Multi-Annual National Control Plan for the United Kingdom

April 2013 to March 2019

Food Standards Agency
food.gov.uk

Food Standards Scotland
For safe food and healthy eating

Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs

Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
www.daera-ni.gov.uk

The Scottish Government

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Chapter 1 - Introduction

1.1 The United Kingdom Multi-Annual National Control Plan (UK MANCP) covers the official control systems in respect of 'feed and food law' (as defined for the purposes of Regulation (EC) 882/2004[1,2]), and in respect of animal health (including aquatic animals and bee health) and animal welfare.[3] The scope extends to plant health controls in respect of the rules included in Council Directive 2000/29/EC.[4]

1.2 The MANCP has been prepared jointly by the Food Standards Agency (FSA), Food Standards Scotland (FSS), the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and its agencies, the Department of Health (DH), the Chemicals Regulation Directorate (CRD) of the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), the Scottish Government Agriculture, Food and Rural Communities Directorate (SG AFRC), the Welsh Government Natural Resources (WG NR), and the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs in Northern Ireland (DAERA) which replaced the Department of Agriculture & Rural Development for Northern Ireland (DARD) on 8 May 2016[5].

1.3 This MANCP was last updated in 2017 and is now extended till March 2019. The rationale for extending rather than re-writing the MANCP is that significant administrative and legislative changes are underway which will impact on the MANCP, such as the new European Union (EU) Official Controls Regulation which will replace Regulation (EC) 882/2004. There will be a further in-year review during 2018.

1.4 The MANCP, and the Annual Reports to the Commission on its implementation, provide the basis for assessment of the effectiveness of performance of UK control systems by the Food and Veterinary Office (FVO)

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[1] 'Feed law' means the laws, regulations and administrative provisions governing feed in general, and feed safety in particular, whether at EU or national level; it covers all stages of production, processing and distribution of feed and the use of feed - Article 2(3) of Regulation 882/2004.

[2] 'Food law' means the laws, regulations and administrative provisions governing food in general, and food safety in particular, whether at EU or national level; it covers all stages of production, processing and distribution of food, and also of feed produced for, or fed to food-producing animals - Article 3(1) of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down the general principles and requirements of food law. For the purposes of Regulation 882/2004, 'food law' does not include rules on marketing standards for agricultural products.

[3] This comprises all relevant EU animal health and animal welfare rules (including those applicable to bee health and fish health) and national measures that implement these rules or give effect to them.

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

[5] The Stormont House Agreement contains a commitment to reduce the number of Northern Ireland Civil Service Departments from 12 to 9 immediately following the 2016 Assembly Election. One of the Department's established from 8 May 2016 will be the new Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs which will encompass the former functions of the Department of Agriculture & Rural Development with the exception of Rivers Agency; Inland Fisheries from Department of Culture Arts & Leisure; Environmental responsibilities from Department of Environment/Northern Ireland Environment Agency and Responsibility for the Sustainability Strategy from Office of First Minister & Deputy First Minister.

of the European Commission. The FVO also uses a Country Profile (CP) to help with its inspections. The CP is cross-referred to in various places in the MANCP, where it is considered that it contains all the relevant information about control activities. This can be found at: ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/follow_up_en.cfm?co_id=GB

1.5 Further information on Official Feed and Food Controls regulation is available at: food.gov.uk/enforcement/regulation/europeleg/feedandfood/

1.6 Acronyms and abbreviations are used throughout this document. For ease of reference please refer to Appendix P.

1.7 Whilst care has been taken to ensure that the web links contained in the MANCP are correct at the time of publication, changes may occur. The MANCP will be kept under review and the links updated on a regular basis.

Management of the review and reporting process

1.8 The review of the UK's MANCP and reporting process is managed by means of a cross-Departmental Project. The FSA, as lead Government Department for matters relating to Regulation (EC) 882/2004, co-ordinates the project overall but works closely with FSS, Defra (and its agencies), DH, CRD and the Agriculture/Rural Affairs Departments in the Devolved Administrations in order to review the MANCP once a year.

1.9 As part of the managed project described above, annual progress reports on implementation of the UK's MANCP are prepared and sent to the European Commission. They are also posted on the FSA website: food.gov.uk/enforcement/regulation/europeleg/feedandfood/ncpuk and linked to those of various Departments to ensure transparency for consumers about the control activities undertaken in the UK and about their results.

1.10 For further information on the UK MANCP and the Annual Reports please contact:

(for publication of MANCP, Annual Reports and queries on Feed and Food)

Matthew Dick
Delivery Assurance Division
Food Standards Agency
Email:
matthew.dick@food.gov.uk.

(for queries on Animal Health, Animal Welfare and Plant Health)

Hanna Sierzputowska
Animal and Plant Health
Defra
Email:
Hanna.Sierzputowska@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Chapter 2 – National Strategic Objectives

Overall Objectives of the MANCP

2.1 The principal objectives of the UK MANCP are in line with those in Regulation (EC) 882/2004 and set out:

- the organisation and structure of the competent authorities
- how the UK enforces feed law and food law and monitors and verifies that relevant requirements are met, and that systems of official controls and other appropriate surveillance and monitoring activities, covering all stages of production, processing and distribution of feed and food, are maintained
- how the UK monitors and verifies compliance with animal health and welfare and plant health law
- the strategy and objectives of the competent authorities.

2.2 In meeting these objectives, we follow the principles of good regulation, including that the enforcement framework is implemented in a way that is proportionate, accountable, consistent, transparent and targeted. We take the current UK Government Regulators' Code[6] into account. We work closely with the Better Regulation Delivery Office[7] (BRDO) which became part of Regulatory Delivery in March 2016, in particular on the Primary Authority Scheme. We take account of other BRDO initiatives where this is possible within the confines of our obligations under EU food and feed legislation. We recognise the importance of growth and the need to reduce burdens on businesses without reducing consumer protection and seek to take action to further the UK Government's approach to transforming regulatory enforcement[8]. For example through the robust evaluation of risk, earned recognition has been implemented in dairy hygiene inspections in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (NI) and animal feed inspections in England and Scotland, reducing the frequency of inspections for compliant businesses, allowing resources to focus on less compliant establishments and intelligence gathering.

2.3 We also follow the Devolved Administrations' principles of better regulation and related activities and initiatives aimed at improving regulation and enforcement in Wales, Scotland and NI. In Scotland, for example, FSS must have due regard to the Scottish Government's 5 principles of better regulation; that it is proportionate, consistent, accountable, transparent, and targeted, and the Scottish Regulators' Strategic Code of Practice in fulfilling its regulatory functions.[9]

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6 gov.uk/government/publications/regulators-code - applies in England and Wales only.

7 Information on the BRDO is at bis.gov.uk/brdo.

8 Information on the Government's approach is at: gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/197593/11-1408-transforming-regulatory-enforcement-government-response.pdf.

9 parliament.scot/S4_EconomyEnergyandTourismCommittee/General%20Documents/Scottish_Regulators_Strategic_Code_of_Practice_7_January_2015.pdf

Overall Objectives of Central Competent Authorities (CCAs)

Food Standards Agency (FSA)

2.4 Currently the FSA has responsibility at central Government level for the main body of feed and food safety law in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The FSA, other Government bodies and local authorities have responsibility for monitoring and verifying compliance and for enforcing the requirements.

2.5 Feed and food safety and standards are devolved matters in the UK. In addition to its London headquarters, the FSA has offices in Wales and NI. Each of these offices is headed by a Director accountable to the Chief Executive. The FSA in NI also has responsibility for nutrition related food legislation in their administrations. The Welsh Government has this responsibility in Wales. An organisational chart of the FSA is available at: food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/fsa-organisation-chart.pdf

2.6 The FSA's Compliance and Enforcement Strategy, outlines the FSA's approach to making sustained improvements in food and feed business compliance, including:

- better risk-based targeted activity
- high impact interventions
- compliance in high risk areas
- development and implementation of new approaches to verification of food and feed business compliance, for example through earned recognition.

2.7 Ensuring that there is a comprehensive and integrated system of official controls from 'farm to fork' contributes to protecting public and animal health, and safeguarding the consumer interest. The FSA's strategic plan for 2015-20 works towards food we can trust. The plan was developed by looking at the future challenges facing the food supply, and what this means for FSA in terms of its focus to protect public health, and consumers' interest in relation to food. The strategic outcomes are that food is safe, what it says it is, consumers can make informed choices about what to eat, and have access to an affordable healthy diet, now and in the future. The FSA's key targets are in the Strategic Plan which can be accessed at the following link: food.gov.uk/about-us/about-the-fsa/strategicplan.

Food Standards Scotland (FSS)

2.8 FSS was established on 1 April 2015 as the national food body for Scotland, with responsibility for those central Government functions previously carried out by the FSA in Scotland, including food and feed safety and standards, nutrition, food labelling, and meat inspection policy and delivery.

2.9 FSS is developing its Strategy to 2021 which sets out its vision to create a food and drink environment in Scotland that benefits, protects and is trusted by consumers. This establishes 6 strategic priorities:

- Food is safe
- Food is authentic

- Consumers have healthier diets
- Responsible food businesses flourish
- FSS is a trusted organisation
- FSS is efficient and effective

2.10 The FSS Strategy and Corporate Plan has been agreed by the FSS Board, and is due to be published shortly. A draft version is available at: foodstandards.gov.scot/news/consultation-fss-strategy-%E2%80%93-we%E2%80%99d-hear-your-views

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)

2.11 Defra[10] is the CCA responsible for animal health and welfare law in England and is responsible for policy and regulations on environmental, food and rural issues. In addition, Defra has overall responsibility for plant health law but the Devolved Administrations and Forestry Commission pass their own legislation.

2.12 Defra's strategic impact objectives – outline the long term aims for:

- Environment – a cleaner, healthier environment, benefiting people and the economy
- Food and farming – a world-leading food and farming industry
- Rural – a thriving rural economy, contributing to national prosperity and wellbeing
- Protection – a nation better protected against floods, animal and plant diseases and other hazards, with strong response and recovery capabilities

In addition, Defra has the following delivery and organisational objectives:

- Delivery – excellent delivery, on time and to budget and with outstanding value for money
- An outstanding organisation – an organisation continually striving to be the best, focused on outcomes and constantly challenging itself
- Our people – an inclusive, professional workforce where leaders recognise the contribution of people, and build capability to deliver better outcomes

2.13 Annual report and accounts 2014-2015 shows progress in delivering Defra's priorities alongside the planned expenditure for 2014 to 2015 gov.uk/government/publications/defras-annual-report-and-accounts-2014-to-2015

[10] gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-environment-food-rural-affairs/about.

Department of Health

2.14 The Department of Health has central government responsibility for nutrition-related food legislation in England. More information can be found at: gov.uk/government/organisations/department-of-health :

Devolved Administrations

2.15 Devolved Administrations are the competent authorities for their countries with regard to food legislation, animal health and welfare and plant (including tree) health law. The above mentioned objectives are also closely linked with objectives set out in the strategic or business plans for the SG AFRC, WG NR and DAERA. These plans are available at:
gov.scot/About/Performance/scotPerforms/objectives
naturalresources.wales/about-us/strategies-and-plans/business-plan/?lang=en
www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/dard-strategic-plan-2012-2020

Chapter 3 – Designation of Competent Authorities, National Reference Laboratories (NRLs) & Control Bodies

Division of responsibilities for official controls

Feed and food

3.1 Responsibility within the UK for official controls is divided. For feed and food law, this responsibility is held centrally but, in practice, day to day responsibility for official control functions is divided between central and local Government. The central authorities are:

- the FSA;
- FSS;
- Defra and its agencies;
- DH; and
- the Agriculture/Rural Affairs Departments in the Devolved Administrations (the SG AFRC, the WG NR and DAERA).

At local level, the monitoring and enforcement of feed and food law is carried out by:

- local authorities (as well as DAERA in NI); and
- Defra agencies.

The division of responsibility is summarised in Figure 1 and Figure 2.

Animal health and animal welfare

3.2 With regard to animal health and animal welfare control responsibility is held centrally by:

- Defra and its agencies; and
- equivalent Departments in the Devolved Administrations.

Day-to-day monitoring and enforcement is carried out by:

- the central Departments (or their agencies or contracted agencies); and
- local authorities (as well as DAERA in NI).

The division of responsibility is summarised in Figure 3.

Plant health

3.3 Plant health control responsibility lies with "UK Plant Health Service" which comprises a number of units from within:

- Defra;
- The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA)[11]
- the Agriculture/Rural Affairs/Natural Resources Departments in the Devolved Administrations;
- the Forestry Commission and;[12]
- Natural Resources Wales.

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[11] Diagnostic services for APHA's work is undertaken principally by Fera Science Ltd

[12] gov.uk/government/organisations/forestry-commission.

The division of responsibility is summarised in Figure 4.

3.4 Details of the legislation designating the competent authorities can be found at Appendix A.

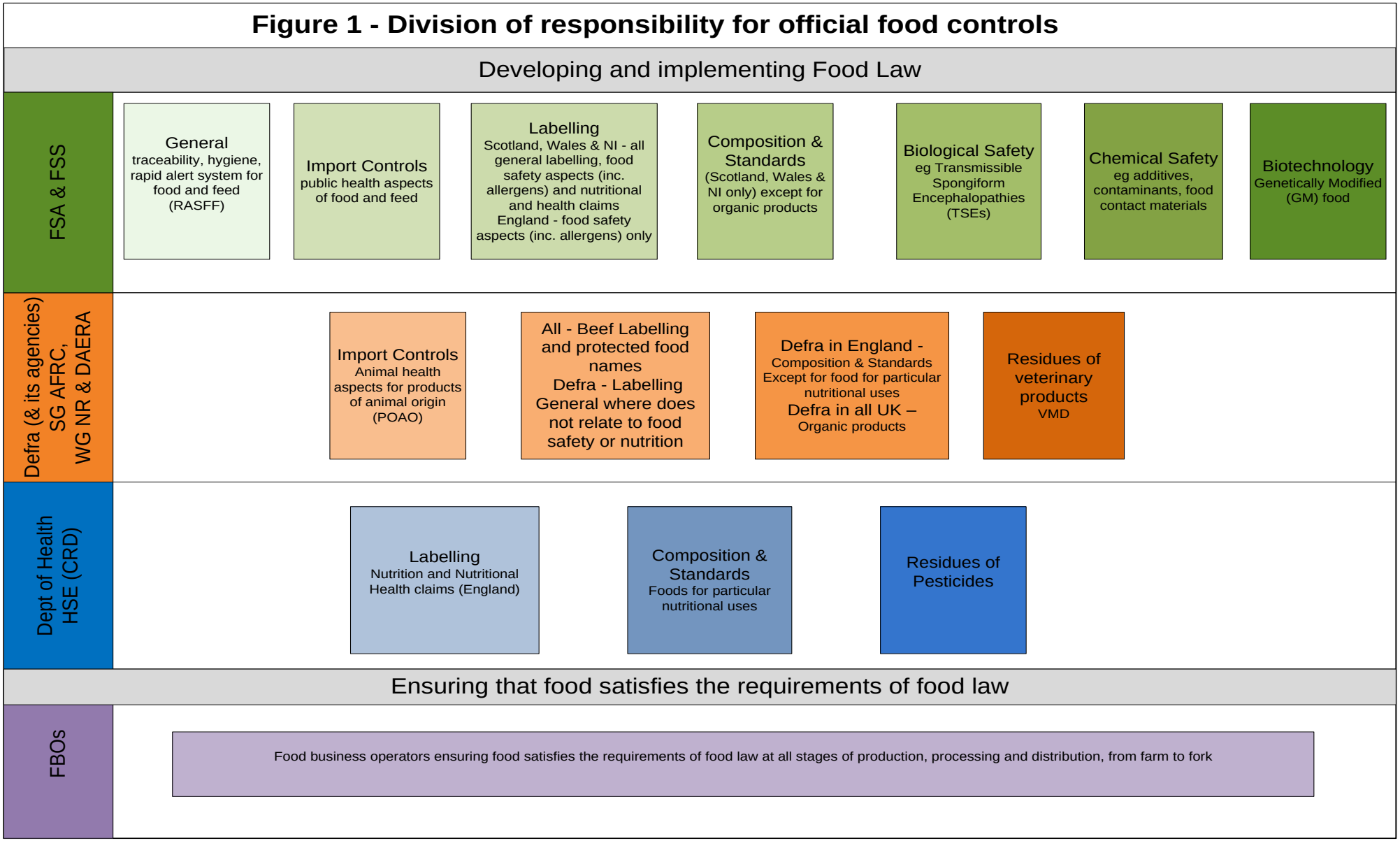
Figure 1 - Division of responsibility for official food controls
Developing and implementing Food Law
FSA & FSS
General
traceability, hygiene, rapid alert system for food and feed (RASFF)
Import Controls
public health aspects of food and feed
Labelling
Scotland, Wales & NI - all general labelling, food safety aspects (inc. allergens) and nutritional and health claims
England - food safety aspects (inc. allergens) only
Composition & Standards
(Scotland, Wales & NI only) except for organic products
Biological Safety
eg Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSEs)
Chemical Safety
eg additives, contaminants, food contact materials
Biotechnology
Genetically Modified (GM) food
Defra (& its agencies) SG AFRC, WG NR & DAERA
Import Controls
Animal health aspects for products of animal origin (POAO)
All - Beef Labelling and protected food names
Defra - Labelling
General where does not relate to food safety or nutrition
Defra in England -
Composition & Standards
Except for food for particular nutritional uses
Defra in all UK –
Organic products
Residues of veterinary products
VMD
Dept of Health HSE (CRD)
Labelling
Nutrition and Nutritional Health claims (England)
Composition & Standards
Foods for particular nutritional uses
Residues of Pesticides
Ensuring that food satisfies the requirements of food law
FBOs
Food business operators ensuring food satisfies the requirements of food law at all stages of production, processing and distribution, from farm to fork

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Figure 1 continued – Division of responsibility for official food controls

Official controls in respect of food law

Central level			Local level		
FSA or FSS*	**Defra (on UK-wide basis)**	**DAERA (on behalf of FSA)**	**SG AFRC**	**Local and port health authorities in England Wales & NI**	**Local authorities in Scotland**
• Inspection and approval of food irradiation facilities • Approval of fresh meat establishments • Classification & monitoring of shellfish harvesting areas • Hygiene controls – fresh meat • Specified Risk Material (SRM) and other TSE controls in approved slaughterhouses and cutting plants • Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) controls on behalf of GB Administrations • Recognition of natural mineral waters from non-EEA countries in Scotland, Wales and NI • Hygiene controls – milk production holdings (England & Wales only) **APHA/SG AFRC (on behalf of FSA)** • Hygiene controls – egg production units *FSS for all aspects as they relate to Scotland and otherwise FSA.	• Organisation of protected food names scheme • Overseeing system for certification of organic produce • Policy on beef labelling system • Recognition in England of natural mineral waters from non-EEA countries **VMD** • Veterinary medicine drug residue surveillance **RPA** • Beef labelling for England & Wales **HSE (CRD)** • Pesticide residue monitoring and enforcement	• Hygiene controls for primary production • Hygiene controls for fresh meat, milk production holdings/ liquid milk establishments, egg production units / packing stations • Approval of liquid milk establishments and egg packers **DAERA** • SRM controls • BSE testing • Beef labelling	• Beef labelling • Primary production inspections	• Official controls and enforcement of the main body of food law, including imported food controls (all food law except that enforced by the central Departments and their agencies)	• Official controls and enforcement of the main body of food law, including imported food controls (all food law except that enforced by the central Departments and their agencies) • Hygiene controls at milk production holdings

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Figure 2 - Division of responsibility for official feed controls

Developing and implementing feed law

FSA & FSS	Defra (& its agencies), HSE (CRD), SG AFRC, WG NR & DAERA
• General – traceability, rapid alert system (RASFF), official controls • Import controls • Labelling • Composition and standards • Biological safety – eg feed hygiene, • Chemical safety – prohibited and undesirable substances • Biotechnology – GM feed • Samonella	• Animal by-products • Feed ban • Medicated feed • Chemical safety • Specified feed additives

Ensuring that feed satisfies the requirements of feed law

Feed business operators ensuring feed satisfies the requirements of food law at all stages of production, processing and distribution, from farm to feed trough (over 200,000 businesses in the UK – this includes farms)

Official controls in respect of feed law

Central level				Local level	
VMD	SG RPID	APHA	DAERA	Local authorities in England & Wales	Local authorities in Scotland
• Medicated feed • Specified feed additives • Veterinary medicine drug residue surveillance	• Primary production feed hygiene controls on behalf of the FSA	• Animal protein in feed ban	• All feed law controls in Northern Ireland	• Official controls and enforcement of the main body of feed law, including imported feed • All feed law not enforced by Defra and its agencies	• Official controls and enforcement of the main body of feed law, including imported feed • All feed law not enforced by SGRPID or Defra or its agencies

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

Policy and development and implementation of animal health and animal welfare legislation

ENGLAND Defra	SCOTLAND SG AFRC	WALES WG NR	NORTHERN IRELAND DAERA

Official controls (delivery landscape)

Defra Executive Agencies	Devolved Administrations	Other Government Departments	Local Government	Non-Departmental Public Bodies	Other Bodies
• Animal and Plant Health Agency (including Official Veterinarians) • Rural Payments Agency (including British Cattle Movement Service) • Veterinary Medicines Directorate • Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science, Fish Health Inspectorate	• Scottish Government Field Officers and Marine Scotland Science • Rural Payments Wales • DAERA (Veterinary Service, Grants and Subsidies Division and Fish Health Inspectorate) • SASA (Science and Advice for Scottish Agriculture)	• Food Standards Agency • Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs	• Local authorities in GB & NI • Port Health Authorities • Local Government Association	• Environment Agency (not applicable in Wales) • Natural Resources Wales • United Kingdom Border Force	• Fera Sciences Ltd

Figure 4 - Division of responsibility for plant health controls

Policy and development and implementation of plant health legislation					
Defra	Animal and Plant Health Agency's (APHA) Plant Health & Seeds Inspectorate	Scottish Government	Welsh Government	DAERA and AFBI	Forestry Commission

Official controls (delivery landscape)			
Defra Executive Agencies • Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA)	Devolved Administrations • Scottish Government AFRC • WG NR • DAERA AFBI	Other Government Departments • Forestry Commission	Other Bodies • England/Wales Plant Health Concordat • Fera Science Ltd

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Organisation and structure of competent authorities and other enforcement authorities

UK CCAs

Food Standards Agency

3.5 The FSA was established by the Food Standards Act 1999[13]. It has responsibility for protecting public health from risks that may arise in connection with the consumption of food, and otherwise to protect the interests of consumers in all matters connected with food. This also includes wide-ranging responsibilities in the area of animal feed.

3.6 The FSA is a non-Ministerial Government Department, accountable to the Westminster Government through the Secretary of State for Health and to the National Assembly for Wales and the NI Assembly through their health ministers or equivalents. The FSA is governed by a Board, appointed to act in the public interest and put consumers first. The Board consists of a Chair, Deputy Chair and up to 10 other members. The Board is responsible for overall strategic direction, including ensuring legal obligations are fulfilled, and that decisions and actions take proper account of scientific advice as well as the interests of consumers and other stakeholders. Further information about the Board, including details of its current membership, is available at: food.gov.uk/aboutus/ourboard/.

3.7 Day to day operations is managed by the Chief Executive and FSA staff, who are civil servants.

3.8 The Food Standards Act 1999 gives the FSA statutory powers to deliver national priorities and objectives, such as setting performance standards for enforcement of feed and food law, and monitoring and auditing performance of enforcement authorities against the standards. It also gives the FSA powers to require local authorities to provide information relating to feed and food law enforcement. The FSA may enter food and feed premises under local authority control to inspect records and take samples, and may report to individual authorities giving guidance on improving performance. It can also require enforcement authorities to publish these FSA reports and indicate proposed remedial action. Roles where the FSA works primarily in tandem with other organisations are set out in Chapter 4. Further information on the FSA and FSS is set out in Appendix B.

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[13] Food Standards Act 1999, c 28.

Devolved Administrations

3.9 The FSA in Wales and NI provide advice to their respective Health Ministers on food safety and standards policy and legislation. A statutory Food Advisory Committee provides the FSA with independent advice on food safety and standards issues in the respective countries. Details are available at: food.gov.uk/wales/aboutus_wales/advisorycommitteewales/ food.gov.uk/northernireland/aboutfsani/advisorycommittee/.

3.10 Fom 8 May 2016 the Department of Agriculture & Rural Development for Northern Ireland (DARD) will become the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs in Northern Ireland (DAERA). DAERA has a Single Service Level Agreement (SLA) with FSA in NI. This covers Meat hygiene, Dairy Hygiene, Egg Hygiene, Primary Production Hygiene and some aspects of work associated with Trichinella. DAERA's main website will now be accessible at: www.daera-ni.gov.uk. The Agri-Food Inspection Branch (AFIB) is now part of the new Veterinary Service & Animal Health Group within the revised DAERA structures. Therefore whilst reference to AFIB have remained in this document it should be noted in the context of the above.

3.11 FSS was established on 1 April 2015 by the Food (Scotland) Act 2015.[14] The statutory objectives of FSS are to protect the public from risks to health which may arise in connection with the consumption of food, to improve the extent to which members of the public have diets which are conducive to good health, and to protect the other interests of consumers in relation to food.

3.12 FSS is a non-ministerial office of the Scottish Administration, working alongside, but separate from, the Scottish Government. FSS is independent from Scottish Ministers and directly accountable to the Scottish Parliament. FSS is governed by a Board appointed by Scottish Ministers, consisting of a Chair and 7 other members. The Board is responsible for providing FSS with overall strategic direction, oversight and governance. The Board is supported by an Audit and Risk Committee (ARC), a committee of the Board, which is responsible for reviewing arrangements for governance assurance, risk management and the control environment. Further information on the Board and ARC is available at: foodstandards.gov.scot/board

3.13 FSS is managed by a Chief Executive, a civil servant appointed by Scottish Ministers, and FSS staff who are also civil servants.

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[14] www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2015/1/contents/enacted

3.14 The Food (Scotland) Act 2015 gives FSS the statutory powers required to perform its general functions specified in the Act, including monitoring the performance of enforcement authorities in enforcing food and feed legislation and setting performance standards. FSS is required to include in each annual report a report on its own enforcement activities, and may make a report to any other enforcement authority on their performance in enforcing food and feed legislation in Scotland with guidance on improving performance where appropriate.

3.15 In Scotland the Scottish Government Rural Payments and Inspections Division (SG RPID) carries out on-farm enforcement of food and feed hygiene regulations at egg production units and on farm enforcement of food and feed hygiene at other holdings at the same time as they carry our cross compliance inspections (1% per year). Further information about SG RPID's egg hygiene function is available at: gov.scot/Topics/farmingrural/Agriculture/Livestock/eggs/enforcement. This function is fulfilled by AFIB within DAERA.

3.16 The SG RPID function is set out in a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) which is reviewed annually. Management of the MoU rests with the Senior Agricultural Officer (within SG RPID) and FSS.

Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra)

3.17 Defra is a Ministerial Department supported by 36 agencies and public bodies. The Department is structured around four Director-General commands responsible for policy and regulations on environmental, food and rural issues. Further information on Defra's responsibilities is set out at Appendix C.

3.18 Although Defra only works directly in England, it works closely with the Devolved Administrations in Wales, Scotland and NI, and generally leads on negotiations in the EU and internationally for the UK.

3.19 Further information on how the Department is organised and managed is available at: gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-environment-food-rural-affairs.

Devolved Administrations

3.20 The SG AFRC, the WG NR and DAERA have similar responsibilities to Defra in Scotland, Wales and NI respectively. General information on these Departments, including their organisation and structure, may be found at the following links:

gov.scot/Topics/farmingrural/Agriculture
wales.gov.uk/topics/environmentcountryside/;jsessionid=17CDAFF268E9DF4E4CC5EF7551B66571?lang=en.
daera-ni.gov.uk/about-daera

Other UK competent and enforcement authorities

3.21 The UK delivery landscape is complex as the majority of official controls are carried out by Defra's agencies and other bodies. The information below sets out the structure of the UK competent authorities and enforcement regime.

Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) in Great Britain (GB)

3.22 The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) was launched on 1 October 2014. It merges the former Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency (AHVLA) with parts of the Food and Environment Research Agency (FERA) [15] responsible for animal health and welfare and the regulatory and enforcement aspects of plant health and bee health. APHA is an executive agency working on behalf of the Department for the Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra), Scottish Government and Welsh Government.

3.23 APHA has a Chief Executive who is responsible for overall performance while the APHA Board sets the strategic direction of the agency and monitors its achievement of ministerial and key targets. As members of the Executive Team, the Directors have individual operational responsibilities for laboratory and specialist services, science, contingency planning, finance, human resources, plant health, seeds and seed varieties, bee health, veterinary and science policy advice, field services, veterinary surveillance, information technology, health and safety, and quality management.

3.24 APHA operates from many sites across GB providing field services, veterinary investigation and surveillance, and laboratory services. Further details can be found in Appendix D and at:
gov.uk/government/organisations/animal-and-plant-health-agency.

Animal Health and Welfare in NI - DAERA

3.25 In NI, DAERA is responsible for monitoring the enforcement of animal health and welfare legislation.

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[15] From 1 April 2015, the Food and Environment Research Agency (Fera) will be called "Fera Science Ltd" – this supplies the official plant health laboratory and represents UK plant health at some international meetings.

UK plant health controls

3.26 Responsibility for plant health controls lies with the UK Plant Health Service which comprises a number of units from within Defra, APHA, the Forestry Commission and Devolved Administrations. Further information on plant health can be found at Appendix E.

Defra's Plant Health Policy Programme in England

3.27 Defra has the co-ordinating role of the Single Central Authority and the National Plant Protection Organisation (NPPO).

3.28 Defra's Plant Health Policy Programme including the Head of the NPPO and Chief Plant Health Officer for the UK reports via The Director of Animal and Plant Health to Defra's Secretary of State on plant health matters.

APHA's Plant Health and Seeds Inspectorate (PHSI)

3.29 The PHSI is part of APHA, and implements plant health policy in England and Wales. The Chief Plant Health and Seeds Inspector works directly to the APHA Director responsible for implementation. There are 28 local PHSI offices around the country and the plant health headquarters at APHA's Sand Hutton site near York. A list of the PHSI offices is available at: gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/378490/phsi-offices.pdf.

Forestry Commission

3.30 The Forestry Commission is responsible for all matters related to forestry pests in GB, including inspections of imported forest products, surveys and eradication and containment programmes. Its Plant Health Service operates through two areas, North and South, with a regional manager in each. The Forestry Commission's main office is in Edinburgh. More information is available on its website at: forestry.gov.uk/planthealth.

Devolved Administrations

SG AFRC

3.31 SG AFRC is responsible for plant health policy and plant and seed certification within Scotland. The Scottish Government co-ordinates UK representation on matters relating to seed potato certification. SG RPID and

SG SASA[16] are divisions of SG AFRC, which carry out monitoring and surveillance work, and undertakes inspections to ensure compliance with plant health controls. They also operate voluntary certification schemes. Scientific support is provided by SG SASA, which carries out laboratory testing and pest identification as well as providing advice on monitoring, interceptions and outbreaks. SASA issues licences for scientific work on prohibited pests and plants in Scotland and operates the Potato Quarantine Unit for the UK. The SG AFRC headquarters is in Edinburgh. More detailed information is available at: gov.scot/Home and sasa.gov.uk.

WG NR

3.32 The Natural Resources Wales are responsible for policy on the implementation of plant health measures and for operational tree health matters in Wales. Relations with Defra's Plant Health Policy Programme and the certification and enforcement role of PHSI in Wales are governed by the England/Wales Plant Health Concordat. Delivery of certification and enforcement by PHSI on behalf of the Welsh Government is governed by a separate Concordat with APHA. The Department for Natural Resources is located throughout the Welsh Government's offices in Wales. Detailed information is available at: wales.gov.uk/topics/environmentcountryside/farmingandcountryside/plantseedsbiotechnology/plantshealth/?lang=en.

DAERA

3.33 DAERA is responsible for policy, technical and scientific matters relating to plant health and plant certification within NI, including forestry matters. Specialist diagnostic functions are provided to DAERA by the Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI). More detailed information is available at: daera-ni.gov.uk/topics/plant-and-tree-health

3.34 Further information about the competent authorities in plant health sector is available in the UK CP: ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/follow_up_en.cfm?co_id=GB.

UK Bee health controls

3.35 The National Bee Unit (NBU) consists of staff from APHA and Fera. It reports to Defra in England and the Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer (OCVO),

[16] Science and Advice for Scottish Agriculture

Welsh Government respectively, on all aspects of delivery to their Bee Health Programmes. Further information on bee health is set out in Appendix F. Detailed information on the NBU is available at: nationalbeeunit.com.

3.36 The NBU has a range of facilities that are used to support strategic objectives to protect bee health. As well as the specific core NBU laboratories for disease diagnosis, the NBU also has access to and uses the services of laboratories in Fera Groups e.g. for molecular diagnostics; Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) antibody based diagnostics; and residue analysis (pesticides and veterinary medicines). It also maintains bee colonies required for beekeeper training and R&D and trials work.

Devolved Administrations

SG AFRC

3.37 In Scotland, the bee health programme is implemented by the SG AFRC Directorate and the operational aspects of the programme are delivered by the Government's Bee Inspectors and SASA[17]. SASA offers a diagnostic service allowing beekeepers to submit samples for examination and assessment of notifiable pests and disease. The Scottish Government also provides funding to Scotland's Rural College (SRUC)[18] to support the work of an Apiculture Specialist who offers advice, guidance and training on bee health and husbandry.

DAERA

3.38 In NI, the bee health programme is implemented by DAERA[19]. The operational aspects of the programme are delivered by one Senior Bee Inspector and one Area Seasonal Bee Inspectors from Plant Health Inspection Branch. A diagnostic service is available to both DAERA staff and beekeepers who suspect the presence of bee diseases at AFBI at Newforge Lane.

UK aquatic animal health controls

Centre for Environment, Fisheries & Aquaculture Science (Cefas) in England and Wales

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17 More information on SASA is available at: sasa.gov.uk/
18 More information on SRUC is available at: sruc.ac.uk
19 daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/bee-health

3.39 Cefas was established as an Executive Agency of Defra on 1 April 1997. It provides scientific research and advice to Defra on a broad range of issues related to the marine and freshwater aquatic environment. It operates two main laboratory sites, from its headquarters in Lowestoft, Suffolk. The Cefas Weymouth laboratory provides specialist advice, surveillance, diagnostic and research services on aquatic animal health on behalf of Defra, and on shellfish hygiene on behalf of the FSA.

3.40 The Cefas Fish Health Inspectorate (FHI), based at Weymouth is responsible for the enforcement of the EU aquatic animal health regime on behalf of Defra and the Welsh Government. The work of the Inspectorate is supported by other teams at Cefas Weymouth, including diagnostic services, the research departments and an epidemiology group. Further information is set out in Appendix G and can also be found at gov.uk/government/groups/fish-health-inspectorate.

Devolved Administrations

Marine Scotland

3.41 Marine Scotland (MS) is a directorate of Scottish Government responsible for the integrated management of Scotland's seas promoting their prosperity and environmental sustainability.

3.42 Marine Scotland Science (MSS) is a division within MS and conducts scientific research and monitoring on a number of marine and fisheries issues including aquaculture and fish health, freshwater fisheries, sea fisheries and the marine ecosystem. MSS provides expert scientific and technical advice to Scottish Government. The work conducted by MSS is governed by a Service Level Agreement, set out on an annual basis.

3.43 Within MSS the Fish Health Inspectorate (FHI), based at Aberdeen's Marine Laboratory is responsible for enforcing EU and domestic legislation relevant to aquatic animal health in Scotland. The work of the FHI is supported through MSS diagnostic and research staff and laboratories along with experts in epidemiology. Further information can be found at: gov.scot/Resource/Doc/300639/0122631.pdf and gov.scot/Topics/marine/.

DAERA and Agri-Food & Biosciences Institute (AFBI)[20]

3.44 DAERA is responsible for aquaculture policy and legislation. DAERA's FHI is responsible for the implementation and enforcement of the EU aquatic animal health regime and investigation of disease outbreaks in NI. The FHI is supported by AFBI, who carry out fish and shellfish monitoring programmes and diagnostic investigation of disease outbreaks. Further information can be found at: daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/introduction-aquaculture

Rural Payments Agency (RPA)

3.45 RPA is an Executive Agency of Defra. RPA undertakes cattle tracing services across GB. The British Cattle Movement Service (BCMS), which is part of RPA, operates the Cattle Tracing System which is the GB identification and registration database for cattle. BCMS also administers the Animal Movement Licensing System (AMLS) which is the central database for sheep, goat and pig movements for England and Wales.

3.46 On behalf of Defra, RPA is responsible for the cattle identification statutory inspection regime in England and since 2007 has also been responsible for the statutory sheep and goat identification inspection regime in England. .

3.47 The overall policy and financial framework within which RPA operates is determined by the Secretary of State for Defra. The Chief Executive is responsible for the day to day management of RPA supported by senior managers. Further information is set out in Appendix H and can also be found at:rpa.defra.gov.uk/rpa/index.nsf/vContentByTaxonomy/About%20RPA**What%20we%20do**?OpenDocument.

Devolved Administrations

3.48 In Wales, the Rural Inspectorate for Wales (RIW)[21] and in Scotland, the Rural Payments and Inspections Division have similar roles as the RPA in England.

3.49 In NI the Veterinary Service (VS) of DAERA operates the Animal and Public Health Information System (APHIS) database. It holds details of all registered cattle, sheep, goat and pig keepers and holdings, including markets, export assembly centres and slaughterhouses. It also holds the registration details

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20 AFBI was created on 1st April 2006 as an amalgamation of the DAERA Science Service and the Agricultural Research Institute of Northern Ireland (ARINI). AFBI is now a DAERA Non-Departmental Public Body (NDPB)

21 The inspecting arm of Rural Payments Wales (RPW)

of all individual cattle in the NI herd and their movement histories from birth to death. Since 2010 the individual movement history of sheep and goats has been recorded on APHIS. Its data is used for tracing cattle and sheep and disease control purposes, such as Tuberculosis (TB) and Brucellosis control and Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy (TSE) testing. The DAERA VS is responsible for carrying out Cattle and Sheep Identity Inspections and also carries out Cross-Compliance Inspections with regard to the Statutory Management Requirements involving livestock.

Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD)

3.50 The VMD is an Executive Agency of Defra, and acts on behalf of the Secretary of State in performing its functions. Its day-to-day management and performance against key objectives is the responsibility of its Chief Executive Officer. VMD's policy, legal and resources framework is set out in a Framework Document.[22] The VMD reports to Defra's Chief Operating Officer (COO). Further information on the VMD is set out in Appendix I and on gov.uk/government/organisations/veterinary-medicines-directorate .

3.51 The VMD operates a dedicated Inspections and Investigations Team which has responsibility for inspecting approved manufacturers and distributors of medicated feeds containing Veterinary Medicinal Products (VMPs) and / or Specified Feed Additives (SFAs). The VMD's resources for supporting its control activities in this sector include operating an exclusive inspections database. This contains contact details for approved premises and details of all inspections carried out. Defra carries out legal investigations and prosecutions on behalf of the VMD for the possession, promotion and sale of unauthorised veterinary medicines and in relation to the unlawful manufacture and distribution of Schedule 5 products, which are the medicated feedingstuffs and SFAs.

3.52 VMD maintains a database for monitoring progress on completing the veterinary residues surveillance programme. The system produces monthly reports which update control bodies involved on their performance. Results from the control body laboratory are downloaded nightly. Where a new analytical method, or extension to an existing method is needed, this is agreed between VMD and Fera Science Ltd.

Veterinary Medicinal Products (VMPs)

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[22] Copies of the Framework Document are available free of charge from VMD (telephone +44 (0)1932 338337).

3.53 The VMD is responsible for the authorisation, distribution and use of VMPs. VMPs are authorised for five years initially and then permanently unless pharmacovigilance reports require a further renewal. The application and supporting data is evaluated by VMD assessors according to either the National or European procedure. Further information on VMPs can be found in the Country Profile at: ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/country_profiles/details.cfm?co_id=GB

Antimicrobial resistance

3.54 The VMD is responsible for antimicrobial resistance policy with respect to animal health. The VMD in partnership with DH is responsible for the delivery of the UK Five Year Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Strategy 2013-2018. The VMD compiles data on antibiotic sales and is responsible for the surveillance of antibiotic resistance in animals; findings are published in an annual report. Data is submitted to the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) for inclusion in EU surveillance reports, and the VMD is the secretariat for the Defra Antimicrobial Resistance Coordination (DARC) group.

Chemicals Regulation Directorate (CRD)

3.55 CRD is a Directorate of the HSE. Its aims, objectives and functions, as well as its accountability, management and structure are set out in its Business Plan at: hse.gov.uk/aboutus/strategiesandplans/businessplans/
Further information is also set out in Appendix J.

3.56 With regard to other resources, CRD has access to the following facilities and services:

- Information Technology systems/database - access to UK and European registration data for pesticide authorisation, which informs the CRD analytical and sampling programme.
- Pesticide Usage Surveys Team (Fera) - CRD funds the collection and collation of annual surveys of pesticide usage in the UK. This data provides useful intelligence information about the pesticides to be looked for in the monitoring programme.
- Laboratory facilities - CRD has official arrangements with Fera for resources in support of the pesticide monitoring programme. Four other laboratories are also used giving a breadth of experience and resource. Further information on Fera Science Ltd can be found at: fera.co.uk
- Fera research and training facility - CRD funds some analytical projects in support of the pesticide monitoring programme, to improve the programme‘s robustness, range and speed.

Local Authorities

3.57 There are 419 local authorities in the UK, excluding Port Health Authorities (PHAs)[23]. The Local Government Association (LGA)[24] has a co-ordinating role in respect of Regulation for local authorities in England and Wales. The Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA), the Scottish Food Enforcement Liaison Committee (SFELC) and the Chief Environmental Health Officers Group, Northern Ireland (CEHOG NI) perform these functions in Scotland and NI respectively. Further information on local and port health authorities is set out in Appendix K.

3.58 Local authorities fall into a number of different categories and this determines the regulatory activities for which they are responsible. In many parts of England there are two tiers of local government consisting of a County Council, responsible for services across the whole county, together with a number of District Councils that have responsibility for other services across a smaller area within the county. Unitary Authorities, which include London Boroughs and Metropolitan Boroughs, carry out both district and county functions. In Scotland, Wales and NI, all authorities are Unitary Authorities.

3.59 With regard to food law enforcement, County Councils are responsible for enforcing food standards legislation (e.g. food composition, labelling, claims and presentational matters) and also on-farm food hygiene, whilst District Councils are responsible for other food hygiene matters. Unitary Authorities are responsible for both hygiene and standards issues.

3.60 Local authorities with points of entry into the UK/EU are responsible for official controls on food products being imported from third countries. These include local authorities specifically constituted as PHAs for this function under an Act of Parliament.[25] In places where a PHA cannot be constituted, e.g. airports, the relevant local authority will act as the PHA. The Association of Port Health Authorities (APHA) [26](not to be confused with the Animal and Plant Health Agency) is the representative body for many PHAs.

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[23] In 2014/2015 LA's in Northern Ireland amalgamated resulting in a reduction of 15 taking the number from 434 to 419.

[24] More information on the LGA is available at local.gov.uk. Information on the Welsh LGA, which is part of the LGA, is available at wlga.gov.uk

[25] Public Health (Control of Diseases) Act 1984, c 22.
More information on Association of Port Health Authorities is available at: porthealthassociation.co.uk/

3.61 Border Inspection Posts (BIPs) are facilities within a port or airport designated as a place dedicated to undertake veterinary checks on Products of Animal Origin (POAO) imported into the EU. BIP facilities are usually privately owned but local and port health authorities are responsible for checks at BIPs which have been approved for checks of POAO intended for human consumption and animal by-products (ABP). In NI, DAERA and the District Councils have responsibility to undertake checks on POAO with Belfast City Council having responsibility for fish and fishery products.

3.62 With regard to feed, responsibility lies with 147 local authorities and PHAs in England, 31 local authorities in Scotland, 22 in Wales and with DAERA in NI.

3.63 The feed and food law regulatory services of local authorities are generally provided by Environmental Health or Trading Standards Departments. Authorised officers are typically Environmental Health Officers (EHOs), Trading Standards Officers (TSOs) and other technical officers.

3.64 Animal health and welfare services are generally provided by Local Authority Trading Standards or Environmental Health Departments, generally using authorised animal health and welfare officers.

Accountability

3.65 Operational control of local and PHA regulatory services rests with senior authority officers. Overall policy, resource allocation strategy, and monitoring of service delivery rest within each authority with the elected members or councillors. They agree policies and priorities, taking account of statutory obligations, and officers of the authority are accountable to them.

3.66 A key mechanism by which the FSA and FSS influences official control activity by local and port health authorities is the Framework Agreement on Official Feed and Food Controls by Local Authorities, which sets out what the FSA and FSS expects from local authorities in their delivery of official controls on feed and food law. Local authority feed and food law regulatory services are expected under the terms of the Framework Agreement to draw up, document and implement a service delivery plan – details are at: food.gov.uk/enforcement/enforcework/frameagree/.

3.67 Local authority regulatory services are funded partly through council tax, which is set and collected locally. In England and Wales, funding is also partly through a grant from central Government called the 'Revenue Support Grant'. In Scotland, local authorities receive most of their funding around 85% of net revenue expenditure, as a block grant from the Scottish Government with the

remainder raised largely through council tax. In NI, District Councils are funded through local taxation and by grants from the FSA. In addition, PHAs collect administrative charges in respect of checks on imported organic products, and those authorities with BIPs recover the costs of veterinary checks of imported POAO from the importer.

3.68 In England, direct funding by Defra ceased in 2010 and this funding is now included in the Revenue Support Grant. In Wales, direct funding by the Welsh Government has continued at a reduced level. This direct funding of local authorities was developed to cover the additional costs that were incurred to implement the requirements of the newly introduced legislation under the standing regime.

Operational information on competent authorities

Training

3.69 There are appropriate training and induction courses in place for all employees and contract staff with responsibility for official controls. Professional qualifications are required for entry to many official control jobs. Continuing professional development ensures that these employees and contract staff maintain their expertise. Within the Plant Health Service, for example, a Plant Health Professional Register is under development, following the success of a pilot scheme. Training needs are identified by way of performance appraisal, business plans and audit results - or in response to introduction of new legislation or control systems. Training is recorded and training programmes are evaluated.

Conflict of interests

3.70 Competent authority employees, including contract staff, are required to declare any interests that conflict - or may be perceived by others to conflict - directly or indirectly with their ability to discharge their duties in an honest and impartial manner. Under their conditions of service staff who own or have a commercial interest in a food business or own farmed livestock or other animals subject to official controls cannot undertake any official control inspection or testing of these activities. Staff are also required to follow the core values as set out in the Civil Service Code.[27]

Record management and equipment

[27] Available at www.gov.uk/government/publications/civil-service-code/the-civil-service-code

3.71 Official Controls and contract staff ensure that records are kept of all official controls and that equipment and facilities are appropriate for their control and that procedures are in place to ensure maintenance, storage and disposal of electronic and paper records in line with relevant legislation and good records management practice. Equipment and facilities are appropriate for their control activities.

Staff numbers

3.72 Staff numbers of competent authorities are set out in Appendix O.

Laboratories and Control Bodies

3.73 In carrying out their various functions, competent authorities are assisted by NRLs, official laboratories, and also by a number of independent third parties to which specific control tasks have been delegated (these are termed 'control bodies' under Regulation 882/2004).

NRLs

3.74 In order to provide technical and scientific support for the official controls framework, the European Commission has created a network of European Union Reference Laboratories (EURLs). The legal basis for the network is Regulation 882/2004. EURLs are appointed by the Commission.[28] Further information can be found at:
ec.europa.eu/food/food/controls/reference_laboratories/index_en.htm
ec.europa.eu/food/food/controls/reference_laboratories/eu_rls_for_feed_and_food_en.htm
ec.europa.eu/food/food/controls/reference_laboratories/eu_rls_for_animals_health_and_live_animals_en.htm
irmm.jrc.ec.europa.eu/
ec.europa.eu/food/food/chemicalsafety/residues/crl_en.htm.

3.75 To complete the framework, each Member State is required to designate an NRL to correspond to each EURL, although the NRL does not have to be in the designating Member State. NRLs collaborate with the EURLs in their particular area of expertise and disseminate information provided by the EURL. NRLs are responsible for co-ordinating the activities of official laboratories and should, where appropriate, organise comparative tests

[28] The EURLs are listed in Commission Regulation (EC) 776/2006 amending Annex VII to Regulation (EC) 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards EU reference laboratories. Official Journal L 136, 24.5.2006, 3-8.

between them. In addition, they provide scientific and technical assistance to the CCAs.

3.76 Details of the UK NRLs together with information on how the relevant CCA ensures that they meet the requirements are provided at Appendix L.

Official laboratories

3.77 Official laboratories are designated by the CCAs for the purpose of analysing samples taken during official controls. In the UK, accreditation of official laboratories is undertaken by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS). More details of UKAS are available at: ukas.com.

Official feed and food laboratories

3.78 For feed and food enforcement purposes the analysis of official control samples is carried out in official control laboratories by official control scientists. In the UK, official control scientists are Public Analysts, Agricultural Analysts and Food Examiners (authorised officers in the Official Control Laboratories). Official feed and food laboratories include Public and Agricultural Analyst Laboratories, Government and other microbiological laboratories with Food Examiners, that undertake work for local authorities. Government microbiological laboratories include those in the Public Health England (PHE)[29] and Public Health Wales (PHW)[30] network. Official laboratories must employ staff possessing qualifications which are defined by national legislation. In addition, Public Analysts must be formally appointed by a local authority. Laboratories that undertake work for the CCA and their agencies or Directorates, such as the CRD and the VMD, are also designated official laboratories. Details of Official Laboratories are at Appendix M.

Official animal health laboratories

3.79 Within the UK the official animal health laboratories include the APHA, SRUC[31] , MS's Marine Laboratory, AFBI NI, Cefas, Fera and The Pirbright Institute (TPI). Other institutes, universities and private laboratories also provide a range of testing services to meet statutory and contractual requirements. Where non-governmental laboratories are utilised this is under the structure of sub contracted services. Laboratories providing official testing services will normally be accredited to an official testing standard with all

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29 More information is available on PHE at: gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england
30 More information is available on PHW at: publichealthwales.wales.nhs.uk/
31 formerly the Scottish Agricultural College

laboratory staff being assessed as competent for the tests they perform. Laboratories that undertake work for the CCAs and their agencies or Directorates are also designated official laboratories.

Plant health

3.80 There is no legislative requirement to designate official laboratories in the plant health sector. Government and other laboratories in England, Scotland and NI carry out work as required in diagnosis, research and consultancy.

Control bodies employed by the UK authorities

3.81 Although the competent authorities have overall responsibility for organising and carrying out official controls, they may, under the provisions of Regulation 882/2004, delegate control tasks to independent third parties or 'control bodies'.

3.82 In the UK the majority of control bodies employed by the competent authorities are:

- laboratories - see above
- private bodies that collect samples for residue monitoring and surveillance programmes; certification of organic produce, verification of protected food names[32,33,34]
- commercial carrier companies approved by APHA to undertake documentary and identity checks on pet animals (dogs, cats, ferrets) travelling under the EU pet travel scheme (Regulation 576/2013).

3.83 With regard to the plant health sector, Council Directive 2000/29/EC also permits the use of independent private bodies authorised by the NPPO to undertake control tasks. In the UK most tasks are undertaken by the official Plant Health Services within Defra and Devolved Administrations but certain functions in the forestry sector are carried out under contract (for example Fera Science Ltd), under official authorisation.

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32 Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 on organic production and labelling of organic products and repealing Regulation (EEC) No 2092/91. Official Journal L189, 20.7.2007, 1-23.

33 Council Regulation (EC) No 1151/2012 on agricultural products and foodstuffs as traditional specialities guaranteed. Official Journal L343/1, 14.12.2012, 1-.

34 Council Regulation (EC) No 1151/2012 on the protection of geographical indications and designations of origin for agricultural products and foodstuffs. Official Journal L343/1, 14.12.2012,1.

3.84 Arrangements are in place through contracts or Service Level Agreements between the competent authority and the control body to ensure conditions and standards of performance are met. Full details of the control bodies in the UK can be found at Appendix N.

Chapter 4 – Working together – Co-ordination and co-operation

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

4.1 In the UK, control authorities work together to safeguard public, animal and plant health, to promote animal welfare and protect consumers and co-ordinate their activities and co-operate with each other in order to ensure that there are no gaps in delivery.

FSA and FSS support mechanisms

4.2 The FSA and FSS provides central co-ordination of enforcement of feed and food safety legislation by local authorities in the UK.

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the FSA and FSS

4.3 A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was agreed on 1 April 2015, following the establishment of FSS, which sets out the principles for the working relationship between the FSA and FSS. The principles underpinning the MoU are effectiveness, mutual respect for obligations, efficiency, reciprocity, and cordiality.

4.4 The MoU between the FSA and FSS recognises and upholds the MoU and Supplementary Agreements between the UK Government, the Scottish Ministers, the Welsh Ministers and the Northern Ireland Executive Committee, which has primacy over the MoU between the FSA and FSS.

4.5 The MoU serves the purpose of a Concordat between the Scottish Government and the FSA on matters relating to food and feed for which the FSA is the relevant UK Government Department. It is underpinned by five protocols which set out in more detail operational considerations of how the bodies will work together in the following areas:

- Incident handling
- Data sharing
- Science, evidence and analysis
- EU and international matters
- Communications

The MoU is available at:
foodstandards.gov.scot/sites/default/files/Governance%20Document%20-%20FSA%20and%20FSS%20MOU%20Final%20-%201%20April%202015%232.pdf

Framework Agreement on Local authority Food Law Enforcement

4.6 The Framework Agreement on Official Feed and Food Controls by Local Authorities sets out what the FSA and FSS expects from local authorities in their delivery of official controls on feed and food law. The Agreement is referenced in Appendix K.

Food Law Codes of Practice and associated Practice Guidance

4.7 The Food Law Codes of Practice aims to ensure appropriate and consistent enforcement by setting out instructions and criteria to which local and port health authorities should have regard when engaged in the enforcement of food law. Separate but parallel Codes and associated Practice Guidance, have been developed for England, Scotland, Wales and NI. These Codes are the subject of a review programme.

- The Code/Practice Guidance for England came into force in April 2015 and is available at: food.gov.uk/enforcement/codes-of-practice
- The Code of Practice for Scotland was updated in April 2015 and is available at: foodstandards.gov.scot/food-law-code-practice2015
- The current Code of Practice for Wales, which came into operation in April 2014, can be found at: food.gov.uk/wales/regswales/regsguid_wales/codepracticewales.
- The current Code of Practice for Northern Ireland came into operation in February 2016. It is available at: food.gov.uk/northern-ireland/niregulation/niguidancenotes/copni. The associated practice guidance is currently under review.

4.8 In addition to the Code of Practice and Practice Guidance, the FSA regularly issues additional standalone guidance documents to enforcement officers and others on a range of topics. This is often as a result of new regulations coming into force, a development in policy or in response to an incident.

Feed Law Code of Practice and associated Practice Guidance

4.9 The Feed Law Code of Practice and Practice Guidance documents were reviewed and reissued in May 2014 for England and Wales. The new Code includes the principle of ‘earned recognition’ for feed business operators who are broadly compliant with EU requirements and takes account of their ‘own checks’ as outlined in Article 3(1) of Regulation 882/2004. Earned recognition for these businesses, which include members of certain ‘approved assurance schemes’, takes the form of reduced frequencies of inspection.

4.10 The Feed Law Enforcement Code of Practice (Scotland) was reviewed and published on 24 March 2016, to provide for the implementation of earned recognition in Scotland from 1 April 2016. The Earned Recognition Practice Guidance was also issued on 24 March 2016. In NI the FSA is incorporating changes to its Feed Law Enforcement Guidance Document in parallel to the changes made to the revised Code of Practice and Practice Guidance in England and Wales. All the Codes and Practice Guidance are available at: food.gov.uk/enforcement/enforcework/feedlawcop/. foodstandards.gov.scot/feed-law-code-practice-2016

Food hygiene controls from farm to fork

4.11 Co-ordination and co-operation between the different authorities involved in enforcement of food hygiene legislation is achieved mainly through regular contacts between enforcement officers through shared conferences, committees and Food Liaison Group (FLG) meetings.

4.12 The current arrangement for primary production food and feed hygiene enforcement in Scotland is through coordination of both SG RPID staff (whilst undertaking cross-compliance inspections at a level of 1% and egg marketing inspections) and local authority enforcement staff by FSS. The aim of this regime is to reduce unnecessary additional hygiene visits to farms in line with specific aims of Scottish Government "Scotland's Environmental and Rural Services" (SEARS) project.[35]

Feed controls

4.13 The FSA provides local authorities with National Enforcement Priorities, on an annual basis, to provide intelligence to assist local authorities in targeting their feed control activities. These are based on the results of enforcement activity from the previous year and include the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF) and feed incident alerts, results of feed sample analyses and changes to animal feed legislation. This document, together with the inspection risk-rating scheme in the Feed Law Code of Practice, forms the basis on which new funding arrangements via the National Trading Standards Board (NTSB) have been made available on a regional basis in England. These new arrangements have encouraged closer co-operation between local authorities and better co-ordination of the delivery of controls. New funding arrangements for the delivery of feed controls were agreed with Welsh ministers in 2014, which came into force from 1 April 2015. The new

[35] SEARS aims to reduce the number of on-farm visits by different regulatory bodies by providing a single delivery service.

arrangement has ensured funding reaches front-line services and is targeted at areas of greatest risk. Further information on the National Feed Enforcement Priorities for 2016-17can be accessed here: food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/enf-e-15-043a.pdf

Food Hygiene Rating Scheme (FHRS) & Food Hygiene Information Scheme (FHIS)

4.14 The FHRS for England, Wales and NI and the FHIS for Scotland are FSA/FSS/local authority partnership initiatives designed to improve public health through behaviour change[36]. The schemes allow consumers to make informed choices about the places where they eat out or shop for food by providing them with information about the standards of hygiene found at the time of intervention by local authority food safety officers. The schemes recognise those businesses that meet legal requirements on food hygiene and incentivise others to improve standards. The aim is to reduce incidence of food-borne illness and costs to the economy. FHRS ratings and FHIS inspection results are published on the FSA and FSS websites and available via third party websites and phone applications.

4.15 Businesses in England and Scotland are encouraged, but not currently required, to display ratings at their premises, although legal powers are now available in Scotland to introduce the compulsory display of ratings. In Wales it is compulsory for businesses to display their rating. In NI legislation requiring compulsory display of ratings is being taken forward and it is anticipated that this requirement will come into force in October 2016. Details of the schemes may be found at: food.gov.uk/policy-advice/hygieneratings and foodstandards.gov.scot/food-safety-standards/food-safety-hygiene/food-hygiene-information-scheme.

4.16 Local authorities operating the FHRS follow 'Brand Standard' guidance which aims to ensure consistency in operation of the scheme (similar guidance has been produced for the FHIS). This is available at: food.gov.uk/enforcement/enfcomm/fhrssteeringgroup/hygieneratingsguidance.

Reviews of the Delivery of Official Food and Feed Controls

4.17 As part of the FSA's commitment to ensure that regulation is effective, risk-based and proportionate, a review of the delivery of official controls in the UK was agreed by the FSA Board in January 2011, to evaluate the effectiveness

[36] All local authorities in Wales and NI and all except one in England are running the FHRS scheme. All local authorities in Scotland have launched the FHIS.

of port health and local authority controls. The review was commissioned due to concerns about resource pressures and inconsistency of the application of official controls across the UK.

4.18 The findings indicated that, whilst the system was likely to remain under pressure from reduced funding for the foreseeable future, local authorities were continuing to deliver the service. The FSA Board discussed the findings and agreed to close down the review in its current form. However, the issue now forms a central theme of the FSA's 2015 - 2020 strategy. Future work will aim to deliver a system of fully risk-based and proportionate controls that allows LAs to make optimum use of their resources. Examples may include more intelligence-based interventions, greater recognition of third party assurance arrangements for validating business compliance, and increased joint working of local enforcement bodies, such as through the Primary Authority scheme in England and Wales which provides for businesses to form a statutory partnership with one local authority and provides robust and reliable advice for other local authorities to take into account when planning and undertaking their interventions.

4.19 In 2014/15 the FSA introduced a new system for supporting the delivery of official controls in England. This includes working through the NTSB to allocate funding on a regional basis to ensure that funding is better targeted in line with national and local priorities whilst encouraging the sharing of expertise to improve quality of controls. The 2016/17 reporting period represents the final year of the three-year MoU that was established between the Agency and NTSB for coordination of feed controls in England. The Agency will be taking the opportunity in 2016 to carry out a review of the new delivery arrangements, to inform the approach to be taken from April 2017. This review process will include a programme of focused LA audits and an external research project. Food Standards Scotland is currently developing a centralised model of delivering feed official controls for implementation on 1 April 2017. No changes were made to the current delivery model in NI where DAERA is responsible for all feed controls. More information concerning the various national groups which are in place to facilitate the co-ordination and co-operation of feed controls can be found at paragraph 4.40 below.

4.20 In January 2014 the FSA in Wales was commissioned by the Minister for Health and Social Services to provide information on the progress made in the delivery of food hygiene in Wales since 2009, and the delivery of food and feed controls since 2011. Following publication of the report, Ministers agreed the transfer of funding to FSA Wales for the delivery of official feed controls.

4.21 As part of the work underpinning the new FSA strategy for 2015-20, the new FSA regulatory strategy will;

- Focus on aligning incentives and disincentives so that food businesses are encouraged to do the right thing for consumers.
- Move progressively towards a truly risk-based regulatory approach, seeking to reduce the requirements of the law in cases where risk is acceptably low, and increase FSA ability to intervene where we can have the effect of reducing risk to consumers that is unacceptably high.
- Work with others including local authorities and businesses to develop complementary and alternative delivery approaches, and associated funding models.
- Build a regulatory 'toolbox' containing a broad range of interventions including the use of reputational recognition and sanctions.
- Seek to move to a system that requires businesses to demonstrate and provide evidence of compliance with food law, so that the FSA can effectively verify and challenge that evidence as appropriate.
- Review how the FSA derives assurance that businesses are complying with food law, and how we drive up compliance to the benefit of consumers.
- Identify our priorities for regulatory reform.

4.22 The future delivery of food and feed official controls in Scotland will be considered as part of the development of FSS's regulatory strategy, a key part of the FSS Strategy to 2021. This draft regulatory strategy was agreed by the FSS Board in March 2016, and is currently subject to further development and consultation. FSS is committed to working closely with local and national delivery partners to shape the future regulatory landscape in Scotland for the benefit of consumers and responsible food businesses, to ensure that food and feed official control systems are sustainable, responsive, and robust. The draft FSS regulatory strategy is available at: foodstandards.gov.scot/16-march-board-meeting

Incidents

Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF) and FSA Food Alerts

4.23 FSA is the UK contact point for RASFF notifications. The RASFF system provides control authorities in the Member States with an effective tool for exchange of information on measures taken to ensure food safety. More information on RASFF can be found at:

ec.europa.eu/food/food/rapidalert/index_en.htm.

4.24 Food Alerts allow the FSA to inform local authorities and consumers about problems associated with feed and food and, in some cases, provide details of specific action to be taken.

4.25 The different categories of alerts and information notices issued are as follows:

- Food Alerts for Action are issued when an incident requires enforcement action from local authorities.
- Product Withdrawal Information Notices and Product Recall Information Notices bring an incident to the attention of local authorities.
- Allergy Alerts are issued when foods have to be withdrawn or recalled and there is a risk to consumers, because the label is missing or incorrect or there is a risk of severe allergic response.

More information is available at: food.gov.uk/enforcement/alerts/.

Food Crime Unit and Scottish Food Crime and Incidents Unit (SFCIU)

4.26 The National Food Crime Unit is in its second year and is initially focusing on establishing the scale and nature of food crime in the UK at a strategic level through developing intelligence sharing relationships across the law enforcement community and with the food industry. This will also enable the Unit to instigate investigative interventions by law enforcement partners and local authorities to identify and disrupt specific instances of food crime.

4.27 The NFCU has published the first Food Crime Annual Strategic Assessment (FCASA), available at food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/fsa-food-crime-assessment-2016.pdf. The FCASA sets out the Unit's developing understanding of food crime in the UK and will drive its work to ensure resources are focused where the threat to consumers and other interests is the greatest.

4.28 The NFCU is also working with partners across law enforcement agencies and within local authorities to identify and disrupt specific instances of food crime.

4.29 Information and guidance on reporting food fraud as well as guidance for whistleblowing is available at: food.gov.uk/enforcement/the-national-food-crime-unit/foodfraud

4.30 FSS established the Scottish Food Crime and Incidents Unit (SFCIU) in October 2015. The Unit has been put in place to provide leadership in the prevention, investigation, disruption and enforcement of Food Crime and in the

management of Food Safety incidents nationally for Scotland. The SFCIU will work with key partners to proactively develop intelligence aimed at identifying serious threats faced in Scotland as a result of Food Crime and in taking the appropriate action to combat those threats. In that regard the Unit will:

- Develop an effective intelligence and information sharing landscape which will facilitate the effective sharing of intelligence and evidence packages with key partner agencies;
- Lead investigations, where the complexity or seriousness of the criminality merits this; Co-ordinate partnership activity to achieve the most effective response in relation to threat, risk and harm, particularly where Food Crime transcends local authority boundaries; Support partners through access to subject matter expertise and specialist resources.
- Work with key partners to disrupt Food Crime and, where possible, report offenders to the Procurator Fiscal, as a Specialist Reporting Agency.
- Play a leading role in establishing the standards for the criminal investigation of Food Crime in Scotland
- Provide guidance to regulators on the criminal offences that they may encounter
- Assist in establishing standards for the criminal investigation of Food Crime in Scotland.
- Identify and resolve capability gaps

4.31 The new unit will access and exchange intelligence and priorities at local, regional and national levels with a range of enforcement partners. Networks are also being established internationally across the EU and in third countries.

4.32 Information and guidance on reporting food fraud as well as guidance for whistleblowing is available at: foodstandards.gov.scot/food-safety-standards/regulation-and-enforcement-food-laws-scotland/food-fraud

Powers of intervention

4.33 Where local authorities are found to be failing to discharge their functions adequately or failing to meet their statutory obligations to apply the law, the FSA and FSS may consider using powers of direction and default contained in the Food Standards Act 1999, the Food Safety Act 1990 and the Food Safety (Northern Ireland) Order 1991, and also in secondary legislation on food hygiene and on official feed and food controls applying in each of the four UK countries. To date, these powers have not been exercised, as informal

approaches have been effective in improving local authority service delivery where necessary.

Working with DAERA AFIB – Dairy Hygiene

4.34 In NI, food hygiene at milk production holdings is enforced by DAERA AFIB. A Service Level Agreement (SLA), which includes performance targets that are monitored and audited by the FSA, is in place.

4.35 Detailed information on the structure and organisation of DAERA and on the control activities that it carries out is provided at Appendix C.

Working with the APHA and the Scottish Government's Rural Payments and Inspections Directorate (SG RPID) and DAERA AFIB – Egg Marketing

4.36 APHA acts on behalf of the FSA in England and Wales in respect of on-farm enforcement of food hygiene legislation at egg production units. In Scotland, this function is delivered by SG RPID and in NI by DAERA AFIB. The terms and conditions are set out in SLAs which are reviewed annually (6 monthly review of MoU in Scotland).

4.37 Detailed information on the structure and organisation of the APHA and SG RPID and DAERA AFIB and their control activities with regard to egg marketing can be found at Appendix D and Appendix C.

Designation and classification and monitoring of shellfish harvesting areas – FSA, FSS and Local Authorities

4.38 The FSA and FSS is responsible for establishing the UK monitoring programmes for shellfish harvesting areas as required under EU legislation on food hygiene.

Control activities

4.39 Shellfish harvesting areas must be classified according to the levels of microbiological contamination (E.coli) detected in flesh samples from the area. It is also a requirement to regularly monitor classified production areas for microbiological contamination, marine biotoxins, phytoplankton and chemical contaminants. Sampling for these programmes is carried out by local authorities responsible for the area in which the shellfish bed is located, apart from in three areas of Scotland where FSS carries this out and three other areas where sampling is carried out by a private contractor. In four production areas in NI a private sampling contractor and a cross-border agency carry out

the sampling. Designated laboratories carry out the specified testing and analysis of the samples and report the results to the FSA and FSS. The FSA and FSS are directly responsible for decisions in relation to the classification of shellfish harvesting areas. When sample results indicate that levels of E.coli, marine biotoxins and chemical contaminants are found to be above the maximum permitted levels they advise the local authority on the action to be taken.

Groups facilitating co-ordination and co-operation

4.40 The FSA and FSS contributes to a number of groups with key stakeholders to facilitate co-ordination and co-operation. These include:

- Animal Feed Law Enforcement Liaison Group (AFLELG) – This Group discusses animal feed law and related matters, identifies common problems and agrees a co-ordinated approach to feed law enforcement. Membership of the Group comprises representatives from all the competent authorities with responsibility for feed law enforcement in the UK, as well as local authority representatives. Detailed information on the Group is available at: food.gov.uk/enforcement/enfcomm/aflelg/.
- National Agriculture Panel (NAP) – This national group of feed enforcement experts is chaired by a Lead Feed Officer from a local authority and has representatives from each of the regions of England, Scotland, Wales and NI. The group provides technical and operational policy support to local authorities.
- Wales Heads of Trading Standards (WHoTS) Feed Group – The group assists in coordinating the delivery of feed law enforcement services across Wales, promotes good practice and offers expert advice. Membership includes representatives from local authorities across the six feed regions in Wales and the FSA in Wales.
- National Animal Feed Ports Panel –This group forms a similar function to that of NAP but is focused on controls at points of entry.
- Feed Governance Group –This Group's role is to provide governance to the distribution of funding for feed controls via the NTSB to local authorities in England
- Wales Heads of Trading Standards (WHoTS) Food Standards and Labelling Group – The group provides a forum for local authority officers to discuss all aspects of food standards enforcement and has a role in coordinating enforcement activity across Wales. The group also assists in ensuring consistency, promotes good practice and offers specialist

advice. Membership includes representatives from local authorities across the four regional food groups in Wales and the FSA in Wales.

- Food Hygiene Ratings Steering Group –This UK wide Group advises the Agency on the implementation and operation of FHRS/FHIS and helps achieve consistency of approach. Membership includes representatives for industry, consumers and local authorities as well as LGA, BRDO and Agency officials. Further details of the Group can be found at: food.gov.uk/enforcement/enfcomm/fhrssteeringgroup/.
- Primary Production Enforcement Working Group –This has been established in Scotland and is a working group of the Scottish Food Enforcement Liaison Committee (SFELC) Feed Sub-committee. Members include local authorities, SG RPID, National Farmers Union (NFU) Scotland and FSS.
- UK Official Controls Audit Liaison Group (OFFCALG) –UK Official Controls Audit Liaison Group (OFFCALG) – This group was formed to share information and experience and to develop closer working relations between relevant internal audit units. Relevant internal audit units are those that service departments, devolved administrations, agencies and sponsored bodies with responsibility for providing assurance on implementation of EU regulations in the applicable areas.
- Scottish Food Enforcement Liaison Committee –This is a non-statutory advisory Committee formed under the auspices of FSS. It provides a forum for FSS in Scotland to maintain and develop links with key stakeholders.
- FSA in Wales/Food Safety Expert Panel –The forum is used for discussion and to provide representation on behalf of local authorities in Wales on all aspects of food hygiene delivery, including the impact of new legislation and policy decisions; as well as to develop standard protocols and procedures to promote consistency. The membership includes representatives from each of the Welsh FLGs and FSA in Wales.
- NI Approvals Forum –This forum has been set up to ensure collaboration between enforcement authorities across areas relating to milk and eggs, fish and shellfish and meat. Membership comprises representatives from the enforcement authorities in NI, including district councils, Veterinary Service – Veterinary Public Health Programme (VS-VPHP) and DAERA AFIB.
- FSA in Wales/ Waters Partnership Group Shellfish - This forum is for regulators and national (Welsh) organisations with a specific interest in the quality of Welsh shellfish waters. Membership includes FSA in Wales, Welsh Government, Natural Resources Wales and Dŵr Cymru (Welsh Water).
- FSA in Wales/All Wales Local Authority Shellfish Liaison Group – This group has been established to discuss shellfish hygiene matters and to

share information/intelligence on enforcement. The membership includes representatives of local authorities in Wales where there are commercial shellfish activities, the Wales Food Fraud Coordination Unit (WFFCU) and the FSA in Wales.

- FSA England Shellfish Stakeholder Working Group (SSWG) - This group provides direction to the delivery of shellfish work areas. Representatives include LAs, Cefas, Environment Agency, UK National Reference Laboratory and Shellfish Association of Great Britain (SAGB)
- NI Fish & Shellfish Working Group (NIFSFWG) – This group includes representatives from LAs, DOE Marine Division, Environment Agency and DAERA Fisheries to discuss delivery of official controls, water quality issues and other areas of interest.

4.41 The FSA and FSS provides and supports a range of other activities aimed at further developing the co-ordination and co-operation of local authority official control activities. These include:

- Dedicated enforcement portal on FSA website –This provides a single point of access to enforcement-related information, to which all enforcement practitioners have access.
- Training Courses –Training courses for food and feed authorised officers, both classroom and e-learning, are designed to provide help for officers to develop their knowledge and skills. More information on the scheme can be found at: food.gov.uk/enforcement/enforcetrainfund/.
- Guidance material - As well as the Practice Guidance that has been developed for local authorities, other guidance material is regularly issued by the FSA and FSS for officers and food businesses on a range of topics, often as a result of new regulations coming into force. These are available through the FSA and FSS websites at the following links: food.gov.uk/business-industry/guidancenotes/ and food.gov.uk/business-industry/farmingfood/animalfeed/animalfeedlegislation and foodstandards.gov.scot/publication-resources
- Safer Food, Better Business (SFBB) –This is an innovative and practical approach to food safety management. SFBB helps small businesses with food safety management procedures and food hygiene regulations. A number of SFBB packs that are designed to meet the specific needs of different food businesses are available and these can be found at: food.gov.uk/sfbb. CookSafe is a similar pack available in Scotland: foodstandards.gov.scot/cooksafe
- Safe Catering - This is FSA NI's food safety management guide. A joint initiative with the Food Safety Authority of Ireland, Safe Catering is a practical and easy to use guide that helps catering businesses and retailers with a catering function to comply with food legislation, produce a food safety management plan based on HACCP principles and to keep the

appropriate records. It can be found at food.gov.uk/northern-ireland/safetyhygieneni/safecateringni

- Good Hygiene Practice (GHP) Guides - These are currently available to order from the Stationery Office (tsoshop.co.uk). The guides cover: retail; wholesale distributors; flour milling; vending and dispensing; bottled water; sandwich manufacturers; sandwich bars and similar outlets; whitefish processors and spirit drinks. A list with available guides can be accessed through the FSA website at the following link: food.gov.uk/about-us/publications/industrypublications/industry-guides/.
- Grants and expertise –The FSA and FSS gives grants and provides expertise for specific and targeted enforcement activities and the application of new legislation and initiatives, such as assistance for local authorities investigating food fraud, and for the promotion of food safety management systems based on Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) principles. Grant funding also includes support for local authority sampling as part of the National co-ordinated Food Sampling Programme.
- Food Fraud –The FSA maintains a central UK food fraud database and provides fraud intelligence, additional expertise, resources and training to support local food fraud investigation and enforcement.
- UK Food Surveillance System (UKFSS) - This database stores food and feed control sampling data as part of enforcement activities undertaken by local authorities, and DAERA in NI for feed across the UK. The system is in use across many local authorities in England, in all but one local authority in Wales and in all local authorities in Northern Ireland and Scotland. The system holds chemical and microbiological sampling data for food and animal feed. Data stored can be used by enforcement authorities and the FSA and FSS to provide evidence to inform risk-based sampling, to allow early identification of trends in food hazards and to provide a mechanism for reporting local authority data to the FSA and the EU. It also provides the FSA, FSS and enforcement authorities with a means of co-ordinating sampling across authorities.
- FSA presence in the Regions – As part of the FSA's work to strengthen links with local and regional organisations, the Agency has a Regional Unit working across nine English regions. There are seven officers covering the regions, grouped as follows:
  - East Midlands, Yorkshire & the Humber, East of England, South East and London
  - North East, North West, South West and West Midlands.

  The regional officers work closely with local authority food law enforcement officers and other relevant organisations to support delivery of key Agency priorities on food and feed safety, and consumer protection.

- MyHACCP –The FSA has developed a free online
- e web tool to support small food manufacturing businesses to develop their HACCP based food safety management system. MyHACCP takes users through a step-by step process to identify food safety hazards and controls for their product. MyHACCP can be accessed at food.gov.uk/myhaccp.

Co-operation and co-ordination for official controls of imported and exported feed and food

4.42 The principal central authorities involved in imported feed and food controls are the FSA, FSS, Defra and the Agriculture/Rural Affairs Departments in the Devolved Administrations, HMRC [37] and the United Kingdom Border Force (UKBF)[38]. There is regular liaison between these authorities at the twice yearly formal meetings between the FSA, FSS, Defra, HMRC, UKBF, FERA and Animal and Plant Health Agency (not to be confused with the Association of Port Health Authorities). In addition, ad hoc meetings are held to discuss specific issues and there is routine communication between the Departments on day to day work issues. With regard to feed, these agencies also meet with other enforcement agencies twice a year at AFLELG.

4.43 There is also close liaison between these central Government Departments and the local and port health authorities that are involved in carrying out controls. This is facilitated through the enforcement representative bodies, Association of Port Health Authorities[39] for example via its Imported Food and Feed, and BIP Technical Committees, and the LGA, and through routine meetings with representatives from the major ports where food and feed is entering into the UK.

4.44 In addition to the above, the FSA has developed or participated with partners to deliver the following initiatives:

- Inland enforcement of Imported Food and Feed Controls Resource Pack - This provides practical guidance and advice on the approach to be taken to enforcement and is intended to be a training aid for inland enforcement practitioners. More information is available at: food.gov.uk/foodindustry/imports/enforce_authorities/resourcepack and

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37 HMRC does not currently have a role in NI in relation to illegal imports of food. DAERA performs the equivalent role.

38 More information about UKBF is available at: gov.uk/government/organisations/border-force

39 More information on Association of Port Health Authorities is available at: porthealthassociation.co.uk/

foodstandards.gov.scot/inland-enforcement-imported-feed-and-food-controls

- Imported food training courses - A range of imported food training courses for inland and port health authorities is provided, covering enforcement of imported food controls and sampling and analysis of imported food. In addition to this, an on-line training package is provided.
- Training of BIP staff – This is organised by the Animal and Plant Health Agency.
- Dedicated homepage for imported food –
  - Food Standards Agency: This is a comprehensive source of information on imported food controls. It includes details of a dedicated Helpline which provides a first point of contact for advice on imported food control issues. The link to the dedicated website section is: food.gov.uk/business-industry/imports.
    Guidance and resources for PHAs (imports) can be found at food.gov.uk/foodindustry/imports/enforce_authorities/.
    Guidance on imported food regulations can be found at: food.gov.uk/foodindustry/imports/enforce_authorities/importsbooklet.
  - Food Standards Scotland provides a resource of imported food and feed information: foodstandards.gov.scot/food-safety-standards/regulation-and-enforcement-food-laws-scotland/imports
- National Animal Feed Ports Panel – This is a sub-group of AFLELG (see para 4.39 above). The membership comprises those enforcement agencies with particular responsibility for official controls at points of entry. The Panel's remit includes discussion of practical issues relating to import controls on feeding stuffs from third countries.

4.45 The FSA has developed an Early Warning System (EWS) for detecting new signals and potential emerging risks relating to non-compliant imported food. This in-house system is primarily based upon the daily analysis of all EU border rejection notifications issued through the EU's Rapid Alert System for Feed and Food (RASFF) Portal.

4.46 Where new signals relating to specific foods from particular non-EU countries are identified, the information is collated to establish emerging risk patterns and this information is then shared with local inland and port health authorities enabling targeted enforcement. The Imported Food team also use the EWS data at Commission Working Group meetings on imported food controls which has led to a number of high-risk foods identified through the EWS becoming subject to additional official controls at the point of entry into the EU.

4.47 Information about the roles of Defra and the FSA with regard to exported food is at:gov.uk/exporting-live-animals-or-animal-products-to-non-eu-countries and food.gov.uk/business-industry/exports/. For details of Animal and Plant Health Agency's role with regard to export health certificates, see Appendix D.

Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy (TSE) controls

4.48 Responsibility for the enforcement of TSE controls is divided between the FSA and FSS, APHA and local authorities in GB, and DAERA in NI. Regular and *ad hoc* meetings take place between these bodies and with the FSA/FSS and the Agriculture/Rural Affairs Departments to discuss relevant issues and develop best practice in respect of TSE controls. A system has also been put in place to enhance communication between the local authorities, APHA and the BCMS[40] on animal identification issues, which includes established procedures for the exchange of information and scheduled meetings.

Monitoring of zoonoses and zoonotic agents

4.49 This monitoring involves collaboration between the FSA, Defra, the Department of Health (and their supporting agencies) and the equivalent Departments in the Devolved Administrations. This collaboration is facilitated through the UK Zoonoses Animal Diseases and Infections Group. The Group is intended to help develop a more cohesive, comprehensive and joint approach to the understanding and control of zoonotic diseases in the UK. Detailed information about this Group is available at: gov.uk/government/groups/uk-zoonoses-animal-diseases-and-infections-group.

4.50 Regulation (EC) No. 2160/2003 requires Member States to take effective measures to detect and control Salmonellas of public health significance in specified animal species at all relevant stages of production. These measures are implemented in the UK via the following Programmes:

- The National Control Programme for Salmonella in Breeders[41]
- The National Control Programme for Salmonella in Layers[42]
- The National Control Programme for Salmonella in Broilers[43]

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40 More information on the BCMS is available at: defra.gov.uk/wps/portal/ctso.

41 gov.uk/government/publications/the-uk-national-control-programme-for-salmonella-in-breeding-flocks-gallus-gallus

42 gov.uk/government/publications/the-uk-national-control-programme-for-salmonella-in-layers-gallus-gallus

43 gov.uk/government/publications/the-uk-national-control-programme-for-salmonella-in-chickens-gallus-gallus-reared-for-meat-broilers

- The National Control Programme for Salmonella in Turkeys[44].

Specific Risk Material (SRM) and Animal By-Products (ABP)

4.51 The FSA and FSS has responsibility for implementation and enforcement of the controls on SRM. SRM is the parts of cattle, sheep and goats most likely to contain Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) infectivity. SRM must be removed from the carcase of the animal, stained and disposed of as a category 1 ABP. Defra has responsibility in England for ABP and similar responsibilities are allocated to Welsh Government, Scottish Government and DAERA in the Devolved Administrations. Defra is the UK lead for negotiations (with advice from the devolved Governments) in dealing with the European Regulations on ABP. Operationally, APHA approves ABP premises in England and Wales and maintains a central register of companies and premises involved.

4.52 Further details on SRM and ABP can be found in the CP at the following link: ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/follow_up_en.cfm?co_id=GB.

Local Government Association (LGA)

4.53 The LGA works with Local Councils to support, promote and improve local Government, as well as to influence and lobby central Government. It is a cross-party, politically-led membership organisation and provides support to officers and councillors alike. In total, 434 authorities are members of the LGA for 2015/16. These members include 349 English councils, the 22 Welsh councils via the Welsh LGA, fire authorities, national parks and one town council.

4.54 The LGA has historically hosted a “Knowledge Hub” which is a professional, secure social networking tool. It exists to facilitate discussion, sharing of ideas and problem resolution for all people in local government (they must register to gain access). It is a key dissemination and engagement tool for national departments and regulators, as well as offering specialist officers a chance to come together and respond to national initiatives. Now a UK hosted collaboration platform, the Knowledge Hub is available for non-government officials and industry to subscribe to.

Regional and National Focus Groups for feed and food

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44 gov.uk/government/publications/the-uk-national-control-programme-for-salmonella-in-turkeys

4.55 Local authorities across the UK are required to belong to Feed and Food Safety Liaison Groups made up of neighbouring local authorities with feed and food regulatory responsibilities. These groups offer local authority officers an opportunity to discuss cross-border issues and enforcement needs. In NI, FSA works closely with the Chief Environmental Health Officers Group (CEHOG), Northern Ireland Food Managers Group (NIFMG) and a number of subgroups in order to support the delivery of FSA priorities on food safety, consumer protection and health and wellbeing.

4.56 FSA Regional Team members regularly attend Food Safety Liaison Group meetings. These are in turn supported by a system of regional groups which can cascade upwards issues of national importance to the LGA or the FSA. The FSA and LGA may also approach the regional or local groups to provide frontline intelligence, develop specialist guidance or offer bespoke training support. The FSA supports the national Food Hygiene Focus Group, the Food Standards and Labelling Focus Group and the National Agriculture Panel which are opportunities for local authorities to discuss and input to FSA policy development.

4.57 The FSA has also established a series of Regional Food Leads meetings at which representatives of Local authority FLGs can raise issues with the FSA and have the opportunity to discuss these in detail. Annual FSA Update events are held in each of the English regions to highlight topical issues and provide local authorities with an opportunity to network and share good practice. Co-ordination of food standards sampling work across local and national regulators is supported by a joint FSA/LGA Food Standards Sampling Co-ordination Working Group, and this promotes focused sampling programmes. Membership of the Group includes Local Authority food standards, food hygiene and port health enforcement officials, Public Analysts and representatives of the LGA and the FSA. A similar group, the National Agriculture panel, addresses issues relating to animal feed.

4.58 In Scotland, there are four regional Food Liaison Groups providing local authority enforcement officers with a forum to discuss cross-border enforcement issues, which are regularly attended by FSS. These regional groups provide a mechanism for Scottish local authorities to escalate issues to national level, either via the Scottish Food Enforcement Committee (SFELC) or directly with FSS. SFELC itself has a range of specialist sub-committees which are also attended by FSS, such as those on food safety, food standards, and animal feeding stuffs.

Primary Authority Scheme and the Home Authority Principle

4.59 The Primary Authority Scheme and Home Authority Principle help local authorities work together with businesses to provide consistent and co-ordinated trading standards and food enforcement services, particularly across geographical authority boundaries. Both the Primary Authority Scheme and Home Authority Principle are endorsed by the FSA and reflected in the statutory Food Law and Feed Law Codes of Practice which the FSA has established and to which local authorities must have regard.

Primary Authority Scheme

4.60 An authority and a business can establish a Primary Authority partnership, under the terms of the Regulatory Enforcement and Sanctions Act 2008, and any Orders under that Act.[45] A business operating across council boundaries can form a primary authority partnership with a single local authority in relation to regulatory compliance. The Primary Authority can issue inspection plans and assured advice to partner businesses and they must be respected by other regulating authorities. The Primary Authority Scheme was extended in 2013 to include trade associations and franchises, allowing the businesses who are mainly small to medium enterprises, to benefit from a central relationship with a primary authority. Further information on the primary authority scheme is available at: bis.gov.uk/brdo/primary-authority.

4.61 The Scottish Government has yet to implement their proposals for Primary Authority arrangements relating to the devolved regulatory responsibilities of local authorities in Scotland, and FSS are liaising closely with the Scottish Government as the scheme is developed. Further information is available at: gov.scot/Topics/Business-Industry/support/better-regulation/BetterRegulationBillConsultation/PrimaryAuthorityConsultation

Home Authority Principle

4.62 Some businesses will build up a non-statutory relationship with the local authority where they are based or, in the case of multiple site businesses, where their head office is based, for the provision of advice and information in relation to trading standards and food safety matters. That authority is referred to as the *Home Authority* i.e. the local authority where the relevant decision-making base of a business is located. The Home Authority Principle is a voluntary scheme though its intentions are underpinned by the requirements of the Regulators Code to promote efficient and effective approaches to regulatory inspection and enforcement.

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[45] The Primary Authority Scheme applies voluntarily in NI.

Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) on feed law enforcement

4.63 With regard to feed law enforcement there is now a tripartite MoU between local authorities (NAP), the VMD, and APHA. This is designed to facilitate co-ordination of the delivery of official feed controls:

Veterinary medicines residues monitoring

4.64 To ensure the smooth running of the veterinary medicines residues monitoring programme, the VMD holds a planning meeting every September to consider the scope of the residues surveillance programme for the coming year, using intelligence from various sources. This involves officials from the collection agencies, control laboratories, Government bodies and independent advisors. In addition, the VMD has quarterly meetings with the main contractors and control bodies to discuss progress on the plan and issues related to residues surveillance. It also meets officials from the NRLs twice a year.

4.65 In NI, representatives of the analytical services, Food Policy Branch of DAERA and FSA meet monthly to discuss progress with the plan and residues related issues. Bi-monthly reports on overall performance against the plan are provided to VMD.

Pesticide residues monitoring

4.66 For pesticide residues, exchange of information takes place with other parts of the HSE, the FSA, the RPA, the Environment Agency (EA)[46] and local authorities where required.

4.67 In addition, CRD organises quarterly meetings of the Expert Committee on Pesticides Residues in food (PRiF)[47] which is made up of independent experts and advises Defra on the UK monitoring programme. Officials nominated by Defra, DAERA and SG AFRC, together with officials from the CRD and the FSA, also attend these meetings. Each year PRiF, CRD and the FSA consider the programme for the following years taking into account stakeholder comments.

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46 More information on the EA is available at: environment-agency.gov.uk/.

47 More information on the PRiF is available at https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/pesticide-residues-in-food-results-of-monitoring-programme .

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

Animal Health and Welfare Framework[48]

4.68 Most local authorities with responsibility for animal health and welfare in England and Wales are participating in an Animal Health and Welfare Framework for the delivery of animal health services. This Framework is intended to provide the basis of working partnership between local authorities and APHA to ensure effective, accountable, consistent and coordinated delivery of animal health and welfare services throughout England and Wales. It is designed to support a risk based approach to enforcement with agreed priorities in order to utilise resources effectively. The APHA provides veterinary input in the Framework and, where appropriate, comments on the local authority Service Delivery Plan[49] for the animal health and welfare functions.

4.69 The APHA Regional Operational Directors (RODs), Operations Director Wales and Operations Director Scotland hold liaison meetings with representatives of local authorities to agree local priorities taking account of local authority knowledge and intelligence. The Welsh Government will consider each local authority's Priority Action Plan with veterinary input from APHA.

4.70 The Framework helps local authorities to understand key national priorities, but also provide the essential flexibility for them to respond to the unique needs of their individual farming communities. Priorities at a national level are focused on contingency planning, risk assessment, intelligence sharing and changing the behaviour of non-compliant businesses.

4.71 In Scotland an Animal Health and Welfare Framework for the delivery of animal health services has been developed and trialled. Currently all Local Authorities are being encouraged to participate.

Working with FSA and FSS Operations

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48 More information is available at: gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/255065/pb14037-ahaw-framework-2014-2015.pdf.

49 Priority Action Plan in Wales

4.72 In addition to food safety controls, FSA and FSS deliver controls on behalf of other government departments in approved meat premises in GB include those relating to the health and welfare of animals at slaughter.

4.73 Defra and the WG NR have a joint SLA with the FSA. The Scottish Government have a separate SLA with FSS. Details of the control activities that the FSA and FSS undertake in relation to national and EU animal health and welfare rules are detailed in the Annexes to the SLA. These include: welfare inspection of live animals; animal identification, detecting disease during ante and post-mortem inspections; sampling, and enforcing rules on cleansing and disinfection of vehicles at slaughterhouses and licensing designated slaughterhouses. Reports on these activities are made to the central Departments and to other interested bodies such as APHA and the relevant local authority. The SLAs with FSA and FSS are reviewed annually and where necessary the Annexes amended to reflect the current work programmes. Any variations or additional work during the year are negotiated at the time.

Working with local authorities

4.74 The Framework recognises the important partnership between Defra, the Welsh Government, APHA and local authorities.

4.75 As part of the Framework APHA manages a Defra owned web-based secure enforcement database - the Animal Health & Welfare Management & Enforcement System (AMES). This facilitates those participating local authorities to enter information in relation to their respective enforcement activities and provides management information at a local, regional and national level.

Regional meetings and National Animal Health and Welfare Panel

4.76 Local authorities with responsibility for animal health and welfare enforcement attend quarterly regional meetings to discuss common concerns, emerging trends, and national requirements. Each region is structured to encourage regular communications. Each regional group is represented on a National Animal Health and Welfare Panel. This Panel produces guidance aimed at generating consistent enforcement, discusses strategic issues, and provides technical expertise. Representatives of delivery partners are often invited to participate in both national and regional meetings to promote transparency and partnership working.

Other mechanisms

CVO meetings

4.77 Co-ordination meetings on technical animal health and welfare issues are held on a monthly basis involving Defra, the Scottish Government, the Welsh Government and DAERA and other Government Departments at CVO level. These meetings provide a strategic overview of animal health and welfare issues at the domestic and EU/international level with the aim of:

- exchanging views on current animal health and welfare issues and longer term initiatives across the four administrations.
- gaining a shared understanding of key EU/international negotiations and how they may impact on each administration, and agreeing a common UK position.
- formally considering risks identified by the Veterinary Risk Group (VRG) that threaten the UK's animal disease control status and discussing and agreeing appropriate mitigating actions.

The Veterinary Risk Group (VRG)

4.78 The VRG was established in response to the Anderson Review[50] (Lessons Learned from the Foot and Mouth Disease outbreak in 2007) which recommended that government should establish a standardised and systematic process for identifying, assessing, characterising, prioritising and escalating unexpected animal-related threats. The VRG meets on a monthly basis to consider threats raised across government's remit, and provides transparent, auditable technical advice on options for risk management to inform decision making. The VRG is a cross-directorate and cross-administration UK-level body which reports to the four UK Chief Veterinary Officers.

The Animal Health and Welfare Board for England[51]

4.79 The Animal Health and Welfare Board for England is the principal source of departmental advice to Defra ministers on strategic health and welfare matters relating to kept animals in England. The Board's role is to set the

[50] gov.uk/government/publications/foot-and-mouth-disease-2007-a-review-and-lessons-learned
[51] gov.uk/government/groups/animal-health-and-welfare-board-for-england-ahwbe

strategic policy framework, using it as the basis for day-to-day advice to ministers and day-to-day operational actions.

4.80 The board's responsibilities include:

- developing and implementing animal health and welfare policy and ensuring value for money
- assessing of the risk of threats from animal disease and what the surveillance and research priorities should be
- monitoring the regulatory framework
- approving the operational plans of the APHA and other bodies
- reviewing contingency plans for dealing with new disease outbreaks.

Smarter Rules for Safer Food Package UK Executive Steering Group

4.81 Following publication of the Smarter Rules for Safer Food package of proposals in May 2013, a UK Executive Steering Group was established to help guide EU negotiations to achieve desired UK outcomes across the package. The Animal Health Regulation base text has now been published (31 March 2016) and the Plant Health and Official Controls Regulations are expected during the course of 2016. The Steering Group, which involves senior representation from Defra, Devolved Administrations and the FSA, will help guide the implementation phase of the package. Its responsibilities include setting direction for and owning package goals and plans to deliver them, owning and mitigating top package levels risks and issue and engaging senior officials in other government departments on specific issues and with Ministers as appropriate.

Coordinating work on biosecurity across Defra and its agencies

4.82 Biosecurity risks arise from various activities – for example from importing commodities and live animals, through movement of passengers, or risks can occur naturally. Defra assesses and manages the risks posed by thousands of pests, diseases and invasive non-native species. These risks are constantly evolving as risk pathways change, whether due to climate change, trade patterns or other factors. While Defra recognise that biosecurity risks can never be eliminated completely, evidence-informed, proportionate, risk-based measures can help mitigate and manage these risks. Outbreaks of animal, aquatic, plant disease, or incursions of invasive non-native species, can have a significant impact in the UK. For example, since 2000, the costs of exotic notifiable animal disease outbreaks have ranged from £2 million to

£3 billion. The current estimate of the annual cost of invasive non-native species to the UK economy is £1.7 billion, from decreased yields as well as the costs of dealing with pests and diseases, and research. Action to mitigate these impacts, by Government, industry, the voluntary sector and the public, can be an important factor in reducing impacts – only through working together the UK can be properly protected from the threats.

4.83 Defra are currently assessing approaches to the risks and issues related to biosecurity, covering animal (including bees), plant, and aquatic animal health, and invasive non-native species, across the continuum of activities on biosecurity – pre-border, at the border and within the UK. Monthly Biosecurity meetings are held with senior officials and Ministers as a forum for highlighting new and changing risks affecting animals and plants, and including invasive non-native species.

Aquatic animal health co-ordination

4.84 A number of mechanisms are in place:

- Annual Stakeholder Meeting - This provides a forum for discussion of major policy issues (including contingency planning) between Defra and the other Agriculture/Rural Affairs Departments, the NRLs, other interested bodies, and the industry.
- NRL meetings - These enable Inspectorate and diagnostic services staff to liaise in respect of inspection and control programmes, the development of contingency plans and the consistent application of diagnostic techniques.
- Aquatic Animal Health and Movements GOV. UK website[52] - This website provides information across the range of aquatic animal health matters, from disease control advice to rules on importation of fish and shellfish from other countries. DAERA provides similar information in respect of NI on its website[53].
- Advisory Services - The Inspectorates at Cefas, MSS and DAERA provide advice during inspections and by way of monitoring programmes and laboratory advisory services.
- APHA BIP Portal Meetings - These are organised by APHA and provide Cefas with a forum for ensuring consistency in the application of official controls on third country imports, exploring industry-wide concerns and facilitate liaison between BIP staff and the FHIs.

52 gov.uk/search?q=aquatic+animal+health

53 daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/introduction-aquaculture

Bee health co-ordination

4.85 Defra co-ordinates bee health policy on behalf of the UK and does this through planned meetings and informal discussions. Defra engages with beekeeping associations in implementing the Healthy Bees Plan[54] through the Bee Health Advisory Forum. The Plan is aimed at protecting and sustaining bee health in England and Wales between 2009-19 and was developed in collaboration with the Welsh Government and the beekeeping associations and other interested parties. There are regular reviews of the Plan's priorities. The Scottish Government, together with representatives from the Scottish Beekeepers Association and the Bee Farmers Association have produced an equivalent plan entitled *The Honey Bee Health Strategy*[55]. The Scottish Government is also official observer at Defra's Bee Health Advisory Forum.

4.86 In NI DAERA is engaging with the Ulster Beekeepers Association and the Institute of NI Beekeepers in implementing *The Strategy for the Sustainability of the Honey Bee*[56].

Co-ordination and co-operation in the plant health sector

4.87 As the 'single authority' for the UK under the Plant Health Directive (2000/29/EC), Defra's Plant Health Policy Programme liaises closely with the other competent plant health authorities within the UK. There are formal co-ordination meetings every six months and regular contact on specific issues.

4.88 With regard to the EU and working with the equivalent services in the other Member States, notifications of interceptions of pests and diseases and other instances of non-compliance are sent to the European Commission using the Europhyt notification system (European Network of Plant Health Information Systems) as required under Directive 2000/29/EC. If the interception is of immediate concern and/or if emergency action is being taken, the Commission is informed by letter. This system ensures that issues are brought to the attention of all Member States. The UK uses the same system to notify interceptions in material moving within the EU. This information is copied to the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organisation (EPPO) which represents 50 countries in Europe. Reports of new pest outbreaks are added to the International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP), the

54 nationalbeeunit.com/index.cfm?sectionid=41
55 gov.scot/Resource/Doc/315919/0100471.pdf.
56 daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/strategy-sustainability-honey-bee

website of the International Plant Protection Convention, thus ensuring that all trading partners are informed.

4.89 In addition to this, DAERA has regular meetings with Plant Health officials in the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine in the Republic of Ireland and maintains close contact on issues of mutual interest.

Chapter 5 – Emergency and Contingency Planning and Mutual Assistance

Contingency plans in the feed and food sector

5.1 Co-ordination and co-operation of the various authorities is particularly important in the case of emergencies and various contingency plans are in place to deal with such events. These contingency arrangements are outlined below.

FSA and FSS

5.2 The FSA's Non- Routine Incidents Management Plan (IMP) outlines the procedures that should be followed by Agency staff during non-routine food and feed incidents. The FSA classifies incidents in terms of the scale of resource required to manage the incident and levels of management authority. FSA classifications are: Routine, Serious, Severe or Major. A Major incident would be part of a central co-ordinated Government emergency response. The document describes notification, command and control, escalation, and communication procedures during incidents and gives guidance on arrangements for working with other Government Departments / Agencies, stakeholders and enforcement partners during an incident.

5.3 The IMP is supported by a Routine Incident Plan and a series of Standard Operating Procedures. The Routine Incident Plan provides guidance for FSA staff on Operational level incident response and details risk management options for routine incidents. The FSA incident response is continuous across England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The MoU in place between the FSA FSS provides for the management of incidents under the FSA's Incident management plan. Where the impact of an incident does not extend beyond Scotland it will be managed under the FSS incident management plan. The FSA and FSS maintain regular contact on incident handling and have agreed to work on joint emergency exercises to test the integrity of their plans. The FSA IMP is available at: food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/FSA%20Incident%20Management%20Plan.pdf.

5.4 FSS's Non-Routine Incident Management Plan was published in May 2015 and outlines FSS's processes in the event of a non-routine food and feed incident. The document is aligned with the FSA IMP with regard to incident classification and describes notification, escalation and communications

procedures within a two-tier command and control structure. The FSS Non-Routine Incident Management Plan is available at: foodstandards.gov.scot/incident-management-plan

5.5 FSA Operations (responsible in England and Wales for official controls in approved meat establishments subject to veterinary audit) has in place practiced contingency arrangements for dealing with outbreaks of notifiable diseases such as Foot and Mouth Disease, Avian Influenza and Blue Tongue. These plans, which will be reviewed and tested on a regular basis, form part of the FSA's business continuity plan. The FSA Operations Senior Management Team is the strategic decision making body, and lower level contingency teams are responsible for tactical decisions. FSS Operations have similar contingency arrangements in place which are reflected in the SLA between SG and FSS for animal health and welfare official controls in approved meat establishments, which includes provision for the designation of premises for the slaughter of animals in the event of a disease outbreak when required.

5.6 Close links have also been established with a number of other Departments/Agencies to ensure a rapid and co-ordinated response during incidents/emergencies (there are Service Level Agreements or Memoranda of Understanding with many of them). This includes Defra, the EA, the APHA, Cefas and SRUC.[57] Information and instructions are transmitted to local authorities via RASFF (see para 4.22).

VMD

5.7 With regard to medicated feedingstuffs and Specified Feed Additives (SFAs), contingency planning is included in the VMD Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). When a feed safety incident involving animal feedingstuffs placed on the market is identified the Inspector should inform the Head of Investigations and Inspection Team and the Feed Branch of the VMD immediately, who will then notify the FSA or FSS if necessary. With regard to residues, VMD in conjunction with relevant authorities, operate a food safety incident scheme which ensures that animals with excessive residues of veterinary medicines or banned substances do not enter the food chain.

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

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[57] More information on the SRUC is available at: sruc.ac.uk/.

CRD

5.9 CRD has drawn up a Pesticide Residues Emergency Plan, and is responsible for maintaining it. The plan summarises procedures to be followed in the event of incidents of potential food safety concern involving pesticide residues, for which CRD generally has lead responsibility. These include emergency action resulting from monitoring and enforcement activities and arising from spillages (including into waterways), misuse or abuse of pesticides, or contamination from an unknown origin. It also details procedures for dealing with acute safety implications arising from contaminated imports, normally reported via RASFF (Rapid Alert System for Food & Feed) for which FSA takes lead responsibility, but involving CRD in risk assessment and dissemination of information.

5.10 If there are issues relating to food safety, CRD liaises closely with the FSA or FSS Incidents Branch, which would be responsible for any product recall.

DAERA

5.11 DAERA maintains contingency plan for animal feed which is agreed with the FSA. DAERA also maintains Egg Hygiene and Dairy Hygiene Incident Support Protocols, which define DAERA's service to FSA in supporting FSA led dairy and egg hygiene indcient management arrnagments. These are also agreed with FSA. These plans are reviewed and tested regularly and staff trained as necessary.

Local authorities

5.12 Local authorities are required by the relevant Food Law Code of Practice (see Appendix K) to set up and implement documented procedures for dealing with incidents and emergencies in respect of food or feed. Serious incidents resulting in, for example, an outbreak of foodborne illness should be immediately notified to the appropriate agency or agencies such as PHE and the FSA or FSS. Local authorities should also carry out an assessment to determine the likely scale, extent and severity of the risk to public health or safety involving other agencies as appropriate.

Contingency plans in the animal health sector

Notifiable exotic animal diseases

5.13 Each country in the UK produces their own Contingency Plan that sets out the structures and systems used to co-ordinate an effective response within its own jurisdiction. However, co-operation and co-ordination between the Administrations is crucial to effective and early disease control and to enable disease free status to be recovered without delay. The UK Contingency plan[58] provides an overview of the response to an outbreak of exotic notifiable disease at UK level. The plan highlights how the Administrations work together to provide a rapid and effective response and contains details on the structures, roles and responsibilities that are activated during an outbreak.

5.14 In England, as part of Defra's emergency preparedness for exotic notifiable diseases of animals, Defra and APHA prepare and maintain the Defra Contingency Plan for Exotic Notifiable Diseases of Animals[59]. Scotland, Wales[60] and NI have similar complementary plans. Each plan sets out the operational response that each Government, their agencies and partners will put in place to deal with any occurrence of Foot and Mouth Disease, Avian Influenza or Newcastle Disease. The plans are also applicable to all other notifiable exotic diseases of animals. The plans highlight the activities and processes that ensure a high level of preparedness for an outbreak of an exotic notifiable disease.

5.15 These plans are subject to on-going revision based on the latest developments in science and epidemiological modelling, feedback from stakeholders and operational partners and the lesson learned from exercises and incidents. The Scottish Government model is based on a single generic contingency framework plan[61]. Control concepts and responses to specific exotic disease are appended as separate annexes. The Scottish Government's Exotic Animal Disease Communications Strategy, which complements the framework plan, sets out the strategic objectives of all communication aspects in a disease control response.

5.16 In accordance with the requirements of relevant EU legislation, the Contingency Plan is tested and validated at least twice in a five year period by means of a major UK-wide exercise unless there is an outbreak of notifiable exotic disease in the UK. APHA also operates a programme of centrally co-ordinated country and regional animal disease exercises, including unannounced exercises in order to rehearse and test APHA's emergency

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

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

60 wales.gov.uk/topics/environmentcountryside/ahw/contingencyplanning/contingency-plan-exotic-animal-diseases-20131/?lang=en .

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

preparedness to deal effectively with outbreaks of animal disease at the local level. This programme is delivered in liaison with Defra, the Scottish Government, the Welsh Government, other Government Departments, operational partners and key stakeholders. Each county and region must take part in at least one local exercise a year and rehearse the plans for one of the eight exotic notifiable diseases that are deemed to be of highest priority for contingency planning purposes. In Northern Ireland DAERA delivers a similar programme of annual contingency exercises designed to rehearse and test DAERA's emergency preparedness. The programme follows a 3 year rolling cycle covering ruminant, pig and avian diseases.

5.17 Local authorities have their own local contingency plans based on a template developed centrally and are closely linked to the Defra, Scottish Government and Welsh Government Plans.

Aquatic animal health

5.18 Defra (Cefas), Welsh Government NR, MS and DAERA have contingency plans in place covering the entire UK and are responsible for the maintenance and testing of these plans. The plans deal with outbreaks of serious exotic diseases of aquatic animals (e.g. Gyrodactylosis caused by *Gyrodactylus salaris*, infectious haematopoietic necrosis and viral haemorrhagic septicaemia). The England and Wales aquatic animal health operational plan can be found at:
webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140305110253/http:/www.defra.gov.uk/aahm/files/Cefas-Disease-Outbreak-Operations-Manual.pdf
The Scottish Contingency Plan for *Gyrodactylus salaris* can be viewed at: gov.scot/Resource/Doc/1062/0115961.pdf.

5.19 DAERA's fish health contingency plans provide for trans-border arrangements with the South of Ireland. DAERA works closely with DAFM and the Marine Institute on a range of aquatic health issues.

Bee health

5.20 A contingency plan for England and Wales has been developed for incidents involving the notifiable pests, small hive beetle and tropilaelaps mites, and this plan can be used as a template for any new exotic pests/ diseases in the future. In the event of an outbreak, NBU is responsible for managing the outbreak at operational level. The Unit will involve Defra's Bee Health Policy team and the Welsh Government and, following confirmation, the Scottish Government, DAERA and relevant stakeholders. Defra's Bee Health Policy Team is responsible for notifying the European Commission and the Office International des Epizooties (the world organisation for animal health) within

24 hours of the confirmation of the primary outbreak of a notifiable pest or disease through Defra's CVO. Liaison will continue with the Devolved Administrations and the Commission whilst necessary control procedures are put in place. Defra, the Welsh Government and the NBU are responsible for maintaining and testing the plan and disseminating it to stakeholders. A similar contingency plan has been developed and published by SG AFRC. DAERA also has a Bee Health contingency plan for NI[62]. A response plan has also been developed for the possible arrival of the Asian Hornet[63] (*Vespa veluntina)* in England and Wales. This will be replaced by a specific contingency plan.

Contingency plans in the plant health sector

5.21 In England and Wales, APHA's Plant Health and Seeds Inspectors operate through a series of SOPs analogous to contingency plans, which are also made available to other parts of the plant health services. These are not available through a public website. Scotland and NI have generic plant health contingency plans – these can be accessed at: gov.scot/Topics/farmingrural/Agriculture/plant/PlantHealth/PlantDiseases/ContingencyPlans. daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/plant-health-contingency-plan-2012

5.22 Following the creation and implementation of a plant health risk register, further work is underway to develop contingency plans for pests identified on the risk register as presenting the highest risk. Existing plans are being reviewed and updated in line with international standards. New plans have been drafted for priority pests. The plan for Potato Spindle Tuber viroid is due to be published in spring 2016. Further work is being undertaken to bring the generic contingency plan into line with other national level emergency plans and stakeholders will be consulted.

5.23 The Forestry Commission has developed a generic contingency plan. A pest-specific was brought into action for a new outbreak of Oak Processionary Moth detected in 2015. forestry.gov.uk/website/forestry.nsf/byunique/infd-74ce39.

Mutual assistance

[62] daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/2013-bee-health-contingency-plan-amended
[63] The Asian hornet is not a notifiable pest of honey bees

5.24 Arrangements are in place in the UK to fulfil the requirements set out in EU Regulation 882/2004 on administrative assistance and co-operation in the areas of feed and food. These requirements aim to ensure mutual assistance and co-operation between the competent authorities of the different Member States and with the European Commission so that they may work together where the results of enforcement controls indicate that action is needed in more than one country. This is separate to the arrangements concerning food hazards and incidents that are communicated via the Commission's RASFF system[64] but is rather for dealing with more routine matters.

5.25 The arrangements are effectively set out for UK local authorities dealing with food law enforcement in the Food Law Codes of Practice and associated Practice Guidance for each of the four UK countries (these are available at: food.gov.uk/enforcement/enforcework/foodlawcop/), foodstandards.gov.scot/food-law-code-practice-2015.
For those local authorities in GB dealing with feed, similar advice is included in the Feed Law Code of Practice and, for DAERA in the Feed Law Enforcement Guidance in NI (these are available at: food.gov.uk/enforcement/enforcework/feedlawcop/) and foodstandards.gov.scot/feed-law-code-practice-2016.

5.26 To facilitate assistance, each Member State is required to designate a 'liaison body' to act as the first point of communication for transmission and reception of requests for assistance. In the UK, the FSA performs this role. Defra has regular contact with the FSA on veterinary issues where they have an impact on feed or food safety.

5.27 As NI has a land border with the Republic of Ireland, the FSA has regular contact and partnership working arrangements with the Republic's Food Safety Authority (FSAI), Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) and the Sea Fisheries Protection Authority.

[64] More information on RASFF is available at: ec.europa.eu/food/food/rapidalert/index_en.htm.

Chapter 6 – Arrangements for Audit of Competent Authorities

Monitoring and auditing performance

6.1 Responsibility for monitoring and verifying compliance with feed and food law, and enforcement of its requirements, is divided between:

- the FSA, FSS and local and port health authorities;
- Defra (and its agencies); and
- Devolved Agriculture Departments.

FSA and FSS

Audit Scheme for local and port health authorities

6.2 The FSA and FSS have statutory powers to monitor and audit authorities that enforce legislation for which it is responsible. Based on these powers, established Audit Schemes for local and port health authorities are in place. These audit schemes assess performance of local and port health authorities against specific standards and identify good practice.

6.3 The FSA in England, Wales and NI and FSS in Scotland each co-ordinate their own audit programme, co-operating and sharing information to unify plans and documentation where possible. Full details of the Audit Scheme are published on the FSA website at: food.gov.uk/enforcement/auditandmonitoring/ and foodstandards.gov.scot/food-safety-standards/regulation-and-enforcement-food-laws-scotland/audit-and-monitoring

6.4 The Audit Scheme provides a means to assess conformity with the Standard in the Framework Agreement, identify under-performance in local authority delivery of feed and food enforcement services and monitor improvements. It also assists in the idenfication and dissemination of good practice. It provides information for FSA and FSS policy and promotes conformance with standards, guidance or Codes of Practice.

Audit programme

6.5 Risk-based annual audit plans reflect current and anticipated audit priorities. Local authority monitoring and enforcement data, together with relevant sources of wider information, inform national audit priorities. Plans involve a combination of horizontal audits across all areas of a specific local authority's feed and food law enforcement activity, and focused audits (vertical or partial audits) assess in detail specific aspects of enforcement activity. The audit programmes for FSA are published in advance on the FSA's website.

6.6 The audit arrangements are organised by audit teams in each of the FSA's devolved national offices and in FSS. In Wales, local authorities are subject to full audits as part of a three-year programme. These are supplemented by a programme of focused audits, often in conjunction with other UK audits. In England and Scotland the approach involves an assessment of the performance of all local authorities using the Local Authority Enforcement Monitoring System (LAEMS) data in delivering their food hygiene services. Authorities are then prioritised for follow-up audit actions ranging from full on-site audits to focused audits, one day audit visits and desktop assessments. Audit activity of various types is carried out on around 60 – 70 authorities per annum in England, depending on the nature and scope of audit priorities and related programmes. All local authorities in Scotland are unitary and are visited within the five year requirement.

Dissemination of good practice

6.7 In England the FSA works through regional teams to disseminate good practice identified through audit to local authorities. In Wales, good practice is disseminated by the FSA through its Local Authority Support Team to local authorities at local, regional and national meetings, to the Expert Panels and through email communications. In Scotland, the audit reports published by FSS highlight good practice. The findings of audits are published in report format on the FSA and FSS's websites. In addition, the findings from audit programmes inform development of national initiatives aimed at improving service delivery. Good practice is disseminated through newsletters, "top tips" documents arising from audit findings, regional food and feed group meetings and specific business initiatives.

6.8 Full details of the Audit Scheme are included in the Framework Agreement on Official Feed and Food Controls by Local Authorities at: food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/enforcement/frameworkagreementno5.pdf.

6.9 The Audit Scheme is closely linked to the FSA's LAEMS, details can be found at: food.gov.uk/enforcement/monitoring/laems/.

Independent scrutiny

6.10 The arrangements for independent scrutiny through the FSA's Audit and Risk Committee are currently under review. In Scotland this scrutiny is through the Audit and Risk Committee. Audit programmes in England and Wales are subject to agreement from the FSA Operations Senior Management Team to whom results and trends are reported.

Audit arrangements where the FSA and FSS has direct responsibility for delivery of official controls

6.11 The FSA Internal Audit team has primary responsibility for audit of official controls where the FSA has direct responsibility for their delivery. These audit arrangements also cover controls delivered on the FSA's behalf under SLAs or MoUs where the Agreement does not expressly provide for audits to be undertaken on behalf of the FSA. Official controls are audited using a systematic process, subject to independent scrutiny, taking account of Commission legislation and guidance against an agreed standard on a risk-based frequency. The terms of the SLAs and MoUs are taken into account in carrying out the audits. Good practice is identified and disseminated where appropriate.

6.12 Audits of meat hygiene official controls enforced on behalf of the FSA by DAERA (VS-VPHP) are conducted jointly between the FSA Internal Audit Team and the FSA NI audit team. Other controls enforced by DAERA AFIB on behalf of the FSA (e.g. liquid milk and eggs) are audited by the FSA NI audit team.

6.13 Audit of FSS's delivery of official controls in meat establishments is currently carried out by the FSA Internal Audit Team.

6.14 The FSA Internal Audit team includes veterinarians and technical experts, trained in systems auditing, and is managed by a qualified auditor who reports to the FSA Head of Internal Audit. There is also a specialised Audit team within the FSA NI office responsible for audits of DAERA (VS-VPHP) and local authorities whose auditors are trained in systems-based auditing. The team comprises a mixture of auditors and other technical experts. Other experts may supplement the teams.

6.15 The audits determine whether:

- FSA operations, practices and activities comply with the requirements in the Manual for Official Controls (MOC), other relevant guidance, legislation and codes of practice and are meeting the objectives of the

legislation. The MOC can be found at: food.gov.uk/enforcement/approved-premises-official-controls/manual

- DAERA (VS-VPHP) is complying with the VS-VPHP MOC and the relevant legislation. The MOC can be found at daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/veterinary-public-health-unit-manual-official-controls
- FSS operational delivery activity is complying with the Scottish Manual for Official Controls (MOC), which is available at: foodstandards.gov.scot/manual-official-controls-moc

Audit process

6.16 Audit work includes preparatory work, on-site audit, and also post-audit work. On-site the approach involves reality checks through interviews with the relevant FSA/ FSS/ DAERA officials, observation of official control activities, informal discussion with the Food Business Operator (FBO) and staff and examination of a sample of relevant records. The evidence gathered is used to assess the effectiveness of control systems.

Reporting arrangements and follow-up

6.17 Reports are produced following each audit or collated for each audit programme. Each report summarises audit findings and includes an action plan which details agreed management action and dates for implementing the actions. The reports are presented to the FSA Chief Executive, Chair of the FSA Audit Committee and Director of Operations and in the case of FSS, to the FSS Chief Executive, Director of Operations, and Audit and Risk Committee (ARC). A report summarising the status of all audits in the annual programme and progress on implementation of agreed audit recommendations is presented to the FSA Audit committee quarterly meeting for discussion.

6.18 The annual programme of audits includes follow-up audits and progress checks to assess implementation of agreed recommendations.

Transparency

6.19 To ensure transparency of the internal audit process, stakeholders within the FSA are consulted in relation to the annual programme of audits and terms of reference for individual audit assignments. They also have access, as appropriate, to audit checklists and reports, and are afforded the opportunity to comment on reports before these are issued.

Independent scrutiny

6.20 Independent scrutiny of the audit processes for Internal Audits and audits of DAERA conducted by the FSA NI is provided by the FSA Audit Committee, a sub-committee of the FSA Board. The FSS ARC performs a similar function in Scotland. Audits of DAERA AFIB are also discussed by meetings of the DAERA governance group. The FSA NI Director represents the FSA NI on the group.

VMD

Medicated feed and SFAs

6.21 Annual inspection returns are made to the Commission via the FSA. The Head of VMD's Inspections and Investigations Team monitors, and supervises the work of the other five inspectors and conducts internal audits on performance. Inspection details and outcomes are entered onto the database. Internal Audit is conducted by the VMD's external provider.

Veterinary residue surveillance

6.22 VMD Internal Audit is provided by an external provider, requiring audits of all work areas, including veterinary residue surveillance, to be carried out once every five years. The VMD is audited against EU legislation requirements and audit arrangements are scrutinised by the Audit and Risk committee which sees the final reports. Where recommendations for changes are made, follow-up checks are carried out within 12 months of the original audit. The audits also aim to identify good practice.

6.23 A programme of on-site audits of all agencies involved in sample collection has been drawn up. The VMD monitors performance via its database, which enables actual performance to be checked against Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). Depending on level of compliance found it is anticipated that routine visits will be made every two to three years. Where serious shortcomings are detected an action plan will be required to implement changes and a further audit visit is anticipated once the plan has been completed.

6.24 In NI, representatives of the analytical services, VS and Food Policy Branch of DAERA and FSA meet monthly to discuss progress of planned samples with their plan and residues related issues. Quarterly reports on overall performance against the plan are provided to the VMD's Director of Operation Division.

6.25 APHA collects on-farm samples on behalf of VMD. APHA Technical Team Leaders are informed of any unsatisfactory samples submitted by field staff so that issues can be followed up as appropriate. Reports of investigations of non-compliant test results are copied to the national Lead Veterinary Officer for audit. A national database is maintained of tests undertaken.

Antimicrobial resistance

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

CRD

6.27 CRD's annual monitoring programme is split into four report periods. All contracts and SLAs have milestones relating to the control plan timetable for the year. Performance of sample collection bodies is monitored every two weeks. Analytical progress is monitored quarterly when analytical results are peer reviewed.

6.28 The competent authority assigns project managers to monitor performance with controls bodies. Specific personnel are identified as project managers in the control bodies. Delivery success against the published timetable of reports is only possible with close co-operation between the competent authority and the control bodies.

6.29 Audits cover propriety and security in addition to those performed around CRD's various regulatory and financial functions. Audit recommendations are considered by the Directorate Management Team and progress against the recommendations is reviewed on a quarterly basis. CRD accepts the annual UKAS audit as evidence of the technical and organisational capability of the official laboratories.

Defra and its agencies

Defra

6.30 At the central level, Defra Internal Audit, the Devolved Administrations and delivery partners have agreed on the assurance and consistency of approach required in their respective areas of responsibility under Regulation (EC) 882/2004.

6.31 Defra Internal Audit operates in line with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS) and provides an independent appraisal function across the department. Responsibility for commissioning and completion of official controls in areas where Defra has responsibility rests with the respective Policy Divisions and their delivery agents. The role of Defra Internal Audit is to ensure, through a programme of audit activity, that the work has been completed and meets relevant standards. Agency audit teams carry out similar work where Defra's Agencies have responsibility for carrying out official controls.

6.32 Defra Internal Audit has developed an audit strategy to provide assurance on official control functions for which Defra is responsible. The strategy ensures that all major aspects of this work are fully reviewed on a risk basis. For each piece of work, a report, including any actions/recommendations for improvement is produced and circulated as required. Defra audit reports are presented to the relevant Director General and summarised for the Permanent Secretary and the Defra Audit and Risk Committee.

6.33 Audit programmes are drawn up annually on a risk basis and are subject to on-going review.

6.34 Defra Internal Audit co-ordinates production of an Annual Report summarising audit activity and results.

6.35 To ensure a co-ordinated approach to audit across the animal health and welfare elements of the MANCP, FSA Internal Audit and Defra Internal Audit arrange meetings with relevant staff from Defra Policy (including its delivery partners APHA, RPA, Fera and VMD), FSA Policy as well as the auditors from Devolved Administrations. The objectives of these meetings are to ensure consistent audit coverage and to identify best practice.

6.36 Defra and FSA Internal Audit have developed an assurance map of Official Feed and Food Controls. This clearly sets out the scope of the controls and the organisation responsible for policy and audit of delivery with the purpose of identifying the sources of assurance and supporting the development of the audit programme.

6.37 Independent scrutiny of the audit processes for Internal Audit is provided by, and to, the Audit Committee (a sub-committee of the Board) of each organisation.

APHA in England and Wales

6.38 APHA is updating assurance arrangements across all areas of its business, including internal audit arrangements, based on the three lines of defence model:

- APHA has comprehensive instructions in place; staff are trained in their duties, are expected to follow procedures and their competence is assessed regularly by line managers. There are specialist lead veterinarians for specific work areas and networks of expertise to provide advice.
- APHA is reviewing internal assurance arrangements currently focused on critical operational areas, such as Border Inspection Posts, imports, Animal By-products and Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) testing. Field audits of TB testing and Witnessed Inspections across critical areas of animal and plant health and animal welfare work also provide assurance and identify where issues need to be addressed.
- APHA has independent and objective audits carried out by external third parties including United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS), the Lloyds Certification Body, the National Audit Office (NAO) and Food and Veterinary Office of the EU.

6.39 APHA Plant Health and Seed Inspectorate (PHSI) passporting activities and import inspections are accredited for compliance with ISO 17020 with an internal audit team ensure an annual review and audit programme are maintained.

6.40 The laboratory side of APHA is accredited to ISO 17025 and has ISO 9001 certification and in specialised areas complies with the principles of Good Laboratory Practice, Good Manufacturing Practice and Good Distribution Practice. There are Internal Audit arrangements in place.

6.41 During the course of the 2014-15 business year a review has been carried out of APHA's internal quality assurance (QA) arrangements on the operational delivery side of the business. Improvement proposals have been developed and the intention following successful pilots will provide systematic, consistent and risk-based assurance measures during business year 2015-16, with subsequent roll-out in year 2016-17 across GB operations.

6.42 APHA now has an Operations Quality Assurance Committee which will set the strategic approach and provide guidance in prioritising these controls and assess outcomes of the Quality Assurance Programme.

Cefas

6.43 Cefas operates a system of internal control, which supports the achievement of Cefas' policies, aims and objectives. The internal control system has been designed to manage risk to a reasonable level. There is an Audit & Risk Assurance Committee constituted to give advice on the adequacy of internal and external audit arrangements, and on the implications of the assurances provided in respect of internal control and risk management. Regular reports are made by internal audit, to Government Audit Standards, which includes the Head of Internal audit's independent opinion on the adequacy of the Agency's system of governance, internal control and the system of risk management, together with recommendations for improvement.

6.44 For Cefas official control duties, the audit is at the level of UKAS (to ensure accredited standards are being met), management within Cefas (to ensure standards, timelines and objectives are met in accordance with the requirements in the MoU between Cefas and Defra) and external assessment of performance by the policy lead within Defra.

Bee laboratory services

6.45 Fera's quality team conducts periodical internal audits of the NBU's laboratory operation under ISO 9001. The purpose of the Quality Systems Team is to ensure that the requirements of the quality systems are maintained, and that the systems are expanded in response to the business needs of Fera. This is achieved by providing guidance to the staff involved on the requirements of the respective regulations, by monitoring that the standards are being maintained and by the prompt reporting of deficiencies to management by a mixture of informal and formal meetings and reports. The aim is to evaluate continually the processes employed to meet these requirements in order to provide an effective service more efficiently, competently and in a timely manner. The NBU is aiming to achieve ISO accreditation for their foulbrood controls. In Scotland, SASA's bee health laboratory operates under a quality assurance system (Q.A) certified to ISO9001; both internal and external audits are carried out regularly and systems are reviewed on an annual basis.

RPA

6.46 The Internal Audit Unit within the RPA is independent of the business and reports directly to the Accounting Officer. Internal Audit evaluates and gives their opinion on RPA's systems of risk management, control and governance to the Accounting Officer with a view to supporting the preparation of the Governance Statement. Internal Audit has a robust process in place, which includes agreeing management actions (to mitigate the residual risk of findings made during the audit activity) with the audit sponsor (senior management), and following up all agreed management actions to ascertain whether they have been implemented. Internal Audit also reports to the RPA Audit Committee which reviews workplans, audit reports and agreed management actions.

6.47 The main driver for RPA's Internal Audit Unit is IA activities in accreditation Regulation 885/2006[65], as most of their audits are planned and delivered in accordance with those requirements. RPA Internal Audit also meets the requirements of Regulation (EC) 882/2004 and Commission Decision 2006/677. The internal audit plan covers all significant systems at least once within a five-year timescale and look to give coverage to significant business risks. New systems would be covered early in their implementation because it could be argued that a new regime is of higher risk than an established one, and it is in the business interest to be notified of any issues of concern sooner rather than later. The Internal Audit Unit also currently has audit responsibility for the BCMS.

Local authorities

6.48 During 2010 and 2011 Defra Internal Audit completed reviews to clarify the current level of compliance with the audit requirements of Regulation 882/2004.

6.49 The delivery landscape in local government is complex and audit arrangements by the competent authority of areas of activity undertaken by local authorities of the animal health and welfare function reflect this.

6.50 Included in the animal health function within LAs is responsibility to enforce Defra responsibilities under Regulation 882/2004 in relation to AH&W controls. Following change in LAs funding models their approach to these roles have

[65] Commission Regulation (EC) No 885/2006 of 21 June 2006 laying down detailed rules for the application of Council Regulation (EC) No 1290/2005 as regards the accreditation of paying agencies and other bodies and the clearance of the accounts of the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund and of the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development. Official Journal L 171, 23. 6. 2006, 90-110.

altered and became more risk focused. The Farm Visits Project, which is to deliver the Prime Minister's manifesto commitment and to meet the Secretary of State's targets for reduction in farm inspections, is reviewing the effectiveness and risk basis of selecting farm visits and is further developing intelligence sharing between official organisations. This may impact on the volume of work carried out by the LAs on behalf of Defra. As progress is made on this project Defra will provide the FVO with further updates, in particular implications of the project in relation to audit arrangements.

Devolved Administrations

Scottish Government

6.51 Scottish Government Internal Audit Directorate (SG IAD) provides an independent appraisal function across the Directorate for Agriculture, Food and Rural Communities (AFRC) which has responsibility for certain official controls functions. As part of its rolling programme of work, SGIAD undertakes regular reviews of controls in the different schemes operated by the AFRC. Annual internal audit plans for the coverage of these schemes, together with reports on the scope and outcome of audit reviews, are considered by the Enterprise and Environment Audit and Risk Committee.

6.52 In line with the on-going UK Official Control Mapping exercise, IAD's OFFC Strategy and Plan relates specifically to areas where the SG is the OFFC Competent Authority. It sets out the methodology and related audit activity for the delivery of audit assurance on the framework of control operating within the SG, and other responsible bodies. The strategy has been developed in accordance with Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS) to which UK Government auditors are required to work. A risk based internal audit programme is currently being developed through consultation with the Scottish Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) to replace the existing 5 year OFFC IAD rolling-programme. This will cover SG IAD's OFFC work in line with Article 4(6) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004.

Welsh Government

6.53 The Corporate Governance and Assurance (CG&A) Division which sits within the Office of the First Minister and Cabinet, includes the branches of the European Funds Audit Team (EFAT) and Internal Audit Services (IAS). Its objective is to deliver a balanced assurance to their Accounting Officers, and its Audit Strategy aims to address areas of risk, in the course of a five-year period, including official controls functions. CG&A is responsible for delivering the annual audit plans for the Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer (OCVO)

and the Agriculture, Food and Marine Directorate, all of whom sit within the Economy, Skills and Natural Resources (ESNR) Group. Their reports are considered by the Welsh Government and the ESNR Audit and Risk Committees. CG&A operates in accordance with the PSIAS issued by HM Treasury.

6.54 The Head of CG&A's aim is to provide the Accounting Officer and each Deputy Permanent Secretary with a sufficient level of audit coverage to enable the provision of a reliable annual opinion on the controls in operation from the systems examined. Each year, CG&A revisit the Audit Needs Assessment (ANA) and select the high level and medium risk areas they consider to be most appropriate for inclusion in the annual audit plan.

6.55 A separate five-year audit strategy running from 2015 to 2020 has been developed to specifically cover areas under the Official Food and Feed Controls

DAERA

6.56 DAERA inspectors have management checks, based on risk, carried out at local level, HQ level and by both internal and external auditors.

6.57 DAERA Internal Audit Unit operates in line with PSIAS and provides an independent appraisal function across the department. DAERA Internal Audit has developed an audit strategy to provide assurance on official control functions for which DAERA is responsible. The strategy will ensure that all major aspects of this work are fully reviewed in risk-based audits at least once during a five year period. For each piece of work, a report, including any recommendations for improvements, will be produced for senior management. A follow up on all recommendations is made to ascertain whether they have been implemented. Internal Audit also reports to the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee (ARAC) who review annual plans and reports.

Appendix A – Designation of competent authorities in the UK

The table below provides details of the competent authorities in the UK that have responsibility for official controls in respect of feed and food law, and animal health and animal welfare rules.[66] Copies of all legal instruments may be downloaded from the website at: legislation.gov.uk/

Responsible Department	Relevant legislation	Designated competent authorities
FSA	The Official Feed and Food Controls (England) Regulations 2009 (SI 2009/3255) and the Official Feed and Food Controls (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (SI 2011/136)	• FSA • Feed authorities (local authorities in England with responsibility for feed law enforcement) • Food authorities (local authorities in England with responsibility for food law enforcement)
FSS[67]	The Official Feed and Food Controls (Scotland) Regulations 2009 (SSI 2009/446) and the Official Feed and Food Controls (Scotland) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (SSI 2011/93)	• FSS • Feed authorities (local authorities in Scotland with responsibility for feed law enforcement) • Food authorities (local authorities in Scotland with responsibility for food law enforcement)
FSA in Wales	The Official Feed and Food Controls (Wales) Regulations 2009 (SI 2009/3376 (W.298)) and the Official Feed and Food Controls (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (SSI 2011/626 (W.90))	• FSA • Feed authorities (local authorities in Wales with responsibility for feed law enforcement) • Food authorities (local authorities in Wales with responsibility for food law enforcement)
FSA in NI	The Official Feed and Food Controls Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009 (SR 2009/427) and the Official Feed and Food Controls (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2011 (SR 2011/48)	• FSA • Feed authority (DAERA) • District councils
Defra – VMD	The Veterinary Medicines Regulations 2013 (SI2013/2033)	• Secretary of State (Defra) - for medicated feed and SFAs

[66] Where these competent authorities have particular responsibilities for monitoring and enforcing specific pieces of 'feed law' or 'food law' or specific animal health or animal welfare rules, these are set out in the relevant domestic legal measures.

[67] As of 1 April 2015.

Responsible Department	Relevant legislation	Designated competent authorities
Defra	The Official Controls (Animals, Feed and Food) (England) Regulations 2006 (SI 2006/3472)	• Secretary of State (Defra) • Local authorities
Defra-VMD	Commission Decision 2013/652/EU - on the monitoring and reporting of antimicrobial resistance in zoonotic and commensal bacteria	• Secretary of State (Defra) - AMR
SG AFRC	The Official Controls (Animals, Feed and Food) (Scotland) Regulations 2007 (SSI 2007/91)	• Scottish Ministers • Local authorities
WG NR	The Official Controls (Animals, Feed and Food) (Wales) Regulations 2007 (SI 2007/196) (W 15)	• Welsh Government Ministers • Local authorities
DAERA	The Official Controls (Animals, Feed and Food) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007 (SR 2007/133)	• DAERA • District councils

Appendix B - Food Standards Agency (FSA)/ Food Standards Scotland (FSS)

1. This Appendix concentrates on delivery areas where the FSA and FSS have direct approval or inspection responsibility, or where they have the main policy responsibility and there is less emphasis on liaison with other Competent Authorities.

Meat hygiene

Roles and responsibilities

2. The FSA and FSS Operations Division is responsible in GB for official controls in approved meat premises, including meat hygiene requirements and regulations relating to the welfare of animals at slaughter. They are responsible for verifying that FBOs comply with public health and animal health and welfare legislation in approved meat premises in GB. Where necessary the FSA and FSS takes proportionate enforcement action. Lists of approved premises can be found on the FSA and FSS websites at food.gov.uk/enforcement/sectorrules/ and foodstandards.gov.scot/approved-premises-register-march-2016

3. Both the FSA and FSS Operations Divisions have ultimate responsibility for approving establishments subject to veterinary control under food hygiene legislation[68] throughout the UK.

Control activities

4. In England and Wales approval assessments are carried out by Field Veterinary Leaders, with recommendations made to the Operations Head Veterinarian. Field Veterinary Leaders are qualified veterinary surgeons with specific expertise in the structural, equipment and operational requirements applying to meat establishments. Approvals are reviewed by the FSA and, where appropriate, recommendations made to the Operations Head Veterinarian, for the suspension or withdrawal of approvals. In August 2012, we introduced changes to audits of food business operator compliance and

[68] Detailed information on this legalisation is available at: food.gov.uk/foodindustry/regulation/hygleg/.

standards, with the establishment of a dedicated team of skilled and trained Veterinary Auditors separate from routine field operations.

5. Similar arrangements are in place in Scotland, whereby approval assessments are carried out by FSS's Veterinary Managers, with recommendations made to the FSS Head Veterinarian. Audits of food business operator compliance are conducted by fully qualified Veterinary Auditors.

6. In NI, approval assessment visits are carried out by equivalent staff from the FSA in NI, accompanied by Divisional Veterinary Officers (DVOs) responsible for the establishment.

7. The FSA and FSS provides meat inspection services 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, assuming the FBO has given due notice of requirements. The principal functions are as follows:
   - official controls in respect of regulations for fresh (red) meat;
   - official controls in respect of regulations for poultry meat, farmed game meat and wild game meat;
   - official controls in respect of regulations for meat products, minced meat and meat preparations in premises co-located with a premise requiring veterinary audit;
   - official controls in relation to rules on Specified Risk Material (SRM) – for more details see the FVO Control Systems Document at ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/controlsystems_en.cfm?co_id=GB.

8. The FSA and FSS carries out routine audits of approved meat establishments (slaughterhouses, cutting plants and game handling establishments) in Britain. In NI, these audits are carried out by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DAERA) on behalf of the FSA. These audits have two main aims:
   - to make sure that food business operators are complying with food law requirements
   - to ensure that food business operators are meeting relevant standards in relation to public health and, in slaughterhouses, animal health and welfare and more information is available at the following link: food.gov.uk/business-industry/meat/audit.

9. The principal functions the FSA and FSS perform on behalf of Defra and the Devolved Administrations in Scotland,Wales and Northern Ireland are as follows:
   - enforcement of animal welfare at slaughter legislation in approved abattoirs;
   - identification of ABP is carried out by FSA Operations Group on behalf of Defra, and by DAERA in NI;
   - collection and dispatch of samples for statutory veterinary medicines residue testing on behalf of VMD;
   - collection and dispatch of samples from cattle, sheep and goats for TSE examination and testing;
   - enforcement, in premises, of emergency controls related to animal disease outbreaks;
   - supervision of the collection and dispatch of samples from bovines for BSE examination and testing;
   - enforcement, in licensed premises, of emergency controls related to animal disease outbreaks;
   - compliance with Cattle Identification Regulations on behalf of the BCMS.

10. Meat hygiene official controls are partially financed through charges levied on FBOs and recovered from government agencies under SLAs, and also through funding provided centrally by the FSA and FSS.

Control procedures

11. The MOC details the tasks, responsibilities and duties undertaken in approved establishments, and reflects the requirements of competent authorities as laid down in Regulation 882/2004. It documents the procedures to be followed when undertaking official controls, for recording and reporting outcomes, and for taking action whenever non-compliance with legal requirements is found. A copy of the manual is available at: food.gov.uk/enforcement/approved-premises-official-controls/manual and foodstandards.gov.scot/manual-official-controls-moc . A separate Manual for Official Controls (MOC) applies in Northern Ireland. This is maintained by DAERA and details similar tasks, responsibilities and duties to those detailed in the FSA MOC.

12. The requirements of the hygiene legislation in relation to the production of meat and advice on how industry can meet these requirements are shown in the 'Guide to Food Hygiene and other Regulations for the Meat Industry' which can be found at: food.gov.uk/foodindustry/meat/guidehygienemeat.

13. Inspection Teams follow the FSA and FSS Enforcement Policies, which sets out the principles of enforcement and standards to be applied when carrying out enforcement work. The Policy is at Annex 2 of Chapter 7 (Enforcement) of the MOC, and can be found at: food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/chapter-7.pdf

Monitoring arrangements

14. A senior management team comes together on a monthly basis to review operational performance. The agenda includes finance and various analysis reports, performance monitoring, Human Resources (HR), local governance reports and review of risks. Strategic issues for England, Wales and Northern Ireland are considered by the Executive Management Team and policy issues by the FSA Board. The UK Delivery Group came into existence in April 2015, to ensure that England, Scotland (through FSS), Wales and Northern Ireland work together to maintain a collaborative and consistent approach to the development and delivery of official controls across the food and feed sectors and food business operator compliance, in the interest of protecting consumers across the UK.

15. Performance is monitored at all levels and reported quarterly to the FSA Board. Monthly performance reporting presents the overall picture and can be drilled down to determine performance at a local level.

16. In Scotland, FSS has similar monitoring arrangements in place, whereby operational performance is reviewed at monthly Operational Management Team (OMT) meetings, and at senior operational management team meetings.

17. In NI, DAERA VS-VPHP provides a similar service on behalf of the FSA under a Service Level Agreement (SLA). Detailed information on DAERA can be found at Appendix C.

SRM

18. Enforcement of SRM controls in approved slaughterhouses and cutting plants is carried out by the FSA and FSS in GB and by DAERA on behalf of the FSA in NI. Further information on SRM can be found in the CP at: ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/follow_up_en.cfm?co_id=GB.

Dairy Hygiene

Roles and responsibilities

19. Dairy hygiene inspections in England and Wales are carried out by FSA Dairy Hygiene Inspection staff.

20. Dairy Hygiene Inspectors (DHIs) report to their respective Service Delivery Manager (SDM) and are overseen by the lead DHI who provides technical advice and support to aid consistency.

21. FSS has no direct enforcement role for dairy hygiene in Scotland, as inspections are carried out by Local Authorities.

Control activities

22. FSA DHI's aim to protect the milk supply by ensuring a satisfactory standard of hygiene is maintained on farms in England and Wales. The FSA does this through monitoring and verifying compliance with, and enforcing food hygiene legislation at milk production holdings. Inspectors enforce parts of European Commission regulations 852/2004, 853/2004, 854/2004 and the Food Safety and Hygiene (England) Regulations 2013 and Food Hygiene (Wales) Regulations 2006 as amended. These regulations apply to all premises used for the production of raw milk for human consumption, and involve the registration of production premises (dairy farms), inspection of milking premises, equipment and milk-producing animals, and enforcing satisfactory standards.

23. The FSA operate a sampling programme for those premises providing Raw Cow's Drinking Milk (RCDM) direct for human consumption in accordance with national food hygiene legislation. Collected samples are tested against the criteria specified in the national food hygiene legislation by ALS Eclipse who report back directly to the agency. Sampling of non-cow raw drinking milk is the responsibility of the Local Authority Environmental Health Department.

24. To assist Operations, the Operations Data and Performance Manager owns and maintains a database of all dairy producers.

Monitoring arrangements

25. As part of our commitment to ensure all enforcement is proportionate and risk-based, the lead DHI quality checks enforcement actions before authorising them for return to the FBO. The lead DHI makes further quality checks of the

dairy hygiene inspection reports and corrective action reports on a random sample basis to ensure that advice is consistent and in line with the FSA's core principles.

26. The Lead DHI and field operations staff make regular contact to discuss workloads and the general approach to the inspection process. This is in the form of general information sharing through emails and one to one coaching sessions over the telephone as required to ensure consistency through education and information. A quarterly group consistency training given by the lead DHI takes place to ensure that the team have an opportunity to discuss own practice and evaluate actions through knowledge sharing.

27. A number of SDMs and Veterinary Field Leaders (VFLs) are trained in dairy inspection to ensure that in addition to the technical expertise of the lead DHI, there is a presence in each of the regions that can complete joint visits with the field based staff to ensure consistency within the approach employed. As required the lead DHI, or an appropriately experienced DHI, also accompanies the field based team on visits to ensure consistent interpretation of the approach to compliance.

28. SDMs, the lead DHI and the Dairy Veterinary Field Leader review and monitor performance in the field. KPIs have been established to review the efficiency and quality of the Dairy Hygiene inspection function. These have been incorporated into the Field Operations performance dashboard.

29. In NI, DAERA AFIB delivers official controls on food hygiene at milk production holdings (in Scotland, this role is fulfilled by local authorities who carry out official controls in accordance with the Food Law Code of Practice). An SLA, which includes performance targets that are monitored and audited by the FSA, is in place. Detailed information on the structure and organisation of DAERA AFIB, and on the control activities that they carry out is provided at Appendix C.

Recognition of natural mineral water sources from Scotland, Wales and NI

30. Recognition of natural mineral water from sources in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland is granted by the relevant local authority. Bottled water businesses in Scotland, Wales and NI can obtain a review of the local authority's decision not to grant or to withdraw recognition of a natural mineral water. This will be carried out by the relevant FSA in Wales and NI and FSS in Scotland. In England, Defra has this responsibility.

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

31. The FSA has direct responsibility for the assessment of any application made in Wales and NI for the recognition of a natural mineral water source located in a non-EEA country under Directive 2009/54[69]. FSS is responsible for the assessment of any applications made in Scotland. If the EEA source meets the requirements it is awarded recognition and details are published in the Edinburgh, Belfast and London Gazettes. The European Commission is informed.

32. The FSA in Wales and NI and FSS has administrative procedures in place to review decisions not to recognise or to revoke recognition of a non-EEA source, where a decision is contested. See Appendix C for Defra responsibilities with regard to natural mineral water.

Genetically Modified (GM) Food

33. The FSA has policy responsibility for GM foods in the UK, except for Scotland which is covered by FSS. Information about the control systems for GM foods is in the FVO Control Systems Document at: ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/controlsystems_en.cfm?co_id=GB.

Inspection and approval of food irradiation facilities

34. The FSA Radiological and Novel Foods Policy Team has direct responsibility for the inspection and approval of food irradiation facilities in the UK under Directive 1999/2/EC[70]. The procedure for approval of a food irradiation facility is detailed in The Food Irradiation (England) Regulations 2009[71] with parallel legislation in Scotland, Wales and NI. Enforcement of legislation relating to irradiated food, such as labelling regulations and import controls, is the

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69 Council Directive (EC) 2009/54/EEC of 18 June 2009 on the exploitation and marketing of natural mineral waters (Recast). Official Journal L164, 26.6.2009, p.45-58. This Directive is implemented by the Natural Mineral Water, Spring Water and Bottled Drinking Water (Scotland) (No.2) Regulations 2007 (SSI. 2007/483) (as amended), The Natural Mineral Water, Spring Water and Bottled Drinking Water (Wales) Regulations 2015 (SI. 2015/365). and The Natural Mineral Water, Spring Water and Bottled Drinking Water (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2015 (SR. 2015/365) (as amended). The FSA has produced associated Guidance Notes.

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

71 SI 2009/1584

responsibility of local and port health authorities. Annual reports are submitted to the European Commission[72].

[72] ec.europa.eu/food/food/biosafety/irradiation/scientific_advices_reports_en.htm

Appendix C - The Agriculture/Rural Affairs Departments

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)

Roles and responsibilities

1. Defra has responsibility for animal health, animal welfare and plant health controls, as well as certain elements of feed and food law. The Department operates the majority of its official controls through delivery agents and local authorities. Detailed information on these enforcement authorities is provided in these Appendices.

Feed and food law

2. Responsibility for monitoring and verifying compliance with, and enforcement of, this feed and food law is shared between the Department, its agencies and local and port health authorities. Details of the various functions are set out below.

Organic products

3. Organic food produced within the EU must originate from growers, processors and importers who are registered with an approved organic control body and subject to regular inspection. In the UK, Defra has responsibility for the organic inspection and certification system. Certification is undertaken by approved organic Control Bodies which must meet the requirements of (be accredited to) the European Standard on general requirements for bodies operating product certification systems (ISO 17065).[73] They must also comply with the control requirements set out in the EU Organic Regulations (Council Regulation (EC) 834/2007 and Commission Regulation (EC) 889/2008. At local level Local Authorities enforce the rules, as an offence is committed if produce is incorrectly labelled as 'organic'. Defra is continuing its work with Local Authorities to improve liaison and training in this area.

4. Defra works closely with PHAs who are responsible for endorsing Certificates of Inspection from approved organic Control Bodies certifying imported organic produce that accompany consignments, and for ensuring that the

[73] More information on European standards is available at: cenorm.be/cenorm/index.htm.

importer is registered with an approved Control Body. Details of local authority food law enforcement services are provided at Appendix K.

5. There are currently nine approved Control Bodies involved in the control of organic production in the UK, although only eight actively certify UK operators at present.[74] These are independent bodies and under Regulation 882/2004, constitute 'Control Bodies' (see Appendix N). Defra's Organic Team, on behalf of the four Agriculture/Rural Affairs Departments, is responsible for approving these bodies in accordance with its Organic Certification Body and Inspection Approval Control Manual.[75] The Branch also oversees the on-going work of these Bodies. The findings are reported to the Control Body and can result in withdrawal of certification status if significant problems are identified. In addition, the UK Accreditation Service (UKAS) carries out annual audits of the inspection and certification activities of the approved bodies and failure to receive confirmation from UKAS of compliance with ISO17065 will also result in a certification body's approval being withdrawn.

6. Defra provides an annual report on organic production, inspection and certification in the UK to the European Commission. This includes a list of operators and organic inspection bodies operating in the UK along with a report on supervision and compliance with ISO17065. The report also includes a description of the inspection system along with details of supervision visits to the inspection bodies. Further information on inspections undertaken by the bodies themselves, along with sanctions imposed and sampling undertaken is also provided in this report.

Protected food names

7. Defra is responsible for the operation within the UK of the protected food names schemes set out in Regulation (EU) No. 1151/2012[76]. These schemes provide for a system for the protection of food names on a geographical or traditional recipe basis. The three schemes (Protected Designation of Origin, Protected Geographical Indication and Traditional Speciality Guaranteed)

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[74] Details are available at: gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/474604/organic-control-bodies.pdf

[75] A copy of the manual is available at http://archive.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/growing/organic/standards/pdf/inspector-controlmanual.pdf. This manual is currently under review.

[76] Regulation (EU) No. 1151/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council on quality schemes for agricultural products and foodstuffs, Official Journal L 343, 14.12.2012, p. 1.

highlight regional and traditional foods whose authenticity and origin can be guaranteed through an independent inspection system.

8. Ultimate responsibility for deciding whether applications meet the criteria, and should be forwarded to the European Commission, lies with Defra although certain functions relating to the handling of applications at an early stage are carried out by ADAS (Wales) and the respective Devolved Administration in the case of Scotland and NI. The UK currently has 64 protected food name products, some of which are only made by one producer (e.g. Dorset Blue) and others which are produced by thousands of producers (e.g. Welsh Lamb). Once registered, all products are subject to inspection on a risk analysis basis to ensure that the specifications are met Applicants must nominate an inspection body (which may be either a local Trading Standards Authority or a private inspection body) to undertake this function. Defra is responsible for approving Trading Standards Authorities and monitoring their performance bodies within the UK while the UK Accreditation Service (UKAS) is responsible for approving and monitoring private inspection bodies. More detailed information on the operation of the protected food names schemes within the UK is available at: defra.gov.uk/food-farm/food/protected-names/.

9. UK Local Trading Standards Authorities also have an enforcement role with respect to ensuring that registered food names are not used fraudulently and that general food labelling rules are complied with. Details of local trading standards authorities' food law enforcement services are provided at Appendix K.

Beef labelling

10. EU rules have been designed to provide European consumers with more reliable information about the beef they buy. Beef offered for sale must be fully traceable and compulsory country of origin, slaughter and cutting indications must be shown. The rules apply to all fresh and frozen beef and veal offered for sale at all stages in the supply chain from slaughterhouse to sale to the final consumer, in accordance with EC Regulation 1760/2000[77]. Meat of bovine animals aged less than 12 months must be classified on slaughter with the appropriate age category identification letter 'V' or 'Z', and labelled with the relevant sales description of the Member State. Defra, the RPA and the Agriculture/Rural Affairs Departments in the Devolved

[77] Regulation (EC) No 1760/2000 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a system for the identification and registration of bovine animals and regarding the labelling of beef and beef products and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 820/97). Official Journal L 204, 11.8.2000, 1-10.

Administrations are responsible for developing and implementing the relevant legislation.
RPA:rpa.defra.gov.uk/rpa/index.nsf/UIMenu/85A11F090B05298D802574D50046D5DB?Opendocument.
Scotland:gov.scot/Topics/farmingrural/Agriculture/Livestock/Meat/Beef/Labelling/scheme.
DAERA: daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/beef-labelling-guidance

11. Under the Beef Labelling Scheme, additional information added to beef labels on a voluntary basis will need to comply with the horizontal rules on labelling and in particular those rules contained in Council Regulation (EU) No. 1169/2011.

12. With regard to carrying out official controls in respect of beef labelling, there are now two aspects: Enforcement of compulsory beef labelling as outlined in 1760/2000 and the enforcement of voluntary beef labelling, which now falls under 1169/2011. Responsibility is shared as follows at abattoirs, cutting plants, approved cold stores and catering butchers:
    - England and Wales - in abattoirs and cutting plants with an FSA presence and in approved cold stores and cutting establishments (catering butchers) without an FSA presence by the RPA's Technical Inspectors on behalf of Defra;
    - Scotland – by the Scottish Government's Meat and Livestock Inspectors;
    - NI – the responsibility of compulsory beef labelling is shared by DAERA AFIB Inspectors (at abattoirs and EU approved cutting plants and slaughterhouses) and by local authorities in other cold stores.

    At retail level this is carried out by local authorities UK-wide. LA's across the UK enforce the voluntary beef labelling claims under 1169/2011.

13. Controls in respect of beef imported into the UK are the responsibility of PHAs in GB. DAERA VS is responsible in NI.

Import controls for animals and products of animal origin (POAO)

14. Defra and the Agriculture/Rural Affairs Departments in the Devolved Administrations are responsible for veterinary checks and animal health aspects of import controls of animals and POAO. The official controls or checks are carried out at BIPs which must meet standards and follow procedures set out for them in Council Directive 97/78/EC[78] and Council

[78] Council Directive 97/78/EC laying down the principles governing the organisation of veterinary checks on products entering the EU from third countries. Official Journal L 24, 30.1.1998, 9 -30.

Directive 91/496/EC[79]. Responsibility for carrying out these checks in GB is devolved to APHA for live animals and at ports which do not handle food. Local and port health authorities are responsible for checks on POAO. Details of their work are provided at Appendix K. In NI, responsibility for fish and fishery products has been devolved to district councils with responsibility for all other POAO imports remaining with DAERA.

15. Defra's Imports and EU Trade Team is responsible for the policy aspects of the veterinary checks regime. BIPs are operated by local authorities and APHA. The operation of local authority run BIPs is monitored by APHA through a programme of liaison visits and compliance checks relating to public health issues. Reports of these visits are sent to Defra and the FSA to enable them to monitor overall standards at BIPs and progress in dealing with problems. Similar audits are carried out for BIPs operated by the APHA.

16. UKBF is responsible for delivery of anti-smuggling controls to combat illegal imports of POAO at points of entry into GB. This includes imports of POAO which breach the concessions applicable to goods carried in travellers' baggage for personal consumption and personal consignments sent by post to private individuals, as well as freight. DAERA is responsible for controls in NI. Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) National Clearance Hub ensures that all POAO/animals have been issued with a valid Common Veterinary Entry Document before the consignment is customs cleared.

Natural Mineral Waters

17. Defra has direct responsibility for the assessment of any application made in England for the recognition of a natural mineral water source located in a non-EEA country under Directive 2009/54[80].

18. If Defra or the FSA or FSS considers that the non-EEA source meets the requirements it is awarded recognition and its details are published in the London, Edinburgh and Belfast Gazettes. The European Commission is also informed. The period of recognition lasts 5 years and extensions are granted

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79 Council Directive 91/496/EC laying down the principles governing the organization of veterinary checks on animals entering the EU from third countries and amending Directives 89/662/EEC, 90/425/EEC and 90/675/EEC

80 Council Directive (EC) 2009/54/EEC of 18 June 2009 on the exploitation and marketing of natural mineral waters (Recast). Official Journal L 164, 26.6.2009, p. 45-58.

before the 5 year period lapses, upon confirmation from the non-EEA competent authority, that the natural mineral water complies with EU requirements.

Legislation on animal feed related to animal disease

19. Defra and the devolved Agriculture/Rural Affairs Departments are responsible for the development and implementation of legislation on animal feed related to animal disease (TSEs, *Salmonella* etc.). Enforcement of that legislation in GB is a matter for local authorities in liaison with APHA. In NI, DAERA enforces feeding stuffs legislation.

The Scottish Government Agriculture, Food and Rural Communities Directorate (SG AFRC)

Roles and responsibilities

20. The Scottish Government has responsibility for application in the areas of animal health, animal welfare and plant health controls, while FSS has overall responsibility for the application of the feed and food elements of the Regulation.

21. Many aspects of official controls where the Scottish Government is the Competent Authority are administered or undertaken by delivery partners, such as Animal and Plant Health Agency and Local Authorities. However, the Scottish Government retains responsibility for this work, particularly to ensure that it is conducted in compliance with the requirements of the regulation.

Control activities

22. In Scotland the official controls for feed and food controls are in the main delegated to local authorities staff who, along with Scottish Government staff, carry out inspections on farms and at markets. Arrangements are in place for joint working across the departments to ensure there is a consistent approach.

23. Annually, Scottish Government work areas covered by Regulation 882/2004 are contacted and asked to provide confirmation that any inspectors or other officials involved in verifying compliance are suitably trained in accordance with Article 6 of this Regulation. The areas covered are as follows: Animal Inspections (Compliance / Traceability); Animal Welfare; Aquaculture and Fisheries; Bee Health / TSE/ Traceability/ Animal Strategy; Beef Labelling Meat and Livestock; Organics / Protected Food Names; Plant Health / Crop

Health; Potato Health / Crop Inspections and Poultry Inspectors / Egg Marketing.

Monitoring and audit of control activities

24. The EC audit guidance states that adequate coverage of official controls areas is required of a period no exceeding five years. The Scottish Government have created a separate Audit Strategy and a rolling programme to ensure that all key aspects of the OFFC programmes are reviewed through a risk based audit at least once during the five year cycle of the strategy. In order to comply with PSIAS, the Scottish Government Internal Audit Division is an independent appraisal function with examines and evaluates the Scottish Government's activities, then reports on the adequacy and effectiveness of internal control systems, and on compliance with those systems.

Welsh Government Natural Resources (WG NR)

25. The WG NR has similar responsibilities to Defra within Wales. The Welsh Government carries out most of their official controls through their own inspectorates, although occasionally use bodies such as APHA and Natural Resources Wales (NRW).

Rural Inspectorate for Wales (RIW)

Roles and responsibilities

26. RIW is part of Rural Payments Wales, which administers the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) Direct payment Scheme, and Rural Development Agri-environment and Forestry Schemes in Wales and manages all aspects of accreditation as Paying Agency in line with the governing European regulatory requirements.

27. The RIW undertakes a range of on-farm inspections, primarily for the purposes of CAP schemes, but also some inspections relating to official controls, e.g. cattle identification inspections to validate the UK's cattle tracing database and sheep and goat identification inspections. Other duties include the inspection of Trader Based Schemes.

Control activities

28. The RIW carries out standalone statutory inspections under the Bovine Animals and Sheep & Goat Records, Identification and Movement Orders to ensure farmers and traders maintain appropriate records and conform to the animal identification and movement requirements. Inspectors check compliance by undertaking a physical inspection and examination of the livestock, records and supporting documentation to ensure a comprehensive traceability system is in place and therefore verify, in the case of cattle, the validity of the Cattle Tracing Service (CTS).

29. Inspectors have powers to seize or amend cattle passports, take copies of records, place whole herd or individual restrictions on non-compliant animals and if necessary serve a notice to slaughter unidentified animals.

Compliance with requirements of Regulation 882/2004

Monitoring and audit of control activities

30. RIW has in place a detailed process for monitoring and auditing the quality of its work.

Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs for Northern Ireland (DAERA)

Roles and responsibilities

31. The responsibilities of DAERA with regard to official controls of food law mirror those of the FSA for meat and APHA the SG RPID and Local Authorities, in relation to on-farm food hygiene requirements, in GB. In addition, DAERA is responsible for official controls in respect of all feed law in NI mirroring the activities of local authorities, Animal Health and VMD in GB.

32. DAERA is also responsible for monitoring and the enforcement of animal health and animal welfare legislation in NI.

33. In addition, DAERA mirrors the official control activities of the PHSI in GB. More information on this function is provided in Appendix E which details the make-up of the UK's Plant Health Service.

Control activities

Feed

34. With regard to feed, DAERA carries out those controls undertaken by local authorities, APHA and the VMD in GB. DAERA AFIB is responsible for approving and registering feed businesses and for checks to ensure that they comply with the requirements of feed legislation, and that for medicated feeds, and GM organisms. AFIB also undertake inspection and sampling duties on behalf of DAERA VS in relation to TSEs but the VS are responsible for approval of premises for the use of Processed Animal Protein (PAP).

35. A database of premises is maintained and enables inspection and sampling plans to be drawn up. Feeds produced by all manufacturers are subject to sampling and analysis determined on a risk basis taking into account various factors such as levels of production, previous history and nature of the product. The majority of samples of feed are analysed by the AFBI in line with a Sampling and Analysis Agreement drawn up between DAERA and AFBI, but a significant number are also analysed by the Agricultural Analyst through specific targeted sampling surveys.

36. VS is responsible for the controls on feed imposed by the Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2010.

Food

37. DAERA AFIB verifies compliance with food hygiene legislation[81] on behalf of the FSA in milk production units and approved liquid milk premises.

38. DAERA AFBI acts on behalf of the FSA in respect of delivering official controls of food hygiene legislation at egg production units and packing stations in NI.

39. DAERA AFIB also verifies compliance with food hygiene legislation on behalf of the FSA on all other primary production units (except fish & shellfish which are the responsibility of the district councils).

40. VS-VPHP verifies compliance with food hygiene legislation SRM controls on behalf of the FSA in approved meat premises in NI, except meat product and stand alone meat preparation premises where enforcement is carried out by district councils.

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[81] More information on this legalisation is available at: food.gov.uk/foodindustry/regulation/hygleg/.

Imported feed and food

41. With regard to imported feed and food, controls include documentary checks on manifests, identity checks on consignments/containers and physical checks, such as the taking of samples for analysis and/or examination. The level, focus and frequency of these controls is risk based and informed by various factors, such as EU safeguard measures, RASFF notifications and local intelligence and priorities. Enforcement of imported food controls by inland district councils is carried out as part of their range of food law enforcement responsibilities. This will include examination of foodstuffs during the course of food premises inspections, routine and programmed sampling and analyses, and responding to food complaints or concerns.

42. BIPs control activities on imported feed and food of animal origin includes:

- the checking of manifests to confirm that POAO have been correctly notified;
- documentary checks, including the examination of veterinary certificates accompanying a product;
- identity checks by visual inspection to ensure that documents provided for veterinary inspection tally with the product;
- and physical checks on products, including sampling and laboratory testing.

43. Information regarding non-compliant products and the onward movement of third country products from BIPs is passed to control authorities in other Member States using the TRACES computer system.

Animal health and animal welfare

44. Animal health and animal welfare control methods differ according to which area is being covered and instructions for VS staff are available for each area. Resources are allocated on the basis of control priorities and the degree of risk. Risk registers are maintained by the VS and by the Animal Health and Welfare Division.

45. The VS is responsible for:

- delivering Government policy on animal health and animal welfare. It conducts surveillance for endemic statutory diseases and the majority of VS work is focussed on the prevention, detection and management of animal diseases in livestock. This helps to support the livestock industry

and allow it to continue to compete internationally. It also protects the human food chain;

- protecting public health by administering and delivering agreed policies for public health, such as controlling bovine TB through herd testing, culling and other measures;
- preventing outbreaks of exotic animal disease by controlling the disease on the ground and implementing agreed control measures.
- a programme of inspections and sampling to ensure the welfare of animals. This includes checking farms, markets and animal during transport and at abattoirs to ensure that conditions are appropriate and that animals are not suffering cruelty, or unacceptable levels of stress or discomfort.
- import controls at BIPs.

Compliance with requirements in Regulation 882/2004

Control procedures

Feed and food

46. DAERA AFIB Feed Procedures [82] are closely aligned with the Feed Law Code of Practice that has been issued in GB (see Appendix K). The procedures are electronically available to all staff involved in official feed controls via the DAERA intranet. These instructions cover the enforcement of feed legislation on a range of businesses including importers, hauliers, feed mills, distributors and farms and include instructions and reporting forms for audits and sampling control activities. The procedures are reviewed and updated regularly using a controlled document issue procedure and their publication on the DAERA intranet ensures the most up-to-date version of any document is available for inspectorate staff.

[82] Regulation (EC) No. 183/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down requirements for feed hygiene. Official Journal L35, 8.2.2005, 1-22.

47. DAERA AFIB works in accordance with the principles of the Food Law Code of Practice (NI) and associated Practice Guidance[83] in relation to delivering official controls in milk processing establishments. It also has documented Operating Instructions which are electronically available to all staff involved in official controls. These instructions cover the enforcement of food hygiene legislation on dairy farms and in processing plants. Operating instructions for sampling are also documented. These are reviewed and updated regularly using a controlled document issue procedure. They are published on the DAERA intranet.

48. DAERA AFIB has Operational Guidance that sets out the tasks and procedures to be followed by its inspectors. This includes information on the frequency of controls, use of equipment and the arrangements for reporting the outcome of official controls, and action in the case of non-compliance. A comprehensive reporting system is also in place, covering all inspections from production, packing and retail establishments.

49. The VS-VPHP has in place an MOC similar to that of FSA (see Appendix B).

Animal health and animal welfare

50. Detailed guidance regarding tasks to be undertaken, along with roles and responsibilities for VS staff and veterinary contractors, is provided as Staff Instructions via DAERA's Intranet and Document Management System. This is updated continuously to reflect current policy instruction. This documents all procedures to be undertaken for the recording and reporting of required official controls. Instruction is provided on the necessary action to be undertaken when non-compliance is identified and enforcement is required.

Appendix D – Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA)

Roles and responsibilities

1. APHA works to safeguard animal and plant health for the benefit of people, the environment and the economy.

2. APHA is responsible for:

- identifying and controlling statutory endemic and exotic diseases and pests in animals, plants and bees, and surveillance of new and emerging pests and diseases
- provision of reference laboratory capability for more than 20 animal diseases
- scientific research in areas such as bacterial, viral, prion and parasitic diseases, antimicrobial resistance and food safety. This includes a multidisciplinary approach to understanding the pathogen/, disease and transmission pathways. Outputs include, enhanced diagnostics, risk assessments, better control methods and vaccines.
- ensuring high standards of welfare in farmed animals
- facilitating trade in animals and in products of animal origin
- protecting endangered wildlife through licensing and registration
- provision of non-native species secretariat for the UK
- managing a programme of apiary (bee) inspections, training and advice
- regulating the safe disposal of animal by-products to reduce the risk of potentially dangerous substances entering the food chain.

3. With regard to feed, APHA is responsible for ensuring compliance with the prohibition on the use of most animal proteins in ruminant feed and PAPs in farm animal feed under a combination of measures covered under both the TSE and the ABP Regulations. These Feed Ban requirements are part of a range of measures to guard against TSEs and exotic notifiable diseases. Detailed information is available at: gov.uk/supplying-and-using-animal-by-products-as-farm-animal-feed.

4. The requirement to protect public health underpins many of the activities of APHA and much of its resource is spent administering and delivering agreed policies for public health, such as controlling bovine TB through herd testing, culling and other measures. There is close collaboration with other agencies such as Public Health England and Food Standards Agency.

5. APHA conducts surveillance for endemic statutory diseases and the majority of its work is focussed on the prevention, detection and management of animal and plant diseases.

6. In fulfilling its responsibilities APHA works closely with its delivery partners and stakeholders to maximise the effectiveness of Government animal health and welfare policy.

7. Detailed information on the control activities of APHA is available at: gov.uk/government/organisations/animal-and-plant-health-agency.

Feed

8. APHA carries out a risk-based programme of inspections based on inspection requirements in Regulations (EC) 999/2001 and (EC) 882/2004. Surveillance for illegal use of catering waste and diversion of organic fertilisers and soil improvers into animal feed are also covered in this programme. The programme called the National Feed Audit (NFA) covers feed businesses throughout the animal feed chain including at import, production, haulage, storage and at end-user premises. Samples of feed ingredients and manufactured feeds are collected and analysed by the NRL for the presence of animal proteins. On finding animal proteins in animal feed, an investigation is conducted to determine whether the findings breach the TSE Regulations. If a breach of the TSE Regulations is likely to have occurred, further investigations are initiated to determine the cause and extent of the breach.

9. Approximately 2,500 feed businesses are inspected and 5,600 samples are collected annually in the NFA programme.

10. APHA has a role in inspecting and approving establishments to use restricted proteins like fishmeal in non-ruminant feed production and to permit finished product containing these restricted proteins to be used on farms with ruminants present.

11. Prosecutions are the responsibility of local authorities, although there is provision in the legislation for Agriculture/Rural Affairs Departments to take on prosecutions in particular cases. However, in the event of an infringement, APHA will usually advise and assist local authorities (normally Trading Standards Departments) and may serve Notices to prevent the movement of ruminant animals or animal feed and require the recall or destruction of suspected feed. For incidents involving TSE-susceptible animals, which have had access to feed material containing banned animal proteins, risk assessments are completed by APHA to inform decision-making on the fitness of animals, which have had access to such contaminated feed, to enter the food chain.

Animal health and welfare

12. To carry out the official controls required for animal health and animal welfare, APHA has agreed working arrangements with Local Authorities; the Devolved Administrations, HMRC, Border Force and others.

13. In undertaking these controls, APHA will carry out its responsibilities and functions in the case of detecting and responding to any outbreak of endemic

or exotic animal disease, within its remit and detailed in Departmental contingency plans. The contingency plan includes an overarching plan for dealing with a range of endemic and exotic animal diseases as well as plans for responding to specific notifiable diseases including Foot and Mouth Disease, Avian Influenza, Rabies and Bluetongue as set out below:

- respond promptly to all notifications of suspect TSE (scrapie and BSE) in order to identify, trace and restrict suspects, offspring and cohorts as required; implement statutory controls on flocks and herds with confirmed cases of scrapie;
- complete routine surveillance programmes to issue movement restrictions and test high risk animals for endemic disease and to review testing interval for TB in line with relevant EU legislation;
- conduct agreed surveillance programmes to monitor, assess and record current standards of animal welfare where farmed livestock are kept, moved or gathered, provide support to other agencies in relation to enforcement activities;
- reduce risk to public health arising from residues in animals as agreed with VMD;
- reduce risk to public health from contamination of animals or their products as directed by the FSA;
- reduce risk to public health from various poultry diseases by recording, investigating and by implementing the requirements of the zoonoses legislation;
- inspect and test animals at BIPs. The results of veterinary checks are recorded in TRACES and manual returns are also kept;
- risk based post-import checks (checks at destination) of EU origin animals;
- make inspections visits to animal products BIPs to ensure they are maintained and operated in accordance with EU legislation;
- issue export health certificates (EHCs) and carry out reconciliation and audit of returned EHCs by OVs to monitor and assess standards of certification;
- approve animal by-product premises;
- investigate promptly all cases of suspect notifiable diseases and to take appropriate measures for control, eradication and prevention including delivery of planned serological surveys;
- implement artificial breeding controls;
- enforce livestock movement controls and liaise with the BCMS;
- ensure compliance with legislation relating to animal gatherings.

14. A full list of exotic diseases is included in the plan which is available on Defra's website at: defra.gov.uk/animal-diseases/controls/.

Egg hygiene

15. The principal control activities are registration of production premises (egg production units – which APHA inspects on behalf of the FSA), inspection of premises, animals, records and enforcing satisfactory standards. APHA also provides guidance and advice to businesses on compliance with the legislation.

16. FSS appoints Scottish Government officers from SG RPID to be authorised officers under relevant domestic legislation to enforce primary production egg hygiene requirements.

Compliance with requirements in Regulation 882/2004

Control procedures

17. Detailed guidance regarding tasks to be undertaken, along with roles and responsibilities for APHA staff and veterinary contractors, is provided by means of operating instructions referred to as the Operations Manual. The various chapters within the Operations Manual are available to APHA staff via the local intranet facility. This is updated continuously to reflect current policy instruction. This documents all procedures to be undertaken for the recording and reporting of required official controls. Instruction is provided on the necessary action to be undertaken when non-compliance is identified and enforcement is required.

18. Formal enforcement including prosecution is entrusted to local authorities in almost all the legislation in which APHA staff are involved. In some cases (for example, where it may involve an area of national interest) investigation and enforcement may be carried out by the Defra Legal Investigation Branch.

19. When contraventions have been reported to local authorities, the outcome of their actions must be reported to senior management within local APHA offices. If a senior manager considers that the local authority is taking too lenient a line, they would discuss the matter with the local authority. If this approach to the local authority fails to achieve an improvement, the local senior manager would escalate further. Enforcement activity undertaken by local authorities in England and Wales is recorded on the AMES database. APHA, Defra, Welsh Government and RPA all have read only access to this database.

20. APHA has guidance in place giving the tasks and procedures to be followed by its egg hygiene inspectors. This includes information on the frequency of

controls, use of equipment, arrangements for reporting the outcome of official controls, and action in the case of non-compliance. A similar system of operational guidance is in place for SG AFRC. These are reviewed and updated regularly where changes in the processes are required.

Reporting arrangements

21. All required information is recorded on a number of IT systems developed for APHA. Reports are regularly extracted from data supplied providing results for both national and local requirements. Operational reports are produced on a monthly basis for all APHA activity and targets (referred to as Performance Standards). These reports are shared internally within APHA and externally with Food and Farming Group in Defra and to the Devolved Administrations. Shortfalls in delivery are discussed and remedial action plans are developed to ensure that any shortfall in control visits is rectified. An Annual Report is produced giving details of targets and accounts, which is posted on the APHA website for general access.

Monitoring and audit of control activities

22. Information about APHA's assurance arrangements can be found in Chapter 6.

23. APHA staff undertaking official control activities are assessed annually as part of their staff performance assessment on the quality and consistency of the controls that they carry out.

24. APHA has a QA framework for the whole organisation, which describes how assurance is or will be provided across all of the agency's activities. This framework includes management checks of both field and office control activities. Work on further developing some of these arrangements is provided in Chapter 6.

25. APHA is working with its Internal Auditors and other bodies to develop a programme of audit work which will meet the requirements of its partners. Procedures are also being developed to ensure the audit process is transparent, subject to independent review and ensuring action is taken in response to audits in accordance with EU legislation.

Appendix E - UK Plant Health Service

Roles and responsibilities

1. The UK Plant Health Service is responsible for official controls in respect of measures to protect plant health set out in Council Directive 2000/29.[84] The Service comprises a number of units which co-operate together to provide plant quarantine and plant certification services in the UK. Details of the individual units are explained below.

2. The Plant Health Policy team is part of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), within the Directorate for Plant and Animal Health. It has policy responsibility for plant quarantine, plant certification and plant reproductive material in England and with the associated Risk and Horizon Scanning Team provides the lead for the UK in international meetings. It is the 'Single Central Authority' for plant health in the UK under EU legislation.

3. APHA's Plant Health and Seeds Inspectorate (PHSI) carry out import, export, monitoring and survey inspections, issue phytosanitary certificates, oversee import controls, plant passport arrangements, eradication campaigns, and issues scientific licences for work on prohibited pests and plants. The PHSI inspect and certify crops in relation to statutory and voluntary schemes, and also carry out work on seed certification and enforcement for Defra's Plant Variety and Seeds Team.

4. The Forestry Commission issues licences for scientific work on prohibited forest tree pests and plants and phytosanitary certificates for wood products and represents forestry interests in certain international fora. Laboratory services for forestry pests and diseases are provided by Forest Research (FR), an Agency of the Forestry Commission. FR provides scientific advice on the control of pests and diseases carries out pest risk assessments and provides an identification service for pests and diseases intercepted at points of entry or at forest survey sites. It is also the official forest tree testing station for GB and represents forestry interests in certain international fora.

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84 Council Directive 2000/29/EC on protective measures against the introduction into the EU of organisms harmful to plants or plant products and against their spread within the EU. Official Journal L169, 10.7.2000, 1-112.

5. The Scottish Government's Agriculture, Food & Rural Communities (AFRC) Directorate is responsible for plant health issues[85] within Scotland, except those in relation to pests of forest trees and wood. The Scottish Government provides policy advice on plant health, plant and seed certification, and plays a major part in UK representation on matters relating to seed potato certification.

Control activities

6. Plant Health and Seeds Inspectors (in England and Wales) and their equivalents in Scotland and NI carry out inspection of imports and exports, as well as general surveillance and monitoring of growing crops and other articles moving in trade. Inspections are structured according to the risk presented by any given commodity being imported or plant being grown. Union legislation requires the carrying out of specific surveys for a large number of pests and diseases. This work is arranged according to the timetable required for submission of results. Some of this survey work is specified by legislation creating Protected Zones, for example NI has protected zone status for Rhizomania, Colorado Beetle and Fireblight and therefore DAERA is required to undertake surveys for such pests and diseases.

7. Under contract, Fera Science Ltd undertake pest and disease identification on samples submitted by the PHSI and provide advice on plant pests and diseases. They also carry out research and development projects linked to the needs of the UK Plant Health Service.

8. Under contract, Fera Science Ltd undertake pest and disease identification on samples submitted by the PHSI, and provide advice, support and national and international representation to Defra Plant Health. They develop and validate new diagnostic and surveillance methods, including in field techniques leading to more tools in the hands of the inspectors. Fera maintain national collections of pest and disease organisms (e.g. National Collection of Plant Pathogenic Bacteria) and significant quarantine facilities for diagnostics, research and development and contingency response situations. They also carry out research and development projects linked to the needs of the UK Plant Health Service. They provide capability building training for the PHSI, the wider Defra network, and stakeholders and contribute to awareness raising and education in the wider community. Fera maintain a defined capability and ensure that it can be made available for contingency situations. Fera also hosts and

[85] gov.scot/Topics/farmingrural/Agriculture/plant/PlantHealth

maintains the Plant Health Information Warehouse and provides other IT services to the PHSI.

Priorities

9. In the plant health sector control priorities are determined according to the risk posed by pests and diseases and resources allocated accordingly. A Plant Health Risk Register[86] was commissioned in early 2014 and as of April 2016 addresses the risks from over 850 pests. The disease caused by the fungal pathogen *Phytophthora ramorum* was a high priority within the UK for several years; more recently Ash dieback caused by *Hymenoscyphus pseudoalbidus* (Chalara fraxinea) and other tree health threats have had high priority but this does not prevent the allocation of resources to other pests and diseases deemed to be important for the UK or the EU.

10. In respect of new and evolving threats, these are initially screened through the Plant Health Risk Register. Where a more detailed assessment is needed, this triggers the preparation of pest risk analyses to determine the level of threat to the UK or the wider EU and what control action may be needed to mitigate those threats. These are considered through a process of consultation involving all parts of the Plant Health Service and then by inviting views from industry and the public. The outcome of this consultation process leads to decisions about action to be taken in respect of each pest and disease. The outcomes of this process are then included in the risk register.

Compliance with requirements in Regulation 882/2004

Monitoring and audit of control activities

11. The Plant Health Service prepares a business plan, usually on an annual basis, which includes targets for numbers of inspection and a range of other activities. Progress against these targets is monitored by senior managers every quarter and decisions taken about adjustment of targets or re-allocation of resources as appropriate.

12. The SG AFRC and DAERA each have business plans which are regularly monitored by managers. Work undertaken by Inspectors is recorded on a Time Recording System and on specific plant health databases.

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[86] fera.defra.gov.uk/plants/plantHealth/pestsDiseases/riskRegister.cfm

Documented procedures

13. Plant Health and Seeds Inspectors use SOPs which contain detailed advice on the full range of their activities. Where appropriate guidelines for EU and National Inspectorates drawn up by the FVO on inspection of plant products is reflected in these SOPs.

14. SG ARFC inspectors have access to on-line guidance in addition to the usual operational manuals. All guidance is reviewed regularly to ensure that it remains correct.

15. DAERA inspectors have operating instructions for potato plant health and horticulture plant health. These are reviewed regularly and modified as the need arises.

16. Forestry Commission inspectors all work to the EU vade-mecum on inspections of wood and wood products and they are also issued, when these are not covered by the vade-mecum as appropriate, with instructions on specific aspects of their work.

Reporting official control results

17. Plant Health and Seeds Inspectors in England and Wales report the outcome of their inspections using the e-Domero database, which is the PHSI's information and work recording system for all plant health import and export activities in England and Wales. This communicates the results to their senior officers. Where the harmful organisms are suspected to be present, samples are taken and forwarded to the laboratory, with details recorded on e-Domero. Once verified by laboratory tests, interceptions of pests and diseases and other instances of non-compliance are transmitted to the European Commission using the Europhyt notification system (European Network of Plant Health Information Systems) as required under Directive 2000/29/EC.

18. In NI DAERA inspectors complete written inspection reports which are transferred onto a database, held centrally and available to managers. Separate databases are used to record results of Potato cyst nematode and wart disease test results. Databases are currently being updated and linked to a Geographic Information System which is used to provide maps of disease locations. Similar arrangements apply in Scotland.

19. Forestry Commission inspections are recorded on a Certificate of Clearance issued to importers for presentation to customs and kept on a central database. In cases of non-compliance, details are recorded on the Statutory

Notice served on the importer, which details the action to be taken and kept on the central database. Where laboratory analysis is required, this is documented separately.

Appendix F - Bee Health

Roles and responsibilities

1. Bee Health policy is administered by Defra in England, the SG AFRC in Scotland, the Welsh Government OCVO in Wales, and DAERA in NI. The NBU is delegated under contract to deliver the bee health programmes in England and Wales. In Scotland, delivery is undertaken by the SG AFRC's Bee Inspectors and in NI by DAERA's agriculture inspectors. Additionally, APHA is responsible for carrying out controls of bee imports from outside the EU at designated BIPs.

2. The Government funds bee health programmes to control the spread of notifiable pests and diseases of honey bees and to identify and manage the risks associated with new pests and diseases that may be introduced into the UK, thus protecting colonies for the pollination of commercial crops and wild plants as well as honey production. In addition, the programme protects consumers by minimising the risks of residues in harvested honey entering the food chain through the illegal or unauthorised use of medical treatments for honey bee pests and diseases. This is completed under statutory residue monitoring programmes for foodstuffs.

Control Activities

3. Bee Health measures undertaken include colony inspections for notifiable pests and diseases; diagnostics; treatment or destruction of infected colonies; veterinary checks on imports; applied research; and education of beekeepers aimed at encouraging more self-sufficiency in the apiculture sector.

4. In terms of control methods and techniques used, colonies infected with American foul brood are destroyed while those infected with European foul brood may be destroyed or treated depending on the level of infection.

5. APHA officials are responsible for carrying out official controls of bee imports from outside the EU at BIPs. Bee inspectors and NBU staff are empowered under veterinary legislation to ensure that importers comply with EU post import requirements aimed at reducing the risk of introduction and spread of notifiable exotic bee pests, as well as being responsible for assessing the health status of bees prior to export from the UK.

6. The NBU, Bee Inspectors in Scotland and DAERA Bee Inspectorate also collect honey samples on behalf of the VMD under Council Directive 96/23.[87] The samples are analysed at Fera.

Control priorities and risk categorisation

7. The inspection programme in England and Wales is undertaken on a risk-basis, concentrating principally in areas where notifiable diseases (American foul-brood and European foul-brood) are known to be present and where colony density is high. A surveillance programme for notifiable exotic pests (small hive beetle and tropilaelaps mites) focuses on apiaries in areas considered most at risk of an introduction. The Scottish Government have implemented an annual voluntary honey bee health surveillance programme establishing base line information on bee health status throughout Scotland. Where notifiable diseases (e.g. European foulbrood) are identified, there are follow up checks in the known outbreak locations; import checks and sentinel apiaries in high risk areas for notifiable exotic pests; and an annual surveillance programme to identify new/unknown outbreaks of American foulbrood and establish baseline data on bee health in Scotland.

Compliance with requirements in Regulation 882/2004

Control procedures

8. NBU laboratory activities are subject to review and audit by APHA's QA department and external auditors.

Reporting arrangements

9. All inspection activity is recorded and monitored through the NBU database, BeeBase, which has been specifically developed for the management of the statutory Bee Health Inspections Programme. Management information, monthly and quarterly reports against performance indicators are regularly extracted from BeeBase. The data on the inspections programme are available to stakeholders on the Beebase website.

Monitoring and audit of control activities

[87] Council Directive 96/23/EC on measures to monitor certain substances and residues thereof in live animals and animal products. Official Journal L 125, 23.5.1996, 10-32.

10. NBU laboratory activities are subject to review and audit by Fera's QA Department and by Defra under the terms of the Long Term Services Agreement.

11. Field work undertaken by bee inspectors employed by APHA is checked periodically (spot checks) by Regional Bee Inspectors (RBIs) to see how targets are being met. RBIs also maintain at least weekly contact with their teams and report regularly to the NBU's National Bee Inspector. Outcomes of field visits are recorded and all results logged on NBU's beekeeper database. Checks on visits and laboratory diagnosis are made regularly by the NBU's Field and Laboratory Managers. Laboratory diagnosis checks are carried out daily. In NI, the areas Bee Inspectors are supervised by the Senior Bee Inspector on an on-going basis. In Scotland the Lead Bee Inspector forms part of the inspection team and monitors and supervises for the most part in the field.

Appendix G - Aquatic Animal Health

Roles and responsibilities

1. The Fish Health Inspectorate (FHI) of Cefas (on behalf of Defra and the Welsh Government), MS FHI, which is part of MSS and DAERA FHI are responsible for the enforcement of the EU aquatic animal health regime in the UK. This includes statutory inspection, sampling and testing programmes at fish, shellfish and crustacean farms, investigation of disease outbreaks in wild and farmed fish, shellfish and crustacean stocks, enforcement of statutory disease controls and implementation of controls on the import and export of live fish, shellfish and crustaceans.

2. In delivering its responsibilities on aquatic animal health the Inspectorates work closely with stakeholders in the aquaculture industry, the ornamental fish trade, fishery managers and the relevant trade and representative associations. They provide an advisory service to the industry and the general public aimed at increasing the effectiveness of national aquatic animal health controls.

3. Cefas Inspectorate provides additional services to Defra and the Welsh Government, as well as other government bodies where these can be integrated into farm inspection programmes; this includes taking samples for veterinary medicines testing, assessing water pollution impacts on stock marketing from fish farms, investigating and assessing new and emerging diseases, assessing current fish welfare status on farms and controlling non-native fish species.

4. MS FHI is also responsible for conducting the VMD sampling programme across finfish Authorised Production Businesses. MSS[88] also carries out a wide range of essential marine and freshwater aquatic animal health research and offers advice on aspects of production and disease control on behalf of MS.

5. In NI, AFBI provides specialist monitoring, diagnostic and research work on behalf of DAERA on fish and shellfish health.

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88 gov.scot/Topics/marine/science

Control activities

Control priorities and risk categorisation

6. The principal functions of Cefas, MSS and DAERA are:
   - the investigation of abnormal mortality incidents, control of notifiable diseases and the implementation of contingency plans for exotic and non-exotic listed diseases;
   - the authorisation and monitoring of fish and shellfish farms including statutory inspection and sampling as required to maintain and improve the current health status of GB and NI under the EU aquatic animal health regime;
   - the maintenance of the register of authorised aquaculture production businesses and the register of 'put and take' fisheries;
   - the issue of import or export documents to the industry, and the monitoring of imports to support the high health status of the industry in GB and NI; and
   - enforcement activities, principally to counter illegal fish imports.

Compliance with requirements in Regulation 882/2004

Control procedures

Cefas

7. There is a MoU between Defra and the FHI covering the Inspectorate's responsibilities and activities. An outline of the FHI work programme is set out in an Annex to the MoU.

8. An enforcement strategy is linked to annual enforcement plans with specific objectives.

9. The Inspectorate is working to improve quality standards across the range of its activities. Field Inspectors' competency is a requirement of UKAS accreditation, and a formal framework has been developed to ensure that inspectors receive adequate training and assessment in inspection tasks throughout their career. Cefas is accredited by UKAS under the ISO 17025 and ISO 9001 standards.

10. All inspection, sampling and disease diagnostic data are recorded on the Starfish database. This system contains a scheduling tool, which identifies all sites requiring particular types of inspection, and allows senior inspectors to create a schedule of visits for any given period. Each scheduled inspection is

allocated a unique identifier which will apply to all work carried out in respect of that scheduled visit. Visit data is collected electronically through the use of portable personal computers (Tablets) and automatically submitted to the Starfish database through a wireless connection. This allows all work carried out to be audited.

11. An access permissions system on the database ensures that users have access only to data essential for them to complete their work. For example all samples are blind tested within the laboratory to ensure that samples are treated in a uniform manner irrespective of any prior disease history on the site of origin. Access permissions also restrict the number of users able to input and edit particular data within the system.

MSS

12. MSS is accredited by the UKAS under the ISO 17025 and ISO 17020. Documented procedures and an internal audit programme are crucial components of the quality system.

AFBI

13. AFBI is the official laboratory for the monitoring of, fish and shellfish diseases on behalf of DAERA in NI. A Service Level Agreement (SLA) between DAERA Fisheries Division and AFBI outlines the monitoring programme and an annual audit by DAERA in respect of sampling and reporting procedures is carried out. AFBI is currently accredited by UKAS under the ISO 17025 and ISO 9001 standards.

Reporting arrangements

Cefas

14. The Inspectorate produces quarterly reports to the Defra Aquatic Animal Health policy customer, outlining progress against targets documented in the MoU.

15. Quarterly reports of Inspectorate activities and Service Charter compliance are published on GOV.UK website[89].

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89 gov.uk/government/publications/fish-health-inspectorate-reports

16. Reports on all site inspections, sampling and testing are generated from the Starfish Database and sent to the farmers or other industry personnel to whom they apply. Farmers are also sent copies of all farm data held on this system to check any amendments made following inspections.

17. The database has a reporting system which enables the Inspectorate to generate summary data for customer reports, or reports on for example farmed fish production in a format suitable to the industry, which meet both Data Protection Act[90] and Freedom of Information Act[91] requirements.

MSS

18. MSS staff have considerable experience in field experimentation and sampling in both the freshwater and marine environments, including ocean going marine surveys. Most of the scientific programme MSS conducts is on behalf of MS.

19. Following inspections of all farms and other sites for disease control purposes where advice has been given or statutory action may be necessary, MSS Inspectorate will provide a follow-up letter within 10 working days. This will confirm in writing any points which were raised during the visit and any action which MSS or the SG AFRC require to be taken.

20. MSS inspectors will provide a clear and concise written report on the results of any tests undertaken. Where a notifiable disease is found in the sample, they will, wherever practicable, give a verbal report within one working day of the confirmatory test. This will be confirmed in writing within five working days. Where no notifiable disease is found in the sample, this will be confirmed within ten working days of the full results becoming available.

DAERA

21. DAERA FHI aims, objectives and targets are set out in the DAERA Fisheries Division Annual Business Plan. All site inspections are carried out in the presence of licensed/authorised fish farmers and signed off by the farmer and the inspector on site. Where any issues are identified, appropriate follow-up inspections are undertaken. The information is collated on a database.

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90 An Act to make new provision for the regulation of the processing of information relating to individuals, including the obtaining, holding, use or disclosure of such information legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1998/29/contents

91 The Act provides a general right of access to all types of recorded information held by public authorities. This right is subject to certain exemptions most of which require case by case consideration of the balance public interest legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/36/contents

Monitoring and audit of control activities

22. Senior fish health inspectors are responsible for monitoring progress of particular areas of work through key performance indicators, which are reviewed at monthly Inspectorate meetings where inspectors are advised of any need to re-assess progress or to target particular areas of work. DAERA FHI monitors progress on achievement of targets as set out in the DAERA Fisheries Division annual Business Plan.

23. Individual inspectors' competences are assessed throughinternal workshops, validation inspections by senior inspectors, checks on paperwork and samples submitted to the laboratory for data inputting and testing respectively and through their reporting performance under the Citizens Charter.

24. The UKAS audits the MSS Quality System annually. An in-house audit team also conducts an audit programme covering document control, method documentation, facilities and environment, test observation and procedures as well as fish health inspector competency audits.

Appendix H - Rural Payments Agency (RPA)

Roles and responsibilities

1. The RPA Inspectorate conducts a range of farm, trade and technical inspections to ensure full compliance with the relevant UK and EU legislation.[92]

Control activities

Food

2. With regard to beef labelling,[93] the RPA remit is to check that operators in England and Wales have in place the necessary records of a comprehensive traceability system, to ensure that beef in the supply chain can be traced back to the animals or group of animals from which it was derived. The RPA inspectors make the following checks:
   - that the operators have a recorded, documented traceability system in place which will enable the beef to be traced back to the animal(s) of origin;
   - within slaughterhouses and cutting plants, that the carcases, cuts and boxes are labelled with the appropriate compulsory information as follows:
     - a traceability reference number or code;
     - the animals' country of birth and country(ies) of rearing; and
     - country of slaughter and cutting, with the approval numbers of the slaughterhouses and cutting plants;
   - in mincing plants, that all packs are labelled correctly; and
   - that the meat of bovine animals aged less than 12 months is classified with the appropriate category identification letter and labelled with the relevant sales description of the Member State.

3. The inspectors check whether there is non-UK beef on site and if so, whether it is correctly labelled with the appropriate compulsory information. If any non-

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92 Some of these inspections are carried out under cross-compliance arrangements. Cross-compliance does not fall within the scope of Regulation 882/2004 on official controls. However, certain inspections and checks are carried out under cross-compliance, such as for cattle identifications, and are part of the overall animal health and welfare picture, and provide assurances of compliance with animal health and welfare rules.

93 Information on the beef labelling system and how it operates in the UK is available at: gov.uk/government/collections/beef-and-veal-labelling-guidance

compliance is found, follow-up checks are made to the premises until the operator is compliant with the labelling requirements.

Animal health and animal welfare

4. The RPA carries out standalone statutory inspections under the bovine, sheep and goat records, identification and movement orders to ensure farmers and traders maintain appropriate records and conform to the animal identification and movement requirements. Inspectors check compliance by undertaking a physical inspection and examination of the livestock, records and supporting documentation to ensure a comprehensive traceability system is in place and therefore verify in the case of cattle the validity of the CTS.

5. Inspectors have powers to seize or amend cattle passports, take copies of records, place whole herd or individual restrictions on non-compliant animals and if necessary serve a notice to slaughter un-identified animals.

6. Checks are conducted to establish compliance against existing domestic or EU legislation – covering the areas of livestock identification and record keeping for cattle, sheep, goats and pigs, the use of plant protection products, feed and food law including dairy hygiene and TSEs. Non-compliances are assessed based on the severity, extent, permanence and repetition of the breach by the inspection officer. For accreditation purposes holdings are selected for inspection based on various risk factors, a random element is also selected.

Compliance with requirements in Regulation 882/2004

Control procedures

7. The RPA Inspectorate conducts inspections on over 50 different schemes, both in relation to animal health and cross-compliance. A service level or management agreement and detailed inspection instructions for each scheme are agreed with the relevant scheme managers in the RPA or Defra and published on internal websites. Details of the inspection instructions for the various livestock schemes the RPA Inspectorate is involved with can be found on the RPA intranet.

Reporting arrangements

8. The RPA Inspectorate have an arrangement with Defra to inspect and report back to the Meat Technical Scheme team on all beef cutting premises; particularly those not staffed by FSA Operations. These inspections are

selected and carried out on a risk/random basis, but may also require several ‘follow-up’ inspections, where non-compliance is found; all inspections are based on being ‘unannounced’. The Meat Technical Scheme team sends to Defra biannual reports, giving up-to-date information on inspection performance and rates of non-compliance.

9. All inspection activity is recorded and monitored on the RPA Inspectorates work flow monitoring, work profiling and quality control Information Management (IT) systems which have been specifically developed. Management information and reports are regularly extracted providing performance statistics, results and quality control analysis on a national, team and individual inspector basis. Development of a 'claim to pay' IT system by the RPA continues and allows inspectors to schedule tasks provides electronic inspection report forms and other inspection functionality. An Annual Report is produced giving details of targets and performance, which is posted on the RPA website for general access.

Monitoring and audit of control activities

10. Details of audit systems are provided in Chapter 6.

Appendix I - Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD)

Roles and responsibilities

1. The VMD aims to protect public health, animal health, the environment and promote animal welfare by assuring the safety, quality and efficacy of all aspects of veterinary medicines in the UK. In particular, it is responsible for development and implementation of legislation on SFAs and medicated feedingstuffs and the enforcement of this legislation in GB. It is also responsible for post-authorisation surveillance of veterinary medicines under Directive 96/23/EC. The VMD is now ISO 9001 certified for its Quality Management System.

Control activities

Medicated feed and SFAs

2. The VMD Inspectors are specifically authorised under the Veterinary Medicines Regulations 2013[94] to inspect and approve manufacturers and distributors of SFAs[95], premixtures and feedstuffs containing SFAs and/or VMPs and retailers of certain restricted veterinary medicines. The inspectors also carry out routine audits of feedstuff manufacturers and distributors, (which include taking samples of feed for quantitative analysis), and conduct follow-up visits where serious non-compliance necessitates additional control activities. In England and Wales, the VMD delegates the inspection of fish farms that are authorised to manufacture medicated feed for use on their own fish to Cefas. The VMD has an SLA with Cefas and Marine Scotland which which includes a detailed Specification of Requirements. The VMD delegates to accredited laboratories the task of analysing samples taken as part of routine inspections for the control of medicated feedingstuffs and SFAs (See Chapter 3).

3. The VMD has a risk-based approach for the inspection of Feed Business Operators (FeBOs). The risk assessment takes into account the inherent risk of the business based on its activities,the potential risk to animal and public

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94 SI 2013/2033.

95 SFAs include cocciodiostats, histomonostats and all other zootechnical additives except digestibility enhancers, gut flora stabilisers and substances incorporated with the intention of favourably affecting the environment.

health, and the nature and number of non-compliances, which also take into account compliance history. The maximum period between inspections for the lowest risk, fully compliant, feed businesses will not exceed four years.

4. The VMD has commissioned a research project to develop a biosensor for detecting antimicrobial growth promoters (AGPs) in feedingstuffs. The screening method has been successfully developed for nine AGPs, although the level of quantification for two AGPs is above the target level of 2mg/kg. It is not planned to use this at this stage at field tests. However, the VMD has a sampling programme in place to test feed samples for antimicrobial growth promoters by conventional methods.

5. In addition APHA who carry out official duties of health monitoring in establishments, has an agreement with the VMD to report irregularities. Banned antibiotic growth promoters have been highlighted for special attention, for example.

6. The VMD, NAP & APHA now have a tripartite MoU in place which was implemented in April 2016.

Veterinary residue surveillance

7. The VMD is responsible for the operation of the residue surveillance programme in GB (DAERA fulfils this role in NI). It drafts the UK National Residues Control Plan each year and submits it together with the previous year's surveillance results to the Commission. Sample numbers are split on the basis of production between GB and NI. The operation of the programme involves sample collection, sample analysis and follow-up action on non-compliant results. Sampling is targeted according to criteria set out in Commission Decision 98/179/EC.

8. Samples are collected by the following bodies under terms (including KPIs) set out in SLAs or Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs): APHA, FSA, FSS, Cefas, MS and the Scottish Government. The number of samples taken is based on throughput in accordance with the levels set out in legislation. Samples are analysed for residues of veterinary medicines, banned substances and contaminants in line with the minimum requirements laid down in the legislation. Follow-up investigations are undertaken at farms where non-compliant residue levels are found in animals/animal products. Checks on the farmers' records of veterinary medicine usage are carried out on 1,500 farms a year. Sampling of suspect animals and carcases, and intensified checks are also provided for in the legislation and used when appropriate.

9. Analytical work for the GB component of the National Surveillance scheme is carried out by Fera Science Ltd; the VMD will have an LTSA with Fera which includes a detailed Specification of Requirements. Fera is responsible for analysis of samples and reporting results to the VMD. The laboratory uses analytical methods accredited to ISO 17025 and Commission Decision 2002/657. Fera is subject to independent audits.

10. The VMD is responsible for the surveillance of antibiotic resistance in specific zoonotic and commensal indicator bacteria from poultry and pigs, in accordance with Commission Decision 2013/652/EU. The FSA are responsible for collection of the samples and APHA are responsible for the processing of samples and analyses of findings. The conditions are set out in Service Level Agreements (SLAs) with FSA and APHA.

Compliance with requirements in Regulation 882/2004

Control procedures

Registration and approval of establishments and intermediaries

10. FeBOs manufacturing or mixing SFAs or VMPs into premixtures or feedingstuffs, and distributors dealing with these products are required by UK law to be approved by the VMD in GB and by DAERA in NI and inspected regularly to ensure compliance with legislative requirements. The VMD keeps a register of all approved manufacturing establishments and distributors throughout GB. Those establishments manufacturing SFAs that additionally manufacture authorised premixes are inspected and approved under Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) by either the VMP's GMP Inspection Team or the Medicines and Healthcare Regulatory Authority[96] on behalf of the VMD.

Medicated feed and SFAs

11. The VMD inspectors work in accordance with documented SOPs which set out the procedures for undertaking official inspections, including sampling and dealing with non-compliance and infringements. They also cover reporting requirements which provide that all businesses inspected by the VMD receive a report of the findings. The SOPs are part of the VMD's Quality Management System.

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[96] More information on the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency is available at: webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20141205150130/http://mhra.gov.uk/index.htm

12. In 2014 the VMD implemented 'Earned Recognition' (ER) for those commercial feed manufacturers that it risk-rated 'Good' and which are additionally certificated under the Agricultural Industries Confederation's (AIC's) Universal Feed Assurance Scheme (UFAS). The VMD applies extended inspection intervals to those manufacturers that meet the ER criteria. The arrangements for ER are set out in an MOU between the VMD and the AIC, which amongst other things includes a requirement to share information about manufacturers and inspections.

Residues surveillance

13. Field instructions/SOPs/operation manuals setting out how controls should be carried out are in place for each of the bodies that undertake work for the VMD as part of the National Surveillance Scheme. These are reviewed and updated on an annual basis or more frequently where changes in the processes are required. Surveillance results are sent out monthly to all operators of processing plants who have had animals/animal products sampled and include compliant results and details of the sample type, date of collection and residue detected where samples test non-compliant. Results of the previous year's surveillance programme are reported to the Commission each year by 31 March of the following year. A report is also published bi-monthly on gov.uk.

14. In relation to Antimicrobial Resistance all activities carried out as part of official controls on behalf of the VMD by nominated bodies/National reference laboratory are set out in protocols as specified by Commission Decision 2013/652/EU.

Appendix J - Chemicals Regulation Directorate (CRD)

Roles and responsibilities

1. The aim of CRD is to protect the health of human beings, creatures and plants, safeguard the environment and secure safe, efficient and humane methods of pest control, by controlling the sale, supply, storage, advertisement and use of pesticides. CRD aims to monitor pesticides use and limit illegal use by taking appropriate enforcement action. Additional information on CRD's responsibilities is available at: pesticides.gov.uk/corporate.asp?id=211.

Control activities

Pesticide residue monitoring

2. CRD is the competent authority responsible for the monitoring of pesticide residues in food and drink in the UK and any consequential enforcement action. It drafts the UK national pesticide residues monitoring plan each year and is responsible for the submission of the results of both the annual European harmonised residues monitoring programme and the national programme to the Commission in the following year, in line with the Commission's prescribed timetable.

3. The regulation of the approval and use of pesticides in the UK is tightly controlled. This regulatory framework is backed up by a substantial programme of residues testing, which is overseen in the UK by The Expert Committee on Pesticide Residues in Food (PRiF).

4. The PRiF is comprised of independent experts who advise the government departments responsible for administering the monitoring programme. Members include experts on the effects of chemicals on people, people with knowledge of food production techniques and people who have a general interest in food safety issues.

5. The PRiF's remit is to advise UK government Ministers and the Director of CRD and the Chief Executive of the FSA on:
   - the planning of surveillance programmes for pesticide residues in the UK food supply and the evaluation of the results; and
   - procedures for sampling, sample processing and new methods of analysis.

The Committee is also required to make its findings and recommendations available to Government, consumers and the food and farming industries in a comprehensive, understandable and timely way. More information about the PRiF can be found at: gov.uk/government/collections/pesticide-residues-in-food-results-of-monitoring-programme.

6. Monitoring provides information to check that the residue levels found are within those expected from normal use of the pesticide and checks that maximum residue levels (MRLs), which are legal trading levels, are not breached for both imported and home-produced food. The operation of the programme involves sample collection from various points in the supply chain and sample analysis. Follow-up action is also taken based on any infringements identified in the monitoring programme, including MRL exceedances, non-approved uses and unexpected residues. Depending on the specific circumstances, follow-up action may take one or more of the following forms:
   - writing out to the parties concerned to warn of a breach of the controls and to seek explanations;
   - repeat sampling to identify further or consistent breaches;
   - naming of those parties responsible in published reports issued by the PRiF;
   - formal investigation in preparation for enforcement action, including the issuing of enforcement notices and taking prosecution action.

Control priorities

7. CRD carries out monitoring of both UK and EU-produced and imported food for pesticide residues. Monitoring control priorities are:
   - to check that human dietary intakes of residues in foods are within acceptable levels;
   - to check that residues do not exceed the statutory MRL; and
   - to back up the statutory approvals process for pesticides by checking that no unexpected residues are occurring in food.

Priority categorisation

Monitoring

8. Currently the priority of surveying particular foods is risk-based, dependent on the evidence of incidence of pesticide residue problems and dietary importance and the risks to consumers from any non-compliant findings. But

a high importance is also attached to compliance with European harmonised obligations for pesticide residue monitoring in food and drink.

Enforcement

9. UK pesticide enforcement is targeted, proportionate and risk-based. The overall aim is always to protect the health of consumers by following up adverse findings or evidence of misuse of pesticides. The results of enforcement action are fed into cross-compliance checks.

10. Local and port health authorities and BIPs (see Appendix K) may conduct their own surveillance of pesticide residues, referring to CRD, in consultation with the FSA, for consumer risk assessments. Where a food safety concern has been identified, these authorities are empowered to take enforcement action under general food safety legislation. Local authorities have an obligation to send returns on such food related incidents to FSA.

Compliance with requirements in Regulation 882/2004

Control procedures

11. For CRD staff involved in the surveillance programme, there are SOPs for administrative tasks including follow-up action on results. For sample collection agencies and laboratories, all procedures are formalised in a contract or SLA which includes an annual work plan. This may be supplemented by written exchanges which detail changes to the specification. All contracts are reviewed annually but can be subject to amendment in-year with the agreement of both parties. All official laboratories are required to work in accordance with the current European Analytical Quality Control Guidelines (currently SANTE/11945/2015). These guidelines are supplemented with additional guidance on procedures which CRD reviews quarterly with the official laboratories.

Reporting arrangements

12. CRD publishes full details of the results of all monitoring activities on a quarterly basis. The results of certain higher risk surveys are published monthly. An annual report collating the main findings is produced. Suppliers who fail to comply with MRLs receive direct notification of the full results. Results are available on the PRiF web site. The UK also provides a return to the European Commission with regard to the results of national participation in the co-ordinated pesticide residue monitoring recommendation and the overall results of the UK's national monitoring programme. The Commission

publishes collated results for all Member States. The results of specific enforcement programmes are published via the CRD website at: gov.uk/government/collections/pesticide-residues-in-food-results-of-monitoring-programme.

Appendix K - Local and Port Health Authorities

Roles and responsibilities

1. Local authorities throughout the UK are responsible for monitoring and verifying compliance with, and enforcing the requirements of, the main body of food law. In GB, this includes local authorities at sea- and airports that are responsible for checking imports of food of non-animal origin at points of entry into the EU, and at BIPs for checks on food of animal origin. In NI, district councils (the equivalent to local authorities) are responsible for checking imports of food of non- animal origin at points of entry and fish/ fishery products at BIPs. DAERA is responsible for checking the import of all other food of animal origin at BIPs in NI.

2. In GB, local authorities are also responsible for the enforcement of the main body of feed law (in NI, this function is undertaken by DAERA).

3. Local authorities in GB also have a role in delivering certain elements of central Government policy on animal health and animal welfare and in enforcing animal health and welfare rules. This includes certain inspections of farm premises, livestock markets and shows, slaughterhouses, and vehicles transporting live animals. It also includes enforcement of legislation covering disease control (including TSEs), animal identification, ABP, animal gatherings, livestock movements, and enforcement of certain animal welfare legislation, e.g. in relation to markets and transport.

Control activities

Feed and food

4. Local and port health authorities in the UK are responsible for a wide range of control activities. Their specific responsibilities vary (and will be set out in their local service delivery plans) but together they provide a control framework which covers all stages of feed and food production, processing and distribution from 'farm to fork'. At primary production level, for example, local authorities in England and Wales are responsible for monitoring and verifying compliance with, and enforcing the requirements of the EU food

hygiene legislation[97] (in NI, this is the responsibility of DAERA AFIB, and in Scotland local authorities and SG RPID are responsible), and also the EU feed hygiene Regulation.[98] At other stages in the production chains, local authorities are responsible not only for monitoring and enforcing feed and food safety compliance but also for enforcing rules on labelling and compositional standards. PHAs and some LAs provide controls for products entering the UK from outside the EU. Where local and port health authorities find non-compliance, they work with the business concerned in accordance with their policies and, where necessary, take formal enforcement action.

5. Each individual authority's planned control activities are set out in its service delivery plan. This includes:
   - the number of premises inspections/interventions programmed, an estimation of the number of revisits needed, and any targeted inspection activity that the authority intends to carry out;
   - an estimation, based on previous year's trends, of the likely demand on the service for dealing with complaints;
   - an estimate of the resource needed for businesses for which it acts as the Primary or Home Authority or originating authority, and responding to enforcing authority enquiries;
   - an estimation of the number of contacts from businesses regarding the provision of advice;
   - details of sampling programmes and an estimate of the number of samples that may be taken in relation to complaints; and
   - an estimation, based on previous year's trends, of the likely demand on the service in dealing with control and investigation of outbreaks and food related infectious disease.

6. A range of interventions are employed in fulfilling control methods are employed in fulfilling control functions. These include inspections of feed and food premises, inspections of feed and food itself, and sampling and chemical analysis and microbiological examination. Inspection/intervention frequencies are determined by reference to the intervention rating scheme in the relevant Food Law Code of Practice. Businesses presenting a higher risk will attract more frequent inspection. It also, where necessary, requires follow-up action to ensure that issues of concern have been addressed. Authorities are involved in investigating complaints, control and investigation of outbreaks and food related infectious disease, and in providing advice to businesses.

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97 Detailed information on this legislation is available at: 852/2004; 853/2004 and 2073/2004

98 Regulation (EC) No 183/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down requirements for feed hygiene. Official Journal L35, 8.2.2005, 1-22.

Imported feed and food

7. At BIPs, control activities on imported POAO are carried out in accordance with Directive 97/78/EC[99] and Regulation 136/2004/EC.[100] This includes the checking of manifests to confirm that consignments have been correctly notified; documentary checks; identity checks and physical checks. Veterinarians are employed/ contracted by the local authority to carry out checks on POAO (other than fishery products) at BIPs. In NI, DAERA has responsibility to undertake checks on POAO, with Belfast City Council having responsibility for fish and fishery products. Information regarding non-compliant products and the onward movement of third country products from BIPs is passed to the competent authorities in other Member States using the TRACES computer system.[101]

8. With regard to imported feed and food of non-animal origin, controls at points of entry include documentary checks, identity checks and appropriate physical checks. The level, focus and frequency of these controls is risk-based and informed by various factors, including the specific requirements of EU legislation, RASFF notifications and local intelligence and priorities.

9. Enforcement of imported feed and food controls by inland local authorities is carried out as part of their range of regulatory responsibilities. This includes examination of feed/food during the course of feed/food premises inspections, routine and programmed sampling and analyses, and responding to complaints or concerns.

10. For higher risk feed and food of non-animal origin where there is a known or emerging risk, Commission Regulation (EC) No 669/2009[102] implements Article 15(5) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 as regards the increased level of official controls on imports of certain feed and food of non-animal origin. This requires that such feed and food enters the EU through designated points of entry that have minimum facilities for the official controls to be

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99 Council Directive 97/78/EC laying down the principles governing the organisation of veterinary checks on products entering the EU from third countries. Official Journal L 24, 30.1.1998, 9-30.

100 Commission Regulation (EC) No 136/2004 laying down procedures for veterinary checks at EU border inspection posts on products imported from third countries. Official Journal L21, 28.1.2004, 11-23.

101 TRACES - Trade Control and Expert System is an internet based service providing information on intra-EU movements and imports of live animals, animal products and germplasm for competent authorities, official veterinary surgeons and traders.

102 The list of products listed in Regulation ((EC) 669/2009 and the percentage of checks is amended by legislation on a quarterly basis.

undertaken. Regulation (EC) No 669/2009 is implemented through national legislation (The Official Feed and Food Controls Regulations 2009) and, guidance for enforcers and importers. More information is available at: food.gov.uk/foodindustry/imports/banned_restricted/highrisknonpoao.

Food contact materials

11. Controls are applied at designated first points of introduction on imports of melamine and polyamide plastic kitchenware from China and Hong Kong under Regulation (EU) No 284/2011, which are implemented by the Plastic Kitchenware (Conditions on Imports from China) Regulations 2011.

Recognition of natural mineral waters

12. In the case of natural mineral waters originating in England, Scotland, Wales and NI, the relevant local authority is responsible for granting Official Recognition.

Animal health and welfare

13. Most local authorities in England and Wales responsible for delivery of services in animal health and animal welfare are participating in the Animal Health and Welfare Framework (see Chapter 4) with Defra, APHA and the Welsh Government. Scotland has also developed a framework agreement; all, local authorities in Scotland are being encouraged to participate.

14. Local authorities are responsible for checking compliance with a wide range of animal health and animal welfare legislation including animal identification, animal movements and movement records, disease control, animal gatherings, animal welfare, ABP, bio-security and contingency planning.

15. Risk-based activities carried out to check compliance include visible presence of officers at ‘critical control points’ such as markets and other licensed premises, selective visits and inspections to verify legislative compliance (including any records required) and out-of-hours checks (outside of normal specified operating hours, or subsequent days) at places such as markets (premises licensed for sale), slaughterhouses and premises licensed for collection of animals for slaughter or for further rearing or finishing. In addition, checks are carried out on vehicles transporting animals or animal products/waste.

16. Local authorities also respond reactively to referrals from other agencies such as APHA, the FSA and the RPA. They also respond to complaints from

members of the public and non-governmental bodies such as welfare organisations and similar groups.

17. Local authorities in England and Wales have access to and can carry out checks on reported livestock movement information held on the BCMS CTS, e-AML2 and the AMLS systems to ensure compliance with animal movement requirements. In England sheep movement data is captured via ARAMS, which English LAs have access to, but in Wales Local Authorities continue to be responsible for the entry of sheep and goat movement data via AMLS. Local authorities in Scotland have access to the BCMS CTS database to carry out checks on reported cattle movement data. They also have access to and can carry out checks on reported sheep, goat and pig movement data on the ScotEID Database System.

Compliance with requirements in Regulation 882/2004

Control procedures - feed and food

Food Law Codes of Practice and Food Law Practice Guidance

18. All local and port health authorities with responsibilities for monitoring and verifying compliance with official controls and enforcement of food law must have regard to the instructions and criteria set out in the relevant Food Law Code of Practice – see Chapter 4.

Code of Practice on Feed Law Enforcement and Feed Law Practice Guidance

19. With regard to feed, relevant local authorities (i.e. those in GB) are required to have regard to the Feed Law Code of Practice, which is supplemented by a Practice Guidance Document in England and Wales in carrying out their duties. A Practice Guidance document on Earned recognition has been issued to supplement for Feed Law Code of Practice in Scotland,

20. For consistency, in NI Practice Guidance has been developed for use by DAERA (which carries out feed law enforcement in NI) and which incorporates the content of the Code for GB. The NI Feed Law Enforcement Guidance is available at: food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/feedlawguideni.pdf.

21. VMD, which also has feed law enforcement responsibilities, has SOPs for its inspectors which reflect the VMD's Enforcement Strategy, takes account of the content of the Code for local authorities.

Framework Agreement on Official Feed and Food Controls by Local Authorities

22. This covers feed and food law enforcement services in local authorities throughout the UK and feed law enforcement services in GB. Minimum standards are set out for local authorities in England, Wales and NI, within the Local Authority Framework Agreement. The Agreement is available at: food.gov.uk/enforcement/enforcework/frameagree.

BIP Manual

23. The BIP Manual provides guidance on implementation of legislation concerning checks on POAO imported from third countries. It covers both EU legislation and national rules applicable at BIPs and sets out the division of responsibilities and the procedures for the enforcement authorities carrying out veterinary checks.

24. In addition to regular updates of the BIP manual, any major changes in guidance and instructions are provided as Official Veterinary Surgeon (OVS) notes and sent to BIPs. The BIP manual and OVS notes are available at the following links: gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/209894/pb1, 3707-bip-manual-130701.pdf and ahvla.defra.gov.uk/official-vets/Guidance/bip/index.htm.

Control procedures - animal health and welfare

25. Minimum standards of control procedures are set out for local authorities in England and Wales, within the Local Authority Framework, and this is discussed between regional APHA management teams and the relevant local authorities.

26. In Scotland each local authority has a service plan in place outlining activities for animal health and welfare. Included in these activities for local authorities are: enforcement policies/powers; procedures for authorising officers; procedures for inspections and visits; procedures for dealing with complaints and complaint procedures; and procedures/plans in place for dealing with outbreaks of notifiable diseases. An agreed service plan forms an important part of the full implementation of the Framework.

Appendix L - National Reference Laboratories (NRLs)

Details of the NRLs appointed by the competent authorities in the UK are set out in the table below.

Analytical activity	Competent authority responsible for appointing the NRL	NRL	Arrangements to ensure NRLs operate in accordance with Article 33(2) and (3) of Regulation 882/2004	Quality control or management systems in place in the NRL	Arrangements for planning and conducting proficiency or ring tests during the period of the NCP
Feed and food NRLs					
Milk and milk products	FSA	AFBI, Agriculture, Food & Environmental Science Division, Newforge Lane, Belfast BT9 5PX	The MOU between FSA and AFBI takes account of requirements in Regulation 882/2004. The FSA meet regularly with AFBI to discuss how they are meeting the requirements of the Regulation/SLA.	AFBI has UKAS accreditation to ISO/EC 17025:2005, testing number 1279. This covers management systems and quality control of testing. Representatives attend the relevant annual workshop of NRLs and training courses organised by the EURL.	AFBI UKAS accreditation requires participation in both internal and external proficiency testing. Currently there are no plans to initiate ring testing for the enforcement laboratories for which AFBI are responsible.
Analysis and testing of zoonoses (Salmonella)	Defra For food aspects: FSA	APHA, New Haw, Addlestone, Weybridge, Surrey, KT15 3NB Food: PHE, Colindale Avenue, London NW9 5EQ	APHA operates according to the requirements of Regulation 882/2004. The contract between PHE and the FSA takes account of requirements in Regulation 882/2004. The specification document and regular meetings with FSA ensure NRL duties are fulfilled.	The laboratory testing facilities are UKAS accredited to ISO/EC 17025:2005 (Lab nos. 0941 & 1769) for an extensive range of tests. APHA is certified to BS EN ISO 9001:2008. This includes the provision of a range of specialist veterinary scientific services to the Government and other customers world-wide (Certificate No. LRQ 4000436). Additionally APHA holds GLP and GMP approval and complies with the Joint Code of Practice for Research projects and Good Clinical Practice (Veterinary) quality standards. PHE is accredited to ISO 17025 and necessary EN/ISO standards for all micro-organisms relevant to the NRL function. PHE applies a total Quality Management system to all laboratory activities to meet the relevant standards equivalent to BS EN ISO 9000.	APHA participates in proficiency tests as required including those arranged by the EURL. The APHA Proficiency testing unit is an accredited Proficiency testing provider (audited by UKAS to ISO/IEC 17043). This Unit provides regular Proficiency testing schemes to other UK laboratories for salmonella. PHE will take part in/organise such activities as required by the EURL and organise UK ring trials or other initiatives for Official Control Laboratories (OCLs) as appropriate.

Monitoring of marine Biotoxins	FSA	AFBI Headquarters, Veterinary Sciences Division, Stoney Road, Belfast BT43SD, Northern Ireland.	MOU between FSA and AFBI takes account of requirements in Regulation 882/2004. The FSA meets regularly with AFBI to discuss how they are meeting the requirements of the Regulation.	Laboratory operates to ISO/EC 17025. Methods are UKAS accredited. Representatives attend the relevant EURL briefing and training courses.	AFBI participates in EURL ring trials, proficiency tests and the QUASIMEME Proficiency Scheme. As there are insufficient laboratories to conduct meaningful proficiency testing, the laboratories concerned participate in other proficiency schemes in order to maintain their accreditation.
Monitoring the viral and bacteriological contamination of bivalve molluscs	FSA	Cefas, Weymouth Laboratory, Barrack Road, The Nothe, Weymouth, Dorset, DT4 8UB	MoU between FSA and Cefas takes account of requirements in Regulation 882/2004. The FSA meets regularly with Cefas to discuss how they are meeting the requirements of the Regulation/contract.	Cefas operates to ISO/EC 17025. All methods are UKAS accredited. Representatives attend the relevant annual workshop of NRLs and training courses organised by the EURL.	Cefas take part in a shellfish-specific European Q A Scheme[103] and EURL-organised ring trials. The NRL would take part in these under the current contract arrangements.
Listeria monocytogenes, Coagulase positive *Staphylococci* including *Staphylococci aureus, Escherichia coli,* including Verotoxigenic *E. coli* (VTEC) and *Campylobacter*	FSA	PHE, Colindale Avenue, London NW9 5EQ	The contract between PHE and the FSA takes account of requirements in Regulation 882/2004. The specification document and regular meetings with FSA ensures NRL duties are fulfilled.	PHE is accredited to ISO 17025 and necessary EN/ISO standards for all micro-organisms relevant to the NRL function. PHE applies a total Quality Management system to all laboratory activities to meet the relevant standards equivalent to BS EN ISO 9000.	PHE will take part in/organise such activities as required by the EURL and organise UK ring trials or other initiatives for OCLs as appropriate.
Antimicrobial resistance	FSA	PHE, Colindale Avenue, London NW9 5EQ	The contract between PHE and the FSA takes account of requirements in Regulation 882/2004. The specification document and regular meetings with FSA ensures NRL duties are fulfilled.	PHE is accredited to ISO 17025 and necessary EN/ISO standards for all micro-organisms relevant to the NRL function. PHE applies a total Quality Management system to all laboratory activities to meet the relevant standards equivalent to BS EN ISO 9000.	PHE will take part in/organise such activities as required by the EURL and organise UK ring trials or other initiatives for OCLs as appropriate

[103] More information on the European QA Scheme is available at: quality-register.co.uk/bodies/body74.htm

Parasites – Trichinella, Echinococcus and Anisakis	FSA	Trichinella and Echinococcus: APHA Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP33 2RX Anisakis: Cefas, Weymouth Laboratory, Barrack Road, The Nothe, Weymouth, Dorset, DT4 8UB	MoU requires the APHA to be compliant with the requirements of Regulation 882/2004. MoU between FSA and Cefas takes account of requirements in Regulation 882/2004. The FSA meets regularly with Cefas to discuss how they are meeting the requirements of the Regulation/contract.	APHA activities are accredited to ISO 9001:2000, a formal Management system. The laboratory facilities are UKAS accredited to ISO/EC 17025:2000. Cefas operates to ISO/EC 17025. All methods are UKAS accredited. Representatives attend the relevant annual workshop of NRLs and training courses organised by the EURL.	APHA participates in EURL-organised ring trials and organises ring trials for the UK OCLs. Cefas takes part in a fish-specific European QA Scheme and EURL-organised ring trials. The NRL will take part in these under the current contract arrangements.
Animal proteins in feedingstuffs	Defra	APHA, Whitley Road, Longbenton, Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE12 9SE	A contractual agreement for the surveillance for animal species specific proteins and structures in animal feedingstuffs is in place. Quarterly reports are made to Defra outlining how NRL responsibilities are being discharged. In addition regular meetings are held with Defra to discuss and resolve any issues arising from these reports.	The laboratory testing facilities are UKAS accredited to ISO/EC 17025:2005 (Lab nos. 0941 & 1769) for an extensive range of tests. APHA is certified to BS EN ISO 9001:2008. This includes the provision of a range of specialist veterinary scientific services to the Government and other customers world-wide (Certificate No. LRQ 4000436). Additionally APHA holds GLP and GMP approval and complies with the Joint Code of Practice for Research projects and Good Clinical Practice (Veterinary) quality standards.	The APHA Proficiency testing unit is an accredited Proficiency testing provider (audited by UKAS to ISO/IEC 17043). This Unit provides quarterly Proficiency testing schemes to APHA Newcastle and other International customers for detection of animal protein in animal feed. Participation in European ring trials is undertaken as appropriate.
Residues listed in Annex I, Group A to Council Directive 96/23/EC	VMD	For A1, A2, A3, A4, A5, A6 (except chlorpromazine, chloramphenicol and residues in honey) AFBI, Veterinary Sciences Division, Stoney Road, Belfast BT4 3SD N. Ireland For Group A6 (chloramphenicol and residues in honey) Fera Science Ltd, Sand Hutton, York, YO41 1LZ. For Group A6 (chlorpromazine), LGC Ltd, Queens Road, Teddington, Middlesex,TW11 0LY	VMD chairs regular meetings (approximately twice a year) of all NRLs for residues to discuss how they are discharging their duties under Article 14 of Council Directive 96/23 and Regulation 882/2004.	Laboratories operate to ISO/EC 17025. They also attend the relevant EURL briefing and training courses.	The laboratories participate in a range of proficiency tests, some of which are co-ordinated by VMD.

Residues listed in Annex I, Group B to Council Directive 96/23/EC	VMD	For Group B1, B2a, B2b (except nicarbazin), Fera Science Ltd., Sand Hutton, York, YO41 1LZ For Group B2c-e, B3a-d LGC Ltd, Queens Road, Teddington, Middlesex,TW11 0LYFor Group B2b (nicarbazin) and B2f AFBI, Veterinary Sciences Division, Stoney Road, Stormont, Belfast, BT4 3SD	VMD chairs regular meetings (approximately twice a year) of all NRLs for residues to discuss how they are discharging their duties under Article 14 of Council Directive 96/23 and Regulation 882/2004. LTSA between VMD and Fera, and MoU between VMD and AFBI.	Laboratories operate to ISO17025. They also attend the relevant EURL briefing and training courses.	Laboratories participate in a range of proficiency tests, some of which are co-ordinated by VMD.
TSEs	Defra	APHA, New Haw, Addlestone, Surrey KT 15 3NB	Requirements laid down in contract (Contract E -TS5001) between Defra and APHA.	The laboratory testing facilities are UKAS accredited to ISO/EC 17025:2005 (Lab nos. 0941 & 1769) for an extensive range of tests. APHA is certified to BS EN ISO 9001:2008. This includes the provision of a range of specialist veterinary scientific services to the Government and other customers world-wide (Certificate No. LRQ 4000436). Additionally APHA holds GLP and GMP approval and complies with the Joint Code of Practice for Research projects and Good Clinical Practice (Veterinary) quality standards.	APHA is the EURL for TSEs. The AAPHA Proficiency testing unit is an accredited Proficiency testing provider (audited by UKAS to ISO/IEC 17043)). This Unit provides regular Proficiency testing schemes to other EU NRLs and to other UK testing laboratories for TSEs.
Feed Additives authorisation and control	FSA	LGC, Queens Road, Teddington, Middlesex, TW11 0LY	The contract between LGC and FSA takes account of requirements in regulation (EC) 882/2004. The core and ad hoc duties set out in the contract reflect the requirements of an NRL as set out in Regulation 882/2004	Certification to ISO 9001:2000 for all activities and accreditation to ISO 17025 in relation to referee analyst of feedingstuffs. Participation in external quality assessment exercises. Adherence to working instructions and performance monitoring to ensure full traceability of results.	The NRL takes part in/organises such activities as required by the EURL and organises workshops for the Official Control Labs.

GM Organisms	FSA	LGC Ltd., Queens Road, Teddington, Middlesex, TW11 0LY	The contract between LGC and FSA takes account of requirements in Regulation (EC) 882/2004. The core and ad hoc duties set out in the contract reflect the requirements of an NRL as set out in Regulation 882/2004.	Certification to ISO 9001:2000 for all activities and accreditation to ISO 17025 for the majority of its analytical testing and calibration activities. Participation in external quality assessment exercises. Adherence to working instructions and performance monitoring to ensure full traceability of results.	Participates in EURL ring trials and proficiency tests. Ad hoc requirement in the NRL contract. LGC, the UK NRL for GMOs, is an active member of the European Network of Genetically Modified Organism (GMO) Laboratories (ENGL).
Pesticides residues in: Cereals and feedingstuffs Food of animal origin and commodities with high fat content Fruits and vegetables, including commodities with high water and high acid content Single residue methods	CRD	For pesticides in fruits and vegetables, pesticide single residue methods, and pesticides in cereals and feeding stuffs: Fera, Sand Hutton, York YO41 1LZ For pesticide residues in animal products and commodities with high fat content: LGC, Queens Road, Teddington, Middlesex, TW11 0LY	Fera provides its services to CRD under a LTSA which is reviewed quarterly. In addition a quarterly update is provided to CRD at the Analytical Sub-Group where all official laboratories are in attendance. A contractual agreement is in place for the provision of services to CRD. In addition a quarterly update is provided to CRD at the Analytical Sub-Group where all official laboratories are in attendance.	Fera operates to EN ISO/IEC 17025. All methods are UKAS accredited. LGC operates to EN ISO/IEC 17025 general requirements. All methods are UKAS accredited. Both laboratories attend the relevant EURL workshops.	As part of the requirements for accreditation both laboratories participate in proficiency tests as required including those arranged at EU level by the EURL. In addition both laboratories participate in the relevant Food Analysis Performance Assessment Scheme (FAPAS) rounds.
Material intended to come into contact with foodstuffs	FSA	Fera, Sand Hutton, York YO41 1LZ	MoU with the FSA takes account of requirements in Regulation (EC) 882/2004 and that of an NRL. Fera has set up a Steering Group to cover all aspects of the chemical contaminants NRL issues. Four OCLs are invited to this Steering Group (one from each of the four UK countries) as well as FSA staff. The Steering Group has set up an open website on which information is disseminated regarding the EURL-NRL network activities, including proficiency tests.	The laboratory is accredited by UKAS to ISO/EC 17025:2000 for tests carried out. It has over 90 procedures accredited. Fera is currently working towards certification under ISO 9001/2000. Fera ensures that projects are carried out in compliance with the Defra/FSA Joint Code of Practice for Research.	As part of the requirements for accreditation, Fera participates in appropriate FAPAS Series. It will also participate in proficiency tests arranged by the EURL.

Heavy metals in feed and food	FSA	Fera Scienece Ltd, Sand Hutton, York YO41 1LZ	MoU with the FSA takes account of requirements in Regulation 882/2004 and that of an NRL. Fera has set up a Steering Group to cover all aspects of the chemical contaminants NRL issues. Four OCLs are invited to this Steering Group (one from each of the four UK administrations) as well as FSA staff. The Steering Group has set up an open website on which information is disseminated regarding the EURL-NRL network activities, including proficiency tests.	BS EN ISO 9001 (BS5750 Part 1) granted Accredited to ISO/IEC 17025:2005 in relation to referee analyst of feedingstuffs. The laboratory is accredited by UKAS to ISO/EC 17025:2000 for tests carried out. It has over 90 procedures accredited. Fera Scienece Ltd is currently working towards certification under ISO 9001/2000. Fera ensures that projects are carried out in compliance with the DEFRA/FSA Joint Code of Practice for Research.	The laboratory will take part in/organise such activities as required by the EURL. As part of the requirements for accreditation, Fera participates in appropriate FAPAS Series. It will also participate in proficiency tests arranged by the EURL.
Mycotoxins	FSA	Fera Scienece Ltd, Sand Hutton, York YO41 1LZ	MoU with the FSA takes account of requirements in Regulation (EC) 882/2004 and that of an NRL. Fera Fera Science Ltd has set up a Steering Group to cover all aspects of the chemical contaminants NRL issues. Four OCLs are invited to this Steering Group (one from each of the four UK countries) as well as FSA staff. The Steering Group has set up an open website on which information is disseminated regarding the EURL-NRL network activities, including proficiency tests.	The laboratory is accredited by UKAS to ISO/EC 17025:2000 for tests carried out. It has over 90 procedures accredited. Fera Science Ltd is currently working towards certification under ISO 9001/2000. Fera Scienece Ltd ensures that projects are carried out in compliance with the DEFRA/FSA Joint Code of Practice for Research.	As part of the requirements for accreditation, Fera Science Ltd participates in appropriate FAPAS Series. It will also participate in proficiency tests arranged by the EURL.

Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs)	FSA	Fera Science Ltd, Sand Hutton, York YO41 1LZ	MoU with the FSA takes account of requirements in Regulation (EC) 882/2004 and that of an NRL. Fera Science Ltd has set up a Steering Group to cover all aspects of the chemical contaminants NRL issues. Four OCLs are invited to this Steering Group (one from each of the four UK countries) as well as FSA staff. The Steering Group has set up an open website on which information is disseminated regarding the EURL-NRL network activities, including proficiency tests.	The laboratory is accredited by UKAS to ISO/EC 17025:2000 for tests carried out. It has over 90 procedures accredited. Fera Science Ltd is currently working towards certification under ISO 9001/2000. Fera Science Ltd ensures that projects are carried out in compliance with the DEFRA/FSA Joint Code of Practice for Research.	As part of the requirements for accreditation, Fera Science Ltd participates in appropriate FAPAS Series. It will also participate in proficiency tests arranged by the EURL.
Dioxins and Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) in feed and food	FSA	Fera Science Ltd, Sand Hutton, York YO41 1LZ	MoU with the FSA takes account of requirements in Regulation (EC) 882/2004 and that of an NRL. Fer Science Ltd a has set up a Steering Group to cover all aspects of the chemical contaminants NRL issues. Four OCLs are invited to this Steering Group (one from each of the four UK countries) as well as FSA staff. The Steering Group has set up an open website on which information is disseminated regarding the EURL-NRL network activities, including proficiency tests.	The laboratory is accredited by UKAS to ISO/EC 17025:2000 for tests carried out. It has over 90 procedures accredited. Fera Science Ltd is currently working towards certification under ISO 9001/2000. Fera Science Ltd ensures that projects are carried out in compliance with the DEFRA/FSA Joint Code of Practice for Research.	As part of the requirements for accreditation, Fera Science Ltd participates in appropriate FAPAS Series. It will also participate in proficiency tests arranged by the EURL.

Animal health NRLs					
Classical swine fever Avian influenza Swine influenza Newcastle disease Aujesky's Disease (pseudorabies) Equine Encephalomyelitis Equine Infectious Anaemia Enzootic Bovine Leukosis Anthrax Monitoring the effectiveness of rabies vaccination Brucellosis Rabies Teschen Disease West Nile Fever Rift Valley Fever Equine Viral Arteritis Bovine TB Foot and mouth disease* African swine fever* African horse sickness* Bluetongue*	Defra	APHA, New Haw Addlestone, Surrey KT15 3NB	SLA. This is being reviewed and the revised Agreement will require the APHA to be compliant with the requirements of Regulation 882/2004.	The laboratory testing facilities are UKAS accredited to ISO/EC 17025:2005 (IDs 0941 & 1769) for an extensive range of tests for all the diseases listed. APHA is an Official Laboratory for the diseases asterisked, able to provide emergency testing in outbreaks. APHA is certified to BS EN ISO 9001:2008. This includes the provision of a range of specialist veterinary scientific services to the Government and other customers world-wide (Certificate No. LRQ 4000436). Additionally APHA holds GLP and GMP approval and complies with the Joint Code of Practice for Research projects and Good Clinical Practice (Veterinary) quality standards.	The APHA Quality Control Unit is an accredited Type A Inspection Body (ID 5640, audited to UKAS to ISO/IEC 17020:2012). The APHA Quality Assurance Unit is an accredited Proficiency Testing provider (ID 0004, audited by UKAS to ISO/IEC 17043:2010). This Unit provides regular Proficiency testing schemes to APHA Laboratories and other International customers for these and other diseases (with the exception of Equine Encephalomyelitis, Bluetongue, and Teschen). Participation in European and International ring trials is undertaken as appropriate. APHA maintains contingency plans for outbreak readiness and surge capacity for all diseases in its portfolio and also those in the portfolio of TPI.

African horse sickness African Swine Fever Bluetongue Swine Vesicular Disease Foot and Mouth Disease Rinderpest Sheep and Goat Pox Lumpy Skin Disease Peste des Petits Ruminants Epizootic Haemorrhagic Disease Vesicular Stomatitis	Defra	TPI, Ash Road, Pirbright, Woking, Surrey, GU24 0NF	To be considered as part of the annual review of the contract between Defra and TPI.	TPI principal testing and diagnostic activities are accredited by UKAS to ISO/IEC 17025:2005 (Laboratory No 4025).	TPI organises EU and broader International Proficiency testing schemes and is required to partake in EU ring trial initiatives as appropriate.

Aquatic Animal Disease	Defra in England and Wales	In England and Wales: Cefas, Weymouth Laboratory, Barrack Road, The Nothe, Weymouth, Dorset, DT4 8UB	SLA and MoU with Defra	Cefas: UKAS accredited under ISO 17025 for sampling and diagnostic work in respect of major diseases. In addition the FHI operates a competency framework to ensure best practice by its field inspectors. The accredited quality systems at the Cefas Weymouth laboratory are audited annually by UKAS.	Ring tests on major notifiable and emerging diseases.
	Scottish Government in Scotland	In Scotland: MSS Marine Laboratory, PO Box 101, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen AB11 9DB	SLA with the Scottish Government	MSS is UKAS accredited to ISO 17020 standard for inspection and sampling of fish farm sites. Laboratory procedures concerning disease diagnosis are UKAS accredited to ISO 17025 standards with flexible scope in certain areas. An internal audit programme is implemented. MSS is subject to annual audit by UKAS.	Participate in ring tests organised by the EU Reference Laboratories for finfish, molluscan and crustacean diseases covering all major notifiable aquatic pathogens. Organise ring tests to satisfy accreditation bodies.
	DAERA in NI	In NI: AFBI, Fish Disease Unit, Stoney Road, Belfast BT4 3SD is the designated laboratory of the Competent Authority. DAERA/AFBI also has access, if required, to the Cefas Weymouth Laboratory, the GB NRL for fish disease.	SLA with DAERA Fisheries Division and AFBI Fish Disease Unit	AFBI is accredited by UKAS to ISO 17025 and ISO 9001 standards. AFBI is subject to an annual audit by UKAS. It is hoped to commence additional validation work and prepare dossiers for real time PCR assays *for Ostreid Herpesvirus-1 µvar*, *Bonamia* and cell culture-based diagnostics in 2015/16.	To satisfy the requirements of ISO 17025 and ISO 9001 accreditation, AFBI participate in ring tests covering all of the major notifiable aquatic pathogens. These ring tests are organised by the EURL's.

Campylobacter in animals	Defra	APHA, New Haw, Addlestone, Surrey KT 15 3NB	APHA operates according to the requirements of Regulation (EC) 882/2004.	The laboratory testing facilities are UKAS accredited to ISO/EC 17025:2005 (Lab nos. 0941 & 1769) for an extensive range of tests. APHA is certified to BS EN ISO 9001:2008. This includes the provision of a range of specialist veterinary scientific services to the Government and other customers world-wide (Certificate No. LRQ 4000436). Additionally APHA holds GLP and GMP approval and complies with the Joint Code of Practice for Research projects and Good Clinical Practice (Veterinary) quality standards.	APHA participates in proficiency tests as required including those arranged by the EURL. The APHA Proficiency testing unit is an accredited Proficiency testing provider (audited by UKAS to ISO/IEC 17043). This Unit provides regular Proficiency testing schemes to other UK laboratories for salmonella. Campylobacter (currently this scheme is not accredited).
Antimicrobial resistance in animals (AMR)	Defra – VMD	APHA, New Haw, Addlestone, Surrey KT15 3NB	APHA operates according to requirements of EU decision 2013/652/EU	The laboratory testing facilities are UKAS accredited to ISO/EC 17025:2005 (Lab nos. 0941 & 1769) for an extensive range of tests. APHA is certified to BS EN ISO 9001:2008. This includes the provision of a range of specialist veterinary scientific services to the Government and other customers world-wide (Certificate No. LRQ 4000436). Additionally APHA holds GLP and GMP approval and complies with the Joint Code of Practice for Research projects and Good Clinical Practice (Veterinary) quality standards.	As a NRL proficiency or ring testing is carried out as appropriate. Also as a NRL the APHA is required to partake in EU ring test initiatives, carried out as appropriate.

Appendix M - Official Laboratories

Laboratories designated by the FSA

A list of FSA designated official laboratories is published at:
food.gov.uk/enforcement/monitoring/foodlabs/foodcontrollabs

Laboratories designated by CRD for pesticide residue analysis	
LGC Ltd[104]	Accreditation is checked annually and laboratories are contractually obliged to inform the CRD about changes to their accreditation and are required to attain acceptable scores in relevant national and European proficiency tests.
Fera Science Ltd [105]	
Agri-Food Biosciences Institute (AFBI) [106]	
Science & Advice for Scottish Agriculture (SASA)[107]	
Eurofins Ltd[108]	

Laboratories designated for analysis of residues of veterinary medicines	
Fera Scienece Ltd.	Laboratories have accredited methods in place for the analyte/matrix combinations in the residues programme. The analytical methods employed also meet the requirements of Commission Decision 2002/657.[109]
AFBI	

104 More information on LGC Ltd is available at: lgc.co.uk/
105 More information on Fera (an executive agency of Defra) is available at: fera.co.uk
106 AFBI is a Government laboratory. More information is available at: afbini.gov.uk/
107 More information on SASA is available at: sasa.gov.uk/
108 More information on Eurofins Ltd is available at: eurofins.co.uk/
109 Commission Decision 2002/657 implementing Council Directive 96/23/EC concerning the performance of analytical methods and the interpretation of results. Official Journal L 221, 17.8.2002, 8-36.

Laboratories designated for analysis of medicated feedingstuffs and SFAs (additives, premixtures and compound feedingstuffs)	
Fera Science Ltd	Responsible for analysis of samples of feed for the detection of banned antibiotic growth promoters in feed. Fera Science Ltd is accredited to ISO17025 and audited by UKAS.
Sciantec Analytical Services Ltd, Cawood, North Yorkshire[110]	Sciantec is accredited to ISO 17025 and audited by UKAS. The VMD has an agreed arrangement with Sciantec for the analysis process.
Public Analyst	Public Analyst operates to a MoU with DAERA which is reviewed annually.
AFBI (NI)	AFBI operates in adherence to a sampling and analysis plan drawn up by DAERA.

Official laboratories designated for the testing of samples from mammals and birds for notifiable diseases taken as part of an investigation	
APHA sub-contracts the laboratory work/testing to other appropriate laboratories which meet certain specified standards and which are imposed and monitored by the APHA[111]	The laboratory testing facilities are UKAS accredited to ISO/EC 17025:2005 (Lab no. 1769) for an extensive range of tests. APHA is certified to BS EN ISO 9001:2008. This includes the provision of a range of specialist veterinary scientific services to the Government and other customers world-wide (Certificate No. LRQ 4000139). Additionally APHA holds GLP and GMP approval and complies with the Joint Code of Practice for Research projects and Good Clinical Practice (Veterinary) quality standards.
TPI	Current accredited tests are listed in the TPI's ISO/IEC 17025 Schedule of Accreditation available via the UKAS website: reference 4025. TPI operates under a contract and delivery plan reference PU/T/WL/11/33 agreement with the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Group (BBSRC) for the contracting of services between BBSRC and Defra.

[110] More information is available at: sciantec.uk.com/
[111] More information on the APHA is available at: defra.gov.uk/apha

Official laboratories for bee health controls	
Fera Sciene Ltd.	Fera's laboratory work is carried out in accordance with the Principles of GLP and is subject to periodic spot checks both by Fera's QA Team, and externally by the UK Good Laboratory Practice Monitoring Authority (GLPMA).[112] The NBU is also subject to assessment under ISO 9001.
SASA	SASA is certified to ISO 9001:2008 for all its activities and accredited by UKAS to ISO 17025:2005 for a number of test methods used by the Pesticides & Wildlife Branch, the Plant Health Potato Quarantine Unit and the Official Seed Testing Station for Scotland (OSTS). The OSTS is also accredited by the International Seed Testing Association (ISTA).
AFBI	AFBI is accredited to ISO 9001 and receives regular internal and external audits to ensure compliance. AFBI is committed to the ongoing improvement of its services through the establishment and review of specific measurable quality objectives, and the involvement of staff in meeting these objectives.

Official laboratories for aquatic animal diseases	
The Cefas Weymouth Laboratory[113]	Laboratories are accredited by the UKAS under the ISO 17025 standard and are approved for testing samples from fish and shellfish for notifiable (listed) diseases. Cefas operates under a MoU between Defra and the FHI covering the Inspectorate's responsibilities and activities.
MSS Aberdeen Laboratory[114]	The work MSS carries out is governed by a Service Level Agreement, set out on an annual basis
AFBI	There is a Service Level Agreement (SLA) in place between DAERA Fisheries Division and the Fish Disease Unit at AFBI. The SLA sets out the annual agreed work programme and an annual audit by DAERA in respect of sampling and reporting procedures is carried out.

112 GLPMA is a body consisting of the Secretary of State for Health, the National Assembly for Wales, the Scottish Ministers and the Department of Health and Social Services for NI. More information is available at: gov.uk/good-laboratory-practice-glp-for-safety-tests-on-chemicals.

113 More information on Cefas is available at cefas.defra.gov.uk/

114 More information on MS is available at: gov.scot/topics/marine

Appendix N - UK Control Bodies

Details of the control bodies involved with official control activities in the UK are listed in the table below.

Competent authority delegating control task	Control bodies	Task(s) delegated	Measures taken in accordance with Regulation 882/2004
Feed and food controls			
FSA/FSS	Official feed and food control laboratories (Public Analyst and Agricultural Analyst and Food Examiner laboratories), including laboratories for marine biotoxins,phytoplankton, chemical contaminants and shellfish viral and microbiological monitoring. See list at: food.gov.uk/enforcement/monitoring/foodlabs/foodcontrollabs	Chemical analysis and microbiological examination of official feed and food samples.	• All official laboratories are accredited in accordance with appropriate standards. • A description of the tasks to be undertaken is provided • Arrangements are in place for the independent inspection and audit of official laboratories and the withdrawal of delegation if agreed standards of performance are not met. • Arrangements are in place for reporting the outcome of official controls.
FSA – Operations	ALS Food and Pharmaceutical	Collection of samples, and testing of RCDM for drinking.	• Arrangements for supervision and monitoring and reporting of results by ALS Food and Pharmaceutical in England and Wales (no raw milk is sold in Scotland).
CRD	ESA Ltd	Sample collection for pesticide residues surveillance.	• A contract is in place specifying work plans, review dates and reporting arrangements. HSE CRD is currently exploring the options for independent audit of ESA.
CRD	Fera Scienece Ltd LGC Ltd AFBI Eurofins SASA	Official laboratories used in the residue monitoring process.	• Contracts and LTSA's are in place specifying work plans, review dates and reporting arrangements for analysis and results.

VMD	Fera Science Ltd	Analysis of statutory veterinary residue surveillance samples. Analysis of feed to detect banned antibiotic growth promoters Analysis of feed samples containing veterinary medicines or SFAs	• Fera works to a Specification of Requirements laid down in its LTSA with the VMD. As part of the LTSA it undertakes to have appropriately qualified staff and equipment to carry out the analytical work. There is a nightly results download. • Fera is accredited to ISO17025. • Inspectors of UKAS, the FVO, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the VMD independent audit team audit Fera. • Sciantec – is accredited to ISO 17025 and audited by UKAS.
Defra - Stakeholder Engagement Behavioural Change and Better Regulation Core Function	Approved private organic inspection bodies[115]	Control and certification of organic production (as required by Council Regulation 834/2007, Commission Regulation 889/2008 and Commission Regulation 1235/2008).[116]	• Control Bodies are independently accredited and audited by UKAS against Standard ISO 17065. • A description of delegated tasks is provided to the control bodies. They report their findings to Defra. • Further details of the arrangements for control bodies are provided in the Organic Certification and Inspection Approval Programme Control Manual.[117] This manual is currently under review.

115 A list of these bodies is available at https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/474604/organic-control-bodies.pdf

116 Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 on organic production and labelling of organic products and repealing Regulation (EEC) No 2092/91. Official Journal L189, 20.7.2007, 1-23 Commission Regulation (EC) No 889/2008 laying down rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 on organic production and labelling of organic products with regard to organic production, labelling and control. Official Journal L250, 18.9.2008, 1-84. Commission Regulation (EC) No 1235/2008 laying down detailed rules for implementation of Council Regulation (EC) 834/2007 as regards the arrangements for imports of organic products from third countries. Official Journal L334, 8.12.2008, 25-52

117 The Control Manual is available at: archive.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/growing/organic/standards/pdf/inspector-controlmanual.pdf

Defra - Regional and Local Food Team, Food Policy Unit	Private inspection bodies and/ or Local Trading Standards Authorities, in their capacity as Competent Authorities, can also fulfil the role of inspection bodies. [118]	Ensuring that producers of registered protected food names are complying with the registered specification for those products (as required by Regulation (EU) 1151/2012)[119]	• Private inspection bodies must be independently accredited and audited by UKAS against ISO/IEC 17065:2012. • Local Trading Standards Authorities in their capacity as Competent Authorities must be able to demonstrate that, as far as possible, they are able to comply with the principles of the EN 45011 Standard[120]. • Defra must be informed of all outcomes of official controls on an agreed regular basis.
Defra – Zoonoses Policy Team	Approved industry independent control bodies	Delegated to carry out routine official sampling and inspection visits to members of approved industry control programmes or members of specified industry assurance schemes on behalf of the competent authority under Salmonella National Control Programmes.	• Official control sampling under the requirements of the *Salmonella* National Control Programmes (Regulation (EC) No. 2160/2003) in the laying hen and turkey industry sectors.

118 Defra is currently carrying out a major update of its website with the aim of including more information about the inspection process, role of control bodies and its own role. Included in this will be a list of the UK control bodies and their contact details. At the moment information about those bodies and those in other Member States can be found on the European Commission website which is available at http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/ofis_public/r8/ctrl_r8.cfm?targetUrl=home&lang=en

119 Regulation (EU) 1151/2012 of the European Parliament and Council on quality schemes for agricultural products and foodstuffs, Official Journal L 343, 14.12.2012, p. 1

120 The ISO/IEC 17065: 2012 – Conformity assessment – Requirements for bodies certifying products, processes and services, was published in September 2012 and will replace ISO Guide 65 and EN 45011. In accordance with an International Accreditation Forum (IAF) decision, the implementation of the new standard will be subject to a three year transition period.

Animal health			
Defra (Animal Health)	Commercial transport carrier companies approved under the Non-Commercial Movement of Pet Animals Order (2011) (as amended).[121]	Documentary and identity checks provided for under Regulation 576/2013 to ensure compliance with the EU pet travel scheme	Carriers are approved following assessment of their facilities, processes and staffing. Training, support and regular communication is provided by APHA. A system of audit checks is in operation to evaluate carrier performance. Non-compliances identified by the carriers must be reported through established systems.
Defra (Animal Health)	Private laboratories approved to undertake work in respect of The Control of Salmonella in Poultry Order 2007, The Control of Salmonella in Turkey Flocks Order 2009 and The Control of Salmonella in Broiler Flocks Order 2009[122], the Trade in Animals and Related Products Regulations 2011 and the Animal By-Products Regulations 2013	Laboratory examination of samples for the detection of *Salmonella*, Enterobacteriaceae and *Clostridium perfringens* and diseases Mycoplasma.	The list of designated approved laboratories is available on the Defra website: defra.gov.uk/animal-diseases/controls/approved-laboratories/
Defra	APHA, Weybridge	Genotyping of sheep in support of scrapie controls.	DNA testing organisation accredited to quality standard ISO 17025. Operates under contract to Defra
Defra	LGC, Risley	BSE testing for cattle slaughtered for human consumption	Approved under Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (England) Regulations 2010 following satisfactory evaluation by the NRL (TSE). Approval criteria available at webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140724030941/http://www.defra.gov.uk/ahvla-en/tests-and-services/bse-test-lab-approval/ and include ISO17025 accreditation. Contact address for enquiries: apha.corporatecorrespondence@apha.gsi.gov.uk

121 gov.uk/take-pet-abroad
122 SI 2007/3574, SI 2009/3271 and SI 2009/260

Appendix O – Number of Control Staff in the UK[123]

Authority	Full time equivalents	Total
FSA	429.14 employed Meat Hygiene Inspectors 32.8 employed Sevice Delivery Managers 230 contracted Meat Hygiene Inspectors 12 Field Veterinary Leader's 5 Audit Veterinary Leader's 5 Field Veterinary Co-ordinator's 20 Veterinary Auditors 3.42 Official Veterinarians (OV) 229 contracted OVs 549 policy/admin/support staff 1 Technical Auditor 22 FTE Dairy Hygiene Inspectors, including 1 Lead Dairy Hygiene Inspector	**1,538.36**
FSS	63 Meat Hygiene Inspectors 4 Service Delivery Managers 3 Vets 4 Auditors 87 Policy/Admin/Support Staff 16 Contract Meat Hygiene Inspectors 3 Contract Official Vets	**180**
Local Authorities	2,303 EHOs/TSOs	**2, 303**[124]
Defra	58 Animal Health Team 47 Plant Health Team 101 Animal Welfare, Bovine TB, Animal Health, Policy & Implementation (Exotic Diseases, Livestock & Movement Controls) 13.7 Food Security & Food Standards 5 Organics Team 0.5 Internal Audit	**225.2**
Welsh Government	**OCVO** CVO Wales SVO Wales 3 Veterinary Advisers 46 administrative and policy staff **RIW** 43 Inspectors 5 Line Managers 5 Administrative staff 0.25 Internal Audit (includes 13 Policy, admin & support staff for plant health) (includes 4 policy staff for Bee Health)	**104.25**
Scottish Government	**Enterprise, Environment & Innovation** 2 Inspectors **Animal Health & Welfare Division**	**323.5**

123 Staff figures as at 31 December 2014

124 This data is taken from LAEMS reporting and is correct for England,Wales and Scotoland up to March 2015, it is correct for NI up to 31 December 2014 due to the way information was recorded that year.

	CVO Scotland Deputy CVO 4 Veterinary Surgeons 1 Scientific Advisor 25 Administrative & Policy Staff **Rural Payments & Inspectorate Division** 180 Inspectors **Egg & Poultry Unit** 5 Inspectors 0.5 Internal Audit **Plant health** 63 Inspectors 11 Inspectors - Horticulture & Marketing Unit 28 support staff 2 Policy staff	
The Animal and Plant Health Agency	733.39 Administrative staff 261.1 Management staff 322.31 Veterinary staff 256.45 Technical staff 463.34 Scientific staff 11.91 Bee Inspectors 2 GM Inspectors 113.45 Plant Health and Seeds Inspectors	**2163.95**

Authority	Full time equivalents	Total
VMD	3 National Residues Surveillance Scheme 3 Policy Advice on medicated feedingstuffs & feed additives 9 Inspections & Investigations Team (6 inspectors plus 3 admin staff) 7 Antimicrobial Resistance Team	**22**
DAERA	260.81 VS/ VPHP 36.97[125] Agri-Food Inspection Branch 3 FHI and 2 Admin in Aquatic Animal Health 0.5 Internal Audit (includes 33 Policy, Inspectorates and admin support staff for Plant health) (includes 1 Senior Inspector [supported by 1 seasonal inspector] for Bee Health)	**303.28**
CRD	56 Analysts 0.5 Residue enforcement campaigns 0.5 Risk Assessments 28 Sample collection monitoring	**85**
RPA	132 BCMS 188 Inspectors 45 non-SPS schemes in Operations	**365**
Forestry Commission	**Plant Health** 6 Policy, admin & support staff 20 Inspectors	**26**
Fera Science Ltd	75 staff Supporting Plant Health Quarantine Regulations 7 staff supporting Bee Health 20 staff Supporting Veterinary Medicines Regulations	**102**
Bee Health	**England and Wales** NBU 6 central support staff 54 Bee Inspectors **Scotland** 2 policy support staff 1 Scientific specialist 1 Apiculture specialist 4 full time equivalent Bee Inspectors	**68**
TPI	27.2 staff in Pirbright Reference Labs	**27.2**
Cefas	35 Food Safety staff 21 Aquatic Animal Health	**56**
MSS	40 Laboratory, Research & Epidemiology staff – fish health & disease research 18 FHI services	**58**
Total number of FTE staff involved in controls on food safety, animal and plant health and animal welfare in the UK		**7950.74**

[125] Inspection and support staff

Appendix P – Abbreviations

ABP	Animal by-products
AFBI	Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute
AFIB	Agri-Food Inspection Branch
AFLELG	Animal Feed Law Enforcement Liaison group
AGP	Antimicrobial Growth Promoter
AMES	Animal Health & Welfare Management & Enforcement System
AMLS	Animal Movement Licensing System
AMR	Antimicrobial Resistance
ANA	Audit Needs Assessment
APHA	Animal and Plant Health Agency
APHIS	Animal and Public Health Information System
BBSRC	Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Group
BCMS	British Cattle Movement Service
BIP	Border Inspection Post
BRDO	Better Regulation Delivery Office
BSE	Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy
CAP	Common Agricultural Policy
CCA	Central Competent Authority
Cefas	Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science
CP	Country Profile
CRD	Chemicals Regulation Directorate
CTS	Cattle Tracing Service
CVO	Chief Veterinary Officer
DAFM	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Dublin
DAERA	Department of Agriculture,Environment and Rural Affairs Northern Ireland
Defra	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
DH	Department of Health
DHI	Dairy Hygiene Inspector
DNA	Deoxyribonucleic acid
DVO	Divisional Veterinary Officer
EA	Environment Agency
EEA	European Economic Area
EHC	Export Health Certificate
EHO	Environmental Health Officer
EPPO	European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organisation
EU	European Union
EURL	European Union Reference Laboratory
FAPAS	Food Analysis Performance Assessment Scheme

FAQ	Frequently Asked Questions
FBO	Food Business Operator
FeBO	Feed Business Operator
Fera	Food and Environment Research Agency (from 1 April 2015 to be called "Fera Science Ltd")
FCU	Food Crime Unit
FHI	Fish Health Inspectorate
FHIS	Food Hygiene Information Scheme
FHRS	Food Hygiene Rating Scheme
FLG	Food Liaison Group
FSA	Food Standards Agency
FSAI	Food Safety Authority of Ireland
FSS	Food Standards Scotland
FVO	Food and Veterinary Office
GB	Great Britain
GHP	Good Hygiene Practice
GLP	Good Laboratory Practice
GLPMA	Good Laboratory Practice Monitoring Authority
GM	Genetically Modified
GMP	Good Manufacturing Practice
HACCP	Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point
HMRC	Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs
HR	Human Resources
HSE	Health and Safety Executive
IAS	Internal Audit Services
IPP	International Phytosanitary Portal
ISTA	International Seed Testing Association
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
LAEMS	Local Authority Enforcement Monitoring System
LGA	Local Government Association
MANCP	Multi-Annual National Control Plan
MOC	Manual for Official Controls
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MRL	Maximum Residue Level
MS	Marine Scotland
MSS	Marine Scotland Science
NAO	National Audit Office
NAP	National Agricultural Panel
NBU	National Bee Unit
NFA	National Feed Audit
NFU	National Farmers' Union
NI	Northern Ireland
NPPO	National Plant Protection Organisation

NRL	National Reference Laboratory
NRW	Natural Resources Wales
NTSB	National Trading Standards Board
OCL	Official Control Laboratory
OCPHO	Office of the Chief Plant Health Officer
OCVO	Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer
OSTS	Official Seed Testing System for Scotland
OV	Official Veterinarian
OVS	Official Veterinary Surgeon
PAH	Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbon
PAP	Processed Animal Protein
PCB	Polychlorinated Biphenyl
PCR	Polymerase Chain Reaction
PETS	Pet Travel Scheme
PHA	Port Health Authority
PHE	Public Health England
PHW	Public Health Wales
PHSI	Plant Health and Seeds Inspectorate
POAO	Product of animal origin
PRIF	Pesticide Residues in Food
PSIAS	Public Sector Internal Audit Standards
QA	Quality Assurance
RASFF	Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed
RBI	Regional Bee Inspector
RCDM	Raw Cows' Drinking Milk
RIW	Rural Inspectorate for Wales
RODs	Regional Operational Directors
RPA	Rural Payments Agency
RPW	Rural Payments Wales
RSPCA	Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
SASA	Science and Advice for Scottish Agriculture
SDM	Service Delivery Manager
SEARS	Scotland's Environmental and Rural Services
SFBB	Safer Food, Better Business
SG AFRC	Scottish Government Agriculture, Food and Rural Communities Directorate
SG RPID	Scottish Government Rural Payments and Inspections Directorate
SGIAD	Scottish Government Internal Audit Division
SLA	Service Level Agreement
SOPs	Standard Operating Procedures
SRM	Specified Risk Material
SRUC	Scotland's Rural College
TB	Tuberculosis

TPI	The Pirbright Institute
TRACES	Trade Control and Expert System
TSE	Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy
TSO	Trading Standards Officer
UK	United Kingdom
UKAS	United Kingdom Accreditation Service
UKBF	United Kingdom Border Force
UKFSS	United Kingdom Food Surveillance System
VM	Veterinary Manager
VMD	Veterinary Medicines Directorate
VMP	Veterinary Medicinal Product
VPHP	Veterinary Public Health Programme
VRC	Veterinary Residues Committee
VRG	Veterinary Risk Group
VS	Veterinary Service
WG	Welsh Government
WG NR	Welsh Government Natural Resources