- 5.92 DARD continued on-going co-operation with the Marine Institute, the Competent Authority for fish health in the Republic of Ireland, regarding movements of fish between NI and the Republic of Ireland.
- 5.93 For animal diseases in the wild, DARD maintained good lines of communication with the NI Environment Agency, the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure which is responsible for inland fisheries in NI and the Loughs Agency of the Foyle, Carlingford and Irish Lights Commission, which is responsible for inland fisheries of the Foyle and Carlingford areas.

Plant Health

- 5.94 Outbreaks of Asian longhorn beetle and *Chalara fraxinea*, amongst others, increased the need for closer co-operation between policy and technical staff in the various territories of the UK and with the organisations dealing with forestry issues. Regular outbreak management team meetings were held to monitor progress in surveillance, eradication, tracking consignments, etc.
- 5.95 NI held regular technical exchange meetings with the Irish Republic to exchange examples of best practice and to address common issues. NI hosted the UK Seed Potato Committee meeting at Greenmount Campus.

Legislation

- 5.96 There was an amendment made to the Welfare of Animals (Slaughter or Killing) Regulations 1995, as it applies to England, in 2012 to:
- permit the use of a biphasic carbon dioxide gas mixture to kill poultry in slaughterhouses
 - permit the use of gas on-farm as a mass culling method for all birds and

- allow prosecutions to be brought up to six months after the prosecutor is given sufficient evidence of the alleged offence.
- 5.97 In NI, the Welfare of Animals (Slaughter or Killing) (Amendment) Regulations (NI) 2011 came into operation on 1 January 2012, implementing Council Regulation 1099/2009.
- 5.98 In addition, there was a consultation in the autumn of 2012 which sought views on proposals to implement Council Regulation 1099/2009 on the protection of animals at time of killing, in England. Similar consultation exercises were carried out by Devolved Administrations. Defra issued the Information Note⁹¹ to stakeholders in GB regarding impending changes to slaughter and killing regulations.
- 5.99 In 2012 the Aquaculture and Fisheries (Scotland) Bill⁹² was introduced for consultation with industry and wider stakeholders⁹³.
- 5.100 For Plant health the various territories of the UK passed legislation to increase controls to prevent the spread of *Chalara fraxinea* and other tree diseases by requiring operators to notify imports of ash, oak, chestnut and plane trees, to allow inspectors to inspect imported consignments. Other orders were passed to prevent the import of potatoes from Poland carrying *Clavibacter michiganensis sepedonicus*, the causative organism of Potato ring rot.

Organisation

- 5.101 On 1 January 2013, the Plant Health Policy Team was transferred from Fera to Defra, into the Safeguarding Plant and Animal Health Directorate, with a reporting line to the Director of Plant and Animal Health. Nine additional policy staff were recruited in autumn 2012 to deal with the outbreak of *Chalara fraxinea* and an associated major review of plant health policy and implementation. These staff were merged with existing policy staff transferring in from Fera to form a larger policy team.

Procedures

- 5.102 Following an incident in December 2012 when two cohorts of a BSE case entered an abattoir, but were removed before they could enter the food chain, AHVLA implemented a change to reduce the time taken to identify and restrict eligible offspring and cohorts of BSE suspects and surveillance cases. The time reduction was from 5 working days to within 2 working days of the service of the intention to slaughter notice (report cases) or notification to

⁹¹ gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/182353/watok-info-note-reg-1099-20121219.pdf

⁹² With respect to Aquaculture, the Bill and subsequent Act (adopted in 2013) cover areas relating to fish farm management agreements and statements, escapes of fish, technical requirements for equipment used in fish farming and the control and monitoring of well boat operations.

⁹³ The new provisions require additional inspection and enforcement activity from the competent authority, although the finer detail regarding practical enforcement is still under development.

AHVLA (surveillance cases). This change provides additional reassurance that cohorts will not enter the food chain and provide a greater level of public health protection.

- 5.103 Following proactive feedback from industry representatives it was agreed to increase the level of staining checks carried out at ABP sites. Following concerns over ABP haulage, AHVLA implemented a programme of additional checks on vehicles about leakage.
- 5.104 Border controls procedures in the BIP Manual were updated to take account of FVO comments and changes to EU legislation. In addition, 40 OVS notes were issued covering a variety of subjects from safeguard measures for fishery products to changes in import conditions for meat and eggs. The BIP Manual and OVS notes are available on the Defra website.
defra.gov.uk/animal-trade/imports-non-eu/enforcement-guidance/
- 5.105 During 2012, Defra carried out a review of bee health pest and disease control policies in England and Wales. The review was undertaken by the Food and Environment Research Agency, on behalf of Defra and the WG, with the NBU, representatives from commercial and amateur beekeeper associations and an independent scientist. The review considered how best to manage pests and diseases in the future so that the optimum policies and interventions are in place; priorities for future collective action (partnership working) by Government and beekeepers are clear; and to ensure we are making the best use of current public funding/resources for this programme in order to sustain a healthy honey bee population for pollination.

Information Systems

- 5.106 Cefas continued on the redevelopment of the Starfish database, an inter-Agency owned resource that includes the register of authorised APBs, and the register of fisheries which is scheduled to be completed and released in 2014.
- 5.107 Marine Scotland concentrated on a wider roll out and use of the LIMS to manage the processes involved with sample handling, processing and issuing results.

Training

- 5.108 90 UK representatives attended animal health and welfare and plant health training courses organised through the European Commission's BTSF. The BTSF learning materials were cascaded to staff of Competent Authority involved in official controls through in house courses through in house courses.
- 5.109 AHVLA arranged twice yearly training for border controls staff (BIP staff and auditors) which covered training needs identified during the audits. The Cefas FHI delivered a training package for staff at live fish BIPs on the clearance of

aquatic animal consignments and the issue of enforcement notices issued under Regulations 16/23 of the Trade in Animal and Related Products Regulations 2011. Refresher training has been provided at subsequent BIP portal meetings and through visits to BIPs.

- 5.110 64 AHVLA staff attended five ABP HACCP workshops. The intention of these AHVLA designed courses was to support a consistent approach to carrying out regulatory checks on HACCP documents during ABP inspection visits. The courses provided an introduction to HACCP, requirements in terms of ABP legislation and specific detail as to the application and assessment of HACCP within the ABP sector.
- 5.111 13 AHVLA staff plus policy and industry representatives attended “Dry AD⁹⁴ training”, a specialist course to discuss the practicalities of this new technology with the technology providers and to determine AHVLAs approach in terms of approving dry AD premises.
- 5.112 94 AHVLA animal welfare staff attended trainings events such as Witness Statements course, Witness Familiarisation – Criminal Investigative Interviewing, enforcement Journey (England & Wales), and welfare of fish.
- 5.113 *Salmonella* training for Competent Authority staff was again held in 2012. The training materials/presentations were placed on the AHVLA intranet as reference material. On-going training of AHVLA staff involved in the NCP implementation, although not recorded as formal training occasions, includes the following:
- daily Operations Manual updates that alert staff to any changes in the AHVLA Operations Manual instructions
 - formal field skills assessments done for all field officers
 - the AHVLA Network of Expertise provides a platform to raise queries and for the answers to these queries to be accessible to all competent authority staff
 - official laboratory staff received on-going, documented training as part of the requirements of the laboratory’s accreditation to ISO17025.
- 5.114 In NI, 50 training events and conferences were held for Veterinary Service staff. The training included issues such as avian influenza, broiler welfare, Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA) tagging, humane slaughter, safer cattle handling and Site Operations Co-ordinator decontamination training. In addition, a Contingency Planning for Epizootic Disease poultry training programme was attended by 240 field staff. The NI Fire and Rescue Service led site operations coordinator training based on a simulation of whole house gassing of poultry.
- 5.115 In addition, DARD Central Enforcement Team inspectors together with the Police Service of NI carried out a number of roadside vehicle checks with the objective of training police officers to read animals eartags and check animal movement documentation.

⁹⁴ Anaerobic digestion

Bee health

5.116 In the UK:

- six new Bee Inspectors received in house training, a week long residential at the NBU, Fera
- ten Bee Inspectors attended City and Guilds training on bee health management and safe handling of veterinary medicines, Essential Management skills modules and managing performance and absence courses
- 12 inspectors attended training sessions for the specific inspection and sampling requirements of the European Union Reference Laboratories' (EURLs') Epilobee (Pilot Surveillance) Project
- nine Regional Bee Inspectors attended management training
- four NBU staff attended additional GLP training
- 70 staff (Inspectors and NBU staff) undertook an e-learning course on protecting information which is mandatory
- 74 GB Bee Inspectors attended the NBU annual Technical Training Workshop
- 13 SG Bee Inspectors have completed focussed training at SASA on disease recognition and five have completed the "Train the Trainer" course run by the National Diploma in Beekeeping so that SG Bee Inspectors can disseminate information more effectively
- four DARD Bee Inspectors attended a one day training course consisting of a classroom session on the brood diseases AFB and EFB and a practical session in the apiary demonstrating hive inspection procedures for brood diseases. Training was led by a bee inspector from the NBU, Fera.

Aquatic Animal Health

5.117 Five members of the Cefas FHI participated in RIPA training organised by the Defra Better Regulation Programme. RIPA provides a statutory framework under which covert surveillance activity can be authorised and conducted in support of the investigation of organised criminal activity.

5.118 Representatives from the Cefas FHI attended a training course covering the disclosure of evidence in criminal proceedings for specialist reporting agencies.

5.119 Six members of the Scottish FHI were awarded a Post Graduate Certificate in Aquatic Animal Health from the University of Stirling. A further seven members of the FHI were undertaking the course during the year.

Plant Health

5.120 In addition to their continuing training programme, FERA PHSI arranged for a team of 6 Dutch inspectors to visit Heathrow and in return for 6 UK inspectors to visit Amsterdam's Schiphol airport in order to better understand and exchange information on the implementation of import controls. In addition,

one import inspector spent one month working alongside the Belgian inspectorate at Liege Airport. In both of these cases, the Plant Health Inspectorate gained a better understanding of the working practices of these neighbouring MS. Knowledge of the Dutch system has provided invaluable practical evidence that has been used in discussions during import stakeholder meetings. The Belgians benefited from the technical expertise provided by the UK inspector. This should benefit the UK since there is a significant trade in planting material inspected in Belgium for onward movement to the UK.

Emergency and contingency planning

Animal health

- 5.121 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 Plan⁹⁵ which outlines how the four Administrations work together during the response to a disease outbreak.
- 5.122 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 2012, disease simulation exercises covering Classical Swine Fever, Foot and Mouth Disease and Avian Influenza were undertaken. These exercises include policy input from English, Scottish and Welsh Governments and representation from partner organisations such as the Police and LAs in order to test a multi-agency response to disease outbreak. Tabletop exercises and contingency planning events addressing preparedness for Bluetongue, West Nile Virus and Rabies were also held.

England

- 5.123 The Defra Contingency Plan was deployed during 2012 to respond to Equine Infectious Anaemia and Contagious Equine Metritis. In addition, Defra participated in several contingency exercises.
- 5.124 Defra's Contingency Plan⁹⁶ for Exotic Notifiable Diseases of Animals was reviewed and updated in December 2012 to reflect lessons learned from previous disease outbreaks and exercises.

⁹⁵ gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/69525/pb13714-animal-disease-plan-gbni-120228.pdf

⁹⁶ gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/69631/pb13857-animal-disease-plan-121219.pdf

Scotland

5.125 The SG did not need to deploy its generic Contingency Framework Plan⁹⁷ during 2012. However, the SG participated in Exercise *Ben Vorlich*, which explored preparedness in Scotland for an outbreak of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza following notification of a report case within a grandparent breeding poultry unit. A revised version of the SG's Generic Contingency Framework plan and Communications Strategy was tested during the exercise. A lessons identified report was subsequently prepared and a number of actions are being addressed including proposals to amend existing legislation.

Wales

5.126 The WG did not need to deploy its Contingency Plan for Exotic Animal Diseases^{98 99} during 2012. However, the WG participated in Exercise *Foghorn* in November 2012, which explored preparedness in Wales for an outbreak of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza. The exercise identified a need to have a strategy in place to manage business as usual activities during an outbreak and to improve the accuracy of the database detailing information on the number of poultry premises in Wales.

NI

5.127 During 2012 the following contingency planning activities were carried out:

- A *Fowl Day* exercise at Loughry Campus provided staff with an update on the poultry industry, diseases of poultry and roles and responsibilities in an outbreak. Practical sessions in the afternoon were particularly popular with participants.
- A number of Local Epizootic Disease Control Centre exercises provided staff with refresher training and gave them the opportunity to test processes, communications and staff instructions through active participation in desktop exercises.
- Exercise *Red Rooster* simulated an outbreak of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza at a poultry plant.
- The Contingency Planning for Epizootic Disease team also availed of the opportunity to deploy the containerised gassing units in a genuine, but non-epizootic, disease emergency at a large poultry layer unit that had to be depopulated because of an outbreak of *Salmonella gallinarum*.

Bee Health

5.128 The Contingency Plan for the arrival of exotic pests is reviewed on an annual basis. A tabletop exercise was carried out in 2012 to test the response procedures to the SHB which are detailed in the Contingency Plan. Following

⁹⁷ scotland.gov.uk/Topics/farmingrural/Agriculture/animal-welfare/Contingencies

⁹⁸ wales.gov.uk/docs/drah/publications/130418contingencyplan2013.pdf

⁹⁹ The WG plan complements the plan for England produced by Defra and incorporates lessons learned from exercises.

the exercise, lessons learned and actions were used to refine the contingency plan.

- 5.129 In England and Wales, the contingency plan for the arrival of the SHB¹⁰⁰ was substantially revised during 2012 to make the plan more user friendly. Regular contingency planning exercises were held including three regional contingency exercises for exotic threats. A major exercise was held using apiaries in and around the Bristol area in South West England. This involved appointed inspectors from three regions testing the scenario in which a SHB was found in apiaries belonging to a bee farmer. Two further smaller scale exercises were held in the Eastern Region (near Norwich) and Northern region (near Manchester). These exercises are run in conjunction with local beekeepers so it is a joint cooperative exercise. Following the exercises, lessons learned and actions were used to refine the contingency plan which is reviewed on an annual basis.
- 5.130 A total of 3,908 colonies in 930 apiaries were specifically examined in England and 719 colonies in 159 apiaries in Wales for the presence of exotic pests the SHB and *Tropilaelaps* spp. Mites). In addition, 166 samples were also submitted voluntarily by concerned beekeepers. None of these inspections revealed any exotic pests and no samples submitted by beekeepers tested positive. At present, both pests are believed to be absent from the UK
- 5.131 A response plan was developed for the Asian hornet¹⁰¹ and this will be tested in 2013.
- 5.132 Contingency planning in real-time has been practised in response to recent EFB outbreaks and a future exercise is being considered in discussion with stakeholders

Scotland

- 5.133 Given the recent EFB/ AFB outbreaks the Scottish Contingency Plan for notifiable diseases has been practised in real-time. A future exercise is being considered in discussion with the SG partners and stakeholders which will include contingency arrangements for both notifiable diseases and pests.

NI

- 5.134 DARD remodelled the 2012/13 Bee Health Contingency Plan basing this on the Plant Health Contingency Plan for uniformity and clarity of roles and detailed actions for each contributor to the plan. Although DARD was content that the Plan would meet their needs in an emergency situation they identified some areas for improvement:

¹⁰⁰ *Aethina tumida*

¹⁰¹ *Vespa velutina*

- to provide specific training for Bee Inspectors in order to identify quarantine pests *Tropilaelaps* and the SHB, and to allow them to rehearse notifying line management and the affected Apiary owner in the event of a suspect finding
- to make available a supply of emergency bee suits, tape, and other related materials as stock items in designated stores or DARD direct locations for immediate use by the seasonal inspector in the event of an emergency
- the Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute to prepare a list of approved insecticides, with guidance and procedures for use immediately by beekeepers and inspectors in an outbreak situation.

Aquatic Animal Health

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

England and Wales

5.136 In March 2012, exercise *Triton* was conducted to test elements of the England and Wales contingency plan for aquatic animal diseases which involved Defra, Cefas, the EA, and WG. A hypothetical outbreak of the exotic fish disease EUS was used as the basis of the exercise, with a National Disease Control Centre established at the Cefas Weymouth laboratory, with the exercise including teleconferencing, policy and birdtable meetings. The contingency exercise was considered a success, and a comprehensive report including lessons learned, and identifying areas that require further clarification was produced.

5.137 The Cefas FHI is required to maintain a disaster recovery plan for serious catastrophic events to ensure that statutory functions are maintained. The FHI conducted a DRP exercise in August 2012 during the two week period that Weymouth and Portland were hosting the Olympic Games sailing events. The premise underlying the exercise was that the Weymouth laboratory was destroyed and the Inspectorate was required to work remotely. The exercise was conducted with no disruption to delivery, and a number of lessons were learned to improve the DRP.

Scotland

5.138 In Scotland contingency procedures were implemented following the outbreak of VHS. No contingency plan testing or exercises were undertaken during 2012. Further work was undertaken to develop the generic contingency plan to deal with outbreaks of listed and emerging aquatic animal diseases.

¹⁰² Directive 2006/88/EC requires publication of contingency plans for exotic aquatic animal diseases.
Page **122** of **130**

NI

5.139 Northern Ireland was at an advanced stage¹⁰³ in finalising a cross-border¹⁰⁴ contingency plan for *Gyrodactylus salaris* in conjunction with the Marine Institute in the Republic of Ireland and the Foyle, Carlingford and Irish Lights Commission¹⁰⁵. It is anticipated that a test of the cross-border plan will take place within next 12-18 months.

Plant Health

5.140 An outbreak of Asian longhorn beetle¹⁰⁶ at one location in Kent prompted use of a draft contingency plan developed in for the eventuality of an outbreak of a related species, *Anoplophora chinensis*. This outbreak was tackled through close co-operation between the Forestry Commission and Fera. Lessons learned exercise was carried out and outcomes have yet to be published.

5.141 In NI, the Plant Health Contingency Plan was reviewed and the updated Plan placed on their website in April 2012. It was then used to tackle an outbreak of *Dickeya solani*.

¹⁰³ Target date for completion of December 2013.

¹⁰⁴ NI is the only part of the UK which has a land border with another Member State and therefore fish health contingency plans for NI must provide for trans-border arrangements with the Republic of Ireland.

¹⁰⁵ dardni.gov.uk/index/fisheries/aquaculture/fcilc-information.htm

¹⁰⁶ *Anoplophora glabripennis*.

CHAPTER 6

ACTIONS TAKEN TO IMPROVE THE PERFORMANCE OF FOOD AND PLANT BUSINESS OPERATORS

Food and feed sectors

Training

- 6.1 Safer Food Better Business (SFBB) – Between August 2012 and March 2013, an external contractor delivered food safety coaching to poor/non-compliant takeaway establishments (0-2 rated premises on the FHRS). 1031 establishments from across 52 LAs received this training which delivered key food safety message based around the 4Cs (Cross-Contamination, Cleaning, Chilling and Cooking) and discussed the food safety management system used in the premises.

Safety, quality and information campaigns

- 6.2 Food Safety Week – The FSA ran Food Safety Week in June 2012. The FSA partnered with 'Love Food Hate Waste' campaign and focused on issues associated with 'Food Safety on a budget'. The week generated three times more press than the previous year.
- 6.3 Olympic and Paralympic Games 2012 – The FSA held a successful communications campaign for the 2012 Games called 'Play it Safe': activities included a dedicated Twitter feed and Tweetchats; stakeholder toolkit; engagement with food bloggers; food business case studies.

Guidance

- 6.4 SFBB
- A review of all Safer Food Better Business packs was completed and extensive changes made to the material to take account of policy changes, feedback from LAs and primary cross-contamination messages from the FSA *E.coli* O157 guidance for FBOs and enforcement authorities.
 - In line with government policy 'digital by default', the FSA developed print-friendly Safer Food Better Business packs to make it more economical for businesses to print on non-commercial printers. The print-friendly versions allow food businesses to complete the safe method sections of the pack and diary on their computer without having to print the document.
- 6.5 Moratorium on DSM
The FSA issued guidance to help meat processors comply with the moratorium on the production of DSM from cattle, sheep and goat bones,

which applied from 28 April 2012 and can be found at:
food.gov.uk/news-updates/news/2012/apr/dsm-guidance

6.6 Beef labelling – NI

DARD continued to provide FBOs with information through the provision of a guidance booklet which covered the regulations in detail, a quick guide leaflet suitable to meet the needs of smaller businesses or as a reminder for larger FBOs and a guidance leaflet containing minimum requirements for mainstream claims under the voluntary beef labelling scheme. Literature was made available both on the internet and in hard copy.

6.7 Guides to good practice for FeBOs

Guidance was issued on medicated feedingstuffs prescriptions, the use of chlortetracycline (CTC) in calf milk replacer, export of unauthorised substances in compliance with Article 12 of Regulation (EC) 178/2002 and Article 34 of Regulation EC 882/2004.

6.8 Setting up a stall during the Olympic Games

The FSA issued guidance to food businesses or potential food businesses which were planning to set up a stall during the Olympic Games:
food.gov.uk/news-updates/news/2012/mar/olympicsstalls

6.9 Edible glitters and dusts

The FSA issued guidance to food businesses and consumers on edible glitters and dusts: food.gov.uk/multimedia/faq/edibleglitter/

Animal health and welfare and Plant health sectors

Training programmes

- 6.10 In GB, rendering industry liaison day, a conference style event took place involving 21 AHVLA staff, 18 industry representatives, policy colleagues and representation from the FSA. The intention of this event was to discuss and debate changes in legislation relating to the rendering industry, impacts on industry and regulators, and also to explain roles and responsibilities.
- 6.11 In Scotland, independent veterinary specialists in aquatic animal health organised a course on welfare issues in relation to fish farming, attended by industry stakeholders and representatives of the Scottish FHI.
- 6.12 NBU carried out over 500 training events, attended by over 23,000 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 was made available to beekeepers on the NBU's Beebase website¹⁰⁷.

¹⁰⁷ secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/beebase/index.cfm

- 6.13 The SG supports the work of a full-time Apiculture Specialist at Scotland's Rural College¹⁰⁸ who provided comprehensive advisory, training and education programmes for beekeepers throughout Scotland on all aspects of Integrated Pest Management and good husbandry. Science and Advice for Scottish Agriculture¹⁰⁹ provided a free diagnostic service to beekeepers to identify and confirm the presence of bee pests and diseases. The SG Bee Inspectors also gave talks to local beekeeping associations, which have proved to be a useful mechanism for disseminating information.
- 6.14 DARD's College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise worked in collaboration with the UBKA¹¹⁰ to provide Beekeeping Training in NI. During 2012 a total of seven Preliminary level Beekeeping courses and three Intermediate level Beekeeping courses were delivered in various venues across Northern Ireland. Approximately 178 individuals attended and completed this training. 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 2012.

Safety, quality and information campaigns

- 6.15 DARD issued guidance to the industry ahead of the introduction of the Welfare of Animals at the Time of Killing Regulations (Northern Ireland)¹¹¹, to inform about provision for the continued monitoring of animal welfare at slaughter by local District Councils in establishments other than approved slaughterhouses.
- 6.16 The UK FHIs attended numerous meetings with stakeholder groups, and had a regular presence at trade sector conferences and other stakeholder events to disseminate good practice and offer advice and guidance on legislative compliance.
- 6.17 Guidance was provided by Cefas FHI to businesses involved in the import of live fish. The aim was to ensure that suitable quarantine facilities were available so that non-compliant consignments of fish and shellfish could be isolated and secured whilst investigations were conducted and remedial actions undertaken, without compromising existing stocks of aquatic animals or the health status of England and Wales.
- 6.18 In 2012, Cefas FHI issued guidance to APBs on trade rules on aquatic animal movements following changes to certification requirements, new controls on imports of high risk species. Further advice, information and communications were given as part of the awareness campaign to prevent the introduction of *Gyrodactylus salaris* into the UK.

¹⁰⁸ sruc.ac.uk/info/120359/about_sruc

¹⁰⁹ sasa.gov.uk/

¹¹⁰ ubka.org/

¹¹¹ to implement the requirements of Council Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009

- 6.19 A dedicated cross border aquaculture body (Cross Border Aquaculture Initiative (CBAIT) EEIG (European Economic Interest Grouping) set up in 1998, and partly funded by DARD, helps promote a collaborative approach to aquaculture development in Northern Ireland and the border counties. In October 2012, CBAIT facilitated the establishment of an Aquaculture Representative Group (ARG), comprising of representatives from the salmon, trout, bottom grown mussel and oyster sectors, to represent the collective interests of this sector. In addition, CBAIT undertake and promote a number of research projects to assist the aquaculture sector. During 2012 a CBAIT research project¹¹² aimed at investigating how farming methods could best be adapted to help reduce the impact suffered by producers, resulting from the outbreak of the OsHV-1 μ var continued to progress.
- 6.20 As part of the developing Tree Health and Plant Biosecurity agenda¹¹³, Fera with various partners inside and outside Government delivered a multi-faceted information campaign, including, posters, films, best practice protocols, exhibit/show garden at the Royal Horticultural Society Chelsea Flower Show and a pilot “train the trainers” approach for the heritage garden sector. This programme was designed to raise awareness of plant health amongst growers, landscapers, foresters, and the wider public so that their actions take into account the risks involved in moving plants, visiting sensitive landscapes, etc.¹¹⁴

¹¹² Project started in July 2011 and is now complete July 2013.

¹¹³ gov.uk/government/publications/tree-health-and-plant-biosecurity-action-plan-progress-report

¹¹⁴ fera.defra.gov.uk/plants/plantHealth/treeHealth/

GLOSSARY

ABP	Animal By-Products
AD	Anaerobic Digestion
ADF	Assured Dairy Farms
AFB	American Foul Brood
AFSA	Agriculture and Fisheries (Scotland) Act 2007
AHVLA	Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency
ANA	Audit Needs Assessment
APB	Aquaculture Production Business
ARG	Aquaculture Representative Group
ARfD	Acute Reference Dose
ASP	Amnesic Shellfish Poisoning
BIP	Border Inspection Post
BKD	Bacterial Kidney Disease
BSE	Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathies
BTSF	Better Training for Safer Food
C4C	Cause for Concern
CBAIT	Cross-Border Aquaculture Initiative
Cefas	Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science
CIEH	Chartered Institute of Environmental Health
CRD	Chemicals Regulation Directorate
CSFS	Compulsory Scrapie Flock Scheme
CTC	Chlortetracycline
DARD	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (Northern Ireland)
Defra	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
DNA	Deoxyribonucleic Acid
DSM	Desinewed Meat
DSP	Diarrhetic Shellfish Poisoning
EA	Environment Agency
EBL	Enzootic Bovine Leukosis
EC	European Community (now the European Union)
E. coli	Escherichia Coli
EEIG	European Economic Interest Grouping
EFB	European Foul Brood
EU	European Union
EUS	Epizootic Ulcerative Syndrome
FBO	Food Business Operator
FDU	Fish Disease unit
FeNAO	Feed not of Animal Origin

Fera	Food & Environment Research Agency
FHI	Fish Health Inspectorate
FHIS	Food Hygiene Information Scheme
FHRS	Food Hygiene Rating Scheme
FNAO	Food not of Animal Origin
FSA	Food Standards Agency
FVO	Food and Veterinary Office
GB	Great Britain
GM	Genetically Modified
GMO	Genetically Modified Organism
HACCP	Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point
HPA	Health Protection Agency
HSE	Health and Safety Executive
IAB	Internal Audit Branch
IAS	Internal Audit Service (Welsh Government)
IMB	Irish Medicines Board
IMS	Inspections Management System
LA	Local Authority
LAEMS	Local Authority Enforcement Monitoring System
LIMS	Laboratory Information Management System
LT	Lipophilic Toxins
MRL	Maximum Residue Level
MS	Member States
MSM	Mechanically Separated Meat
NBU	National Bee Unit
NFA	National Feed Audit
NI	Northern Ireland
NIM	National Intelligence Model
NRL	National Reference Laboratory
OFFC	Official Feed and Food Controls
OIE	World Organisation for Animal Health
OsHV-1 μ var	Oyster Herpesvirus
OTF	Officially Tuberculosis Free
OV	Official Veterinarian
OVS	Official Veterinary Surgeons
P.	Phytophthora
PAA	Primary Aromatic Amine
PCB	Polychlorinated Biphenyl
PCN	Potato Cyst Nematode
PDO	Protected Designation of Origin
PEACH	Procedure for Electronic Application of Certificates
PFN	Protected Food Name
PGI	Protected Geographical Indication

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