

Strategic Indicator  
**Animal Welfare**

Strategic Outcome Numbers  
**4,5,6**

Indicator Measures  
The number of category 3 & 4 welfare incidents recorded at the farm, in transport and at meat plants.

**What is the role of FSS?**

A key function of Food Standards Scotland (FSS) is to ensure that animals are protected by Food Business Operators (FBOs) from any unnecessary distress, pain or suffering prior to and during slaughter and killing activities.

On behalf of SG, FSS enforces legislation that ensures only licensed, trained and competent operatives are involved in slaughter, killing and related operations.

FSS also plays an important role in relation to assisting the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) and Local Authorities with gathering evidence and reporting suspected animal welfare incidents on farm and during transport under a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with SG.

Where there is evidence of animal welfare breaches in approved establishments, enforcement action is taken against any non-compliant business. This is reflected in the plant enforcement record and audit reports.

**Why is this Strategic Indicator Important?**

- It provides an overall view of animal welfare levels at slaughter
- It shows origin of welfare issues
- It allows FSS to detect trends and act, advising relevant organisations of emerging risk
- It is an area of interest for public and media, leading to queries/FOI requests.
- It presents a potential reputational risk to FSS

**Severity of Welfare Incidents**

**Category 3**

Technical breach of the Regulations but there was **no evidence** of any avoidable pain, distress or suffering to the animal.

**Category 4**

Breach of animal welfare Regulations with **evidence** of avoidable pain, distress or suffering to the animal during their killing and related operations, or a contravention poses a serious and imminent risk to animal welfare.

**FSS Performance update – (refer to graphs – overview)**

FSS continues to improve the monitoring and reporting system for animal welfare breaches. FSS is collaborating with the Animal Health and Welfare Strategy Group and LA local panels to address non-compliances spanning multiple agencies. The Scottish Livestock Welfare Group (SLWG) was created to review welfare data and intelligence, address areas for improvement in a coordinated approach and review welfare policy to secure improvements in welfare.

Animal welfare breaches that occur within approved slaughterhouses in Scotland are investigated and proportionate action is taken by official veterinarians. The action will range from verbal advice, enforcement letters, welfare enforcement notices to investigations with a view to providing reports to the Procurator Fiscal, and if required the suspension or revocation of slaughterer's Certificate of Competence.

**FSS Influence on performance markers**

- FSS has enforcement powers/tools to stop/change/influence processes to ensure animal welfare at slaughter is protected.
- FSS reports all issues outside our enforcement powers to competent authorities (APHA/LA), providing the required information and evidence to improve welfare on farm and during transport.
- FSS collaborate with APHA and LAs to improve the overall welfare of animals in Scotland.

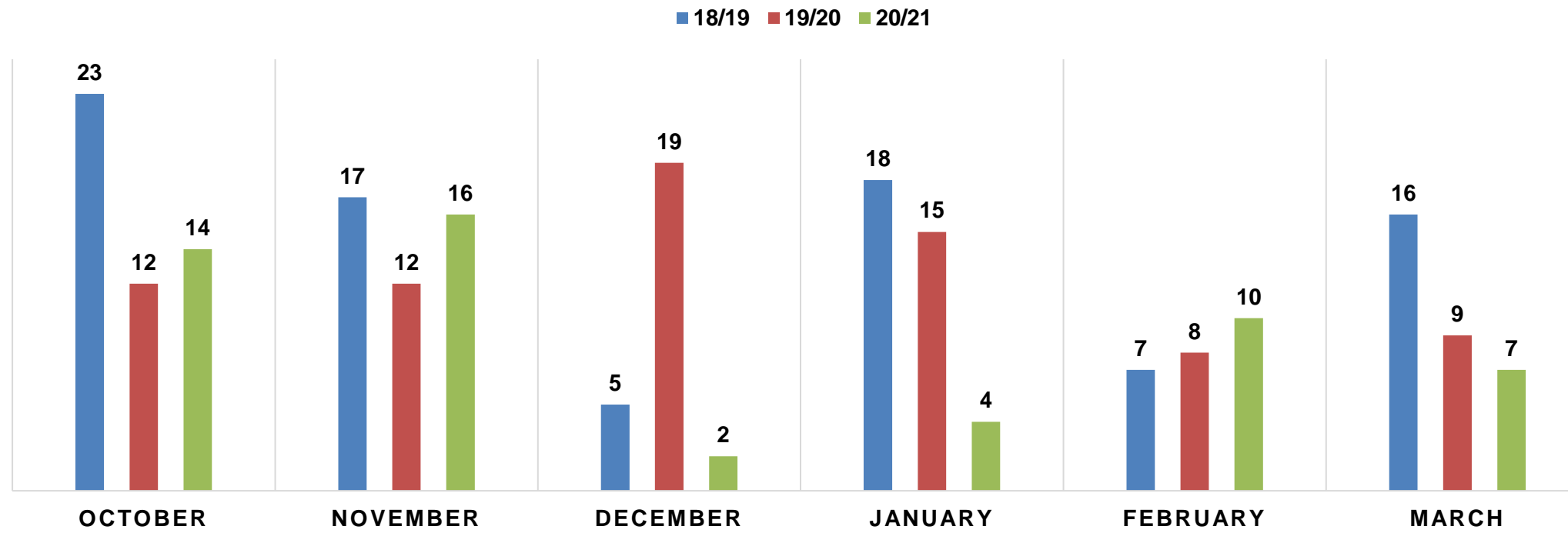
**Issues within reporting Period (01/10/2020-31/03/2021)**

Quarters 3 and 4 have seen a reduction in reported animal welfare incidents compared to the same reporting period in previous years. The incidents were mainly related to farm and transport incidents. Overall, there were a total of 163 incidents which include both scores 3 and 4 with 24 (15%) related to abattoirs and 139 (85%) related to farm and/or transport.

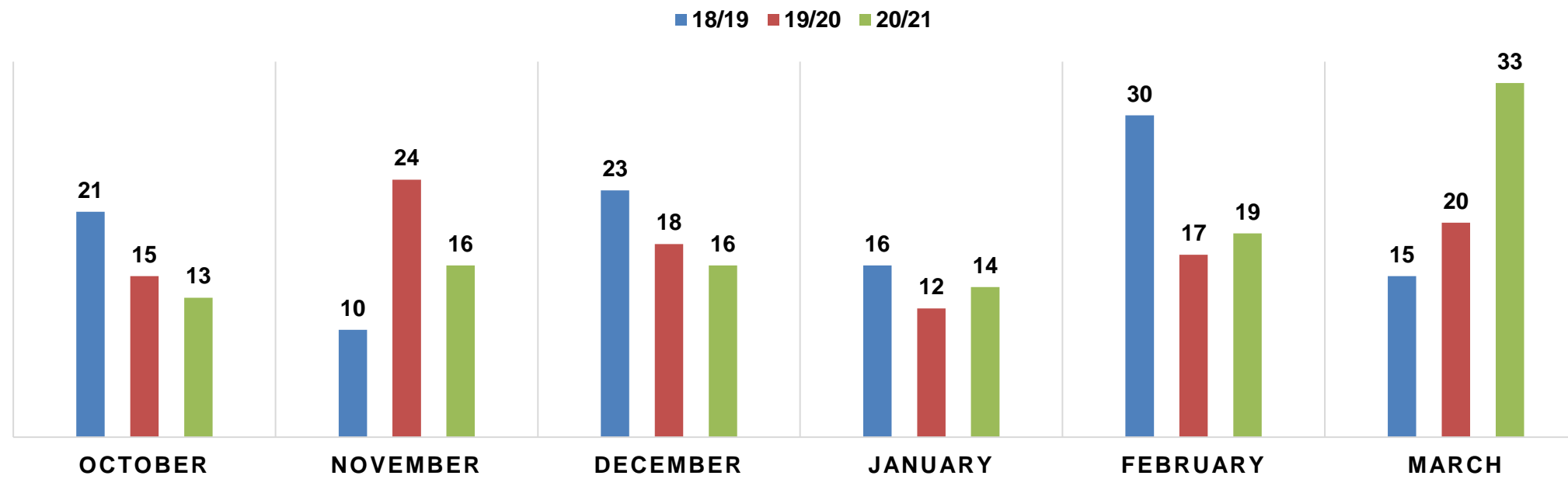
All abattoir incidents were addressed by the appropriate enforcement action where applicable and all farm and transport related incidents were reported to the relevant enforcement authority. The presentation of animals in late stage pregnancy has seen a decrease compared to previous 2 quarters, from 42 to 29 cases. 50 cases were attributed to welfare in transport, as animals were found weak or injured upon arrival at the abattoir. 60 incidents were linked to potential welfare issues on farm and have been reported to APHA.

## Scottish Welfare Incident Trends

### NON COMPLIANCE SCORE 3 - ALL INCIDENTS

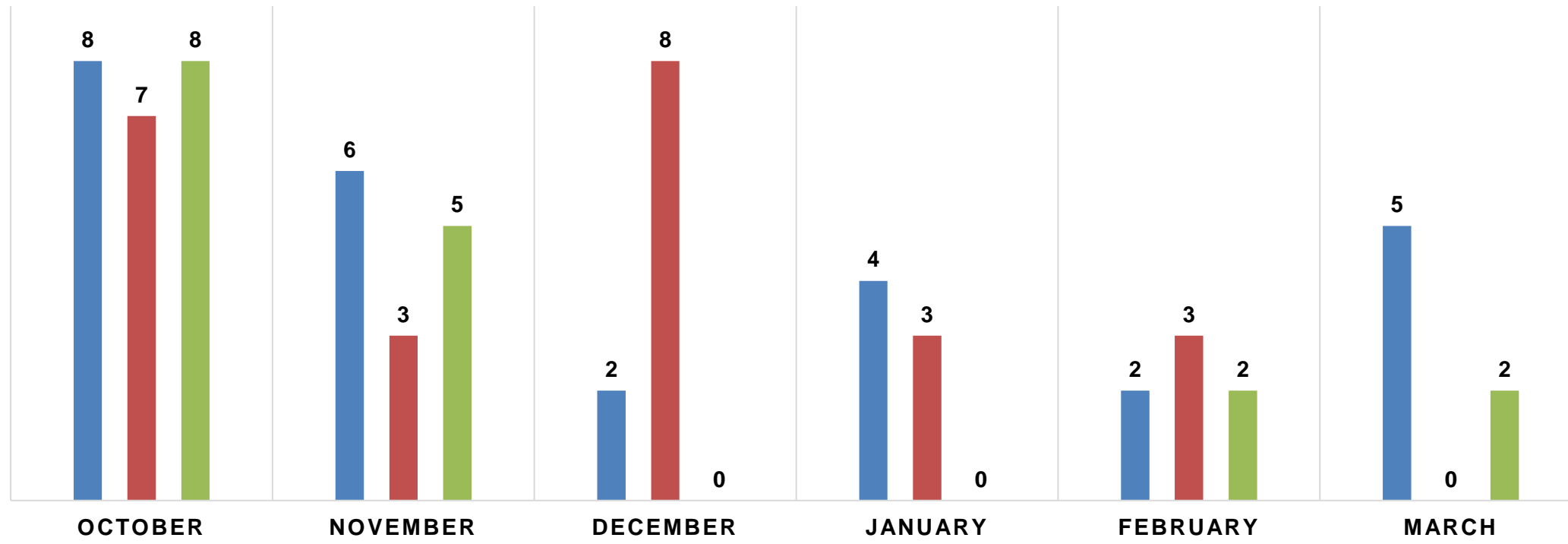


### NON COMPLIANCE SCORE 4 - ALL INCIDENTS



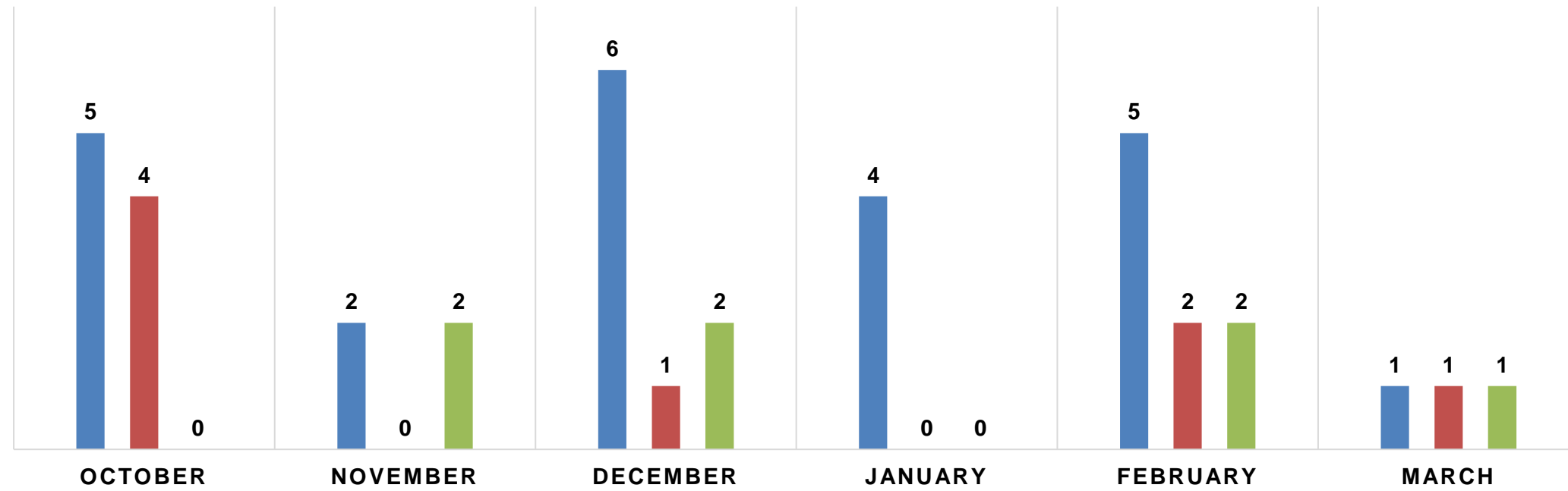
### ABATTOIR - SCORE 3

■ 18/19 ■ 19/20 ■ 20/21

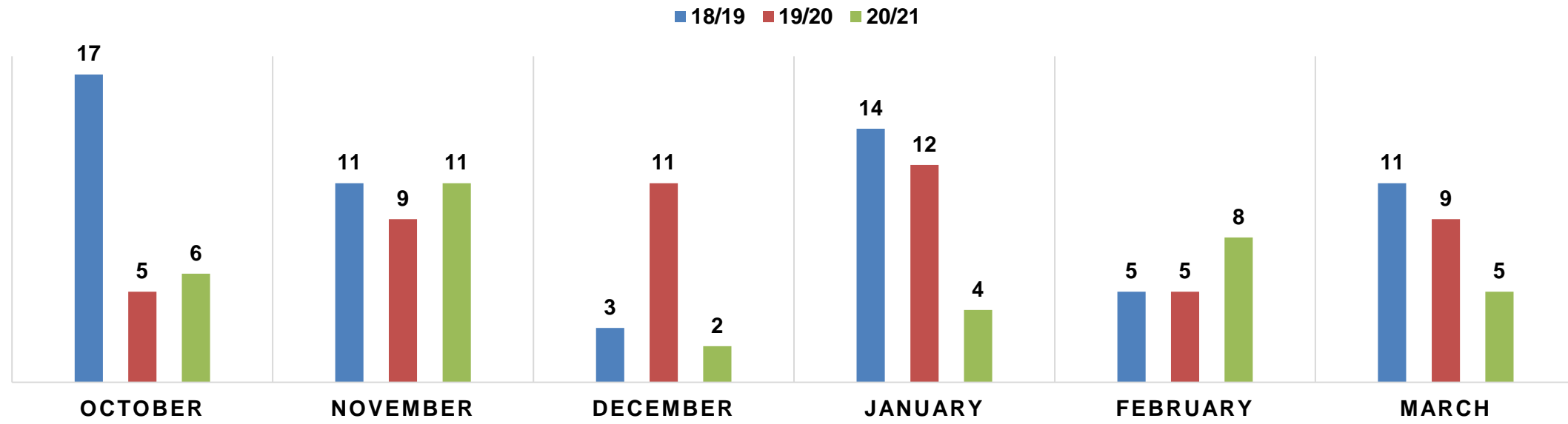


### ABATTOIR - SCORE 4

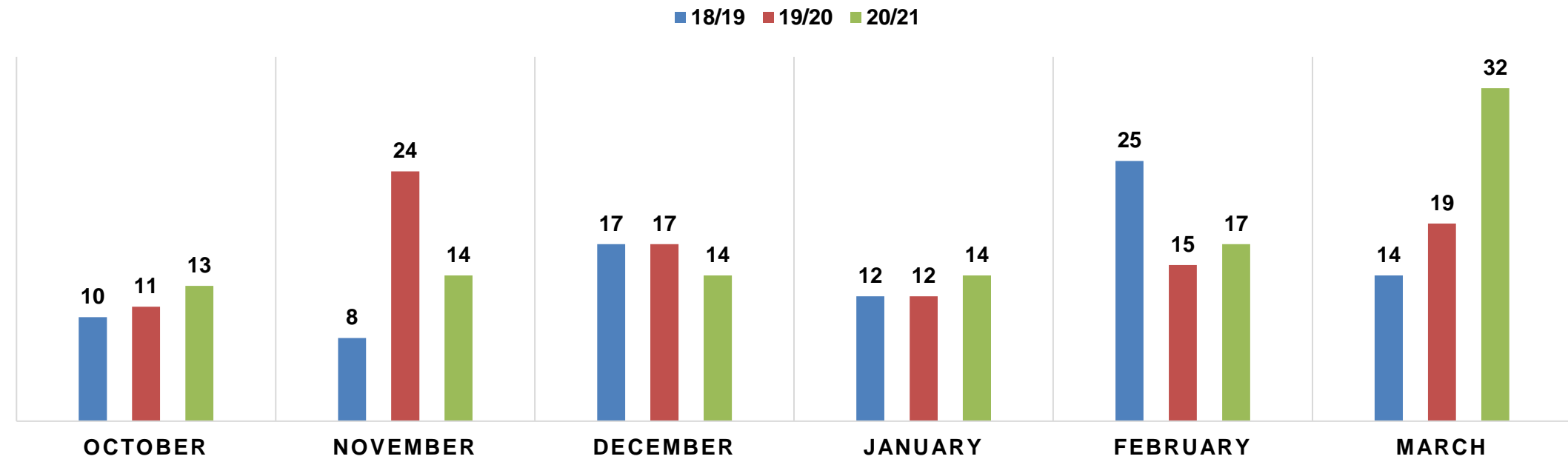
■ 18/19 ■ 19/20 ■ 20/21



### FARM & TRANSPORT - SCORE 3



### FARM & TRANSPORT - SCORE 4



Strategic Indicator  
**Visible Contamination**

Strategic Outcome Numbers  
**1,5,6**

Indicator Measures  
Number of contaminated carcasses presented to FSS staff for inspection

**What is the role of FSS?**

FSS engages with FBOs to secure reducing levels of contamination. FSS inspectors record every instance where a contaminated carcass is presented for inspection and this is a proxy measure for hygienic production.

FSS ensures that all carcasses (red meat) where a health mark is applied are free from visible contamination and fit for human consumption.

FSS Official Veterinarians re-inspect a pre-set quantity of carcasses and offal to provide assurance on the effectiveness of inspection

**Why is this strategic indicator important?**

- To protect public Health
- To ensure meat is fit for human consumption
- To provide an overview of dressing practices of premises in Scotland which can help to monitor possible emerging risks

**FSS influence on performance markers**

FSS exercises enforcement powers to stop/alter unhygienic dressing practices and engages with FBOs to promote best practice. Real time monitoring allows for timely corrective actions at plant level and analysis of trends and comparative plant data allows for detection of possible emerging risks

**Contamination graphs**

Each red meat species has a contamination level for carcasses presented for inspection below which we expect all plants to operate whilst recognising no contamination is acceptable.

Cattle - 4%  
Sheep - 4%  
Pigs - 2%

Each graph shows the total percentage for each month by species..

**FSS Performance update**

The level of contaminated carcasses presented for inspection remains below the levels set as an internal target with FBOs.

Contamination in all three species are generally tracking at lower levels than previous years as we see more FBOs taking action by applying root cause analysis and better implementing HACCP principles.

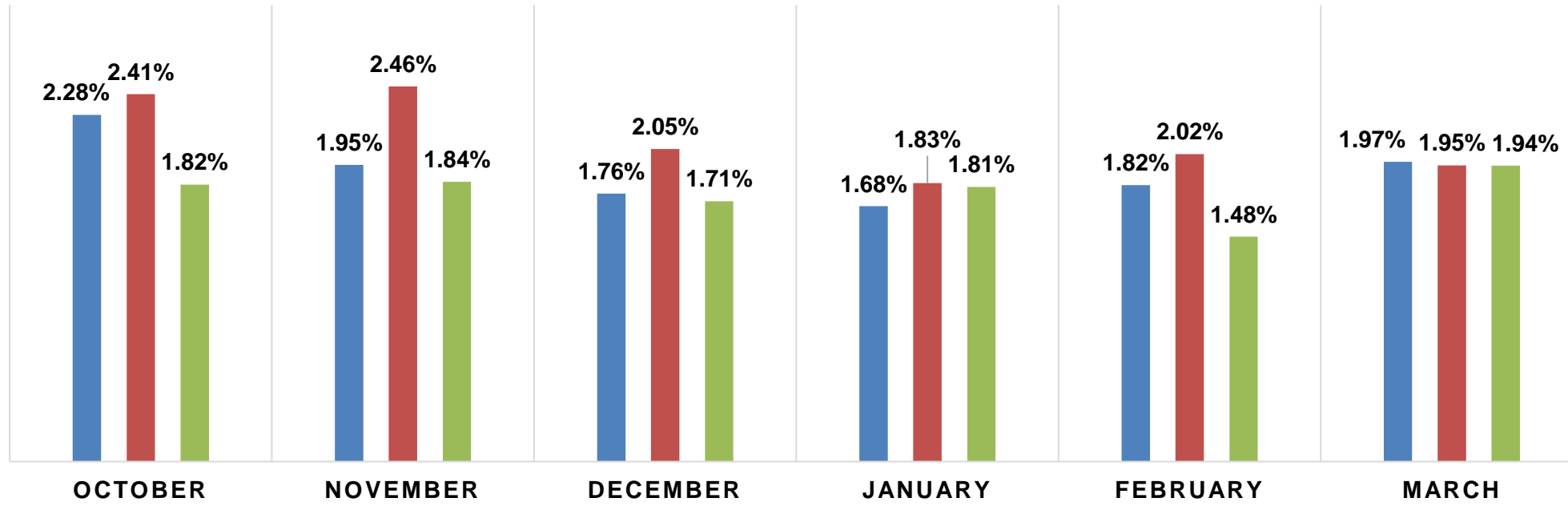
Plant OVs continue to monitor trends and take appropriate action.

**Scottish trends**

Graphs overleaf showing contamination monthly averages (Average % carcass contamination by species)

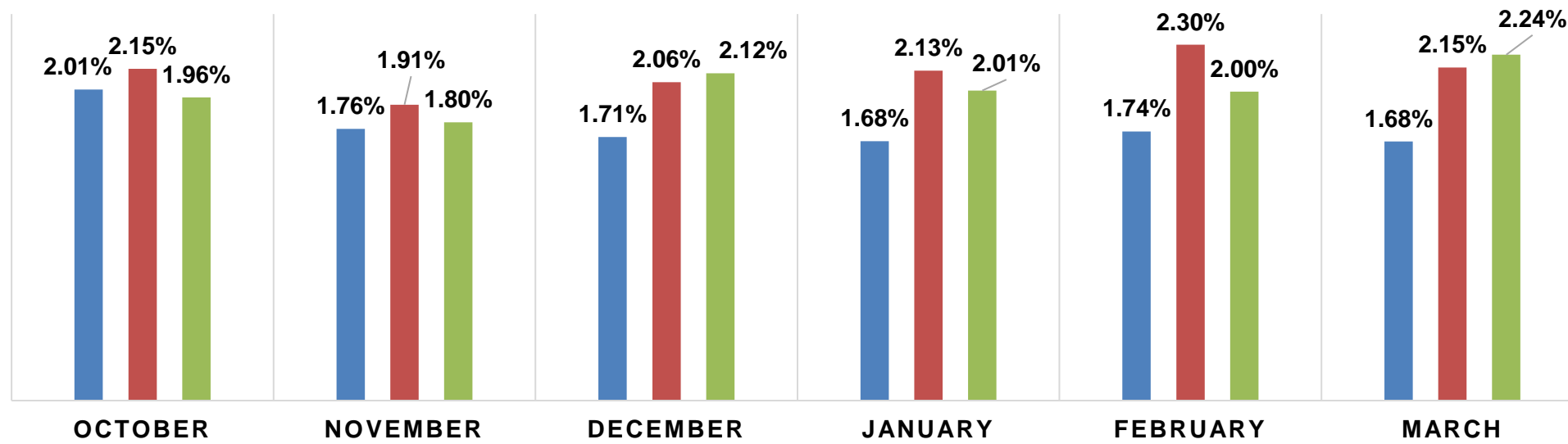
### BOVINE

■ 18/19 ■ 19/20 ■ 20/21



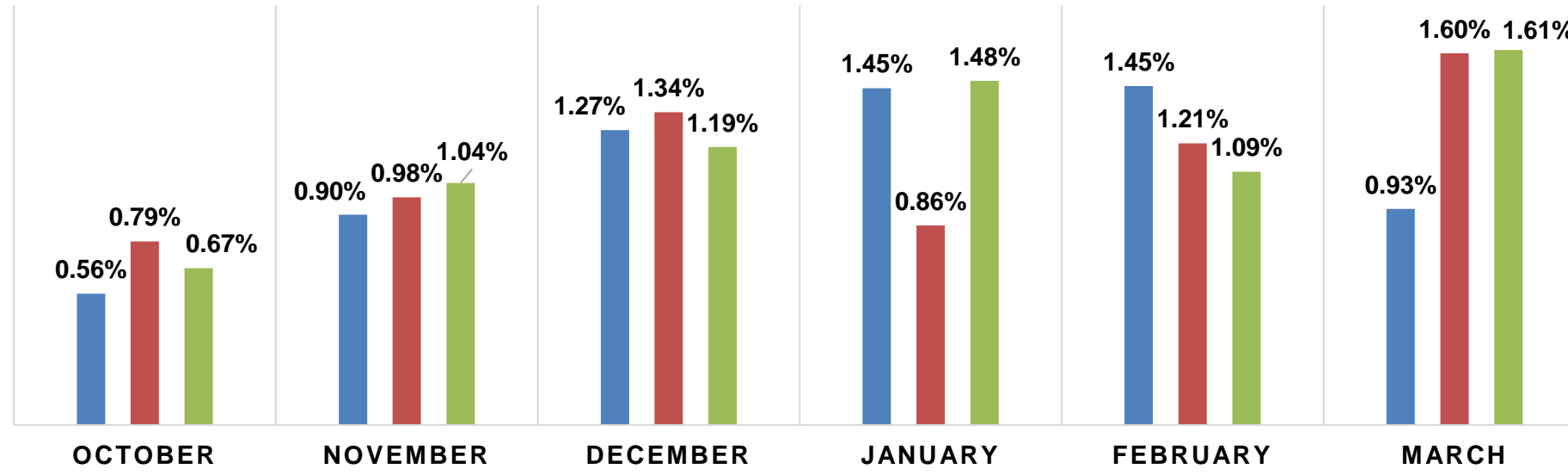
### OVINE CONTAMINATION

■ 18/19 ■ 19/20 ■ 20/21

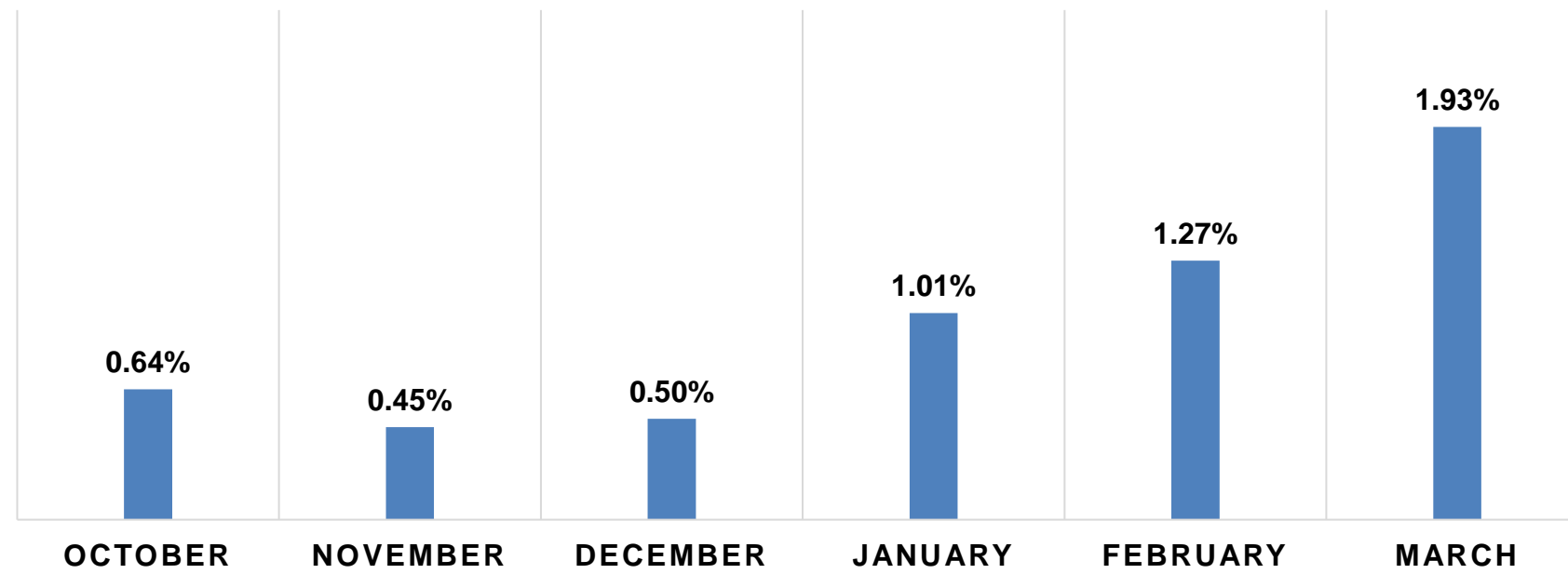


### PORCINE CONTAMINATION

■ 18/19 ■ 19/20 ■ 20/21



### WILD GAME CONTAMINATION 2021-22



Strategic Indicator  
**Veterinary Audit**

Strategic Outcome Numbers  
**1,4,5,6**

Indicator Measures  
The number of approved meat premises with 'good' or 'generally satisfactory' audit outcomes and the number of approved meat premises with 'improvement necessary' or 'urgent improvement necessary'.

**Why is this strategic indicator important?**

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.

**What is the role of FSS?**

The audit outcome is determined by the categorisation of any non-compliance identified.

The audit methodology has been updated during the Covid-19 pandemic and rolled out with the resumption of audits in January 2021. Over 2021, all FSS approved establishments will gradually enter the 12 months audit inspection cycle. Each establishment has had a resource calculation conducted and a mix of announced and unannounced interventions and documentation review allocated over the inspection cycle. In addition to targeted unannounced inspections (UAI), we have also maintained the "classic" UAI programme, with every plant receiving one in every inspection cycle.

FSS uses veterinary auditors to carry out these audits in Scotland. Where we have regular attendance, plant OVs' checks and findings will also contribute to the audit outcomes.

**Audit Categories and Outcomes**

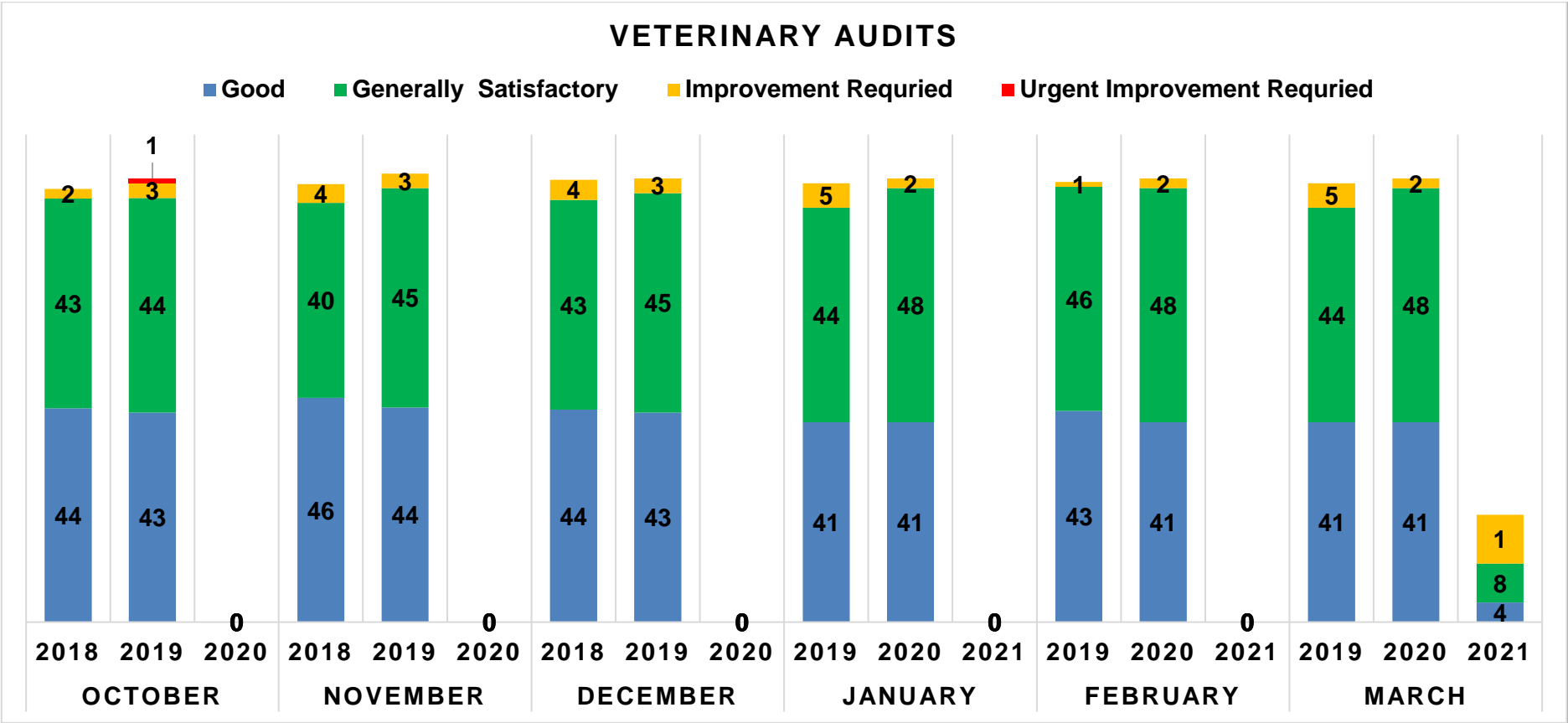
<b>Good</b>	No majors or critical (completed or active) during Inspection Cycle
<b>Generally Satisfactory</b>	No more than 2 majors during Inspection Cycle rectified promptly (i.e. completed by the end of the Inspection Cycle) and No critical during Inspection Cycle
<b>Improvement Necessary</b>	Up to 6 majors during Inspection Cycle rectified promptly, up to 2 majors still active at the end of Inspection Cycle or up to 1 critical during Inspection Cycle, but rectified promptly and completed by the end of the Inspection Cycle
<b>Urgent Improvement Necessary</b>	1 or more active critical or >6 majors during Inspection Cycle (even if rectified promptly) or >2 majors still active at the end of Inspection Cycle.

**FSS performance update**

Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, all routine veterinary audits were suspended in March 2020. These resumed again in January 2021, with plants entering the inspection cycle in a gradual manner, 7-8 plants every month, anticipating that by January 2022 all plants would have started the new audit format. The first intermediate reports have started going out in March and their outcomes can be seen in the below graph.



Scottish audit trends



Improvement necessary plants (as at 31/03/2021)

Plant Number	Name
1170	Pak Poultry Products Limited

Urgent improvement necessary plants (as at 31/03/2021)

Plant Number	Name
NOTHING TO REPORT	

Strategic Indicator  
**Audit Assurance**

Strategic Outcome Number  
**1**

Audit Assurance Categories

**What is FSS' role?**

The power to set standards, monitor and audit the performance of enforcement authorities was conferred on Food Standards Scotland by Sections 3 and 25 of the Food (Scotland) Act 2015 and Regulation 7 of The Official Feed and Food Controls (Scotland) Regulations 2009.

As a designated competent authority as defined within Schedule 5 of the Official Feed and Food Control (Scotland) Regulations 2009 Local Authorities are required to comply with Article 4(6) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 (*in that they shall carry out internal audits or may have external audits carried out, and shall take appropriate measures in the light of their results, to ensure that they are achieving the objectives of this regulation*). In order to help Local Authorities fulfil this requirement, (as part of its central role under the Food (Scotland) Act 2015 and Official Feed and Food Control (Scotland) Regulations 2009) Food Standards Scotland deliver external audit arrangements in addition to the monitoring role described above.

**Current audit programme - capacity and capability - Post Mortem Inspection**

The specific aims of this audit programme are to:

- Evaluate the organisational, management and information systems in place to ensure they are effective and suitable to achieve the objectives of the relevant food law.
- Assess the capacity and capability of the Local Authority to deliver the food service.
- Provide a means to identify under performance in Local Authority food law enforcement systems.
- Assist in the identification and dissemination of good practice to aid consistency.
- Provide information to aid the formulation of Food Standards Scotland policy.

**Why is this strategic indicator important?**

The power to set standards, monitor and audit the performance of enforcement authorities was conferred on Food Standards Scotland by Sections 3 and 25 of the Food (Scotland) Act 2015 and Regulation 7 of The Official Feed and Food Controls (Scotland) Regulations 2009.

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Substantial Assurance Controls are robust and well managed	Risk, governance and control procedures are effective in supporting the delivery of any related objectives. Any exposure to potential weakness is low and the materiality of any consequent risk is negligible.
Reasonable Assurance Controls are adequate but require improvement	Some improvements are required to enhance the adequacy and effectiveness of procedures. There are weaknesses in the risk, governance and/or control procedures in place but not of a significant nature.
Limited Assurance Controls are developing but weak	There are weaknesses in the current risk, governance and/or control procedures that either do, or could, affect the delivery of any related objectives. Exposure to the weaknesses identified is moderate and being mitigated.
Insufficient Assurance Controls are not acceptable and have notable weaknesses	There are significant weaknesses in the current risk, governance and/or control procedures, to the extent that the delivery of objectives is at risk. Exposure to the weaknesses identified is sizeable and requires urgent mitigating action.

**Closed audits (1<sup>st</sup> October 2020 - 31 March 2021)**

Organisation	Audit Scope	Audit Date	Audit Outcome
Argyll and Bute Council	Capacity and Capability	Aug 2017	Insufficient Assurance
FSS Operations	Microbiological Testing	Feb 2020	n/a (the audit was carried by FSA closure by FSS)

**Current Audits**

Organisation	Audit Scope	Audit Date	Audit Outcome
FSS Operations	Post Mortem Inspection	Sept-Oct 2020	Limited Assurance
FSS Operations	Imported Food	Oct - Dec 2020	Limited Assurance
FSS Operations	Enforcement	Jan 21-to present	tbc

Strategic Indicator  
**Shellfish Monitoring Programme**

Strategic Outcome Numbers  
**1,5,6**

Indicator Measures  
 The number of samples exceeding the maximum permitted levels resulting in the closure of shellfish production areas.

**What is the role of FSS?**

As the Competent Authority for food safety, FSS delivers official controls to ensure that shellfish from classified harvesting areas meet the health standards laid down in EC Regulation 853/2004, testing for E.coli, Biotoxins, Phytoplankton and Chemical Contaminants. Shellfish classifications are awarded based on the levels of E. coli in shellfish flesh.

**Why is this Strategic Indicator Important?**

- To ensure that FSS carries out its responsibility in effectively managing the shellfish monitoring programmes To ensure that all sampling requirements are met and shellfish from designated harvesting areas meet the health standards stipulated in EU Regulations.

Shellfish classification categories and permitted levels of E. coli/100g flesh:

Treatment processes are specified according to the classification status of the area.

Category	Classification criteria	Action
A	80 % of samples collected during the review period ≤ 230 E. coli/100 g of flesh and intravalvular liquid. The remaining 20% of samples ≤ 700 E. coli/100 g of flesh and intravalvular liquid.	May go directly for human consumption if end product standard met
B	90 % of samples collected during review period ≤ 4 600E. Coli/100 g of flesh and intravalvular liquid. The remaining 10% of samples ≤ 46 000 E. Coli/100 g of flesh and intravalvular liquid.	Must be subject to purification, relaying in Class A area (to meet category A requirements) or cooked by an approved method.
C	Samples ≤ 46,000 E coli/100g of flesh and intravalvular liquid	Must be subject to relaying for a period of at least 2 months or cooked by an approved method
	Any value exceeding 46,000 E coli /100g of flesh and intravalvular liquid	Prohibited. Harvesting not permitted

**FSS influence on performance markers**

Effective management of MoU and contracts to ensure compliance

## Number of biotoxin closures in Scotland by POD area

In 2019/20, of the 1964 samples on inshore locations, 68 breached maximum permitted levels for lipophilic toxins (LTs).

Analyses for amnesic shellfish poisoning (ASP) toxins were conducted on 921 samples from inshore locations, with no samples breaching the maximum permitted levels.

1273 samples from inshore locations were tested for paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP) toxins. Of these samples, 1 breached maximum the permitted levels for PSP.

This resulted in a total of 27 LT closures and 1 PSP closures during 2019/20.

In 2020/21, of the 2056 Tested from inshore locations, 161 Samples breached the maximum permitted levels for lipophilic toxins (LTs).

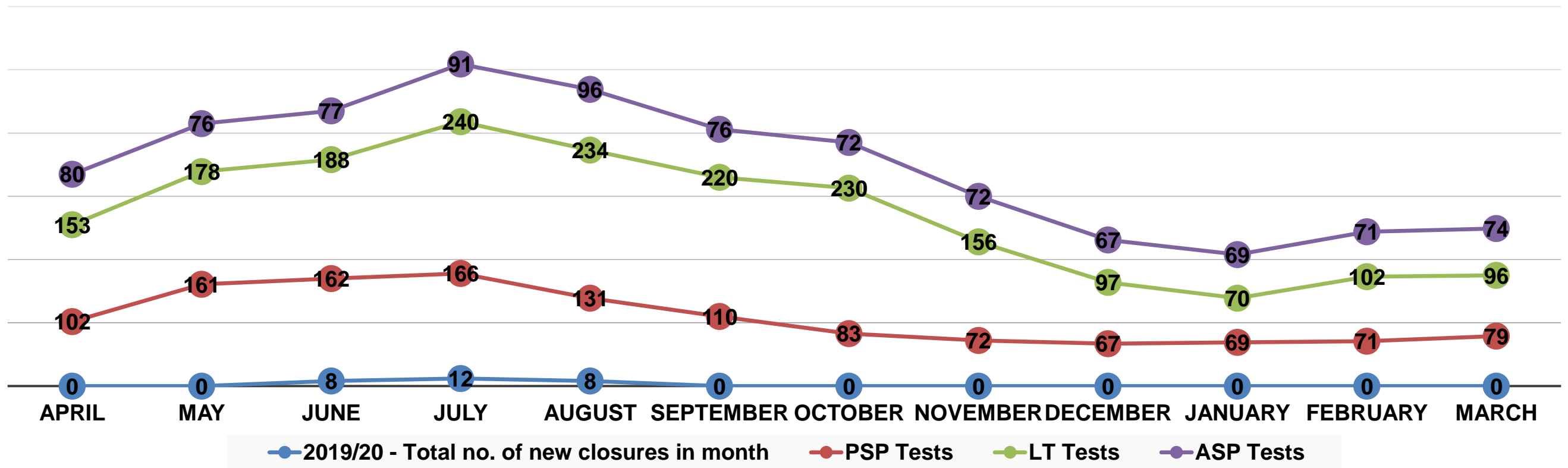
Analyses ASP toxins were conducted on 963 inshore samples, with 1 sample breaching the maximum permitted level 1276 inshPSP toxins. Of these samples, 11 breached maximum permitted levels for PSP.

This resulted in a total of 41 LT closures, 7 PSP closures and 1 ASP closure during 2020/21.

**Maximum Permitted Limits of toxins in shellfish flesh**

Toxin group	Maximum Permitted Limits
ASP	>20 mg Domoic/epi-domoic acid/kg [shellfish flesh]
LTs	Diarrhetic shellfish poisoning (DSP) toxins and pectenotoxins (PTXs) together, >160µg okadaic acid eq./kg [shellfish flesh] or Yessotoxins, >3.75mg yessotoxin eq./kg [shellfish flesh] or Azaspiracids, >160µg azaspiracid eq./kg [shellfish flesh]
PSP	>800µg saxitoxin eq./kg [shellfish flesh]

2019/20 - Biotoxin Sampling Vs Area Closures



2020/21 - Biotoxin Sampling Vs Area Closures

