2017 UK Annual Report

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

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Overall effectiveness of controls

Results of main performance indicators

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

Food and feed sectors

- Food establishments - All Local Authorities (LAs) in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (NI) operate the Food Hygiene Ratings Scheme (FHRS). All LAs in Scotland operate the Food Hygiene Information Scheme (FHIS).

- The Food Hygiene Rating Scheme (FHRS) information was available for approximately 478,000 food businesses which is an estimated 91% of businesses within scope of the scheme. This is a 1 percentage point increase on 2016 (90%). Food Hygiene Information Scheme (FHIS) information was available for approximately 48,700 food businesses and is an estimated 88% of businesses within scope, compared to 87% in 2016.

- In England and NI the scheme covers businesses providing food to the final consumer. In Wales, the scheme also covers 'trade-to-trade' businesses such as manufacturers and certain publicity materials for takeaway food businesses.

- It is a legal requirement for food businesses in Wales and NI to display their rating.

- Meat establishments – In England, NI and Wales, at the end of March 2018 97% of slaughterhouses (with or without co-located cutting plants) and 97% of standalone cutting plants were at least generally satisfactory in terms of compliance.

- Meat establishments in Scotland – At the end of March 2018, 97% of slaughterhouses (with or without co-located cutting plants) and 100% of standalone cutting plants were at least generally satisfactory in terms of compliance.

- During 2017/18 a total of nine slaughterhouses in the UK (with or without co-located cutting plants) received an audit rating of Urgent Improvement Necessary, one of which was in Scotland.

- During 2017/18, 916 unannounced inspections were completed in England and Wales, 35 were completed in NI. FSS completed 118 unannounced inspections in Scotland between 1 April 2017 and 31 March 2018.

- Dairy hygiene – Approximately 67% of visits in England and Wales resulted in follow up checks, either via digital evidence of compliance provided by the dairy holding, or physical visit by a Food Standards Agency (FSA) inspector. This resulted in the majority of non-compliances being satisfactorily resolved within agreed timescales. There has been a 2.6% decrease in the number of dairy farms in England and Wales over the year. In Scotland there has been a reduction of 2.5 % in dairy farms. Following a campaign in 2016/17 to increase the number of primary inspections, this year has seen a decrease of 25% due to the numbers returning to normal levels in 2017/18.

- Egg production – Over the year there has been a decrease in overall non-compliance rates in large egg production establishments in both England (21.4% non-compliance in the first quarter down to 17.5% in the last quarter, with an average of 15.5% non-compliance for the year) and Wales (29.3% non-compliance in the first quarter down to 19.6% in the last quarter, with an average of 19.6% non-compliance for the year). This is likely to be due to increased awareness within the industry of the consequences of non-compliance issues such as over-stocking. Scotland saw a 24% increase in compliance over previous years.

- Shellfish hygiene – A total of 4,444 samples were taken between January-December 2017. There were 2,657 Microbiological (E.coli) samples taken, four Chemical Sample, 862 Toxin Flesh samples and 921 Phytoplankton samples (Slightly lower than the number tested in 2016/17 – 5,143, this is due to a reduction in Toxin Flesh sampling following completion of additional sampling to gather evidence for a Biotoxin risk assessment).

- Organic operators – In 2017 a total of 874 unannounced visits took place compared to 544 in 2016. 6,382 announced visits were made to operators in 2016 compared to 6,401 in 2015. The Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) is confident, based on the audit and assessment of the UK organic Control Bodies, that they have effective control mechanisms in place to ensure satisfactory implementation of the organic control measures.

- Feed establishments – The FSA has built on previous years and continues to see positive results, including 98.2% of planned feed inspections delivered and 100% of LAs engaged in the process of planning controls in 2017/18. The FSA continues to review and, where appropriate, make improvements to the system.

- Out of the total Approval and Scheduled inspections carried out by the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) in 2017, 8.0% of Commercial Feed Mills were fully compliant (6.1% in 2016), 9.4% of On-Farm Manufacturers were fully compliant (24.3% in 2016) and 50.0% of Distributors were fully compliant (30.3% in 2016)

- Fish inspections - In 2017 the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) carried out 824 inspections of establishments where first sale fish is handled.

Animal Health and welfare and plant health sectors

- Exotic disease – In Great Britain (GB), the Animal and Plant Agency (APHA) investigated 216 reports of suspected exotic diseases in 2017. In England, High Pathogenic Avian Influenza H5N8 was detected on 11 sites in England and one site in Wales. In addition, one case of European Bat Lyssavirus was reported in a Daubentons bat in England in September. All incidents were successfully resolved.

- Zoonoses - The Salmonella National Control Programme monitoring results for 2017 indicate that the levels of the regulated *Salmonella* serovars are well below the EU designated targets. In total for all poultry sectors, 3,426 poultry flocks were subject to annual routine official sampling.

- Animal welfare - In GB, overall welfare on-farm compliance was 94.9% (down 0.2% from 2016), for vehicle inspections (welfare during transport) was 99% (same as in 2016). In NI, overall compliance during welfare on-farm inspections was 94% (up 4% from 2016) and during transport 99% (same as 2016). From 1 April 2017 the FSA began publishing quarterly reports showing welfare non-compliances in each area of the slaughterhouse. The reports are set out by species and by slaughter method and can be found here.

- A centralised FSA referrals process for England and Wales for all non-urgent welfare issues (where animal welfare was not immediately at risk) was introduced in May 2017 to improve intelligence gathering and sharing between enforcement partners. It is hoped this system will ensure more consistent enforcement and that it will better support feedback mechanisms to the FSA as any resulting action / enforcement occurs. A similar system will be introduced in 2018 for FSS.

- Defra continued to implement its long-term strategy to gradually achieve Officially Tuberculosis Free (OTF) status for the whole of England by 2038 through a comprehensive suite of measures aimed at tackling all sources of tuberculosis infection. This includes tighter cattle testing and movement controls, improving biosecurity on farm and when trading, badger vaccination and badger control in areas where badgers are an important factor in spreading disease to cattle. The strategy was endorsed by the European Commission and received EU financial support as part of the UK Tuberculosis Eradication Programme.

- Bee health – GB Bee Inspectors carried out an extensive surveillance programme. A total of 30,512 unique colonies in 5,381 apiaries were inspected across England and Wales by the National Bee Unit's (NBU) Bee Inspectors. Recorded foulbrood disease remains stable, at relatively low levels.

- Following the first confirmed incursion of the Asian Hornet, *Vespa* velutina in England in 2016, Bee Inspectors responded to a further outbreak in September 2017, where a nest was discovered and destroyed. No further hornets have been seen in the region. Surveillance is ongoing to monitor and respond to further outbreaks.

- Aquatic animal health – The planned official control programme on aquatic animal health was successfully completed and met the objectives and targets set out in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between The Defra and The Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas) in England and Wales, Service Level Agreements established within Marine Scotland, and the MOU between the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) and the Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute Fish Disease Unit (FDU)[1]. The successful completion of the official control programme supported the maintenance of approved zone status for the UK for a number of serious diseases of fish and shellfish and contributed to the protection of our high aquatic animal health status.

- The Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science Fish Health Inspectorate (Cefas FHI) has continued to engage with other government agencies on improving working practices in a number of areas including with Natural England on habitats regulation assessments, the Environment Agency (EA) on response to disease outbreaks in wild aquatic animals, and FSA on contingency planning and support during emergencies.

- Plant health – Targets for the inspection of the majority of controlled plant health material imported into England and Wales were met.

2. Information and trends on controls

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

- Strategic planning – The FSA's strategic plan was refreshed in 2015. The plan for 2015-20 works towards food we can trust and was developed by looking at the future challenges facing the food supply, and what this could mean for FSA in terms of its role to protect public health, and consumers' interest in relation to food. The strategic outcomes are that:

  - Food is safe and what it says it is.
  - Consumers can make informed choices about what to eat and have access to an affordable healthy diet, now and in the future.

  The FSA strategic plan for 2015-20 can be found here.

- The Regulating Our Future (ROF) programme aims by 2020 to modernise how food businesses in England, Wales and NI are regulated to ensure food is safe and what it says it, and to build a system that is dynamic and flexible and can adapt as circumstances change and technology develops in the future. The FSA is committed to delivering key elements of the ROF programme in advance of the UK leaving the EU. Published information relating to the FSA's plans entitled 'Regulating Our Future – Why food regulation needs to change and how we are going to do it' can be found here.

[1] Responsible for the fish disease testing programme in NI.

- The FSS Strategy to 2021 which put 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
  - Food Standards Scotland is a trusted organisation
  - Food Standards Scotland is efficient and effective

  The plan can be found here.

- Food Crime – The National Food Crime Unit (NFCU) has maintained the quantity of incoming intelligence, with over 1,200 new intelligence logs created in 2017/18 (up from around 1,100 the previous year), while also seeking to improve the quality and relevance of incoming intelligence. This is undertaken through outreach to Local Authorities (LA), industry partners and other regulatory and law enforcement bodies.

- FSS established the Scottish Food Crime and Incidents Unit (SFCIU) in October 2015. In 2017 the Unit continued to provide leadership in the prevention, investigation, disruption and enforcement of Food Crime and in the management of Food Safety incidents nationally for Scotland. FSS continues to develop relationships with key stakeholders which include: The FSA, Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI), LAs, Police Scotland, HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) as well as industry including Food Industry Intelligence Network (FIIN).

- Imported food – A total of 1,113 consignments were tested under Regulation 669/2009 in 2017. The decrease in the number of consignments tested and related non-compliances in 2017 can be attributed to the move of some commodities previously listed under Regulation 669/2009 to stricter safeguard measures.

- Food surveillance – Currently in England, Wales and NI LAs are able to report their sampling activity using a combination of methods including UK Food Surveillance System (UKFSS) and the Local Authority Enforcement Monitoring System (LAEMS). To streamline and improve the reporting process, in 2017 the FSA began work on developing a new process for the reporting of sampling data. The percentage of LAs using the UK Food Surveillance System (UKFSS) therefore decreased from 71% in 2016/17 to 59% in 2017/18. A total of 30388 samples were recorded on UKFSS in 2017/18, a 36% decrease in the total number of samples being reported on UKFSS compared to 2016/17.

- All Scottish LAs were using UKFSS and a total of 8,009 samples were collected during the reporting period

- For the UK, 72% of labelling checks reported via UKFSS were non-compliant. (907 out of 1254) compared to 76% last year. The labelling checks recorded will have been targeted at areas of known or suspected risks. Therefore, not

representative of the general level of non-compliance for food generally in the UK supply chain.

- APHA Intelligence Unit has dealt with 3878 incoming pieces of intelligence since its implementation (August 2016). Working closely with LAs, Rural Payments Agency (RPA), FSA, FSS, Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA), Dogs Trust, Government Agency Intelligence Network (GAIN), Welsh Government and DAERA.

- Animal health and welfare – 104 slaughterman's licences (Welfare of Animals at the Time of Killing) were issued in 2017 by the FSA in England and Wales. In 2017, the FSA issued 1,037 Certificates of Competency (CoC), and 1,217 Temporary Certificates of competency (TCoCs).

- In Scotland, 122 Certificates of Competence were issued in 2017, under the Welfare of Animals at Time of Killing (Scotland) Regulations 2012.

- Zoonoses – Control of Salmonella in all the UK poultry sectors was maintained in 2017. A reducing contribution of Salmonella to the overall burden of food-borne zoonoses has been observed in the UK in recent years.

- Plant health – There was a 5% increase in the number of Import consignments declared and requiring control over the previous year (100,571 in 2016/17 compared to 95,153 in 2015/16). Pest findings are the main reasons for notifications; in England and Wales, they account for 61% of all notifications. The number of non-compliances and notifications to the European Commission for England and Wales rose to 1,041 in 2016. 387 related to documentary infringements, 632 for pests and 22 for diseases.

- Forestry Commission (FC) – In 2017, the Forestry Commission (FC) customer service standard target of inspecting 95% of imports of wood and wood products on the day of notification of landing, or the next working day, was met.

3. Trend analysis of non-compliance

Statement of overall trends in compliance

- Based on collected data the overall level of compliance in all sectors, as in the previous years, was satisfactory when assessed against expectations.
- In all sectors the intensity and types of controls have remained relatively consistent over the past five years.

Main types of non-compliance

Food and feed sectors

- Food hygiene and safety breaches
- Storage and Disposal of Specified Risk Material
- Food labelling
- Feed quality assurance controls
- Imported food

- Food fraud

Animal health and animal welfare and Plant health sectors

- Business Operators: Record-keeping and operational issues, Identification & registration of movement, welfare of animals.
- Competent authorities: Inspection frequency, inspector dispatch time.

Identified causes

- Criminal negligence
- Ignorance of the law
- Human error

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

Statistics on enforcement/enforcement trends

- Food establishments – LAEMS data is published by the FSA. The 2017/18 Annual report from the LAEMS data system is not available at the time of writing this report; however, this information will be published in September 2018 and can be accessed here.

- Food establishments Food Standards Scotland – Scottish Food Enforcement Annual Return (SFEAR) is published by the FSS, and can be found here.

- Meat establishments – Eight establishments in England were refused approval in 2017/18. Two of the eight were subsequently approved following improvements made by the operator. No meat establishments were refused in NI in 2016/17. In Scotland, one establishment was refused approval in 2017/18, subsequently this establishment has been granted conditional approval following required improvements being undertaken. A further three establishments surrendered approval, one went into liquidation, one into administration.

- In meat establishments Remedial Action Notices (RANs) showed an upward trend, and Hygiene Improvement Notices (HINs) increased slightly. RANs increased by 25% in 2017/18, from 222 in 2016/17 to 298 in 2017/18. HINs increased by 6.5%, from 173 in 2016/17 to 185 in 2017/18. At the time of reporting, Scotland showed a 28% increase in the usage of RANs compared to 2016/17. The increase is largely due to RANs being the “go to” notices of choice as LAs find they are fully flexible, simple to use and very effective in achieving compliance with the relevant regulations.

- In the year April 2017 to March 2018 in England and Wales, action was taken against six plants for poor hygiene controls which contributed to the service of 20 RANs and 10 HINs and the subsequent suspension or withdrawal of their approval.

- Most formal enforcement is taken against relatively few plants, which weights the figures in favour of formal notices. 10 establishments were responsible for approximately 50% of all RANs served and likewise 9 establishments were

responsible for over 50% of all HINs served. One plant was individually responsible for 8% of all RANs and 8% of all HINs served and have subsequently ceased trading.

- Dairy hygiene – In 2017/18 there was a slight difference in the number of enforcement actions undertaken in the UK. Written advice increased by 45% from 380 in 2016/17 to 550 in 2017/18, HINs decreased by 13% from 35 in 2016/17 to 22 in 2017/18. From 2016/17 until 2017/18 there has been an overall decrease in HINs, demonstrating increased compliance levels.

- Animal By Products – As in previous years, the main cause of non-compliance has arisen due to record keeping and operational issues. The total number of non-compliances has remained relatively consistent when compared to 2016.

- Fish inspections – In 2017/18, for establishments where first sale fish was handled, ten written/verbal re-briefs and two Official Written Warnings were issued by the MMO for breaches of Fisheries Control Regulations.

- Plant health - During the Financial Year 2017/18 targets for the inspection of the majority of controlled plant health material imported into England and Wales were met. Prohibited material imported or held under scientific licence was subject to the required level of inspection. The majority of import inspection targets were met, however the inspections of other controlled material (low risk) achieved 57% against the target of 65%. 100% of required mandatory inspections were completed. There was a 0.5 % decrease in the number of consignments declared and requiring control over the previous year. For the 44 trades subject to reduced import checks, the required levels of inspection were achieved for 42 trades.

Fines imposed

- In GB in 2017/18 A total of £102,154.00 fines and £ 22,810.74 of costs regarding food hygiene and food safety breaches were imposed by Courts on seven establishments following prosecutions taken by the FSA. A total of £227,250.00 fines and £ 17,179.10 of costs regarding animal welfare were imposed by Courts on four establishments.

- In NI, the penalties for serious breaches of animal health and welfare legislation total fines of £16,235 were imposed.

- In England in 2017, a total of £6,882 fines and £12,180 of costs were imposed by the courts on four establishments where first sale fish was handled, and were found to be in breach of Fisheries Control Regulations.

- In Scotland from April 2017 to March 2018 six FSS warnings were issued and two Procurator Fiscal warnings. The formal warnings from FSS are preliminary matters and do not include any fiscal penalty.

Convictions

- In 2017/18 there were seven convictions in GB relating to meat establishments and no convictions relating to dairy establishments.

- In NI there were no convictions relating to meat establishments. There was one conviction in relation to a dairy establishment.

- There were 96 convictions[2] achieved under the Animal Health Act 1981 and other animal health and welfare legislation by LAs in England and Wales.

- Prosecutions brought by DAERA in NI were as follows: Six for Animal Welfare and three for Hygiene offences, resulting in one sentence of imprisonment for three months, suspended for two years.

- There were no prosecutions in Scotland.

5. National Audit Systems

Food and feed sectors

Audit of Local Authorities and Port Health Authorities

- In England, no focused audits were carried out in 2017/18, with resources instead being targeted at those LAs having performance data that suggested there may be an issue with their delivery of official controls. A total of 19 one-day assurance audits, 11 desktop assessments and 24 desktop audits were undertaken.

- In NI during 2017/18 four audits of LAs were planned and carried out, including one pilot audit. Three reports were agreed but have yet to be published. A total of nine recommendations were made covering internal monitoring, control procedures, authorisation of officers, approval of establishments, resources to conduct official controls and food complaints.

- In Scotland during 2017/18 Capacity and Capability audits took place in six LAs with two follow up visits for these audits undertaken. Five reports have been published.

- In the last four years all 22 LAs in Wales have been subject to a programme of full audits to assess performance in delivering food hygiene and food standards official controls. A detailed review of the findings of the full audit programme is underway.

- Individual audit reports and related LA action plans are published on the FSA website. All reports can be found here.

[2] https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/695184/apha-section80-returns-2017-accessible.pdf

- In Scotland, audit reports and LA action plans are available on the FSS website here.

Summary of results

- There were 104 recommendations arising from these audits. Most recommendations arose from the audit of service delivery and business compliance in England and food and feed law enforcement service in Wales.

- Recommendations were agreed by the appropriate authorities, corrective action plans agreed with ongoing audit verification checks and/or site visits carried out.

Official Feed and Food Controls Internal Audits

Defra

- An audit was carried out examining TSE Sampling.
- An audit was initiated to examine Bovine TB third party assurance In response to a request from HM Treasury to conduct an evaluation of the impact of the bovine TB Strategy.
- An audit was carried out examining Defra's policy, lead Competent Authority role in relation to food businesses - composition and standards labelling.
- Fieldwork for a Bee Health themed audit was completed in December 2017.
- Follow up was undertaken for Protected Food Names audit and Beef Labelling audits.

Main summary of audit results

- TSE Sampling audit – A report was issued with substantial assurance. No issues (high, medium or low) were identified.
- Bovine TB third party assurance audit - Independent academics will be sought to provide challenge and peer review of the work. There are no plans to publish the output before 2019/20.
- Lead Competent Authority role in relation to food businesses - Composition and standards labelling – A report was issued with moderate assurance with 3 medium recommendations being made.

Scottish Government

SG Internal Audit Division (SGIAD) carried out the following audits, including one follow up audit:

- An audit was carried out examining GM Crops/Seeds.
- An audit was carried out examining Pesticide Residue Monitoring,
- An audit was carried out examining Animal Strategy, Planning and Exotics Diseases/Disease Control.

Main summary of audit results

- GM Crops/Seeds - A report was issued with reasonable assurance. One high and two medium recommendations were made.
- Pesticide Residue Monitoring - A report was issued with limited assurance.

Three medium recommendations were made.
- Animal Strategy, Planning and Exotics Diseases/Disease Control - A report was issued with substantial assurance, three medium recommendations were made.

Wales

The European Funds Audit Team (EFAT) within the Corporate Governance & Assurance (CG&A) Division of the WG has developed a five year audit strategy for Official Feed & Food Controls. The following audits were undertaken:

- An audit was undertaken to review of the Service Level Agreement between Welsh Government and APHA and monitoring of Key Performance Indicators, including Animal Identification and Gatherings, Animal Welfare, Bovine TB, Exotic animal diseases / contingency planning, Zoonoses, Animal by-products, Egg Marketing, Poultry Meat Marketing, Exotics, International Trade, TB, TSE, WLRS and Bee Health.

Main summary of audit results

- A report was issued with reasonable assurance. Follow up of the three recommendations have been conducted by the Departmental Operations Team and all have been confirmed as implemented.

DAERA NI

Internal Audit Branch continued with implementation of the audit strategy covering arrangements for Animal Health and Welfare controls for which DAERA are responsible. The following audits were undertaken:

- An audit was carried out examining Follow-Up Review of EC FVO Animal Health – Bovine Tuberculosis Eradication in NI.
- An audit was carried out examining Follow-Up Review of Enzootic Bovine Leukosis Surveillance Testing.
- An audit was carried out examining Plant Health, examining Cost recovery for NI Seed Potato Certification Scheme, Effective management of Plant Health in NI, and the Forest Service Risk Register.
- An audit was carried out examining Animal By Products.
- An audit was carried out examining Trade Certification.

Main summary of audit results

- Follow-Up Review of EC FVO Animal Health – Bovine Tuberculosis Eradication in NI - A report was issued with satisfactory assurance.
- Follow-Up Review of Enzootic Bovine Leukosis Surveillance Testing - A report was issued with satisfactory assurance.
- Plant Health - A report was issued with limited assurance. Three Priority two recommendations were made.
- Animal By Products - A report was with satisfactory assurance, One priority three recommendation was made.
- Trade Certification - A report was issued with limited assurance with 11 Priority two recommendations, and four priority three recommendations.

Internal Audit

FSA

- In the 2017 calendar year FSA Internal Audit completed and issued four audit reports in relation to Official Controls in England and Wales and two in Scotland on behalf of FSS. FSA Internal Audit also audit NI. Two of the four audits conducted in England and Wales also covered NI. These audits were designed to provide assurance to FSA and FSS management and Boards that enforcement was effective, consistent, risk-based and proportionate.

Main summary of audit results

- Internal Audits – There were 37 recommendations arising from the findings by the Internal Audit team. Overall the results were satisfactory.

Defra

- An audit relating to animal traceability of official food/feed controls was carried out by Government Internal Audit Agency (GIAA) on behalf of the RPA in 2017; covering the processes and procedures used by RPA to maintain the accuracy and integrity of cattle movement data throughout England. The audit testing conducted during this review provided a 'substantial' level of assurance.

- Auditing of antimicrobial resistance surveillance and policy is carried out by external providers in accordance with the UK Five Year Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Strategy 2013-2018. Collection of caecal samples is carried out by FSA on behalf of the VMD; a service level agreement is in place detailing the Key Performance Indicators (KPI) for sample collection. APHA carry out all AMR testing on behalf of the VMD.

- The VMD carried out audits of Food and Environment Research Agency (Fera) and Agri-Food & Biosciences Institute (AFBI) laboratories. The audits were carried out by external laboratory experts, to check compliance with the requirements of commission decision 2002/657/EC. Both laboratories were given a very good reports, with very few recommendations, which have been implemented.

Main summary of audit results

- One 'medium' priority action concerning cattle movement reporting was raised through this review. Progress on the delivery of the action is being tracked by GIAA, who provide the internal audit service for RPA.

- Success of surveillance of antibiotic sales will be measured through publication of data in the annual national report, UK-Veterinary Antimicrobial Resistance and Sales Surveillance, and through stakeholder feedback.

- All VMD recommendations have been implemented.

Animal Health and Welfare Sectors

- In 2016/17 the FSA reported its findings and key recommendations following the first Animal Welfare Themed Audit in slaughterhouses in England and Wales. These related to Animal Welfare, HACCP, Microbiology and Flexibilities.

- APHA has developed an assurance/audit programme to effectively monitor the delivery of Official Feed and Food Controls under Regulation 882/2004. In 2017, recommendations from the previous year's audit were implemented and an Assurance Framework, Assurance Manual and Assurance Plan has been created. An internal audit was also completed on International Trade - Artificial Breeding and achieved a substantial rating with four recommendations, all of which were accepted and will be implemented. Further audits to cover high risk Official Feed and Food Controls will take place in 2018.

Main summary of audit results

- Overall, the audit results were satisfactory with few recommendations, the majority of which have now been implemented.
- The majority of FSA recommendations have been implemented, monitoring of progress is ongoing where recommendations are outstanding.
- All APHA recommendations were accepted and implemented

Directorate F audits and Missions

- Two Directorate F missions were undertaken in 2017. One on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) in certain food-producing animal populations and food. A second on Synergies of Official Controls with FBO own checks and third-party assurance schemes.

Main summary of audit results

- A summary of actions a results can be found on the Directorate F website here and here respectively.

6. Resources

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

Food and feed sectors

- On 31 March 2017 FSA ceased providing funding to LAs for Shellfish Official Controls, Food Sampling Analysis and Food Fraud.
- In Scotland, local delivery will be replaced by a centralised delivery model in 2018/19. Development is currently ongoing.

Animal health and welfare sectors

- No significant changes.

Plant health sector

- No significant changes.

7. Actions taken to improve performance of control activities

Organisation

- To support LAs, the FSA has produced a guidance document and aide memoire, monitoring equipment for the inspections has been issued to relevant Shellfish Liaison Groups (a Dissolved Oxygen Meter, Turbidity Meter and Salinity Refractometer) and support and advice is available from the Shellfish/ Relationship Management teams at FSA.

- Scottish Food Crime and Incidents Unit (SFCIU) has in place a national electronic intelligence platform for inputting and sharing of intelligence between key stakeholders such as LAs and APHA which is a vital tool to tackle and identify food crime and emerging risks. FSS continues in partnership with Crimestoppers with its dedicated Food Crime Hotline which has been a successful medium for whistle-blowers and consumers to report food crime. A number of information sharing agreements are now in place which has provided information crucial to food crime investigations. As a result of the success of the working collaboration between SFCIU and APHA, agreement has now been reached that this partnership will continue on a permanent basis.

- During 2017 the DAERA Bee Inspectorate provided input to the Ulster Beekeepers Association (UBKA) winter workshops, presenting the findings of 20165 inspections and emphasising to beekeepers the importance of checking their colonies and reporting anything suspicious to DAERA. Practical workshops were also rolled out to experienced beekeepers from UBKA and Institute of NI Beekeepers (INIB), aimed at identifying brood diseases in honey bee colonies. This will enable them to assist other beekeepers with inspecting and identifying brood disease in their hives. Agri-Food & Biosciences Institute (AFBI) provides a disease identification service for the bee inspectorate and bee keepers.

Legislation

- During the period under report the UK Government introduced a number of amendments to the UK plant health forestry and potatoes legislation.
- Proposals to increase the maximum sentence for animal cruelty tenfold to five years.
- Publishing of updated animal welfare codes.
- A comprehensive overview of updated legislation, including relevant links, can be found here.

Procedures

- FSS Annex 5 Review Project was officially launched on the 1 October 2016, with the commencement of a pilot, consisting of ten LAs, with the purpose of testing the new model for 12 months, followed by a detailed analysis of the outcomes. The pilot was very successful, resulting in nine of the pilot LAs and three non-pilot LAs opting to be early adopters of the new Food Law Performance Rating scheme from the 1 April 2018. The Food Law Performance Rating scheme will replace the current Annex 5 and will integrate the compliance spectrum approach as a core operational framework. The new scheme establishes a proportionate, targeted and risk based intervention model for both food hygiene and food standards. FSS are providing nationwide training events to all remaining Scottish LAs with a full rollout planned for the 1 April 2019.

- The National Bee Unit (NBU), part of APHA, retained its ISO 17020 accreditation for its foulbrood inspection programme, awarded by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS). The ISO 17020 standard specifies the requirements for the competence of organisations performing inspections and the impartiality and consistency of their inspection activities.

Information systems

Food and feed sectors

- In 2017, the UK issued a total of 379 Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF) notifications, although two were later withdrawn. The remainder comprised 49 rapid alerts, 275 border rejection notifications, 49 information notices and two new notifications.

- In 2017 the MMO received 97 intelligence reports with information in relation to establishments handling first sale fish.

- Cefas FHI introduced electronic collection of data during compliance and surveillance inspections of fish and shellfish farms across England and Wales using tablet technology (the FHIPad). This technology has removed the need for paperwork in the field (saving 21,000 pieces of paper), improved the validation of data collected and facilitated the real-time submission of data to the Starfish database. Inspectors working in the field have improved access to information such as conditions of authorisation of farms, and biosecurity measures plans thus providing a more effective and efficient service to stakeholders.

- To help improve engagement with stakeholders the FHI launched a Facebook page in 2015. Engagement with stakeholders has significantly increased with over 3,300 followers. In 2017 the total number of views on the FHI page was 74,816, the Facebook page has been engaged on other newsfeeds 24,612 times and the FHI enforcement video has been viewed 101,649 times.

Training

Food and feed sectors

- The FSA previously announced that it would not be continuing the centrally managed classroom based training programme for LAs food and feed law authorised officers in its current form from 1 April 2017. However, cascaded training materials were updated and made available on the FSA website from November 2017. Between 1 April 2017 – 31 March 2018, the e-learning has trained 50,023 of enforcement officers and Food Business Operators (FBOs).

- The FSA has delivered training on the USA Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) requirements to Official Veterinarians (OVs) working in establishments that intend to export beef to the USA. The FSA has also organised workshops with FBOs, officials and representatives from devolved administrations to clarify the application of these requirements.

- During 2017/18 FSA in NI funded training for 297 district council officers, this training covered a wide range of topic areas where development need had been identified. The identification of such development areas had been collaboratively agreed upon by FSA in NI and the NI Food Managers Group. The development areas upon which the training programme was designed covered Food Hygiene, Standards and Dietary Health. Evaluation of the training provided identified 93% satisfaction rate with regards knowledge gaps being fulfilled post training.

- The FSA in Wales funded 11 training courses for 288 LA officers. A range of trainer-led courses were provided for LA officers in Wales covering food hygiene, food standards and animal feed.

- FSS held a workshop for LA environmental health representatives on the Scottish Government a Healthier Future - Action and Ambitions on Diet, Activity, and Healthy Weight consultation. The event was attended by 55 representatives from 21 LAs. The workshop programme included two introductory presentations and three themed workshops focused on: (i) the out of home food environment; (ii) the planning system and the food environment; and (iii) leadership and transforming the food environment.

- FSS held a “Food Enforcement Partnership Event” in January 2017, in collaboration with the Scottish Food Enforcement Liaison Committee (SFELC) and the Society of Chief Officers of Environmental Health in Scotland (SOCOEHS). Representatives from 31 out of 32 Scottish LAs, SFELC SOCOEHS were in attendance. The event included updates from all organisations present and a number of workshops covering a wide variety topics including Annex 5 Food Law Inspections, the challenges of Brexit, LA Capacity and Capability, and MenuCal.

- FSS held seminars and workshops for LA Enforcement Officers to support the launch of the Food Standards Training Manual. The manual has been extensively updated and rebranded for Scotland and provides a comprehensive source of information on food and standards matters for enforcers.

- FSS continued to support the Environmental Health profession by awarding funding for student / graduate trainee Environmental Health Officers up to the end of the 2018 financial year.

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

- In 2017 the MMO ran 13 training courses for Marine Enforcement Officers, all of which related to fisheries compliance and enforcement.

Animal health and animal welfare and Plant health sectors

- APHA provided a wide range of training courses during 2017, including events covering egg marketing inspectors, salmonella, writing witness statements, antimicrobial resistance, enforcement, animal welfare, pigs and poultry post mortem, post mortem refresher, health & safety (cattle handling, lab safety and practices), case officer refresher training with contingency planning as a central theme, livestock industry awareness, writing science for non-scientists, plant health imports, animal feed controls, tracing documents and record keeping requirements, and Eu Food and Mouth Disease - Foot and Mouth Disease Emergency Preparation course (FEPC).

- Bee Health related training was delivered to new Bee Inspectors. Bee Inspectors also attended City and Guilds training for Level 2 Disease Management and Safe Use of Veterinary Medicines Modules. Bee Inspectors received additional training as part of field-based contingency exercises carried out for potential exotic threats to apiculture. All National Bee Unit staff undertook mandatory e-learning on protecting information, fraud prevention and unconscious bias. All National Bee Unit staff attended the National Bee Unit annual Technical training workshop at Sand Hutton. APHA also welcomed a delegation from the Scottish Government Bee Health Inspectorate and Policy teams to the training.

- Members of Cefas FHI attended a number of training events including health and safety at work, water safety, driving safety, and presentation skills. Senior Fish Health Inspectors attended a training course on the use of The Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000. Two new Fish Health Inspectors completed the BTSF e-learning course on animal health prevention and controls for aquatic animals.

- Marine Scotland FHI attended a number of training events including; National Marine Plan Interactive, driving training, water safety and awareness, witness familiarisation, BTSF courses on animal health prevention and controls for aquatic animals, and contingency planning and transmissible animal disease control. Five members of Marine Scotland FHI were undertaking a Post Graduate Certificate in Aquatic Animal Health from the University of Stirling.

- Training for Contract Plant Health Inspectors was held in April 2017 in Edinburgh and at Forest Research's Northern Research Station Laboratories. PHSI supplied Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) documents for all inspectors describing what must be inspected and the relevant inspection processes. This co-operation continued on the new bacterial disease *X. fastidiosa*. In 2017, APHA's Plant Health and Seeds Inspectorate (APHA PHSI) 'Guidance to trade document on *Xylella fastidiosa*' was updated and shared across the devolved administrations in Wales, Scotland, NI and Forestry Commission.

- In January 2017 the annual PHSI technical training event took place, covering a range of plant health training areas from concept to delivery.

Changes to UK Multi-Annual National Control Plan 2013 - 2019 (MANCP)

- In 2018, the Multi-Annual National Control Plan was extended to March 2019. The updated Multi-Annual National Control Plan can be found on the Food Standards Agency (FSA) website here.

8. Actions taken to improve performance of Business Operators

Training for LAs

In addition to FSA cascaded training material, the following free e-learning courses were made available to LAs, industry and others:

- Traceability course
- Food allergy training
- Root cause analysis course
- Food labelling e-learning course
- Vacuum packing and modified atmosphere packing of food course

Guidance is freely available on the FSA website of which the E. coli cross contamination guide is under review to directly aid FBOs along with a secondary phase planned to produce videos to accompany the guide for further accessibility.

Safety, quality and information campaigns:

FSA

- Safe summer food - The 'Safe summer food' communication activity ran throughout summer 2017 and focused on increasing understanding of two of our 'Four Cs': chilling and cooking. The campaign ran from 19 June 2017 (Food Safety Week), focusing on picnics and concluded on the August bank holiday weekend with a focus on barbecues. The campaign reached 13.8 million people via partners, establishing partnerships with the likes of Waitrose, Asda, Morrisons and National Health Service (NHS) Choices.

- Let's talk turkey – The 'Let's talk turkey' campaign ran from 5 December 2017 to 7 January 2018, and centred on talking consumers through the steps they

need to take to enjoy a safe Christmas turkey dinner, from buying and cooking the turkey, right through to storing leftovers. Key messages focused on clearing up common misconceptions.

- Know your calories - In late February 2018 the FSA launched a campaign in NI called 'Know your calories' which ran during March 2018. It aimed to raise awareness of the recommended calorie intake for men and women and where to find calorie information on labels, both on the front of packaged food and on menus when eating out.

- Food Hygiene Rating Scheme – The FSA ran a campaign with the aim of encouraging consumers in NI and Wales to be aware of and use the FHRS before eating out or ordering a takeaway for Valentine's Day. Entitled 'Don't drop your standards, look before you book' this equated eating out with dating and as the target consumers constantly seek and share information online, activity was focused on social media and digital advertising.

- The FSA's National Food Crime Unit (NFCU) continues to drive online conversations around food crime through an extensive and active presence within the social media environment. This included an informal 'food crime week' in September 2017. The Unit also undertakes a broad range of outreach and engagement events to champion the work of the NFCU.

- To support LAs, the FSA has produced a guidance document and aide memoire, monitoring equipment for the inspections has been issued to relevant Shellfish Liaison Groups (a Dissolved Oxygen Meter, Turbidity Meter and Salinity Refractometer) and support and advice is available from the Shellfish and Relationship Management teams.

FSS

- FSS ran a Scotland-wide marketing campaign, 'Don't let Pink Chicken spoil summer' over the summer of 2017, focused on highlighting the issues of undercooked chicken and potential for campylobacter food poisoning when barbecuing. The campaign was aimed at those most at risk and/or less likely to undertake relevant food safety behaviours: a younger, more affluent male audience.

- During January 2018 FSS ran a new food safety campaign 'Kitchen Crimes' to increase awareness of good food safety practices and encourage uptake of twenty specific food safety actions. 15 of the 17 measured bad practices saw a decrease in their occurrence.

- FSS also ran road shows and attended events across Scotland in 2016 to raise awareness amongst different audiences of food safety best practice, including the Royal Highland Show, University Freshers' Fairs and the Scottish Learning Festival.

- FSS ran waves four and five of its consumer tracking survey, 'Food in Scotland', and conducted additional insight into public opinion on EU Exit food issues.

Defra & APHA

- The UK Plant Health Information Portal went live in November 2016. This is a shared resource providing information about plant pests and diseases, including the assessments of risk undertaken by government. The data underpinning those assessments is included in the portal.

- In 2017, the Animal and Plant Health Agency's Plant Health and Seeds Inspectorate (APHA PHSI) won a bronze medal for the 'STEM surrounds us' garden at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show. The garden, sponsored by Animal and Plant Health Agency's Plant Health, the Scottish Government and Forestry Commission Scotland, illustrated how Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) are being used to protect our country from threats to tree and plant health, and safeguard our economy, environment and wellbeing.

Cefas FHI

- Cefas FHI published guidance on biosecurity for fishery managers and for anglers to reduce the risk of the spread of fish diseases between recreational fisheries.

- The FHI has worked closely with other government agencies on improving working practices in a number of areas including with Natural England and Natural Resources Wales on habitats regulation assessments, the Environment Agency (EA) on response to disease outbreaks in wild aquatic animals, and UK Border Force and the National Wildlife Crime Unit on investigations and enforcement issues.

MMO

- In July 2017 the MMO issued updated guidance to industry on the .GOV website aimed at improving compliance with the traceability requirements of the fisheries Control Regulation.

CHAPTER 1
INTRODUCTION AND SCOPE OF THE REPORT

1.1 The UK MANCP covers the period April 2013 to March 2019. This document is published on the Food Standards Agency (FSA) website here.

1.2 Each MANCP is prepared jointly by the Food Standards Agency (FSA), Food Standards Scotland (FSS), the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and its agencies, the Department of Health (DH), the Chemicals Regulation Division (CRD) of the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), the Scottish Government Agriculture, Food and Rural Communities Directorate (SG AFRC), the Welsh Government Department for Energy, Planning & Rural Affairs (WG EPRA) and the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA)The plan satisfies the requirements of Regulation (EC) 882/2004 on official controls,[3] and:

- describes the roles and responsibilities of the competent authorities and associated bodies responsible for official feed and food, animal health and animal welfare, and plant health controls;
- outlines how these authorities meet the requirements of Regulation (EC) 882/2004;
- provides an overview of how these authorities and other bodies work together to safeguard public and animal health;
- sets out the strategic objectives and planned control activities.

1.3 Regulation 882/2004 also requires Member States (MS) to produce annual reports on the implementation of their MANCP. This is the tenth annual report and has been prepared jointly by the departments and agencies mentioned above.

1.4 The scope of this report is consistent with that of the MANCP and covers control systems in the UK in respect of feed and food law, animal health and animal welfare rules, and plant health rules under Directive 2000/29/EC.[4]

1.5 The Commission's guidance on the content of annual reports on implementation of MANCPs has been taken into account.[5]

1.6 It should be noted that in the UK much of the data on official controls and associated activities is collected on a financial year basis (1 April to 31 March) rather than a calendar year basis. Accordingly, financial year data is often used in this report rather than data for a calendar year. The period for data

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

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

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

presented is shown throughout the report and every effort has been made to ensure the same period is used from year to year. Additionally, responsibility for many of the control activities covered is de-centralised and the collection, validation and analysis of data at the centre are major exercises, given the number of authorities involved. As a result, analysis of data for the financial year 2017/18 is not always possible. Where this is the case, data for the 2016/17 period has been reported and has been indicated where appropriate.

1.7 It should be noted that whilst each year care is taken to ensure the accuracy of the data provided there may be instances where the data reported in previous years has been subsequently amended. This is to take account of improved systems of reporting, or of data entries being received after publication of this report.

1.8 Whilst care has been taken to ensure that the web links contained in this report are correct at the time of publication and submission to the European Commission, changes may occur.

1.9 This report gives details of:

- The effectiveness of controls, including information about trends on controls and non-compliance, and about enforcement measures;
- How audits were implemented and results of audits;
- Changes in the allocation of funding, in laboratory networks and NRLs and;
- Actions taken to improve the performance of control bodies and of business operators.

CHAPTER 2
EFFECTIVENESS OF OFFICIAL CONTROLS

Official controls in the food and feed sectors

FSA Operations

2.1 During the year 2017/18 the FSA Board was updated on Operational activity through the FSA Resource and Performance Update at the FSA Business Committee. The Resource and Performance updates can be accessed at the following links:

Performance and Resources Report - Quarter 1 2017/18
Performance and Resources Report - Quarter 2 2017/18
Performance and Resources Report - Quarter 3 2017/18
Performance and Resources Report - Quarter 4 2017/18

FSS Operations

2.2 A performance reporting system for updating the FSS Board has been developed. The first annual report on performance was presented in October 2016. Further information on the FSS Board can be accessed here.

UK Local Authority food law enforcement

2.3 Local Authority Enforcement Monitoring data is published by the FSA. The 2017/18 Annual report from the LAEMS system is not available at the time of writing this report; however, this information will be published in September 2018 and can be accessed here.

2.4 Scottish Food Enforcement Annual Return is published by the FSS. At the time of writing this report interim 2017/18 information on food law enforcement is available here. This will be updated once the official SFEAR data is published in September 2018.

Meat hygiene

FSA

2.5 In 2017/18 the FSA delivered official controls in 1,002[6] approved meat establishments in England and Wales with DAERA providing official controls in 51 approved meat establishments in NI. As at 31 March 2018 this included:

- 284 slaughterhouses in England and Wales and 18 in NI
- 49 game handling establishments in England and Wales and 2 in NI

[6] Approved establishments may carry out more than one function.

- 891 cutting plants (including market stalls) in England and Wales and 31 standalone cutting plants in NI

2.6 During the year FSA Operations and DAERA continued carrying out inspections to approved meat establishments on an unannounced basis.

2.7 In addition internal audit arrangements were carried out by the FSA Internal Audit team and gave management and the FSA Board assurance that delivery of official controls was efficient and effective across a range of approved meat establishments. In NI, parallel audits were carried out by FSA.

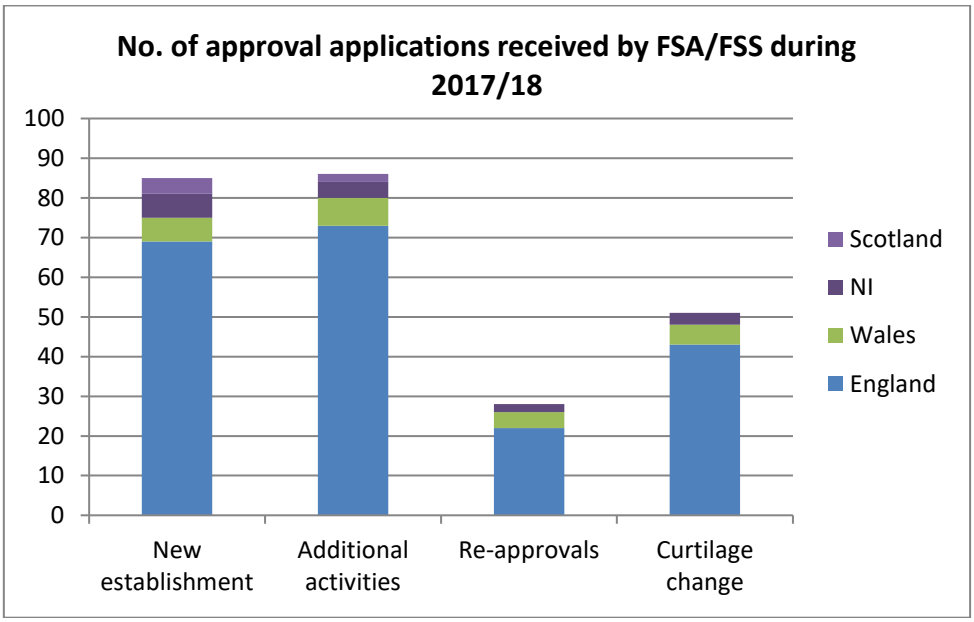
FSS

2.8 In 2017/18 FSS delivered official controls in 98[7] approved meat establishments in Scotland. As at 31 March 2018 this included:

- 28 Slaughterhouses
- 17 Game Handling Establishments
- 65 Cutting Plants

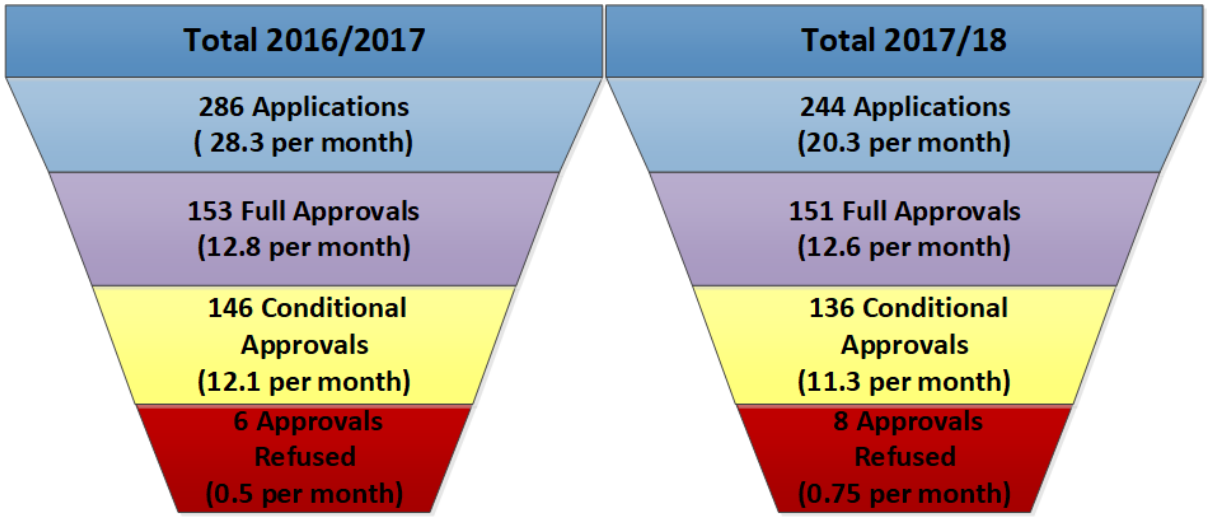
Approval of meat establishments

2.9 For the period 2017/18, across the UK the FSA/FSS received 244 applications for approval or approval related activity (286 in 2015/16).



2.10 In 2017/18, the split of approval activity/outcomes in the UK in comparison with 2016/17 can be demonstrated as follows:

[7] Approved establishments may carry out more than one function.



Refusals

2.11 Eight establishments in England were refused approval in 2017/18. Two of these were refusals for additional activities and 6 were refusals for full approval. Two of the eight were subsequently approved due to improvements made by the operator.

2.12 In Scotland, one establishment was refused in 2017/18. This establishment was subsequently granted conditional approval once improvements had been actioned. A further three establishments have surrendered approval, one into administration, one liquidated.

FBO audits in meat

2.13 2017/18 represented the third full year of data from a new style audit system introduced by FSA and FSS from August 2014. Details of the scope can be found here. The FSA also carried out and reported on a programme of Themed Audits in slaughterhouses in England and Wales during 2017. These related Animal Welfare, HACCP, Microbiology and Flexibilities. The key findings and recommendations of each Themed Audit reports were shared with industry and other interested parties and follow up actions taken as necessary.

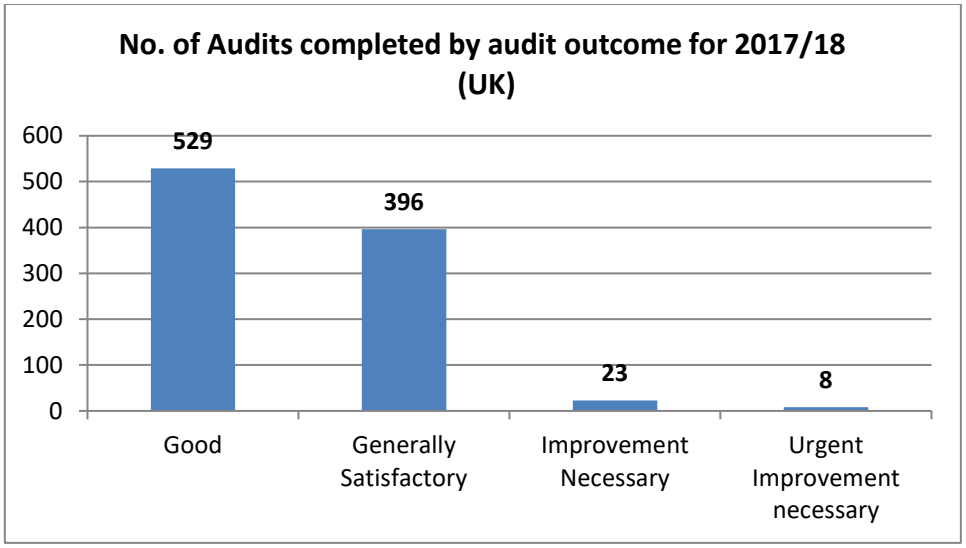
2.14 Official controls for meat in NI are delivered by DAERA. Although audit functions are carried out using a slightly different delivery model in NI, the policy is the same across the UK. Audits of FBOs in NI are carried out by a small team of DAERA OVs dedicated to that work area.

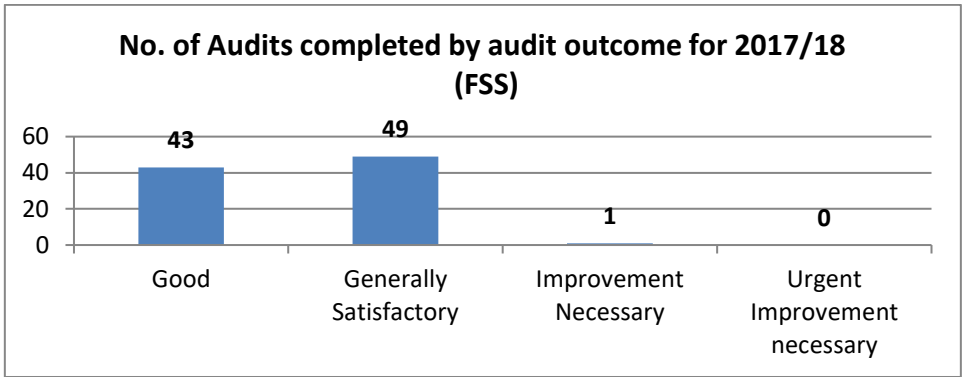
2.15 Where non-compliances are recorded against specific questions, these are categorised as minor, major or critical, depending on the nature and severity of the non-compliance. The number of non-compliances in all sections provides the outcome of the audit, which are:

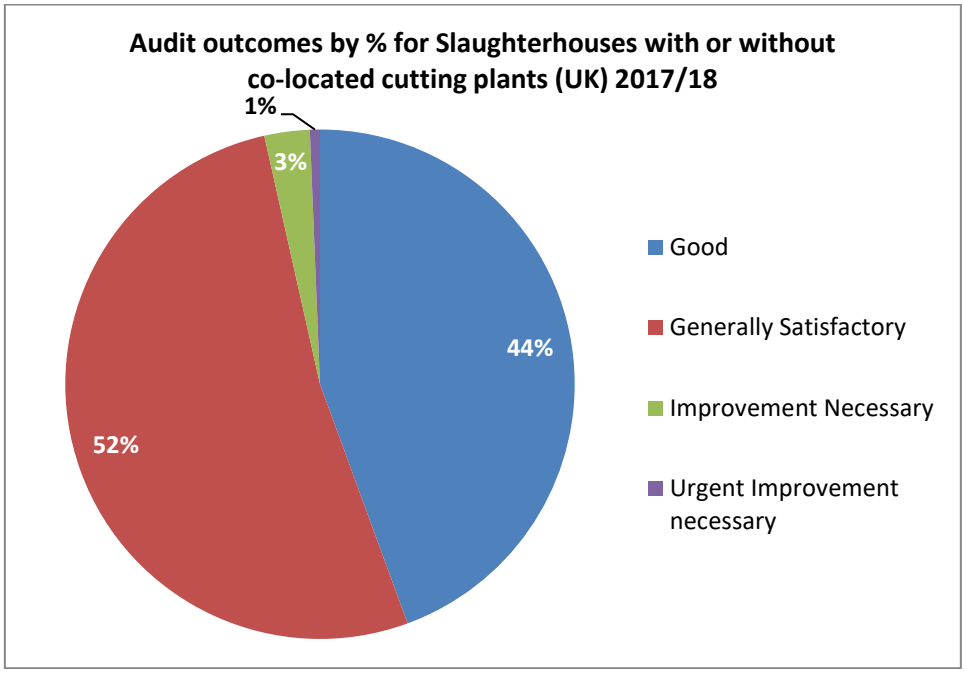
- Good
- Generally satisfactory
- Improvement necessary
- Urgent improvement necessary

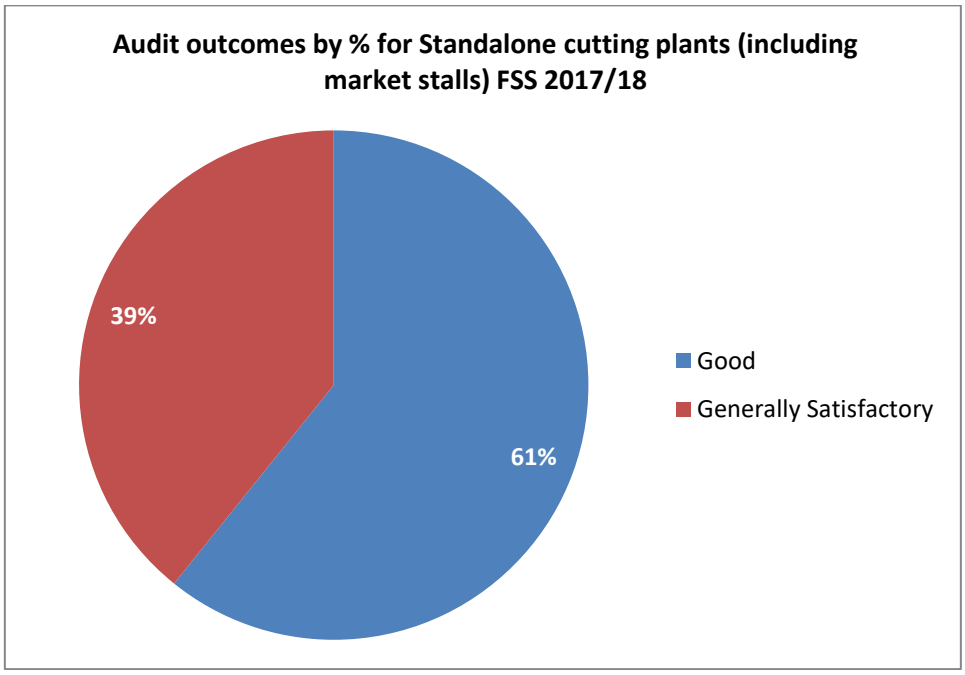
Audit outcomes determine audit frequencies. Those businesses achieving continually good standards now benefit from less frequent audits.

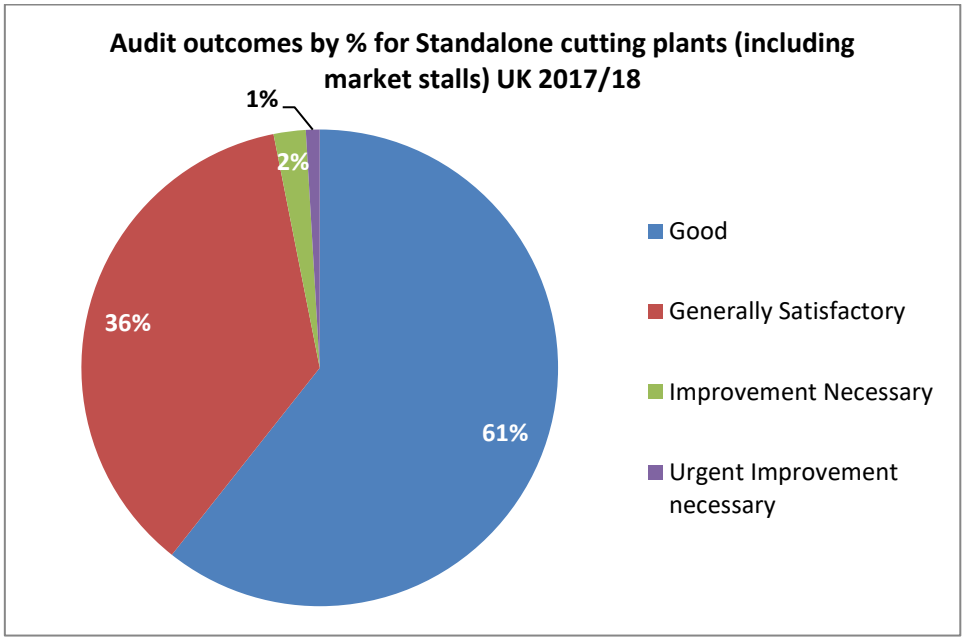
2.16 The following graphs provide a breakdown of the proportion of UK businesses in each audit outcome based on the latest full FBO audits as at 31 March 2018:






Audit outcomes by % for Slaughterhouses with or without co-located cutting plants (UK) 2017/18
1%
3%
44%
52%
Good
Generally Satisfactory
Improvement Necessary
Urgent Improvement necessary


Audit outcomes by % for Standalone cutting plants (including market stalls) FSS 2017/18
39%
61%
Good
Generally Satisfactory



2.17 The above data represents 1,042 full audits for the UK that were completed in the 2017/18 financial year. The data should be considered in the context that any establishments that were conditionally approved will not be subject to audit until full approval was obtained. Also, slaughterhouses with or without a co-located cutting plant that had received a good rating in 2016/17 would not be subject to another audit for 18 months. Those businesses achieving good standards now benefit from less frequent audits. The following audit frequencies apply to slaughterhouse/co-located cutting plants and approved game handling establishments, a separate figure for FSS is noted where frequencies differ:

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

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

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

Audit Outcome	Follow up partial audit	Minimum number of unannounced inspections during interim audit period	Full audit frequency
Good	0	1	12 months
Generally Satisfactory	1 interim visit / Within 3 months (FSS)	1 / ½ (FSS)	12 months
Improvement Necessary	Within 1 month	1 / Weekly or Monthly until compliance is achieved (FSS)	3 months
Urgent Improvement Necessary	Within 1 month	1 / Weekly until compliance is achieved (FSS)	2 months

2.20 In England, NI and Wales, at the end of March 2018, 97% of slaughterhouses (with or without co-located cutting plants) and 97% of standalone cutting plants were at least generally satisfactory in terms of compliance. In Scotland, at the end of March 2018, 97% of slaughterhouses (with or without co-located cutting plants) and 100% of standalone cutting plants were at least generally satisfactory in terms of compliance"

2.21 Since January 2018, establishments achieving two consecutive Good outcomes are entitled to an extended audit frequency (EAF) as follows.

Extended audit frequencies for slaughterhouses / co-located cutting plants and approved game handling establishments			
Audit outcome	Standard frequency	Follow up partial audit	Extended frequency
Good / Good	18 months	0	26 months / N/A (FSS)

Extended audit frequencies for standalone cutting plants and cold stores					
Audit outcome	Follow up partial audit	Minimum number of unannounced inspections during interim audit period	Current full audit frequency	Extended audit frequency	Minimum number of unannounced inspections during interim audit period
Good / Good	0	1	12 months	24 months	2

Urgent Improvement Necessary

2.22 Audit outcomes are based on an assessment across all areas providing a reliable indicator on standards. The FSA and FSS publish audit outcomes for all FSA and FSS approved meat establishments.

2.23 During 2017/18 five slaughterhouses (with or without co-located cutting plants) and 13 standalone cutting plants received an audit outcome of Urgent Improvement Necessary; as at 31 March 2018 there were two slaughterhouses (with or without co-located cutting plants) and six standalone cutting plants still had this rating. The intervention protocol seeks improvements in compliance through education, advice and enforcement action[1].

In Scotland one slaughterhouse (with or without co-located cutting plants) received an audit outcome of Urgent Improvement Necessary; however as at 31 March 2018 no slaughterhouses (with or without co-located cutting plants) and no standalone cutting plants still had this rating.

2.24 Publication of FSA audits for approved meat establishments can be found here, FSS information can be found here.

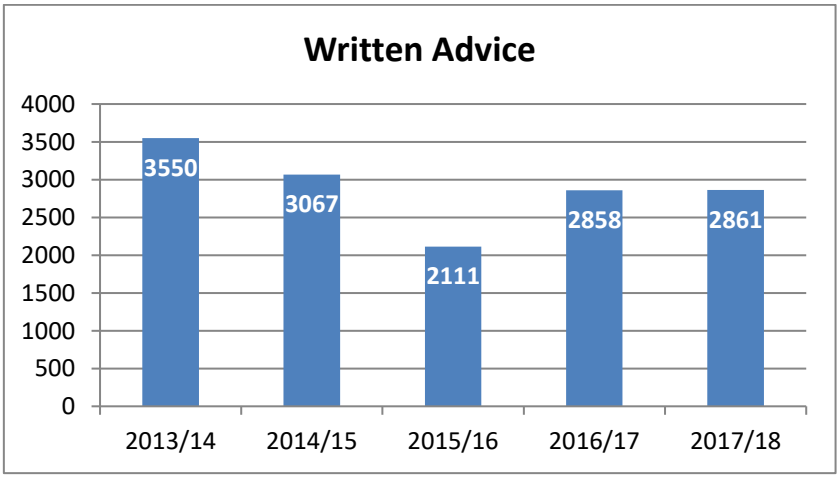
Unannounced inspections in cutting plants

2.25 Unannounced inspections (UAIs) by official veterinarians and official auxiliaries in standalone cutting plants also take place between scheduled audits, with follow-up visits where enforcement action or monitoring is considered necessary. While FSS carry out similar visit schedules, they deploy trained Meat Hygiene Inspectors to undertake unannounced inspections in non-RTE establishments. Official Veterinarians (OVs) carry out UAIs in all RTE establishments.

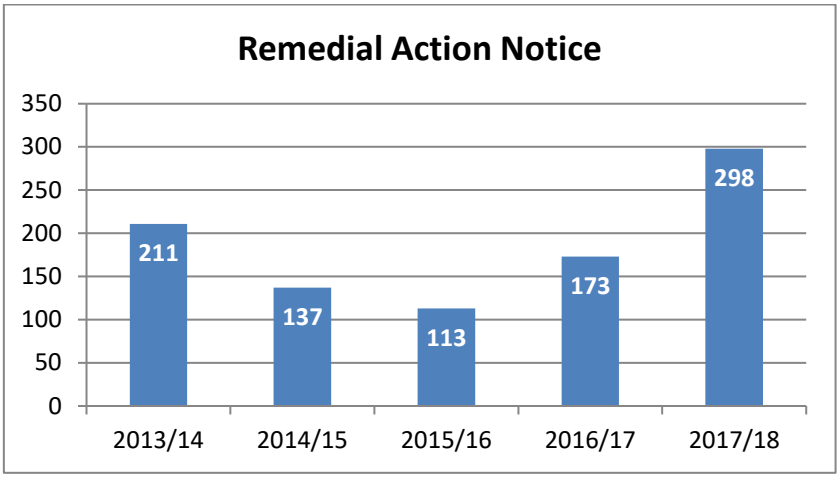
2.26 During 2017/18, 916 unannounced inspections were completed in England and Wales and 35 were completed in NI. FSS completed 118 unannounced inspections in Scotland between 1 April 2017 and 31 March 2018

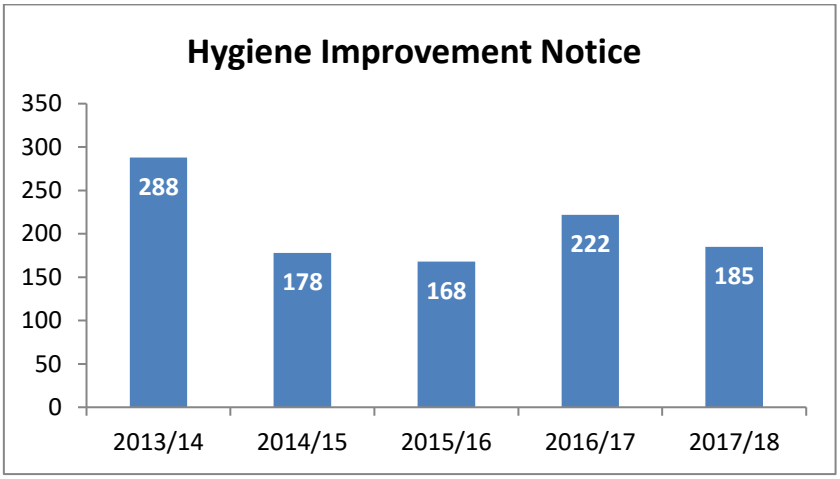
Enforcement

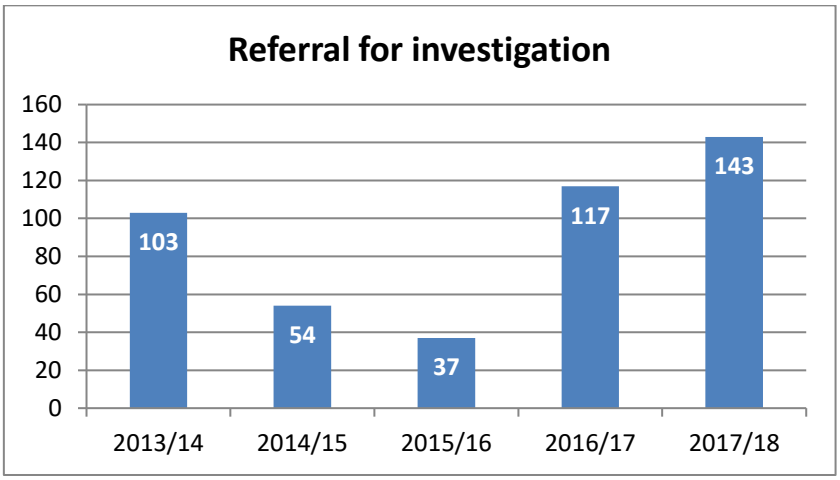
2.27 The following graph shows the numbers and types of enforcements served by the FSA and FSS in slaughterhouses/game handling establishments and cutting plants in the UK over the last five years:



[1] food.gov.uk/business-industry/meat/audit/intervention-protocol







2.28 The above shows an upward trend in the enforcement action taken throughout the UK, with a slight drop in the issue of Hygiene Improvement Notices. The above shows the results for the UK cumulatively. For enforcement action in Scotland notices are served under Food Hygiene (Scotland) Regulations 2006. In addition to those enforcement actions highlighted above FSS also have Hygiene Emergency Prohibition Notices, of which in 2017/18 none were served.

2.29 In meat establishments Remedial Action Notices (RANs) showed an upward trend, and Hygiene Improvement Notices (HINs) increased slightly. HINs increased by 6.5%, from 173 in 2016/17 to 185 in 2017/18. RANs increased by 25% in 2017/18, from 222 in 2016/17 to 298 in 2017/18. At the time of

reporting[8], Scotland showed a 28% increase in the usage of RANs compared to 2016/17. This increase is largely due to RANs being the “go to” notices of choice as LA’s find they are fully flexible, simple to use and very effective in achieving compliance with the relevant regulations. The on-going validity where a FBO decides not to comply with the requirements of the notice also provides re-assurance to the LA that the original legal breach should not recur during the life of the notice.

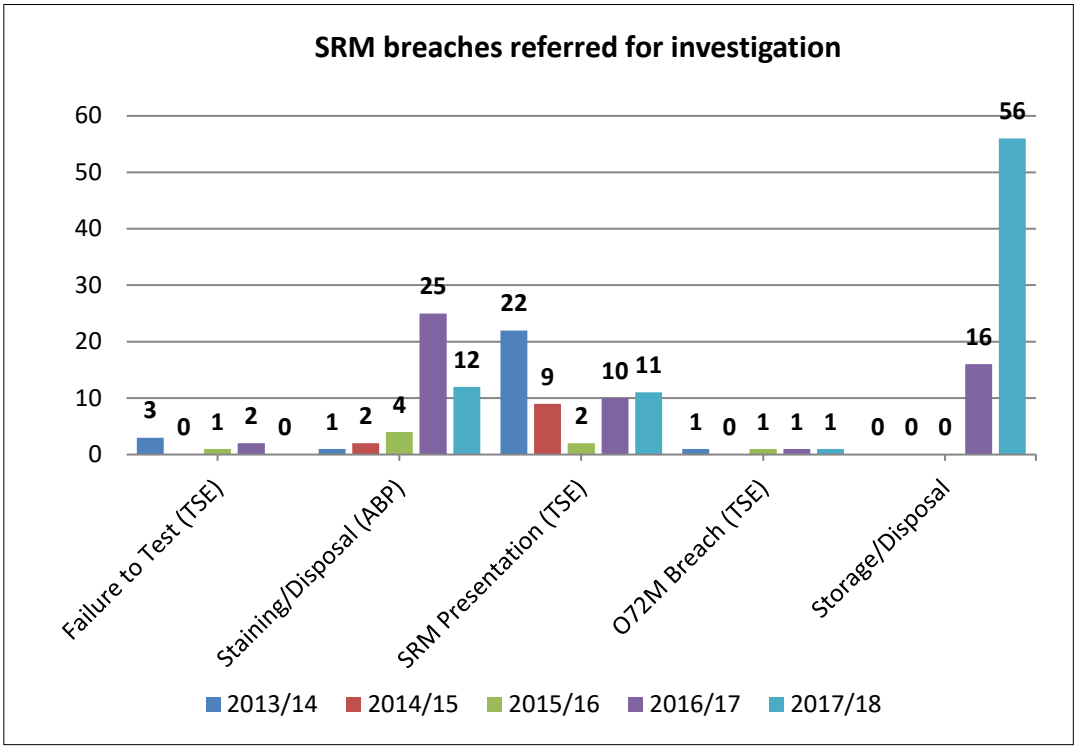
2.30 In England and Wales, action was taken against 6 plants for poor hygiene controls which contributed to the service of 20 RANs and 10 HINs and the subsequent suspension or withdrawal of their approval. Most formal enforcement is taken against relatively few plants, which weights the figures in favour of formal notices. 10 establishments were responsible for approximately 50% of all RANs served and likewise 9 establishments were responsible for over 50% of all HINs served. One plant was individually responsible for 8% of all RANs and 8% of all HINs served and have subsequently ceased trading.

FSA - Specified Risk Material (SRM) controls

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

2.32 During 2017/18, 100% inspection of bovine and ovine carcases for SRM removal at slaughterhouses was carried out. Verification and audit of FBO processes for removal, storage, staining and disposal of SRM was carried out in authorised slaughterhouses and cutting plants on a risk-based frequency. The following graph shows SRM breaches referred for investigation in the UK for the last five years.

[8] Final figures still being collated.



*11 Staining/disposal issues and 55 Storage/disposal issues in Scotland

There were no SRM breaches in NI in 2017/18.

2.33 During 2016/17 DAERA were successful in their application for NI to be considered as a BSE negligible risk region. The OIE decision was ratified at their meeting in May 2017. A Commission proposal was agreed by the other 27 MS which came into effect on 28th July 2017.

FSS - Specified Risk Material (SRM) controls

2.34 During 2017/18, 100% inspection of bovine and ovine carcases for SRM removal at Scottish slaughterhouses was carried out. Six SRM breaches were referred for investigation and appropriate enforcement actions were taken. Verification and audit of FBO processes for removal, storage, staining and disposal of SRM was carried out in authorised slaughterhouses and cutting plants on a risk-based frequency.

Milk production hygiene

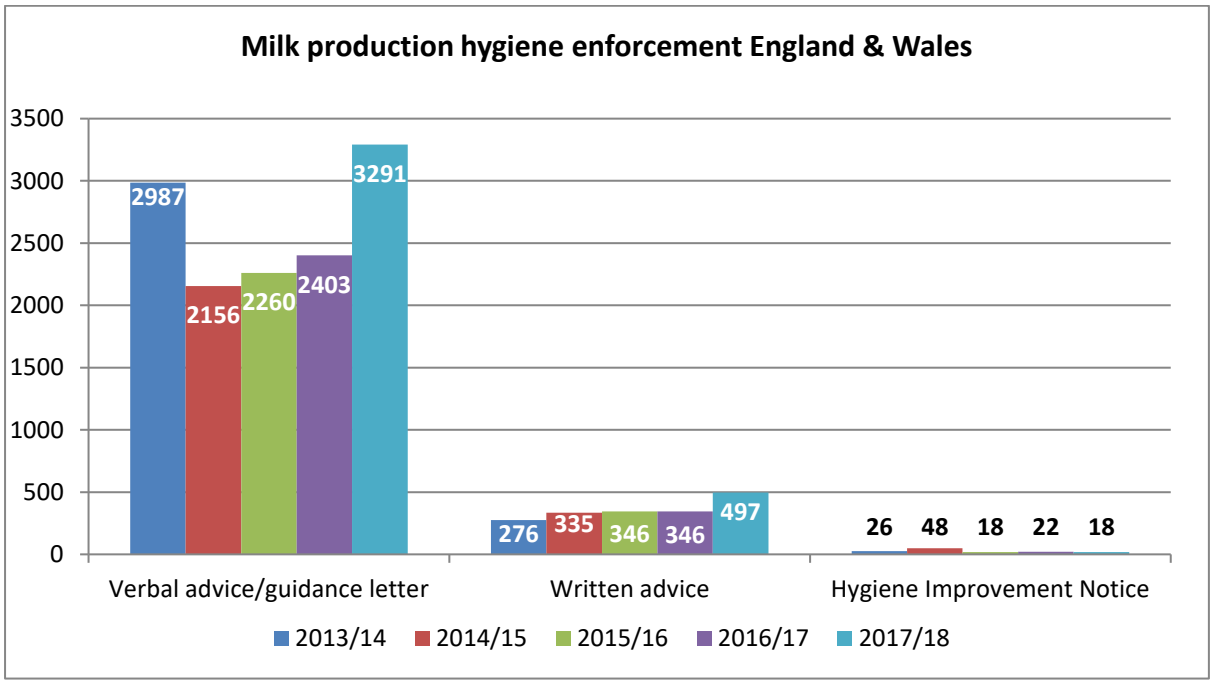
2.35 The number of milk production holdings as at 31 March 2018 in the UK is shown in the tables below. The table also sets out the combined number of primary and secondary inspections (which took place as a result of non-compliance issues highlighted from the primary inspection) in 2017/18. Approximately 67% of visits in England and Wales resulted in follow up checks, either via digital evidence of compliance provided by the holding, or physical visit by an FSA inspector. This resulted in the majority of non-compliances being satisfactorily resolved within agreed timescales.

2017/18

	England & Wales	Scotland	NI	UK
No. of milk production holdings / milk processing establishments	9,356	919	3,165	13,440
No. of primary inspections	1,067	242	1,182	2,491
No. of secondary inspections	716	20	844	1,580

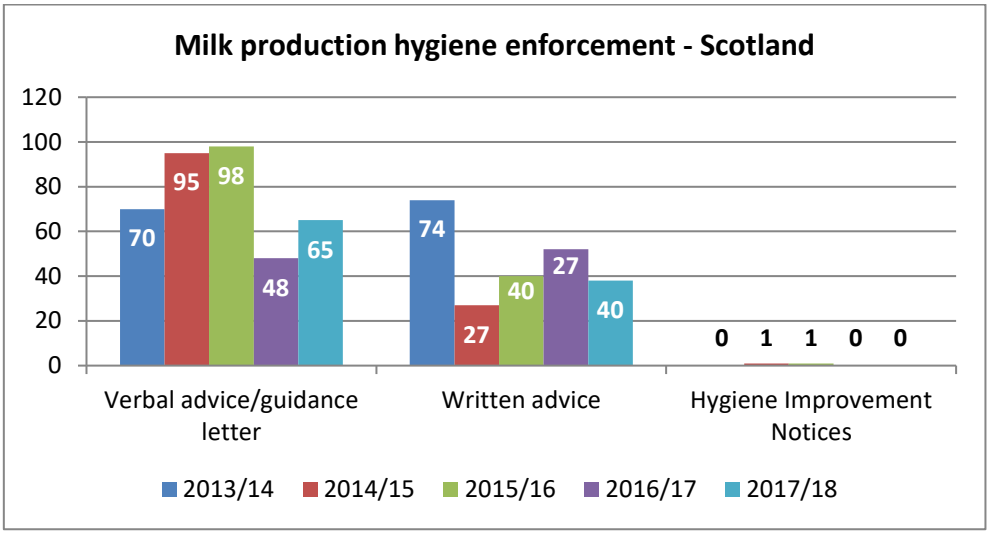
England and Wales

2.36 The FSA has direct responsibility for delivery of dairy hygiene inspections in milk production holdings in England and Wales. There has been a decrease in the number of dairy farms in England and Wales over the year (2.6%). There is a high percentage of Assured Dairy Farms (ADF) in England and Wales (90%) giving those establishments a 10 year visit frequency.



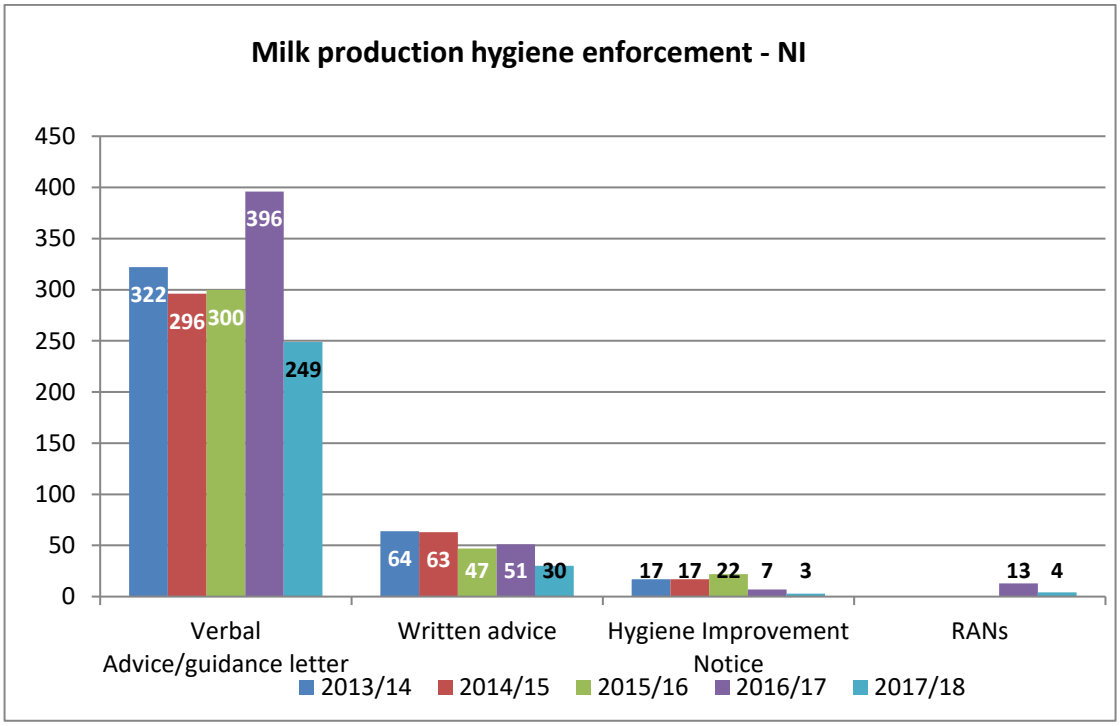
FSS

2.37 In Scotland inspections in milk production holdings are carried out by 32 individual LAs. Over the past year, the number of dairy farms in Scotland has reduced by 2.5%.



NI

2.38 In NI inspections in milk production holdings and liquid milk processing establishments are carried out by DAERA. In NI Quality assured farms represent approximately 53% of the total number of farms (currently 1692 out of 3165 at 31st March 2018).



Summary

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

2.40 A compliance rating system was developed and introduced in 2015, based on inspection outcomes; this provides improved management information and

distinguishes further the actual significance of any non-compliance identified in relation to the risk for public health, and results in the establishments being given one of four compliance ratings.

2.41 The main non-compliances noted related to failure to maintain hygiene standards – cleanliness of doors, walls and floors in the dairy, equipment cleanliness and cleanliness of roofs and walls in the milking parlour.

2.42 All Raw Drinking Milk (RDM) producers are subject to six monthly inspection visits and quarterly sampling and testing (cows) or LA sampling checks (other species) against criteria in the domestic legislation. In practice, this means enforcement officials visit production holdings quarterly. If the milk fails to comply with the microbiological criteria, this prompts an inspection visit and follow-up testing.

2.43 Establishments handling and processing high risk products, those with an unsatisfactory history of compliance and those where there is low confidence in management require inspections at least every six months. Official controls for RDM establishments are comparable or more stringent than the general approach. The inspection compliance ratings outcomes are also published on the FSA website to provide consumer information and increase compliance in this sector.

Egg production hygiene

2.44 Inspections of egg production sites in England and Wales are carried out by APHA on behalf of the FSA to ensure compliance with the Food Hygiene Regulations. In Scotland, the SG's Poultry Unit carry out inspections on behalf of FSS. In NI this work is carried out for the FSA by DAERA.

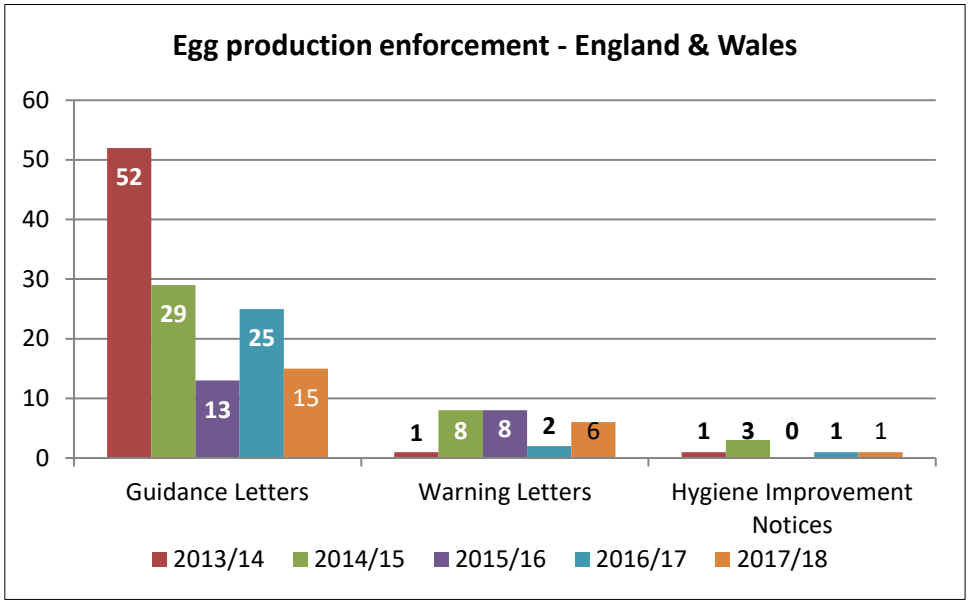
2.45 The following table shows the total number of registered egg production sites and number of inspection visits in the UK for 2017/18:

2017/2018	England &Wales	Scotland	NI	UK
No. of registered egg production sites	1,377	323	320	2,020
No. of inspections	311	43	73	425
No. of Inspections compliant	283	43	68	111
No. of Inspections not compliant	67	0	5	72

England and Wales

2.46 Inspections in England and Wales are prioritised according to a risk assessment and there is increasing historical data to inform that assessment. Compliant establishments are those where no improvements are needed. There has been an increase in compliance rates from 2016/17; this is reflected in a reduced number of guidance letters issued during this year and one HIN being served as per 2016/17.

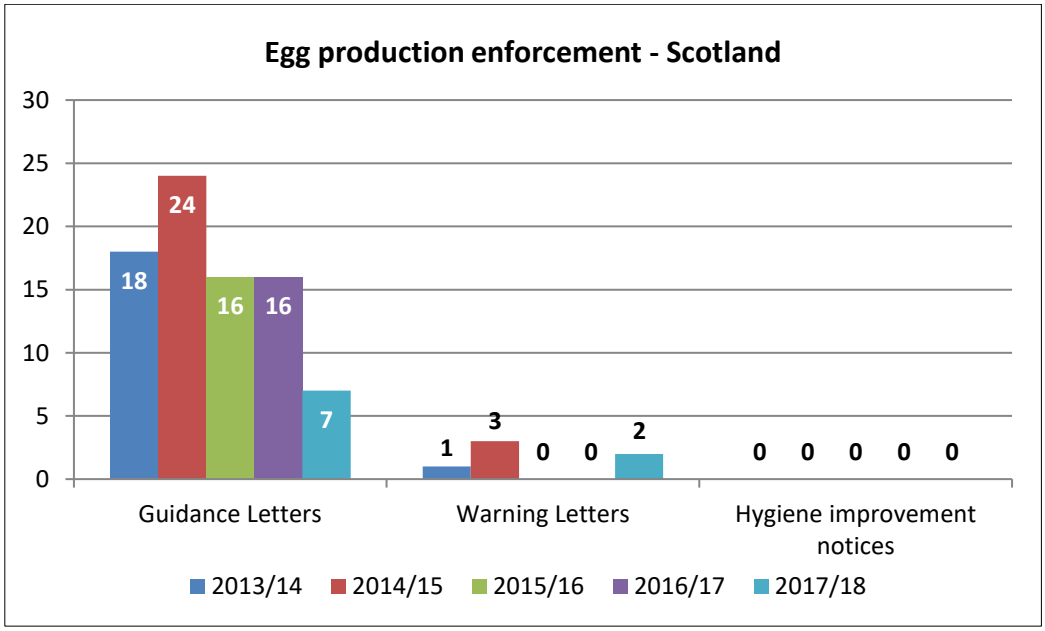
2.47 The following charts show egg production enforcement across the UK over the past five years:



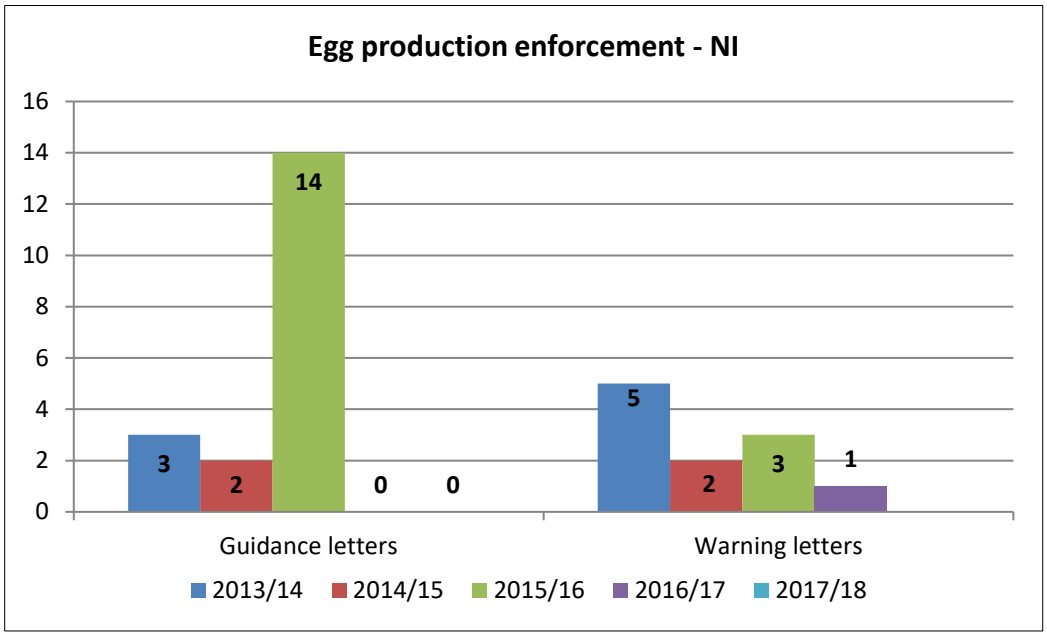
Year	No. of Inspections	No. of F/Up inspections	Guidance Letters	Warning Letters	HINs	Overall Compliance Rate
13/14	493	63	52	1	1**	66%
14/15	477	74	29	8	3	71%
15/16	353	40	13	8	0	79%
16/17	308	39	25	2	1	66%
17/18	331	39	15	6	1	80%

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

Scotland



NI



Shellfish hygiene

England and Wales

2.48 In England and Wales between 1 January and 31 December 2017, a total of 862 shellfish samples were received as part of the routine biotoxin monitoring programme. 746 samples were tested for Amnesic Shellfish Poisoning (ASP) toxins. ASP was detected in 26 of the samples analysed, however no exceedances of the maximum permitted level of 20mg/kg were reported and therefore no closures were required. 833 samples were tested for Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning (PSP) toxin with three samples exceeding the maximum permitted level of 800 µg/kg leading to closures in two production areas. 762 samples were tested for Lipophilic toxins (LTs) returning 4 results exceeding the maximum permitted level of 160µg/kg for Okadaic Acid/Dinophysistoxins/Pectenotoxins leading to closures in one production.

Scotland

2.49 In Scotland, between 1 January and 31 December 2017, 2,155 shellfish flesh samples were analysed and a further 15 verification samples tested. During this reporting period, 46 inshore samples breached MPL for lipophilic toxins. Eleven samples were found to contain PSP toxins above the MPL of 800µg STX eq./kg shellfish. No inshore samples exceeded the MPL of 20mg [domoic/epi domoic acid] (DA)/kg shellfish flesh. Additionally, for the same monitoring period, a total of 1,351 phytoplankton (seawater samples) were analysed.

NI

2.50 In NI between 1 January and 31 December 2017, 436 shellfish samples were received as part of the routine biotoxin monitoring programme, none of which exceeded the EU statutory limits for toxins. 611 samples were received for

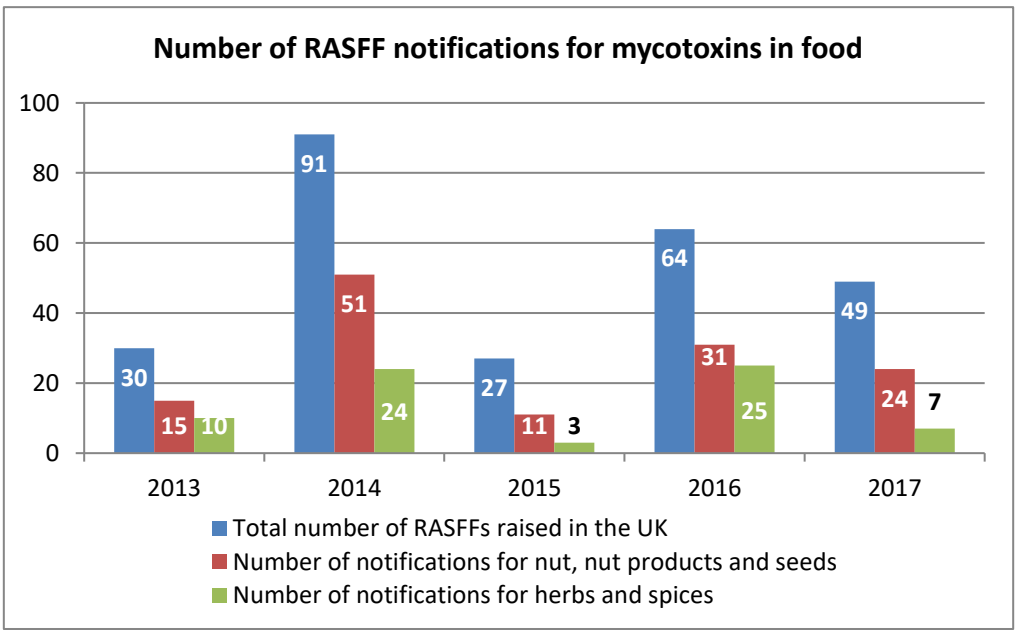
phytoplankton monitoring (seawater). 261 samples were collected by FSA and analysed for microbiological contamination, with 70 samples submitted by FBOs under a MoU between the FSA and official control laboratory. As part of the annual chemical contaminant monitoring programme in NI, 7 samples were collected and analysed for heavy metals and PAHs none of which exceed EU regulatory limits.

Fish - First sale

2.51 In 2017 the MMO carried out 824 inspections of establishments where first sale fish is handled. Checks were made to ensure compliance with the traceability requirements of the Fisheries Control Regulation. For establishments where first sale fish was handled, 10 written/verbal re-briefs and 2 Official Written Warnings were issued for breaches of Fisheries Control Regulations.

Mycotoxins

2.52 The total number of Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF) notifications for mycotoxins raised by the UK was 49 in 2017, which shows there has been a decrease this year compared to 2,065. With regards to herbs and spices and nuts there is no set trend for the number of RASFFs over the long term. The chart below gives the number of RASFF notifications for mycotoxins in food in the previous five years:



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

Testing carried out under Regulation (EC) 884/2014

Product	Originating country	No. of consignments tested	No. with aflatoxin levels above the maximum
Various products including: groundnuts, hazelnuts, pistachios, nutmeg, dried fruits, dried spices, egusi seeds	Argentina	102	3
	Brazil	34	3
	China	210	8
	Egypt	8	3
	Ethiopia	9	0
	India	224	10
	Indonesia	10	0
	Turkey	153	1
Total		**750**	**28**

2.54 Commission Regulation (EU) 884/2014 was introduced on 3 September 2014 and consolidates into one regulation previous official controls governing the import of certain foodstuffs from certain non-EU countries due to contamination risk by aflatoxins and extends the scope to include feed. The table below illustrates the number of samples taken for aflatoxins as required by Regulation (EC) 884/2014, alongside the number of non-compliances. Overall the level of non-compliance low, with the proportional percentage of non-compliances being 49% lower than 2016/17.

Import controls

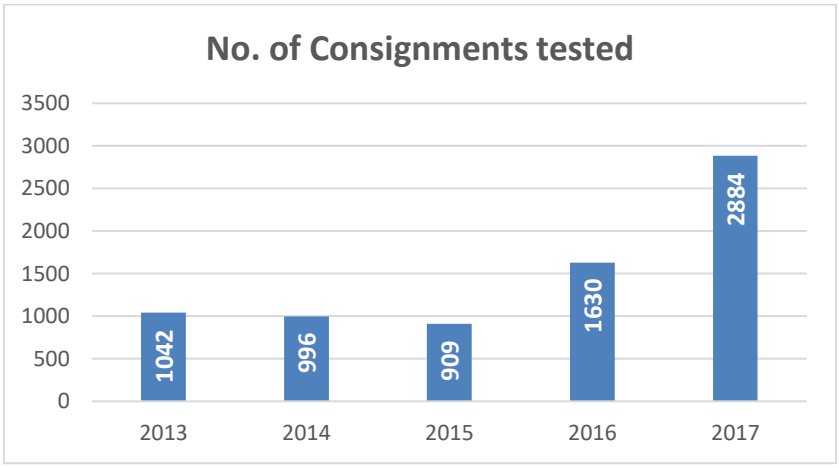
2.55 During 2017, operational targets for controls on imported food and feed at points of entry were met, including the additional controls required at points of entry under various EU safeguard measures and Regulation (EC) 669/2009.

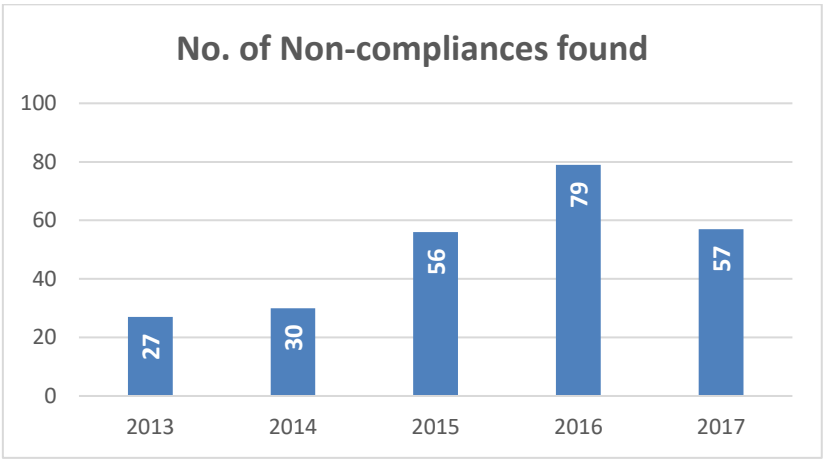
2.56 In 2017, LAs and Port Health Authorities (PHAs) undertook official controls on food imported from third countries to check for compliance with EU food law requirements. This included controls required under various EU safeguard measures on certain imported food and feed; controls for food contact materials from China and Hong Kong (required under Commission Regulation (EU) 284/2011 due to the risk to public health); as well as controls under Commission Regulation (EC) 669/2009 as amended. The controls were applied on products listed under the relevant regulations, which included 100% documentary checks and the prescribed levels for identity and physical checks, including sampling and analysis.

Amended Import controls 2017	New Import Controls in 2017
• Regulation 669/2009 – High risk FNAO • Regulation 2016/6 - Japan • Decision 2008/866/EC – BVs from Peru • Regulation 2015/949 – Pre export checks for USA/CA • Decision 2011/163/EU – Residue Plans • Regulation 743/2013 – BVs from Turkey • Decision 2006/766/EC – Approved countries from fishery products etc. Decision 2007/777/EC – Health conditions for POAO	• Regulation 2017/186 - Microbiological contamination • Regulation 2017/625 – Official Controls

2.57 Under the EU safeguard measures 2,884 consignments were tested in 2017. The following graphs show the number of consignments tested and non-compliances over the past five years. The increase of consignments contributes to Grapes from Egypt introduced to Regulation 669/2009 for pesticide residues.

Various EU Safeguard Measures





2.58 The table below sets out imported food and feed sampling activities in 2017 under various EU safeguard measures:

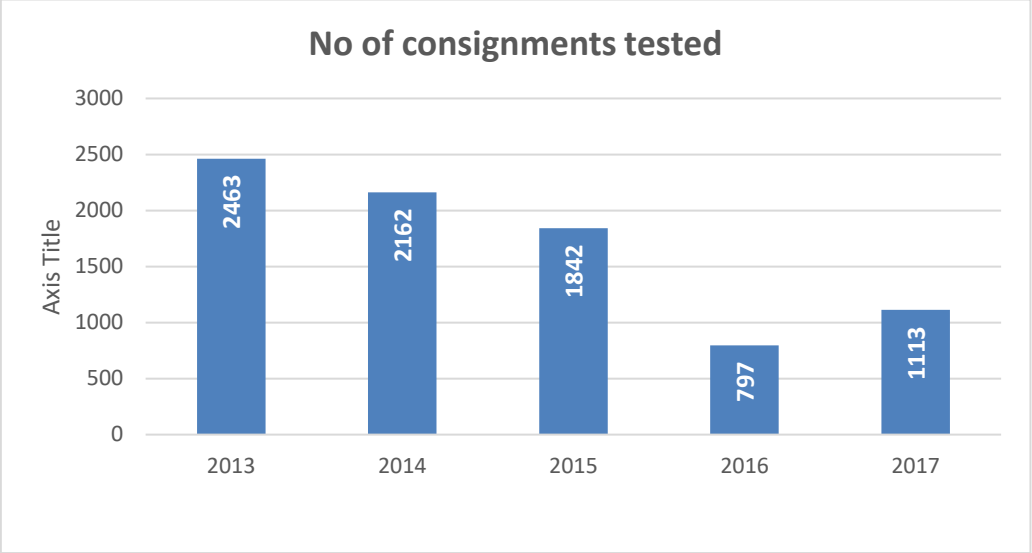
Imported food & feed sampling activities under EU safeguard measures

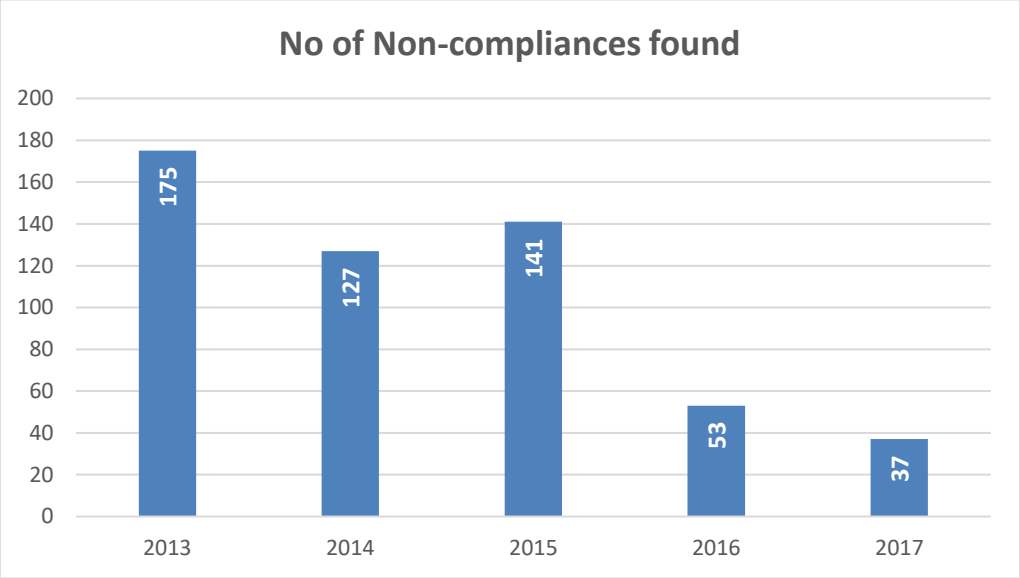
Decision/ Regulation	Country	Product	Hazard	Consignments Tested	Unsatisfactory Tests
2011/884/EU	China	Rice products	Unauthorised GMOs	123	4
284/2011	China & Hong Kong	Melamine & polyamide plastic kitchenware	Formaldehyde & primary aromatic amines (PAAs)	179	2
2010/381/EU, amended by 2016/1774	India	Aquaculture fishery products	Certain pharmaceutically active substances	1,333	0
258/2010 amended by 2015/175	India	Guar gum	Pentachlorophenol & dioxins	24	0
2016/166 *	India	Betel leaves	*Salmonella*	19	8
2017/186 *	India	Betel leaves and Sesame seeds	*Salmonella*	77	5
885/2014	India	Okra and Curry leaves	Pesticide residues	288	10
961/2011 amended by 996/2012	Japan	Food, feed	Iodine-131, caesium-134, caesium-137	91	0
884/2014 amended by 2016/24, amended by 2016/2106	Various countries	Various products including: groundnuts, hazelnuts, pistachios, nutmeg, dried fruits, dried spices, egusi seeds	Aflatoxins	750	28
Totals for 2017				**2,884**	**57**

* Regulation 2017/186 came into force on 23/02/2017 – above figures include the period from 01/01/17 to 22/02/17 when Betel leaves were controlled under Regulation 2016/166.

Regulation (EC) No. 669/2009

2.59 A total of 1,113 consignments were tested under Regulation 669/2009 in 2017. The following graphs show the numbers of consignments tested and the number of non-compliances over the past five years. The decrease in the number of consignments tested and related non-compliances in 2017 can be attributed to the move of some commodities previously listed under Regulation 669/2009 to stricter safeguard measures.





2.60 In February 2017 Regulation 2016/166 was repealed and replaced simultaneously with Regulation 2017/186 following continuous high frequency of noncompliance of foods with microbiological safety due to *Salmonella spp* in imports of Sesame seeds (*Sesamum seeds*) and Betel leaves (*Piper betle L*) from India.

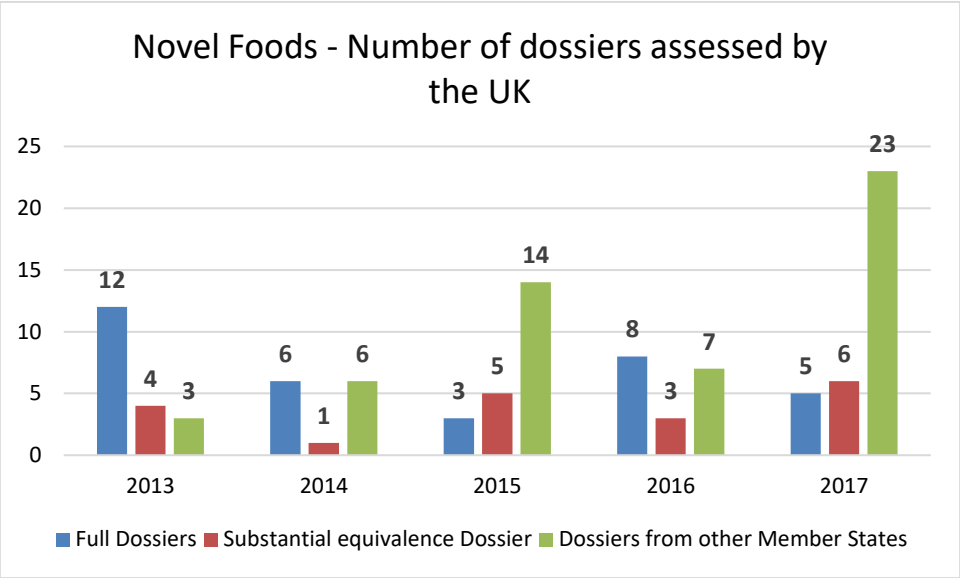
In 2017 Regulation 885/2014, Okra and Curry leaves from India controlled by Pesticide residues. 885/2014 came into force on the 17th of August 2014, Curry leaves was previously listed under Regulation 669/2009 and Okra under Regulation 1152/2009 prior to being repealed by Regulation 91/2013.

Genetically Modified (GM) foods

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

Novel foods

2.62 The graph below shows the number of dossiers assessed by the UK over the last five years:[9]



2.63 While the UK continued to play a role in assessing dossiers under 258/97 EC in 2017, there was a significant increase in dossiers completing the assessment in other Member States and being circulated for input. This reflects that this was the final opportunity to consider these dossiers by this system before the revised novel food regulation came into force. From January 2018 dossiers will be managed through a centralised risk assessment process and assessed by EFSA. Dossiers for which a decision had not been made will be moved into the new system and may need to provide further information to complete the assessment process.

2.64 The number of substantial equivalence dossiers increased slightly this year reflecting applicants who wanted to start marketing their products in 2017. Authorisations became generic from 2018, unless data protection provisions are triggered.

Food contact materials

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

2.65 Controls were carried out by First Points of Introduction in accordance with the Regulation. In 2017 1,627 (100%) consignments underwent documentary checks, of which approximately 11% were subject to identity checks and physical checks (there were 1,547 consignments in 2016).

2.66 In total 5 consignments were rejected in 2017 (compared with 10 in 2016). Two of these consignments were rejected due to a failure following physical

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

checks, representing 1.1% of the total consignments that were physically checked (181). The remaining three of these were rejected on unsatisfactory identity and documentary checks.

2.67 Fewer consignments were rejected overall in 2017 compared to 2016 (0.3% of consignments compared to 0.6% in 2016). There has been a drop in the rate of non-compliance for consignments that underwent physical checks and failed on this basis (1.1% in 2017 compared to 1.8% in 2016, 2% in 2015, 8% in 2014 and 7% in 2013).

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

2.68 In 2017, no notifications from the UK were published in relation to food contact materials compared to four in 2016.

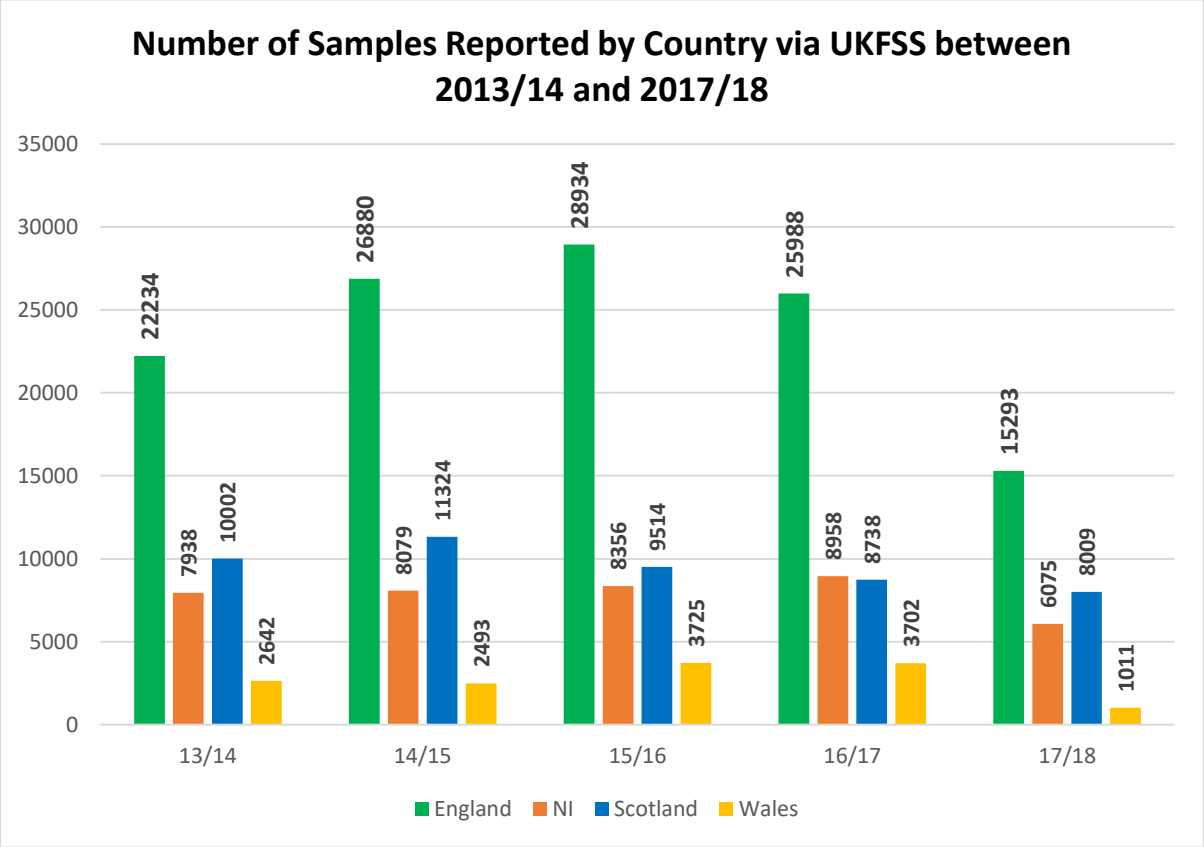
Sampling

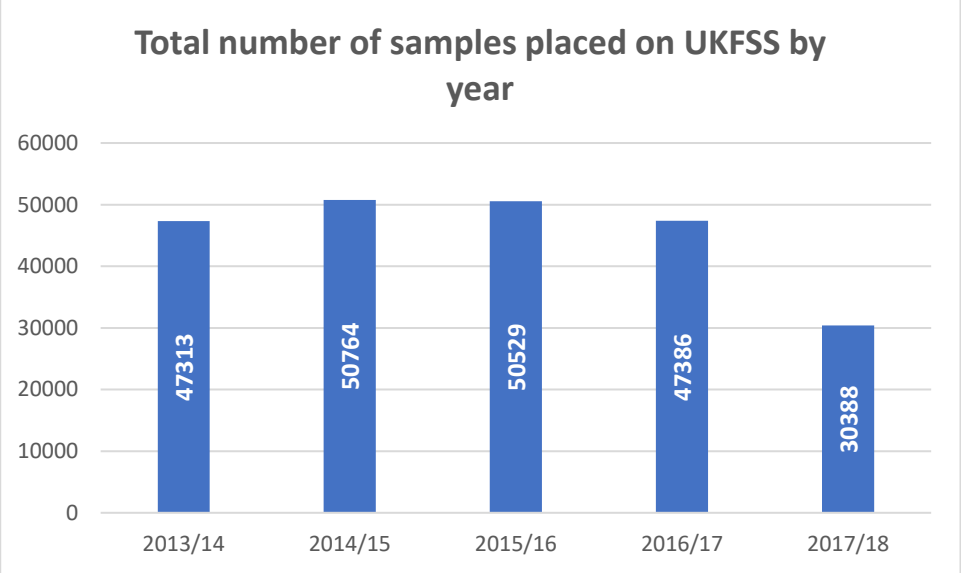
UK Food Surveillance System (UKFSS) coverage and test results

2.69 The UKFSS is a national database that centrally holds a record of samples submitted for food and animal feed analysis by official control laboratories on behalf of LAs and PHAs. This is a voluntary system and isn't used by all LAs particularly in England and Wales with some LAs also providing sampling data via LAEMS. To streamline and improve this approach, the Food Standards Agency are currently developing a new sample reporting mechanism which will replace UKFSS in England, Wales and NI.

2.70 The percentage of UK LAs using UKFSS has decreased from 71% in 2016/17 to 59% in 2017/18. This comprises 100% of LAs in NI and Scotland, 86% in Wales and 52% in England. This has therefore led to a fall in the number of samples being reported on UKFSS compared to previous years. A number of LAs in both England and Wales have ceased using the voluntary UKFSS system during the FSAs transition from UKFSS to a new sampling reporting mechanism for England, Wales and NI. Many of these LAs will have instead reported their sampling data via alternative methods such as LAEMS.

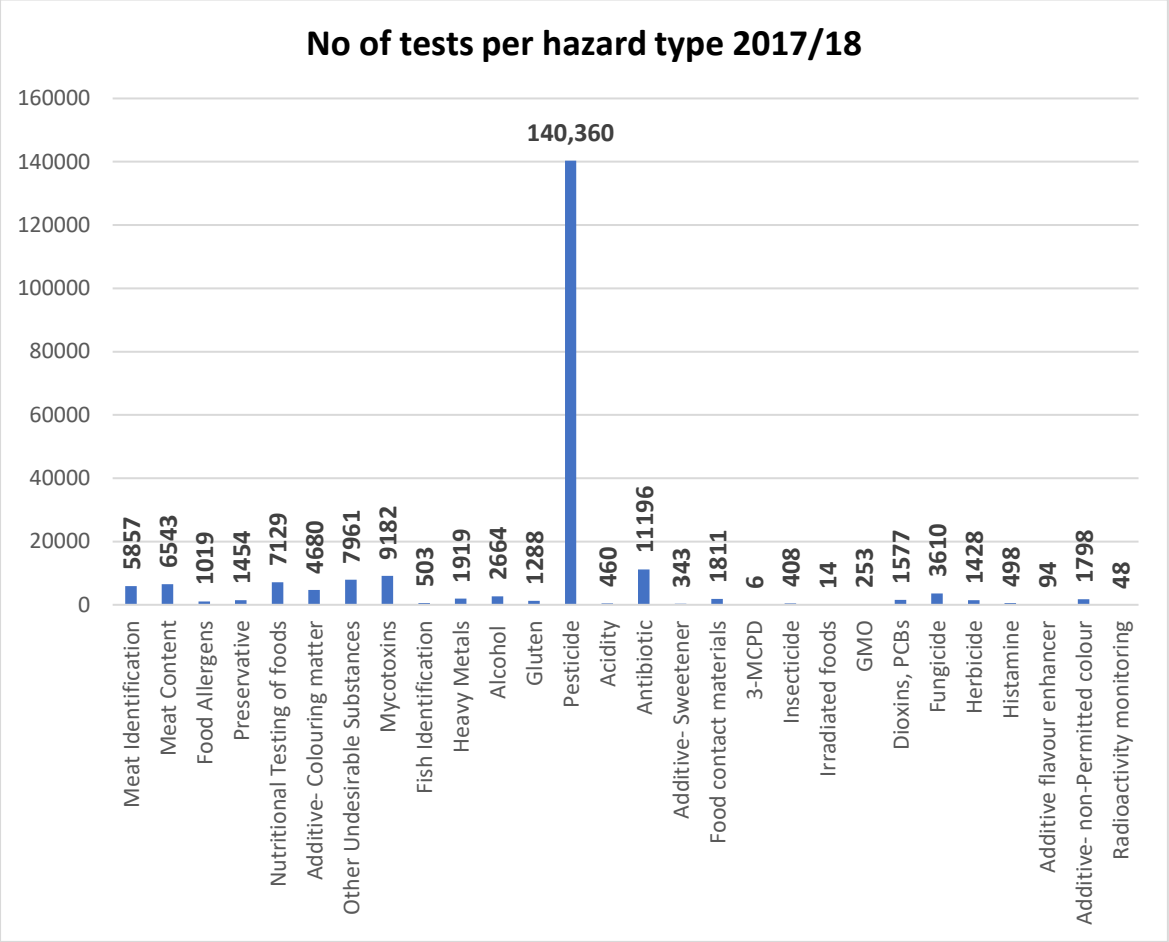
2.71 The graphs below show the number of samples placed on UKFSS by country over the past five years and the total number of samples placed on UKFSS per year.



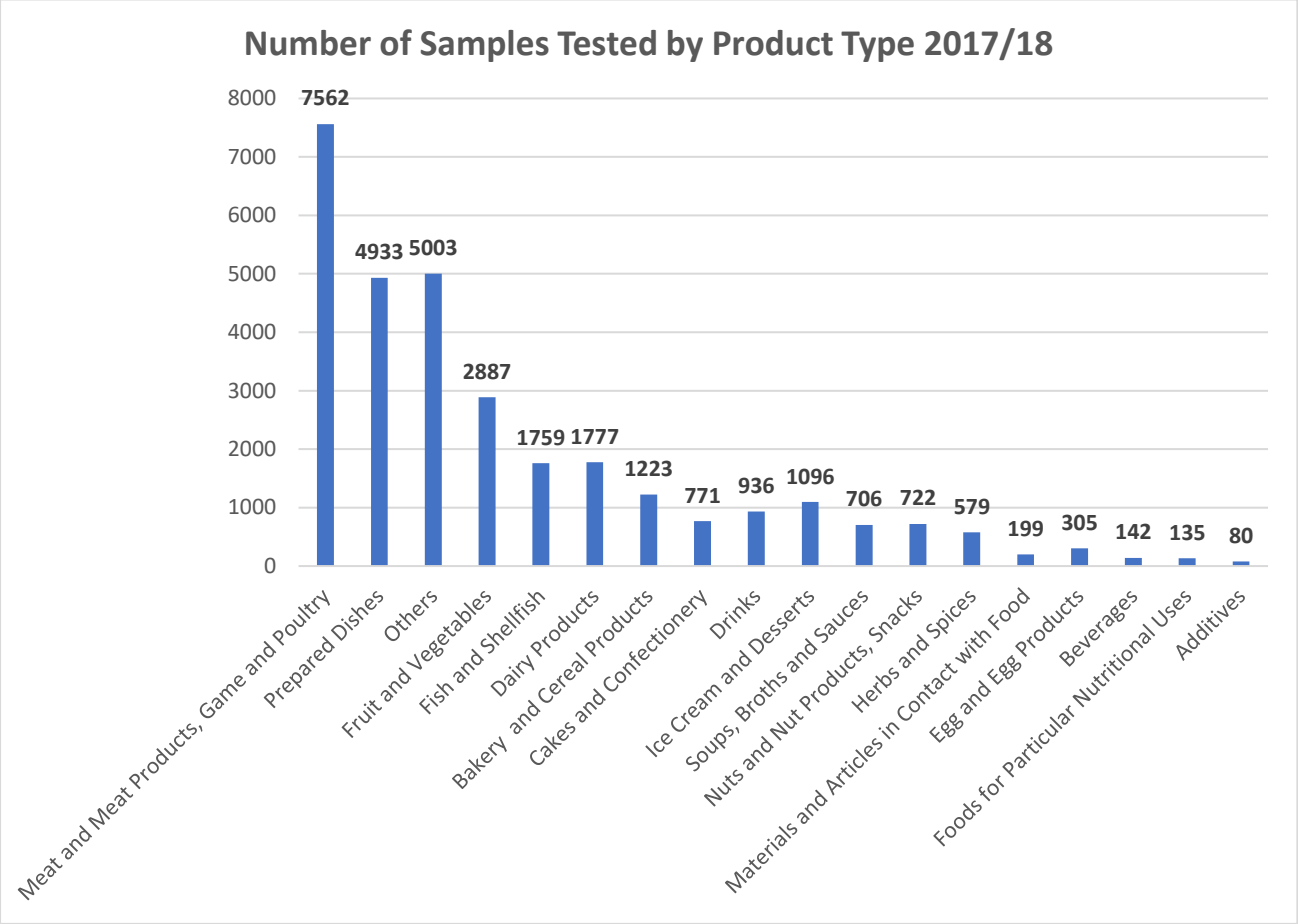


2.72 Further sampling information is available at on the FSA website here.

2.73 The following charts show food samples tested in 2017/18 for chemical analysis type and food type:

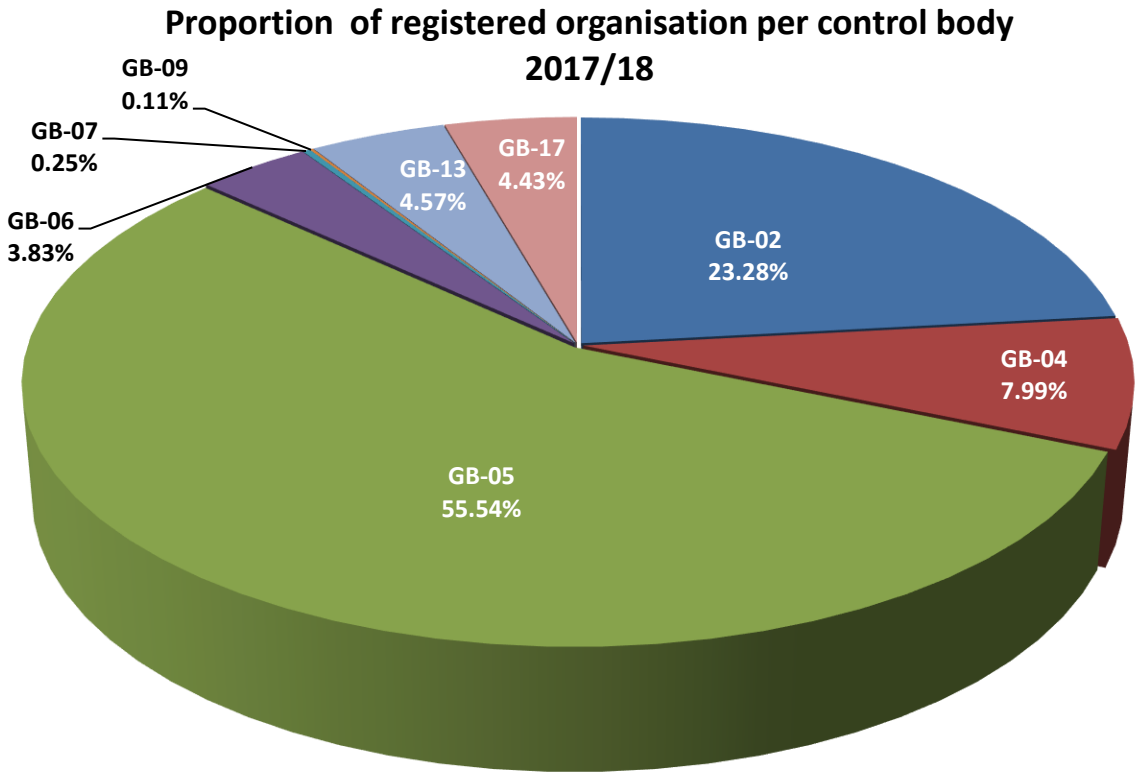


*3-MCPD = 3-Monochloropropane – 1,2 – diol
*PCB = Polychlorinated biphenal

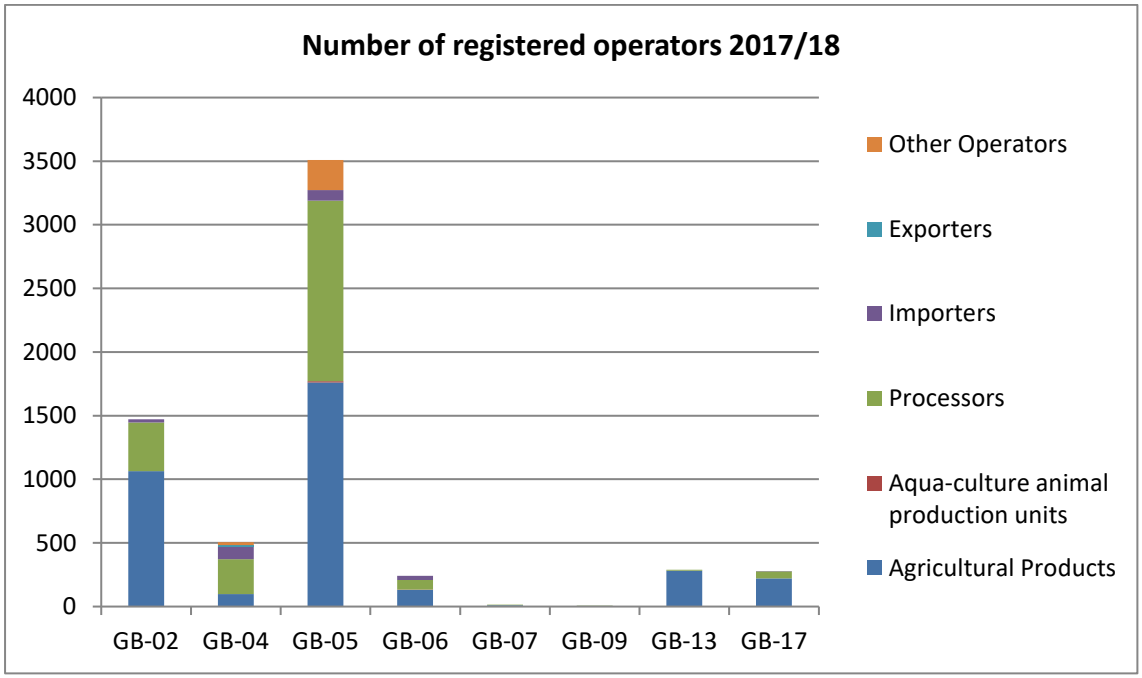

Number of Samples Tested by Product Type 2017/18
8000
7000
6000
5000
4000
3000
2000
1000
0
7562
4933
5003
2887
1759
1777
1223
771
936
1096
706
722
579
199
305
142
135
80
Meat and Meat Products, Game and Poultry
Prepared Dishes
Others
Fruit and Vegetables
Fish and Shellfish
Dairy Products
Bakery and Cereal Products
Cakes and Confectionery
Drinks
Ice Cream and Desserts
Soups, Broths and Sauces
Nuts and Nut Products, Snacks
Herbs and Spices
Materials and Articles in Contact with Food
Egg and Egg Products
Beverages
Foods for Particular Nutritional Uses
Additives

Organic products

2.74 There are eight private organic Control Bodies in the UK covering a number of registered operators. Below is the proportion of registered operators by each Control Body. Each Control Body has a code number to indicate that it is approved to certify to the EU Organic Standard.



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

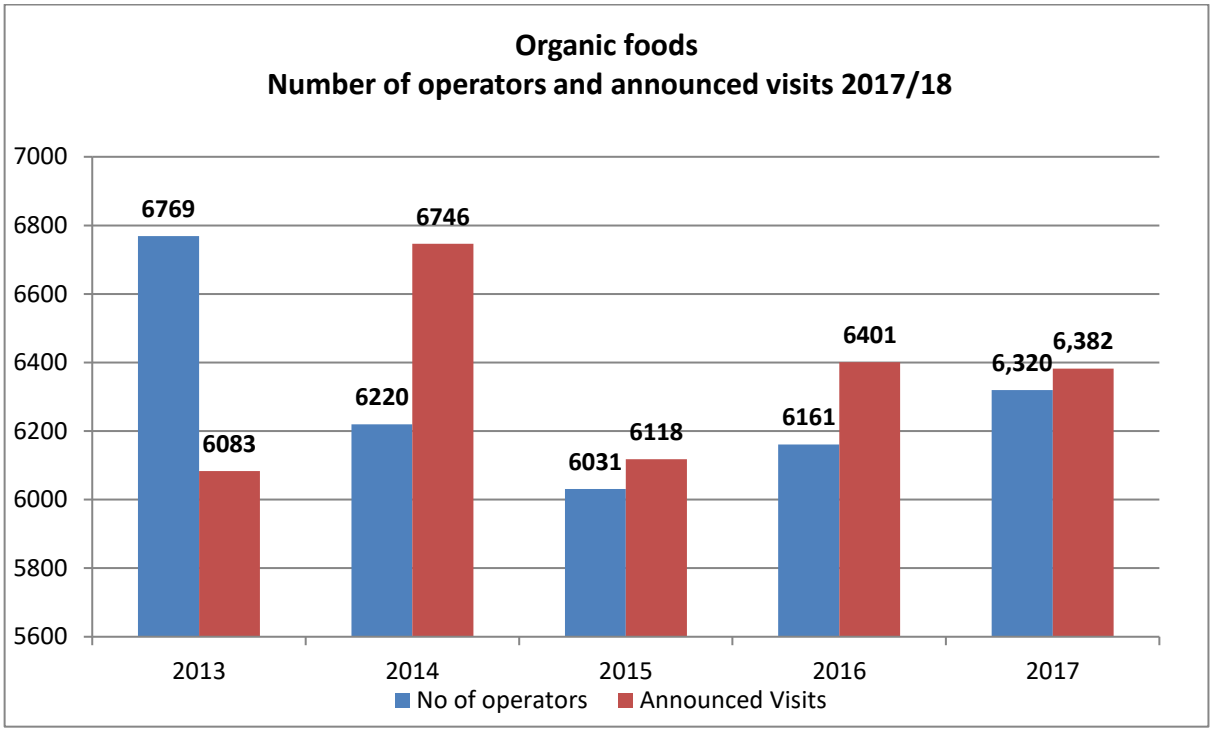


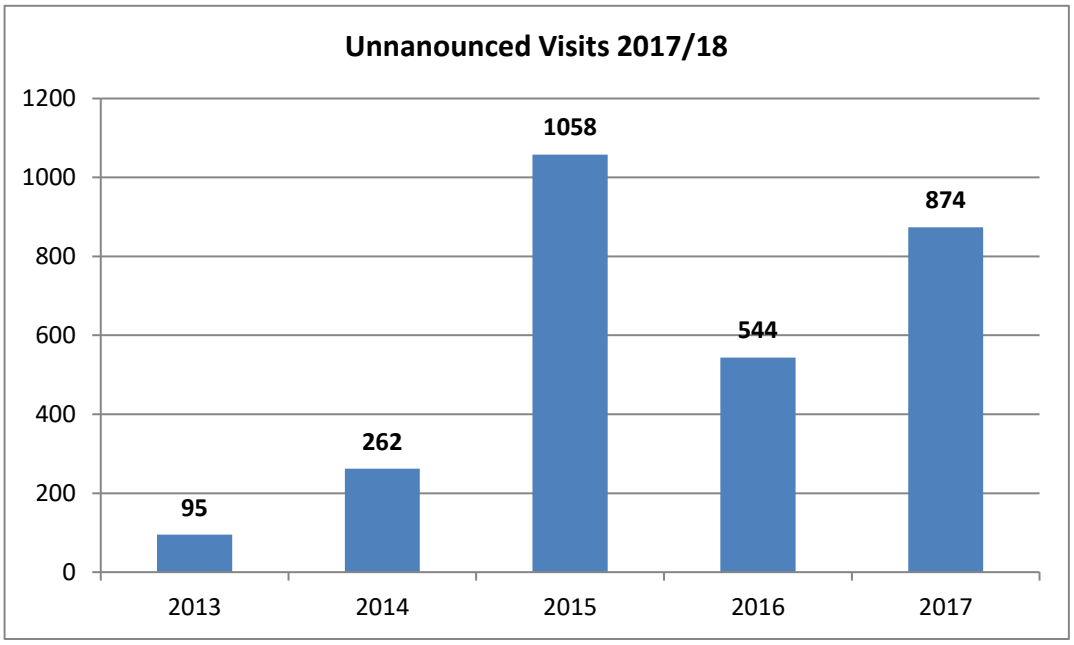
2.76 All operators who were due an inspection in the 2017 calendar year were visited and inspected by their Control Bodies at least once during the annual cycle.

2.77 The results show that all Control Bodies undertook both announced and unannounced inspections.

2.78 Additional visits were announced or unannounced depending on the circumstances. They were primarily to follow up from the annual inspection in order to check that non-compliances/irregularities of a significant nature had been satisfactorily closed or to further investigate an issue. In addition to these, further visits were carried out as spot inspections, either to investigate a complaint, as a result of suspicion of non-compliance/irregularity, or as random checks for compliance throughout the year. Also, there is now a legal requirement on Control Bodies to carry out additional visits.

2.79 There were 6,382 announced inspections and visits to the registered organic operators in the UK and 874 unannounced inspections and visits. The graphs below show the breakdown of announced and unannounced visits in more detail:



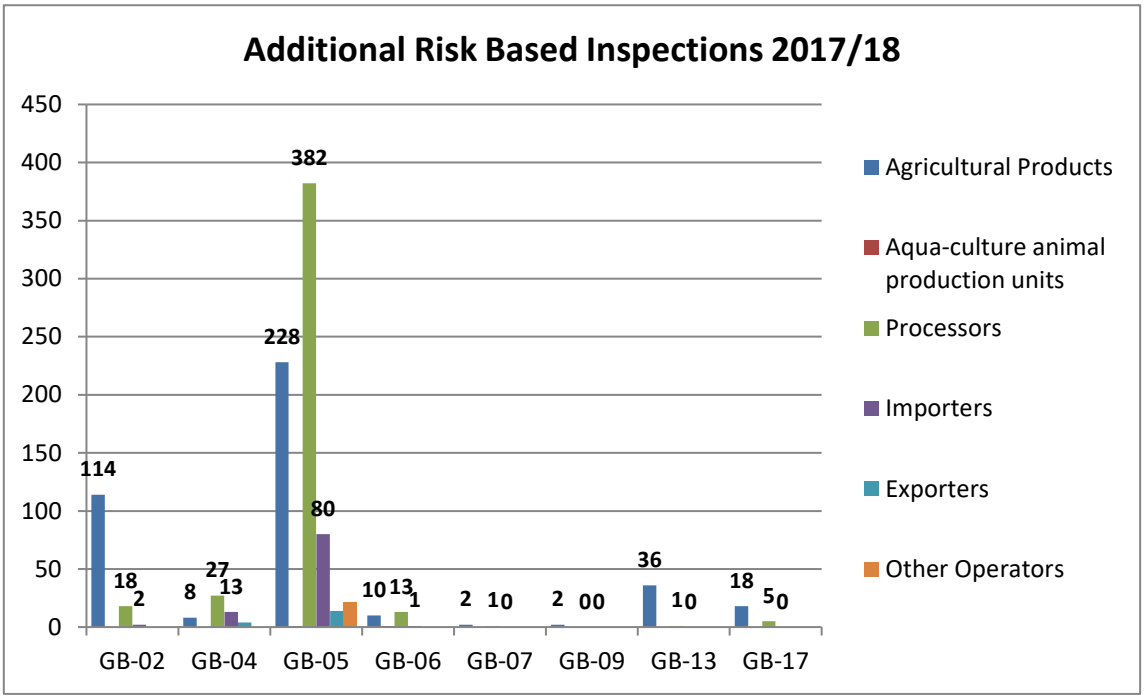


2.80 Risk based inspections are based on a number of factors where compromise of the integrity of an organic product is possible. These include:

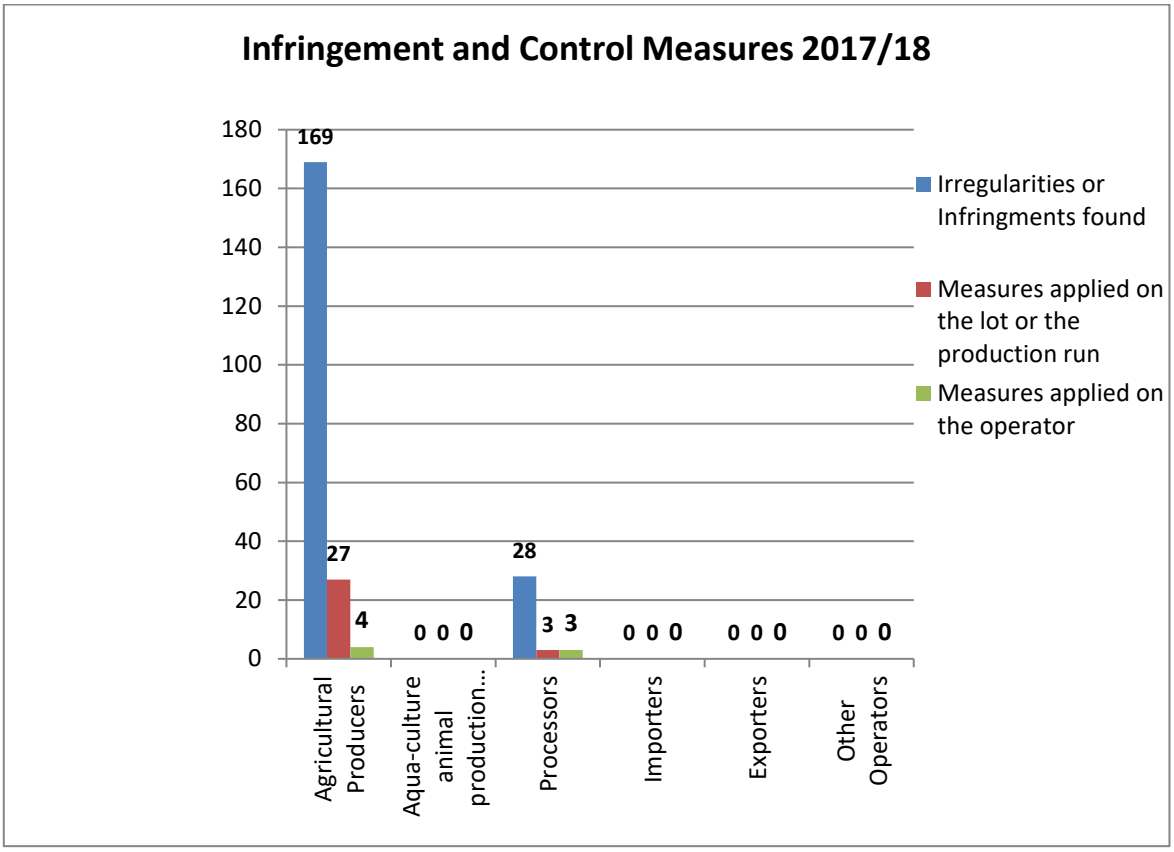
- The number and severity of non-compliances found at inspections.
- Checking an operator to confirm non-compliances/irregularities found during a previous visits have been addressed.
- Taking a closer look at products at risk of non-organic substitution.
- Inspector recommendations following an inspection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

- The requirement to inspect additional enterprises or changes in the scope of the enterprise of the organic producer.
- Additional visits were required where new scopes are added to the range of organic production activities undertaken by operators and/or expansion of organic enterprises.

2.81 Shown below is the additional risk based inspections which were carried out in 2017:

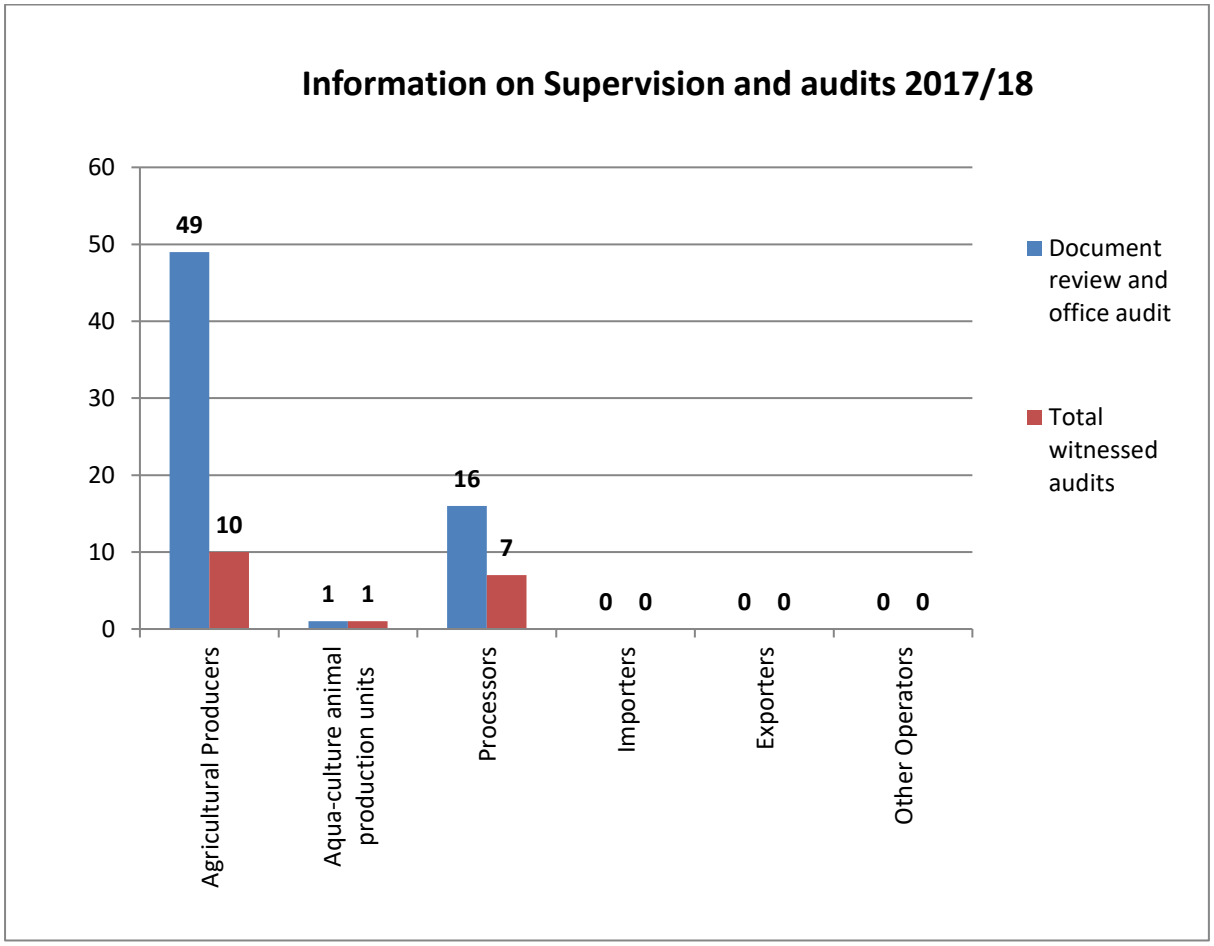


2.82 The following graph illustrates the infringements and control measures that have been applied to registered operators in 2017.



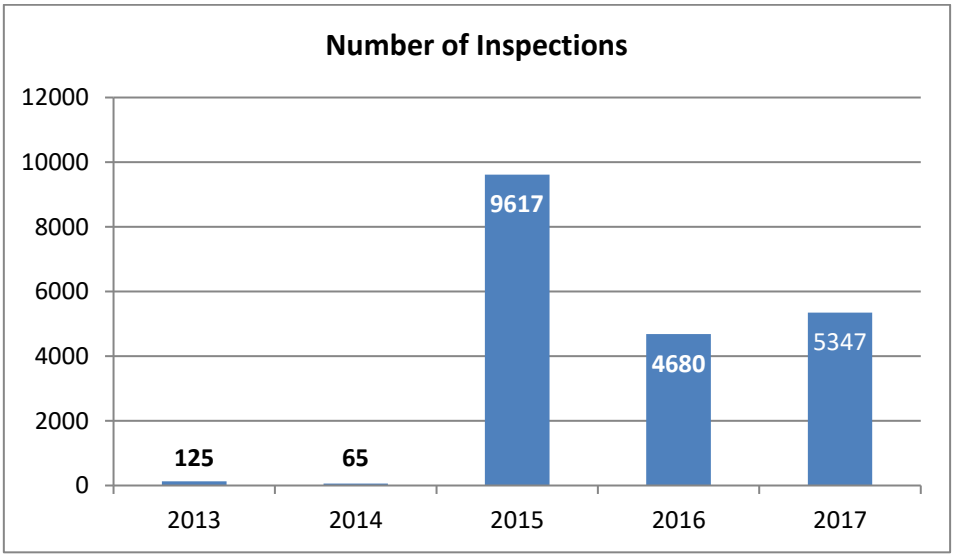
2.83 The audit and assessment of Control Bodies to check their compliance with the control requirements is undertaken on Defra's behalf by the UK Accreditation Service (UKAS). UKAS normally undertakes these assessments in line with its accreditation assessments and reports findings to Defra at the end of the calendar year. The audit involves assessing procedures in the office, checking a sample of licensees' files and undertaking witnessed inspections of a sample of licensees to ensure that the inspection systems are working effectively. The checks are supplemented by additional UKAS checks and visits when required to deal with any outstanding issues to confirm compliance. Once UKAS has completed its assessments of the Control Bodies, it produces a report for Defra that summarises its findings for each Control Body and recommends whether or not it should be approved by Defra to operate in the UK.

2.84 The following graph illustrates the information on supervision and audits in 2017.



Protected food names

2.85 The following data covers the period 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2017. To note - the results for 2015 show a high volume of inspection visits due to the larger producer groups now being inspected on a three-year cycle.



2.86 The number of inspections for 2016 has been revised from 31 to 4,680 as a large number of inspection results were submitted late. All cases of non-compliance were deemed minor and resolved within agreed timelines.

2.87 No compliance issues were recorded which would result in harm to human or animal wellbeing or mislead the consumer.

Natural mineral waters

2.88 In 2017, no non EEA new recognitions were conducted but there was one renewal of recognition (Knjaz Milos, Serbia). The current list of recognised natural mineral waters in and by the UK is located here. No non EEA recognitions were conducted in Scotland, NI or Wales during 2017.

Food labelling

2.89 Food samples submitted for analysis will have a label check carried out which involves visually checking their labels against the mandatory requirements set out in the EU Food Information to Consumers Regulation (Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011). In England, enforcement provisions for the EU consumer information requirements are contained within the Food Information Regulations 2014. The 2014 Regulations also take up certain flexibilities available in the EU rules and national measures for certain foods sold non-prepacked. Parallel measures exist in Scotland, Wales and NI:

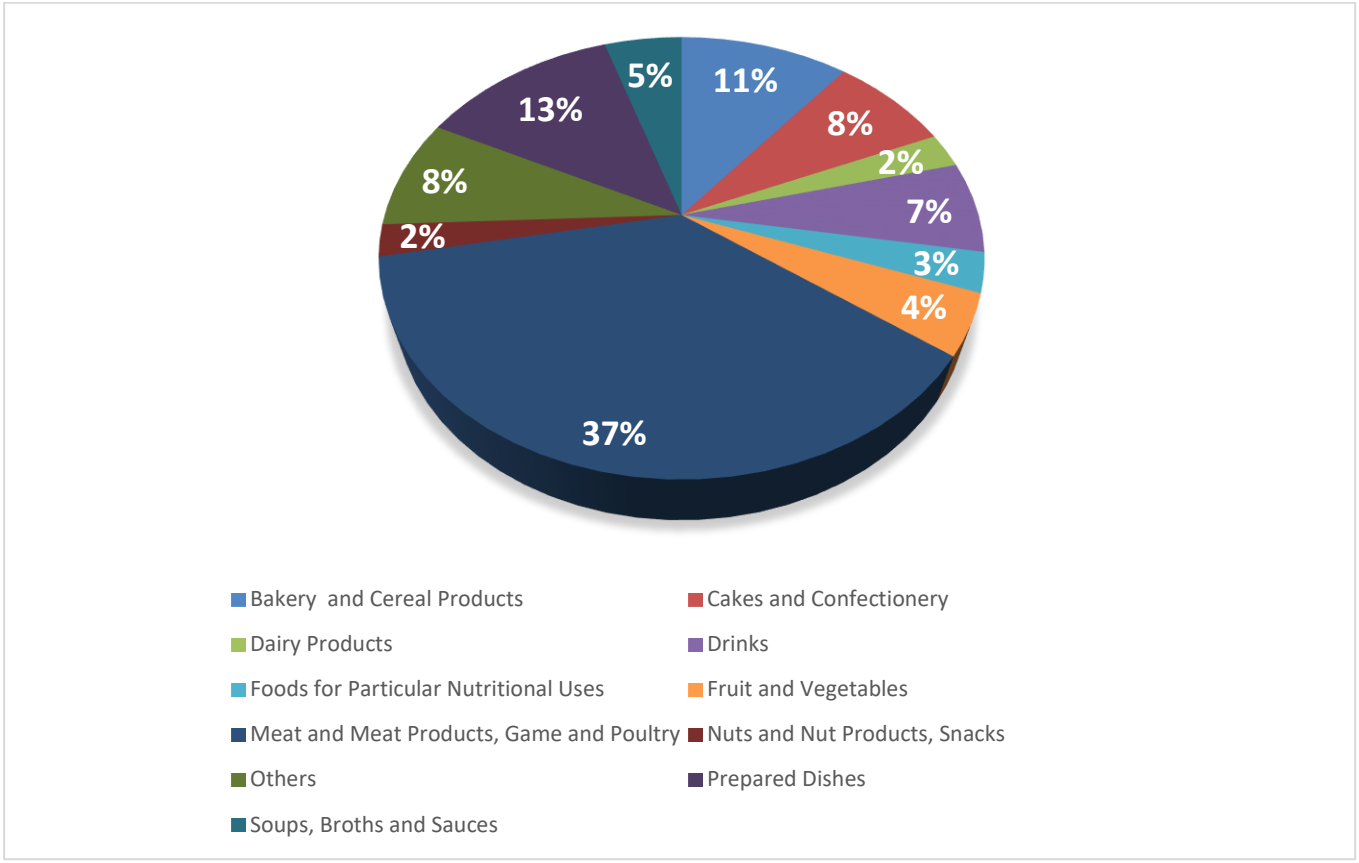
- The Food Information (Scotland) Regulations 2014
- The Food Information (Wales) Regulations 2014
- The Food Information Regulations (NI) 2014

2.90 Additional labelling requirements and controls are in place for certain foods, for example those that contain specific ingredients or are packaged in a specific manner (e.g. in a modified atmosphere) or make a certain type of claim. Quantitative ingredient declarations (QUID) must be given for ingredients mentioned in the name of a food emphasised on the label or normally associated with the food by the consumer. For example, the meat content of meat products must be quantified as a percentage of the weight of the final food, either next to the name of the food or within the ingredients list.

2.91 Labelling checks reported for 2017/18:

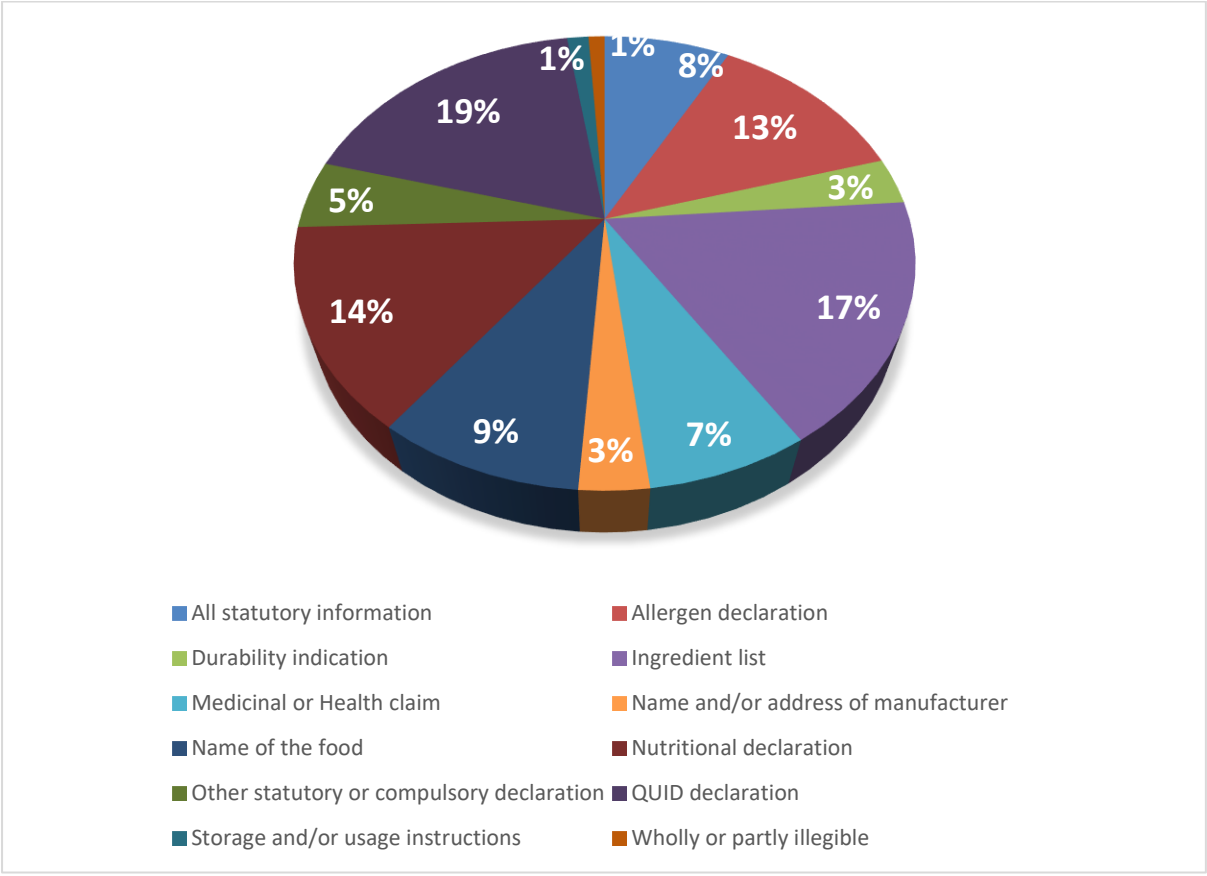
- 89% of labelling checks reported via the UK Food Surveillance System (UKFSS) were non-compliant (824 out of 925).
- The labelling checks recorded will have been targeted at areas of known or suspected risks. Therefore, not representative of the general level of non-compliance for food generally in the UK supply chain.
- The most commonly sampled food groups were meat and meat products (37%). A breakdown of products checked are shown below:

Labelling Checks by Product 2017/18



2.92 A breakdown of the nature of labelling non-compliance can be seen below. It should be noted that some samples were found to be unsatisfactory for more than one labelling non-compliance:

Labelling Non-Compliance 2017/18



2.93 Whilst most food samples submitted for analysis will have a label check carried out, it is possible that there is under reporting as not all labelling checks are recorded on UKFSS.

2.94 The information presented is based on the results of examination of labels for compliance under Regulation 1169/2011 EU FIC. Additional checks will have been carried out as part of normal enforcement activity, but not all will be recorded here. The increased frequency of labelling checks seen in more recent years will have been influenced by LAs' activity in supporting the introduction of the EU FIC, LAs will use inspection visits to educate FBOs where non-compliance has been found.

2.95 These labelling check are carried out as part of the LAs risk based approach in targeting premises at a frequency set out in the statutory Food Law Code of Practice, to ensure that food meets legislative requirements, including proper presentation, labelling and advertising, so as not to confuse or mislead the consumer.

2.96 A proportionate level of enforcement will have been carried out in relation to these failures such as writing to the food business or writing to the home authority or primary authority and requesting them to take appropriate enforcement action.

2.97 Since 13 December 2014 and the introduction of the allergen rules under the EU Food Information for Consumers Regulation (No.1169/2011), there has been a need to review and monitor compliance with allergen information rules. It has been reported through the published Annual Report of Food Incidents 2017 that the number of allergen incidents has risen from 89 in 2013/14 to a peak of 213 in 2015/16, before slightly dipping to 187 in 2016/17. Further information can be found on the FSA website here.

2.98 To raise awareness of the allergen information rules, the FSA produce media campaigns, working in partnership with key stakeholders. An example was a campaign initiated in December 2014, before the rules went live, to tell consumers and food business about it, and subsequently in 2016, as part of Allergy Awareness Week. The Agency also has ongoing research programmes which consider the challenges and needs of people living with allergies. In July 2017 we published research results highlighting the growing confidence among food allergic consumers when eating out. FSA presented the findings at the All Parliamentary Food Group, alongside messaging to food businesses that the provision of good allergen info is good for business. Past evaluation has shown that communication activities have had significant media impact in helping to raise awareness of food safety issues, as well as uptake of FSA resources.

2.99 The FSA has a library of free e-learning, guidance, posters, videos and tools to support the enforcement community and food industry to learn about the requirements and how to comply with them.

2.100 Information on these labelling checks has been passed to Defra's Food Labelling policy team. Both FSA and FSS will work with Defra to continue to work with food businesses to raise awareness of labelling requirements as well as develop partnerships with interested parties.

Beef labelling

England and Wales

2.101 In England and Wales, the RPA operates a risk/random inspection regime which focuses on those establishments with a history of non-compliance.

2.102 RPA completed 334 initial inspections for 2017. Where non-compliance was found, establishments were revisited as a follow-up inspection (usually within four - six weeks) until compliance was achieved or enforcement action taken. Of the 334 initial inspections, 130 were found to be non-compliant inspection visits.

2.103 In England and Wales, the overall level of non-compliance against initial inspections is set out below:

Year	% non-compliant
2013	37.7%
2014	32.2%
2015*	54.7%
2016	32.15%
2017	38.92%

** (introduction of risk/random inspection regime)*

2.104 In 2017 a total of 585 inspections were completed (initial & follow-ups) giving an overall non-compliance rate of 40.17%.

2.105 In England and Wales 42 Enforcement Notices were issued in 2017 scheme year, compared with 55 in 2015.

Scotland

2.106 The Scottish Government (SG) achieved its planned official controls for 2017, completing a total of 45 inspections. Where non-compliance was found, establishments were revisited as a follow-up inspection (usually within 14 days) until a satisfactory outcome was achieved. Of the 43 initial inspections, two achieved an unsatisfactory outcome, resulting in a follow-up inspection being required to ensure that corrective action had been taken.

2.107 The percentage of compliance and actions taken over the past five years is set out below:

Year	Number of establishments inspected	Number of inspections carried out	% compliance of Scottish businesses
2013	29	41	90
2014	22	24	91
2015	18	25	72
2016	25	26	81
2017	36	45	95

Year	Verbal warning	Follow up inspection	Warning letter	Enforcement notices
2013	2	4	1	0
2014	2	2	0	0
2015	5	1	0	0
2016	5	5	0	0
2017	0	2	0	0

2.108 Modern technology has helped improve traceability, as shown in the year on year improvement in results.

2.109 No prosecutions were brought in Scotland in 2017

NI

2.110 In NI, DAERA Agri-Food Inspection Branch Technical Inspectors achieved their planned official controls for 2017, completing a total of 134 inspections.

2.111 Unscheduled (follow-up) inspections were undertaken where non-compliance was found. These inspections had little or no impact on planned inspections. Non-compliances related to labels with information omitted, inaccurate information and inaccurate/incomplete company records.

2.112 The percentage of compliance and actions taken over the past five years is set out below:

Year	Number of establishments inspected	Number of inspections carried out	% compliance of NI businesses[10]
2013	39	111	79
2014	48	132	79
2015	53	138	92
2016	44	121	84
2017	51	134	83

Year	Verbal warning	Follow up inspection	Warning letter	Enforcement notices
2013	4	5	1	0
2014	4	7	1	0
2015	4	2	0	0
2016	9	2	1	1
2017	9	5	1	0

2.113 A trend towards an increase in compliance with beef labelling requirements has been observed across businesses in NI over the period 2013 to 2017.

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

Veterinary residues surveillance

2.115 Out of 35,911 samples analysed under the National Surveillance Programme, 157 residues above the maximum residue level (MRL) or other action limit were detected in 154 samples.

2.116 Details of the UK results for the National Residue Control Plan (NRCP) are to be uploaded onto the EFSA database end of June 2018 via the EFSA database here.

2.117 Non-compliances can be categorised into three groups:

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

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

Unauthorised substances

2.118 Investigations into non-compliant samples found no evidence of the mis-use/abuse of hormonal growth promoters, thyrostatic, beta-agonists or prohibited substances.

Authorised veterinary medicines

2.119 Non-compliant residues were confirmed for antibiotics, anthelmintics, avermectins, coccidiostats and Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drug (NSAIDs). Anti-microbial residues in excess of the MRLs were confirmed in samples from calves, cattle, sheep and milk. Anthelmintic residues were confirmed in samples from cattle, sheep and milk. Avermectin residues were confirmed in cattle, sheep and milk. Coccidiostat residues were confirmed in Poultry and Eggs. NSAID residues were confirmed in calves and horses.

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

What tested	Tested for	No. of inspections or samples	Non-compliant residues found
Calves	Anti-microbials	275	31
Cattle	Anti-microbials	1,970	22
Milk	Anti-microbials	1,507	3
Sheep	Anti-microbials	2,440	2
Cattle	Anthelmintics	521	3
Sheep	Anthelmintics	1,523	25
Milk	Anthelmintics	402	4
Cattle	Avermectins	307	3
Sheep	Avermectins	526	7
Milk	Avermectins	181	2
Calves	NSAIDS	5	1
Horses	NSAIDS	36	1
Poultry	Coccidiostats	1,279	6
Eggs	Coccidiostats	506	2

Environmental contaminants and insecticides

2.121 Non-compliant residues confirmed for heavy metals and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs):

- Heavy metals – non-compliant samples confirmed in wild deer, sheep, horses and cattle. The cause of these residues was either due to environmental pollution or the accumulation of the substance over time.
- PCBs – one case confirmed in game, which originated from a site known for historic PCB use.

Pesticides residues monitoring

2.122 A successful monitoring programme was carried out in 2017. The table below shows numbers of samples taken and the percentage of samples tested containing residues over the MRL, over the previous five years. (Samples containing chlorate measured over the default MRL were not assessed as over the MRL)

Year	No. of samples	Types of food	% of samples containing residues	% containing residues above the MRL
2013	3,549	44	43.61	2.25
2014	3,615	44	43.79	1.88
2015	3,614	47	42.86	2.79
2016	3,448	41	47.85	3.22
2017	3,357	39	13.7	3.28

2.123 Reports were published every quarter here.

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

2.125 All samples with residues are examined using a risk assessment screen. In 2017, only four samples contained a pesticide residue that was over the MRL once measurement uncertainty had been taken into account and gave intakes over the Acute Reference Dose. These four samples were passed to the FSA with a draft RASFF notification.

Official Controls in the feed sector

England

2.126 In line with FSA priorities, enforcement authorities continue to work on improving the accuracy of information on the number of feed businesses.

2.127 Since 2014/15 a new approach to the delivery of feed law official controls was adopted in England. The FSA agreed a three-year (2014-2017) Memorandum of Understanding with National Trading Standards (NTS) for the coordination of local delivery of feed law official controls. The NTS are a body set up by central UK government to more effectively coordinate delivery and administer funding for activities to LAs working through nine regional groups across England. Under the MoU, the FSA works closely with NTS to agree annual programmes of activity, including inspection and sampling; allocate funding to regional groups of LAs to finance these activities and provide quarterly reports on progress against the planned programme of work. There is a new MOU (2017-2020) to build on the success of the previous MOU, by seeking to provide more comprehensive measurements of the impact of feed controls, undertaken through the Programme.

2.128 The third year of operation (2016/17) has built on previous years and the FSA continues to see positive results, including 98.2% of planned feed inspections

delivered and 100% of LAs engaged in the process. 100% of authorities were engaged in the process of planning controls in 2017/18. The FSA continues to review and, where appropriate, make improvements to the system.

Wales

2.129 The work programme in Wales for 2017/18 consisted of a target of 2,387 inspections. The feed regions reported that they completed a total of 2,238 inspections (94%). In addition to the inspections conducted there were also 194 interventions that resulted in the discovery of feed establishments no longer trading, improving the accuracy of animal feed establishment registers. In 2017/18 feed regions reported carrying out 180 analytical tests out of a target of 160 (113%). Samples were taken of imported feed at point of entry, feed manufactured in Wales and feed used on Welsh farms. The returns demonstrate a significant improvement in the delivery of animal feed official controls in Wales, with interventions now being carried out across all feed regions and in all LA areas.

England, Wales and NI

2.130 The data returns for 2016/17 show a 2.7% decrease in the number of feed businesses in England, Wales and NI. It is anticipated that this is as a result of greater accuracy of data returns and feed registers following significant efforts to improve this. The following provides a breakdown by business type:

Total no of England, Wales & NI feed business operators as of 31 March 2017

Registered and approved feed businesses by type (only main categories listed)	Number of businesses 2012/13	Number of businesses 2013/14	Number of businesses 2014/15	Number of businesses 2015/16	Number of businesses 2016/2017
Primary producers / livestock farms	190,694	192,561	193,856	174,718	169,832
Manufacturers and packers	1,164	1,839	1,378	1,153	1,974
Food businesses placing co-products & surplus food into the feed chain	4,537	4,892	5,218	7,194	6,911
Importers	163	134	152	134	118
Distributors and transporters	2,030	2,242	2,901	4,197	3,549
Total	**198,588**	**201,668**	**203,505**	**187,396**	**182,384**

2.131 In NI there are approximately 25,000 Primary Producers at 31 March 2018. There were 1100 planned/full inspections and 5 unscheduled inspections completed during 2017/18. In NI there are approximately 25,000 Primary Producers at 31 March 2018. There were 1100 planned/full inspections and 5 unscheduled inspections completed during 2017/18.

2.132 The FSA and the VMD have published lists of the feed businesses approved in accordance with Article 19 of Regulation (EC) 183/2005 on feed hygiene. These lists can be accessed here.

Scotland

2.133 During 2017/18, FSS continued to develop a centralised regional model of feed official control delivery for Scotland. It is now planned that implementation shall take place at the start of 2019/20.

2.134 Data returns for Scotland for 2017/18 indicates a fluctuation in the number of feed businesses over the last few years. An extensive data cleansing exercise has taken place on all Scottish data and has resulted in a redistribution in the businesses operating in different sectors.

	Number of businesses 2013/14	Number of businesses 2014/15	Number of businesses 2015/16	Number of businesses 2016/17	Number of businesses 2017/18
Primary producers	19,174	20,705	20,242	18,067	15,423
Manufacturers	81	90	88	103	130
Food businesses placing co-products into the feed chain	495	623	647	760	278
Food businesses placing surplus product into the feed chain	N/A (new category added by in 2017/18)	N/A (new category added by in 2017/18)	N/A (new category added by in 2017/18)	N/A (new category added by in 2017/18)	764
Importers	4	9	7	6	6
Distributors	275	317	313	296	279
Stores	65	96	86	181	169
Retailers	1,603	1,636	1,064	896	187

LA and DAERA controls

2.135 Enforcement data for 2016/17 shows that there was a minimal increase (0.15%) in numbers of inspections undertaken by LAs in GB and DAERA in NI. The number of revisits fell by 15.0% and sampling visits increased by 29.4%. The number of FeBOs being given advice fell by 14.4%.

England & Wales LA and DAERA controls

Types of control intervention	2012/13	2013/14	2014/2015	2015/16	2016/17
Number of inspections	13,015	11,709	12,022	12,391	12,409
Number of revisits	327	495	352	301	256
Number of FeBOs given advice	6,441	6,820	8,359	8,576	7339
Number of sampling visits	946	1,199	1,039	642	831

England & Wales LA and DAERA action on non-compliances

2.136 England and Wales LAs and DAERA reported the following use of formal enforcement activity, updated for 2017/18:

Enforcement activity	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Written warnings for non-compliance identified for the first time and which did not present an immediate threat to feed safety	967	1,122*	862*	1,590	1,679
Improvement notice when issue arises which requires attention or has not been actioned following a written warning (not requested from 2013/14)	8	N/A	N/A	1	8
Other formal actions to address serious breaches of feed requirements	19	18**	40**	15	2

*Total establishments subject to written warnings
**Total establishments subject to other formal enforcement action

2.137 The use of written warnings has risen slightly by 5.6.% in 2016/17 and the number of formal actions to address serious breaches of feed requirements has fallen by 86.7%.

UK Animal Feed Sampling

2.138 During 2017/18 the FSA continued to provide funds to enforcement authorities to undertake sampling of feedstuffs based on priorities set centrally. These primarily focused on feed materials and additives originating from outside the EU based on RASSF notifications and other intelligence concerning areas of likely non-compliance. The national sampling priorities are covered in the National Feed Enforcement Priorities document. The most up to date version of the document with national sampling priorities for 2018/19 can be accessed online here (England and Wales) and here (Scotland).

2.139 During 2016/17 enforcement authorities took 8,488 samples. These samples were tested for 21,312 analytes, including heavy metals, dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs, salmonella, mycotoxins, and unauthorised GM events. Results of the analysis of feed samples, updated for 2016/17, are shown in the table below. Overall 1.4% of samples (122) were found to be unsatisfactory. It is also worth noting that a number of those samples categorised as unsatisfactory are due to deficiencies in labelling rather than an adverse result for the substance being analysed.

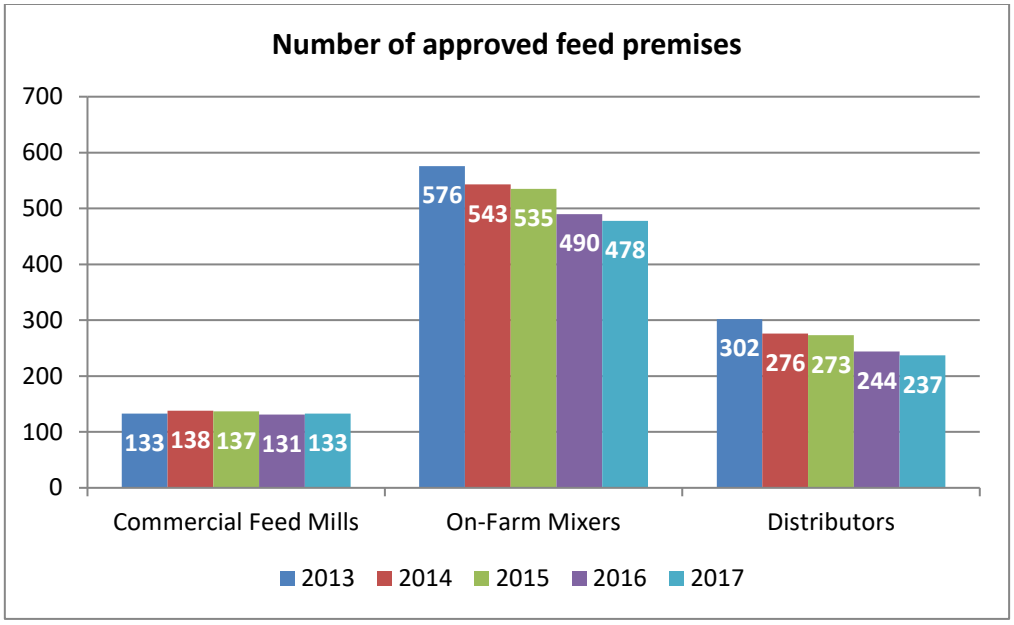
Substances	2012/13		2013/14*		2014/15*		2015/16*		2016/17*	
	No. of analyses	% satis-factory	No. of analyses	% satis-factory	No. of analyses	% satis-factory	No. of analyses	% satis-factory	No. of analyses	% satisfactory
Constituents	3,884	92.3	5,740	93.1	4,807	60.8	4,751	84.0	2,567	91.2
Undesirable substances	4,393	99.4	23,036	99.7	23,360	97.0	19,354	94.6	16,722	99.6
Feed additives	1,052	93.9	1,975	97.8	2,405	65.4	1,924	78.2	778	75.3
Other	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2,201	0.1	1,145	8.8
Total analyses	**9,329**	**95.2**	**30,751**	**98.3**	**30,572**	**88.9**	**28,230**	**84.3**	**21,312**	**92.9**

*includes UKFSS

2.140 The allocation of grants in England and Wales requires all LAs to use the FSA's centralised UKFSS system to report all of their feed sampling activity.

Inspection of FeBOs by VMD

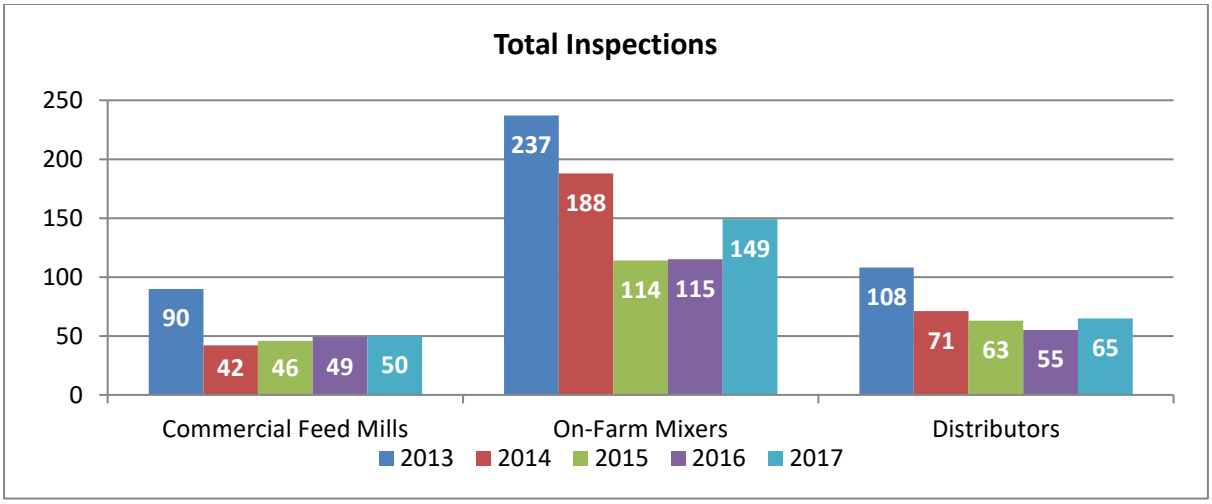
2.141 The number of approved feed establishments for the last five years is shown below:



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

- Approval' inspections are carried out to approve new establishments.
- 'Scheduled' visits are those which are planned, based on the number of FeBOs and inspection frequencies.
- 'Special/follow-up' visits are those to approved FeBOs establishments for enforcement purposes or to check that non-compliances noted at a scheduled inspection have been corrected.
- 'Other' visits are visits to non-approved FeBOs establishments for enforcement purposes e.g. the unlawful incorporation of veterinary medicinal products into feeding stuffs. 'Other' visits also include investigations into residues of veterinary medicinal products (VMPs) and specified feed additives (SFAs) that may have arisen due to cross-contamination during manufacture or distribution of feeding stuffs, or the unintended feeding of feeding stuffs containing those products.

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



2.144 Of the total Approval and Scheduled inspections carried out in 2017, 8.0% of Commercial Feed Mills were fully compliant (6.1% in 2016), 9.4% of On-Farm Manufacturers were fully compliant (24.3% in 2016) and 50.0% of Distributors were fully compliant (30.3% in 2016)

2.145 Of the 'other' visits carried out, all were to commercial or on-farm FeBOs. These were unplanned visits and diverted resources from scheduled inspections. 5 (12 in 2016) visits were recorded as 'no inspection carried out'. These were either farms or distributors and the majority were unannounced visits where there was no-one at the establishments.

2.146 There were no prosecutions, convictions or court fines imposed in 2017. From April 2016 to March 2017 VMD no Seizure Notices or Improvement Notices were issued. There was no significant change to enforcement trends, formal enforcement action remained very low.

2.147 The following table sets out sampling results for 2017:

Sample type	Veterinary medicinal product (VMP)	No. VMP samples 'compliant'	Specified Feed Additive (SFA)	No. SFA samples 'compliant'
Premixture or feedingstuff Routinely tested for declared active substance	59	50	5	3
Premixture or feedingstuff tested for 'carryover'	0	N/A	1	1
Premixture or feedingstuff tested as part of a residue investigation	0	0	32	26

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

2.148 The introduction of 'Earned Recognition' for commercial feed mills certificated under the Agricultural Industries Confederation's (AIC's) Universal Feed Assurance Scheme (UFAS) resulted in an extended inspection interval for mills rated 'good' by the VMD the at their previous inspection which reduced the number of inspections required by the VMD in 2015. The reduced number of inspections of Distributers previously noted now continues to be stabilised in 2017.

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

Protein in animal feed controls

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

Stage	Number of inspections comprising checks on the presence of processed animal proteins	
	GB	**NI**
Import of feed materials	30	21
Storage of feed materials	48	2
Feed mills	502	52
Home mixers/mobile mixers[11]	173	4
Intermediaries of feeding stuffs	15	1
Means of transport	26	2
Farms keeping non-ruminants	25	10
Farms keeping ruminants	800	0
Farms keeping both ruminants and non-ruminants	573	24
Total	**2,192**	116

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

2.151 In GB and NI there were no non-compliant samples.

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

Establishments	Number of samples collected by AHO staff tested for processed animal proteins in GB and NI						Number of non-compliant samples in GB[12]		
							Presence of processed animal protein/animal protein from terrestrial animals (and fishmeal in GB		
	Feed materials		Compound feeding stuffs				Feed materials	Compound feeding stuffs	
			For ruminants		For non-ruminants			For ruminants	For non-ruminants
	GB	NI	GB	NI	GB	NI			
At import	103	68	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Feed mills	733	56	1,014	187	373	35	0	0	0
Intermediaries/ Storage	133	0	51	0	6	0	0	0	0
Means of Transport	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Home mixers/ mobile mixers	43	45	172	38	62	28	0	0	0
On farm	200	2	1,598	44	259	57	0	0	0
Fats & vegetable oils	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	**1,214**	**173**	**2,837**	**269**	**700**	**120**	**0**	**0**	**0**

2.152 From April 2017 to March 2018, the total number of samples taken was 4,751 from GB samples. There were no breaches found.

2.153 The National Feed Audit programme operates from April to March. In GB, from April 2016 to March 2017 4,842 samples were collected. Due to the concurrent AI outbreak at the end of 2016 it was not possible to visit premises due to biosecurity reasons. However, the figures for April 2017 to March 2018 show figures back to Business As Usual, with 5,222 samples collected. There is a sampling budget to enable 5,600 Microscopic Analysis test samples to be collected and analysed.

[12] Non-compliance figures relate to GB only.

2.154 The risk assessment criteria have remained the same as for the previous two years. The number of control inspections completed in relation to the last two years is as follows:

Year	Number of inspection visits		Number of samples Collected	
	GB	NI	GB	NI
2013	2,521	185	5,399	451
2014	2,389	199	5,564	578
2015	2,510	222	5.934	815
2016	2,549	207	5,023	771
2017	2,192	150	4,751	575

2.155 Detailed reports are available online here.

Official controls in animal health sector

GB

2.156 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) reflect the need to ensure compliance with legislation and reflect the particular and different needs of our customers and our own business. Minor enhancements were made to the KPIs agreed for 2017/18 over those agreed for 2016/17, including new KPIs focused on audits of quality management of TB testing.

2.157 There are a total of 31 KPIs agreed with policy customers and these measure all significant and important work areas including international trade, science, welfare and surveillance. 23 KPIs were met or exceeded, three were substantially met, three were met in part and two were not met.

2.158 The tail end and recovery from the sustained Avian Influenza (AI) outbreak, affected APHA's ability to achieve some KPIs at the beginning of the year. Bad weather towards the year end affected achievement of some KPIs when work could not be rescheduled within the reporting year. While implementation of new TB testing procedures, which includes increased TB Skin testing and Gamma Testing, and has successfully uncovered more herds with TB, this has impacted the ability to achieve one of our KPIs relating to TB.

2.159 The remaining KPI not met was Veterinary Inspectors dispatched to immediate level exotic disease within 30 minutes of the decision being made that a visit was required. This is a demanding target to meet and unfortunately due to a combination of geography and resource availability this target was missed but all premises were reached within 5 hours of the decision required to attend. The target level is set at 94.5% but was not met in Scotland and Wales.

2.160 Activities to control bovine TB (bTB) and progress toward eventually achieving officially bTB free (OTF) status for England and Wales remains the most resource intensive part of APHA's business. APHA advises on and delivers a complex set of control measures across GB, differentiated according to bTB

risk areas. APHA also carry out important research and development work to support customer's development of bTB policies.

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

2.162 APHA staff investigated 216 reports of suspected exotic diseases in 2017. The following outbreaks were detected:

- High Pathogenic AI H5N8 on 12 sites, 11 were in England and 1 was in Wales. Of the 11 infected sites in England 6 were in small backyard flocks in several geographical areas, 3 were gamebird sites in one geographical area in the same ownership and the remaining 3 were commercial poultry sites. The single infected site in Wales was a small backyard flock.
- One case of European Bat Lyssavirus was reported in a Daubentons bat in England in September
- For more information please refer to the reports published here.

Disease	No. of investigations
African Horse Sickness	4
Anthrax	0
Aujeszky's	2
Avian Notifiable (Avian Influenza/ Newcastle Disease)	114
Bluetongue	22
Brucellosis (excl. bovine brucellosis)	4
Contagious agalactia	0
Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia	0
Dourine	0
Vesicular Disease	6
Bat Rabies	2
Rabies	6
Swine Fever	3
Equine Viral Arteritis	27
Glanders	2
Equine Infectious Anaemia	0
West Nile	0
Enzootic Bovine Leukosis (EBL)	7
Bovine Brucellosis	8
Lumpy Skin Disease	1
TOTAL	**208**

2.163 Under Section 80 of the Animal Health Act 1981 (as amended) Defra is required to produce an annual report to Parliament on the enforcement actions (including convictions) of the LAs in England and Wales and the compensation paid for animals slaughtered to prevent the spread of

animal disease. The 2017 report is available here.

2.164 A separate report is produced by the SG, and is available at here.

NI

2.165 Welfare and Enforcement Branch (WAEB) inspectors carried out inspections on farms, at livestock markets, abattoir lairages and roadside vehicle checks covering biosecurity, welfare and IRM regulations. A number of roadside vehicle checks were carried out with the PSNI[13] (with the part objective of training police officers to read ear tags and check animal movement documentation).

2.166 Aujeszky's disease surveillance continued throughout 2017. 3,121 blood samples were collected from breeding pigs on 520 farms. All tested negative.

2.167 NI enforcement bodies were busy in a number of significant areas including livestock identification, movement and registration, animal welfare, and Tuberculosis (TB). Cattle identification inspections and sheep identification inspections were core activities for WAEB during the reporting year. The importance of the identification, movement and registration (IRM) topic is reflected by the level of Veterinary Service monitoring, supervision and enforcement of this work programme. In the most serious cases, files were prepared for prosecution and in the case of livestock whose identity and origin was not proven, one herd keeper had cattle destroyed without compensation.

2.168 167 case files were opened on Veterinary Service Investigation Database (VSID), for 195 investigations into alleged offences under ten separate Veterinary Service Animal Health Group work areas. Progress with these investigations is summarised below.

[13] psni.police.uk

Progress summary of the Veterinary Service enforcement investigations opened

WORK PROGRAMME	Under Investigation	File Passed To Public Prosecution Service	Case Closed	TOTAL
Animal By-Products	1	-	5	6
Aujeszky's Disease	-	-	1	1
Biosecurity	-	-	2	2
Brucellosis	-	-	2	2
Epizootic disease	1	-	1	2
Identification, Registration & Movement	13	1	112	126
Trade of Animals & Animal Products	-	-	3	3
Tuberculosis	2	1	11	14
Veterinary Public Health & Food Safety	-	-	5	5
Welfare of Animals	5	2	27	34
TOTAL INVESTIGATIONS (CASE FILES)	**22 (16)**	**4 (3)**	**169 (148)**	**195 (167)**

2.169 In the reporting year 148 case files were closed on the Veterinary Service Investigation Database (VSID), for 169 investigations into alleged offences under 9 separate Veterinary Service work areas.

Details are summarised below:

Outcomes of the Veterinary Service enforcement investigations closed[14]

WORK PROGRAMME	Case Dropped	Compliance Achieved	Warning Letter Issued	Formal caution delivered	Cattle slaughtered MC29	Convicted In Court	Referred to other Agency	TOTAL
Animal By-Products	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	**5**
Aujeszky's Disease	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	**1**
Biosecurity		1	1	-	-	-	-	**2**
Brucellosis	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	**2**
Epizootic disease	1							**1**
Identification, Registration & Movement	31	7	58	2	1	12	1	**112**
Trade of Animals & Animal Products	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	**3**
Tuberculosis	4	5	-	-	-	2	-	**11**
Veterinary Public Health & Food Safety	3	-	-	-	-	2	-	**5**
Welfare of Animals	14		4	1		8		**27**
TOTAL INVESTIGATIONS (CASE FILES)	**57 (54)**	**14 (13)**	**63 (58)**	**3 (3)**	**1 (1)**	**30 (18)**	**1 (1)**	**169 (148)**

[14] 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018.

Progress summary of case files passed to the PPS

PUBLIC PROSECUTION SERVICE (PPS)	Not Directed For Prosecution	Directed For Prosecution – case on-going	Directed For Prosecution And Convicted	Waiting for direction on	Total Sent To PPS
Case Files	1	15	5	2	**23**

2.170 18 persons were convicted in court, closing 318 case files (covering 29 investigations).

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

- Total fines of £16,235 were imposed.
- One person received a four-month custodial sentence suspended for 2 years and a two-month custodial sentence suspended for two years.
- One person received a 25-year disqualification from owning, keeping, participating in keeping farm animals, being party to an arrangement under which that person is entitled to control or influence the way in which farm animals are kept, from dealing in farm animals and from transporting or arranging the transport of farm animals.
- One person received a 5-year disqualification from keeping commercial livestock and a four-month custodial sentence suspended for two years.
- Two people received a conditional discharge for two years.
- One person received a conditional discharge for eighteen months
- One person received a two-month custodial sentence suspended for two years.
- One person received a six-month custodial sentence suspended for three years and a 4-month custodial sentence suspended for three years (to run consecutively) and received a lifetime ban from keeping all animals.

Animal by-products

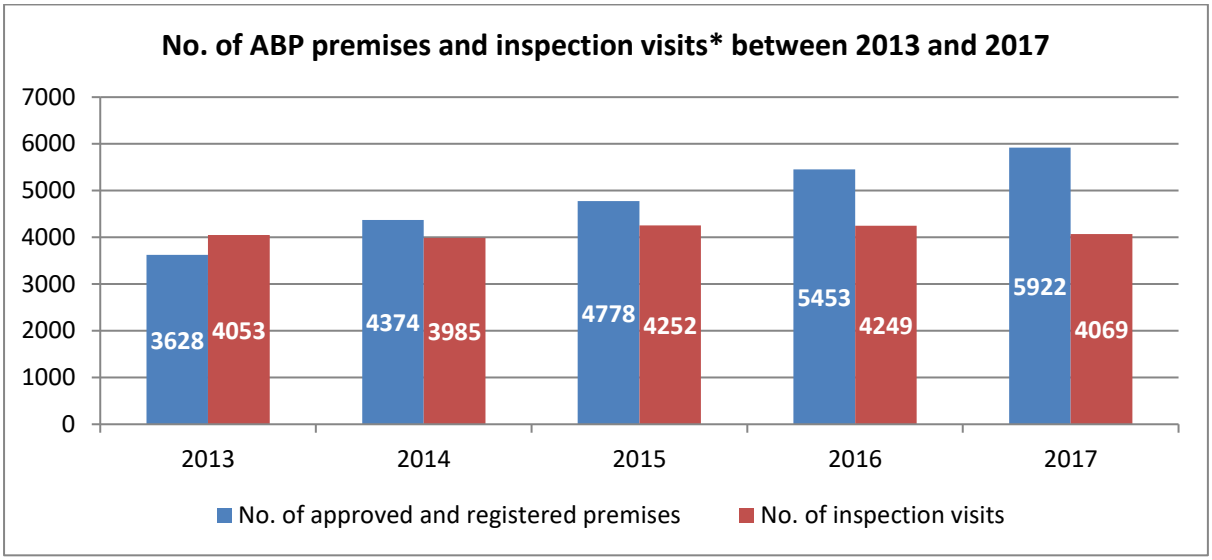
2.172 During calendar year 2017, APHA issued 51 new approvals to Animal By-Products (ABP)[15] establishments. The majority of these were in the incineration, pet food and storage sectors.

2.173 The overall number of risk based visits to ABP establishments has remained relatively constant over the last five years. A slight decrease in visit numbers is recorded for this year compared to the previous two years due to a reassessment of risk relating to on-farm incineration.

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

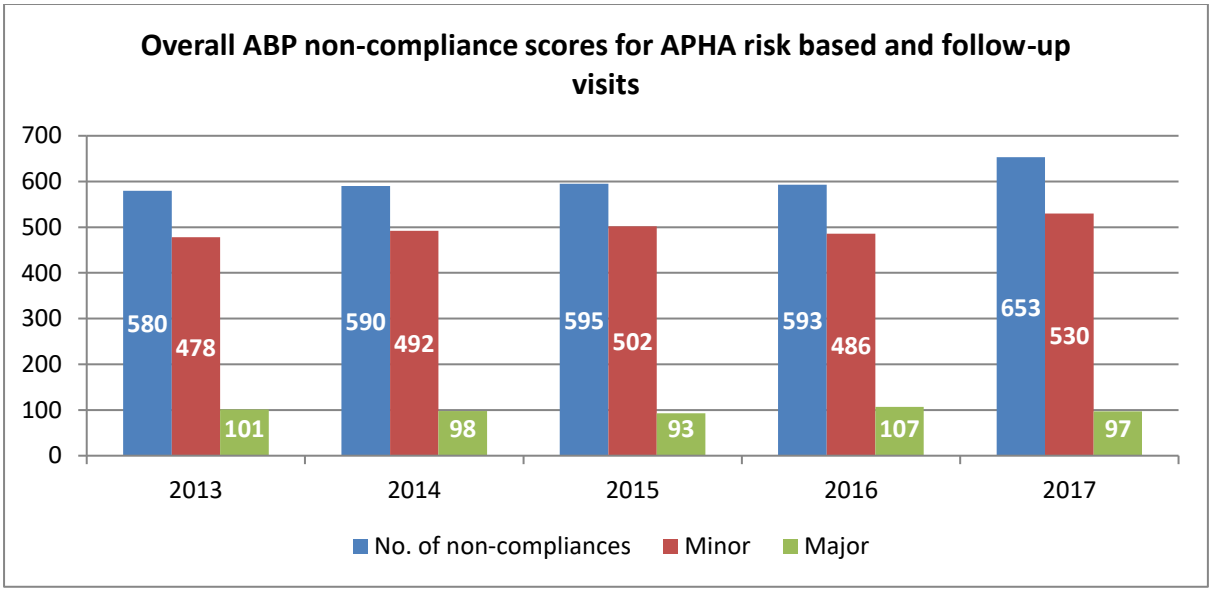
2.175 As the number of checks required is dependent on the number of establishments operating in the ABP sector at any one time and visit frequency is driven by an assessment of risk, it is not possible to accurately predict a target number of visits at the start of the year. However, APHA were able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

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



*Figures exclude TSE and Controlled Hide Stores

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



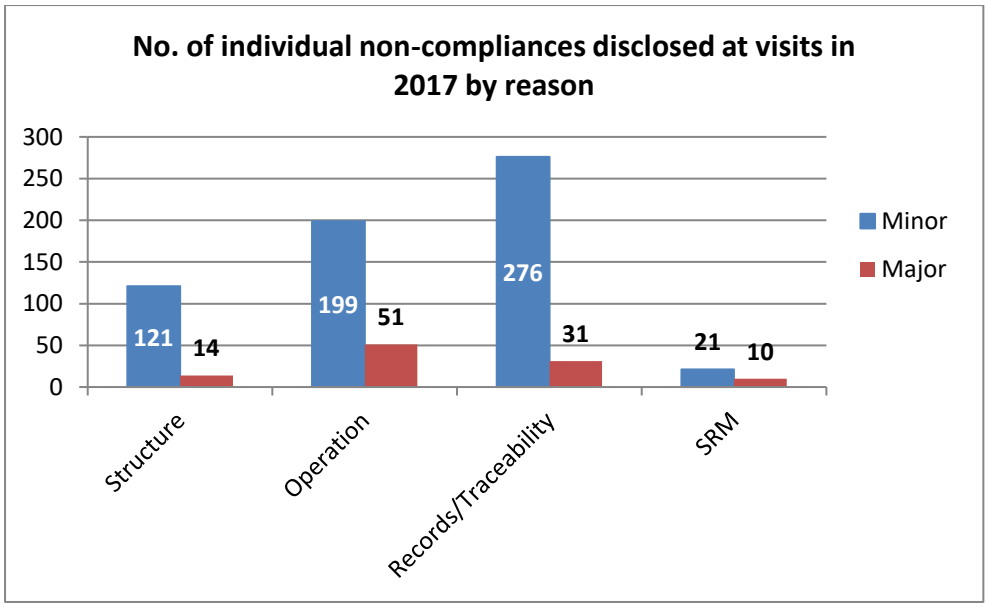
2.177 As in previous years, the main cause of non-compliance has arisen due to record keeping and operational issues. The total number of non-compliances[16] [17] has remained relatively consistent when compared to 2016. There is no significant pattern associated with the nature of these non-compliances.

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

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

2.178 In 2017, no serious major non-compliances were recorded.

Number of individual non-compliances disclosed at visits in 2017 by reason



2.179 In NI there are 180 approved ABP establishments and 345 registered establishments/ operators. DAERA completed 150 inspections during 2017[18]. During the reporting year 24 minor non-compliances centred on around structure, operation and record keeping. These were discussed verbally with the operator at the time of inspection and followed up with a letter.

Bovine Tuberculosis (TB)

2.180 In GB, APHA assisted with coordination of enforcement activity with a number of LAs in relation to TB controls. APHA worked closely with LAs at an operational level with frequent regional meetings and attended national meetings with the LAs National Animal Health and Welfare Panel to support effective and consistent enforcement of TB controls APHA are represented on the TB Compliance and Enforcement Group that also has Defra policy, Welsh Government and LA representation.

2.181 During 2017 APHA recorded[19]:

- 79,506 herd tests, with 4,657 herds experiencing a new TB incident
- 3,001of these new TB incidents were recorded as Officially Tuberculosis Free status withdrawn (OTFW)
- 9.8 million TB tests in bovine animals, including approximately 715,000 statutory tuberculin skin tests of cattle moved out of annually tested

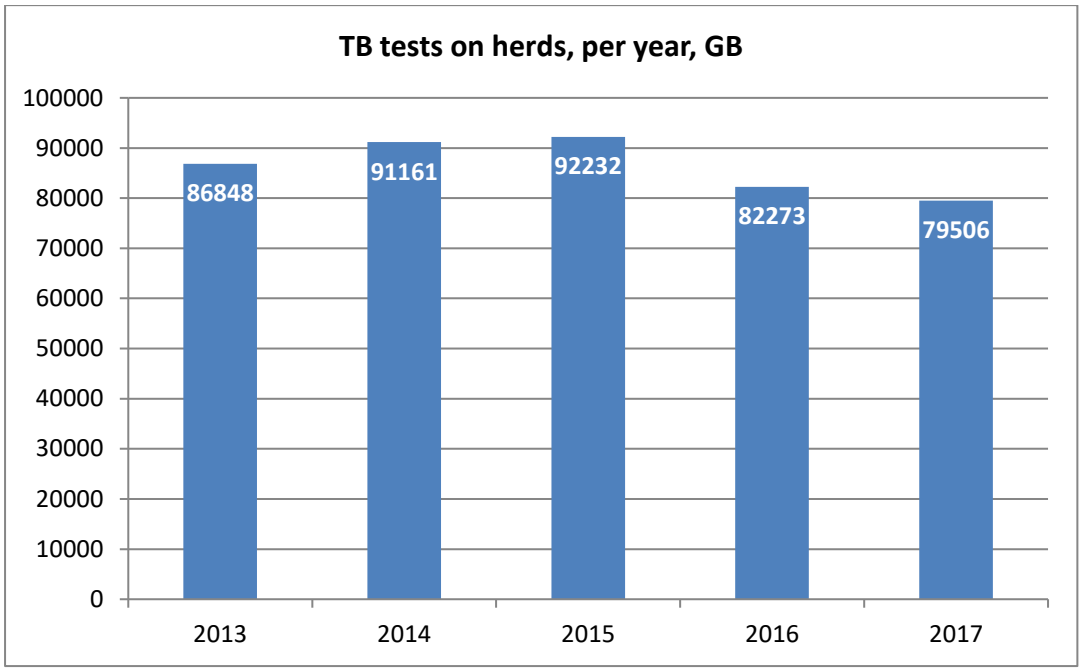
[18] 313 inspections during 2015, 216 inspections were carried out in 2014, 156 inspections in 2013, 287 in 2012 and 321 in 2011 .

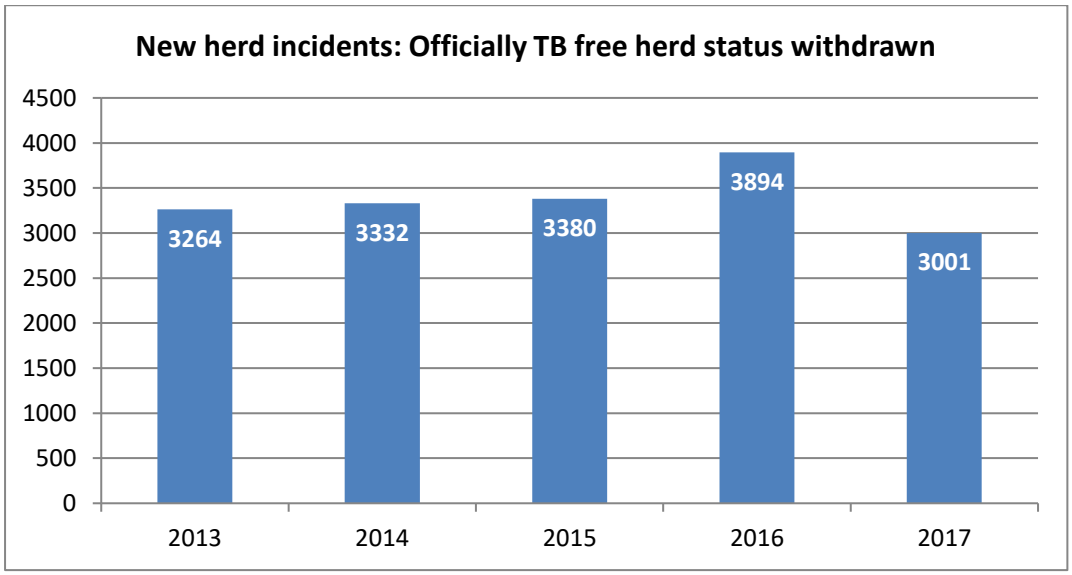
[19] Source: Provisional statistics on the incidence of TB in cattle in GB, Defra via gov.uk, updated 14 March 2018.

herds in England and Wales (pre-movement tests and post-movement tests), arranged and funded by farmers.

- 43,564 cattle were slaughtered for TB control purposes[20] as a result of those tests.

2.182 APHA traced bovines moved to or from OTFW establishments within a timeframe calculated on the time of completion of the last herd (source trace) or individual (spread trace) test respectively. 15,236 standalone tracings tests were carried out in 2017. 96.01% of which were completed within the target time. In addition there were 4,209 tracings tests that were undertaken as part of a test of the whole herd.





*Reporting represents calendar year.

[20] This includes reactors, inconclusive reactors, and direct contacts.

2.183 There were no changes in 2017 to the TB surveillance testing regime for cattle herds that has been in place in England since 2013. The country continued to be divided for bTB surveillance and control purposes into a High Risk area of annual TB testing in the SW of England and a Low Risk Area of four-yearly tested herds (supplemented by radial testing around OTFW establishments) in the North and East of England. These two areas are separated by a buffer zone (Edge Area) of annually tested herds. The slight decline in the number of TB tests completed in herds was mainly due to changes in APHA testing procedures for TB spread tracings and routine surveillance testing derogations for low risk herds in Scotland (an Officially TB Free region of the UK since 2009). Following pubic consultation, substantial progress was made during the year to re-define the boundaries of (and increase the frequency of TB surveillance for cattle herds in) the Edge Area of England, in order to slow down the geographic spread of the disease from the High Risk Area. Those surveillance policy changes will come into force from 1st January 2018.

2.184 In January 2015 cross compliance penalties in England were extended to apply to all overdue tests except those resulting from the tracing of animals following a TB breakdown.

2.185 Defra continued to implement its long term strategy to gradually achieve officially TB free (OTF) status for the whole of England by 2038 through a comprehensive suite of measures aimed at tackling all sources of TB infection. This includes tighter cattle testing and movement controls, improving biosecurity on farm and when trading, badger vaccination and badger control in areas where badgers are an important factor in spreading disease to cattle. The strategy was endorsed by the European Commission and received EU financial support as part of the UK TB Eradication Programme for 2017. Key measures implemented in 2017 included:

- Continued rollout of industry-led licensed badger control in the High Risk Area (HRA) and Edge Area of England where Mycobacterium bovis infection is endemic in badgers. The CVO's advice on the outcome of the 2017 culls confirmed that the evidence demonstrated that safe and effective culls can be carried out across a larger area, currently representing around 20% of the HRA's land surface;

- Expansion of criteria for mandatory use of the supplementary IFN-gamma blood test in new lesion or culture-positive breakdown herds (including those in badger culling areas) and lifetime movement restrictions of inconclusive TB reactors in the HRA and Edge Area that clear their re-test;

- Entry into force of The Tuberculosis (Non-bovine animals) Slaughter and Compensation (England) Order 2017, establishing specific rates of statutory compensation for certain non-bovine farmed species (pigs, sheep, goats, deer and South American Camelids) that may be subject to compulsory slaughter for TB control purposes. This came into force on 2nd Jan 2018;

- Introduction of a new National bovine TB Advisory Service for farmers in the HRA and Edge Area of England, from October 2017.

- Launch of a new Badger Edge Vaccination Scheme in September 2017, with grant funding for non-governmental projects for planning and delivery of vaccination from summer 2018.

2.186 The Welsh Government continued to pursue its Programme to eradicate bovine TB in Wales through a comprehensive suite of measures aimed at tackling all sources of TB infection. The Programme's cornerstone initiative is the annual TB testing of all cattle herds in Wales which has been in place since 2010. The Programme was endorsed by the European Commission as part of the UK TB Eradication Programme for 2017. Key measures implemented in 2017 included:

- Continuation of the application of OTFW status as the default for all new herd breakdowns.

- There was no availability of Badger BCG vaccine in 2017 to continue with the fifth and final year of vaccinations in the Intensive Action Area (IAA).

- Maintenance of ibTB and making available information on cattle herds affected by bovine TB.

- The procurement system for valuers who undertake TB valuations was established in 2017.

- October 2017 saw the introduction of a regional approach to TB eradication, with the introduction of Low, Intermediate and High TB Areas. A number of region-specific measures were put in place as part of a phased approach.

- The regional approach to TB eradication was part of wider Programme launch, building on existing measures, with two documents published; the TB Eradication Programme for Wales and TB Eradication Delivery Plan. The TB (Wales) Order 2010 was amended to include the requirement to Post-Movement Test cattle moved into the Low TB Area and the requirement to Pre-Movement Test cattle moving within or from the Low TB Area was removed.

    - The amendments to the TB (Wales) Order 2010 also reduced amount of TB compensation payable per animal from £15,000 to £5,000. A commitment was made to instigate a wider review of the TB compensation arrangements.
    - Exempt Finishing Units were phased out.

- Roll out of bespoke Action Plans in persistent TB herd breakdowns lasting 18 months or more. A range of measures are applied in these herds, based on their epidemiological situation. Measures include, removal of Inconclusive Reactors, introduction of Biosecurity Requirements Notices

(BRNS) to raise the standards of biosecurity and not allowing the clearing test to be used as a Pre-Movement Test.

- Through CAP Scheme penalties, the Welsh Government continues to penalise farmers who do not arrange and undertake TB testing of their cattle on time. From January 2017 this policy was strengthened with the inclusion of overdue tracings tests.

- Appropriate enforcement action, alongside Local Authorities, in respect of farmers who fail to test their cattle on time and those suspected of carrying out illegal activity.

- Continuation of reactive surveillance for TB in camelids, goats and deer and other non-bovines.

- A watching brief on bovine TB in wild deer populations in Wales (samples taken as part of population management culls across a number of locations).

- Through GB research projects, Welsh Government continues to invest in new tools to eradicate bovine TB in Wales.

2.187 In NI approximately 23,300 herds (1.75 million cattle) were tuberculin skin tested in 2017. 2,208 new reactor herds (a 26.8% increase from 2016) and 15,949 reactor animals (a 33.8% increase from 2016) were disclosed. 677 animals positive to the Interferon-gamma test and 891 negative-in-contacts animals were also removed. TB was confirmed[21] in 7,840 animals from 2,493 herds in 2017. A total of 3.14 million animal level tests (an 11.6% increase from 2016) were carried out. This increased level of skin testing was due to higher numbers of breakdown herd tests and more tracing and local surveillance tests in response to the increasing herd incidence which was seen throughout most of 2017.

2.188 The NI programme has been approved by the European Commission as part of the UK TB Eradication Plan for 2017 and DAERA's aim is the progressive reduction in the level of TB with the ultimate long term aim of eradication. The increasing incidence of TB seen in 2017 is considered by DAERA to be at least partly due to improved surveillance, possibly as a result of higher testing standards since the introduction of the new TB Testing Services Contract in 2016. Wider use of 'severe interpretation' of the skin test and improvements in post mortem surveillance have also resulted in the earlier detection of infection, resulting in additional new herd breakdowns.

2.189 The TB Strategic Partnership Group's (TBSPG) Strategy to Eradicate TB from NI was published in December 2016 and contains 38 recommendations under 7 thematic headings; Governance, Culture and Communication, Tools and Processes, Wildlife, Herd Health Management, Finance and Research. The

[21] Confirmed TB: A skin test reactor animal with visible TB-like lesions at slaughter and/or by laboratory confirmation (histopathology and/or culture) or an animal where M. bovis was cultured from TB-like lesions found at slaughter during the year that was not identified as a TB skin test reactor animals.

recommendations are presented as an integrated package of interdependent measures and the TBSPG recommend that they are taken forward as a package to maximise their impact. Implementation of any accepted new measures was constrained during 2017 due to the absence of a NI Executive however, in preparation for the appointment of a new Minister, DAERA held a public consultation on the Department's response to the TBSPG Strategy which closed on 5 February 2018

2.190 Actions which could be implemented in the absence of a Minister were progressed, including a Reactor Quality Assurance pilot, an annual Biosecurity questionnaire for all herds and wildlife disease surveillance in 2 high TB incidence areas. Preparation for the implementation (in March 2018) of a number of measures to significantly tighten disease detection in cattle was also carried out. These measures include a further strengthening of 'severe interpretation', to make it compulsory at all tests in OTW breakdown herds; the reduction of Non-visibly Lesioned reactors which trigger OTW controls (from 6 to 2 NVLs); and the introduction of an additional 6 monthly test after a breakdown herd is de-restricted in certain situations.

Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSE)

2.191 APHA delivered on all performance indicators within agreed criteria for the 2017 period.

Performance indicators for 2017, including percentage delivery against agreed targets

Action	GB		NI	
	Number	% completed within agreed target	Number	% completed within agreed target
Investigation of 'on-farm' suspect Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathies (BSE) reports	1	100	2	100
Investigation of 'on-farm' suspect Scrapie reports	2	100	0	N/A
Tracing of confirmed classical and atypical Scrapie cases	0	0	0	N/A
Risk based inspection of all approved TSE sampling sites and controlled hide stores	231	100	30	100
Restriction of eligible BSE offspring and cohorts	0	0	0	N/A

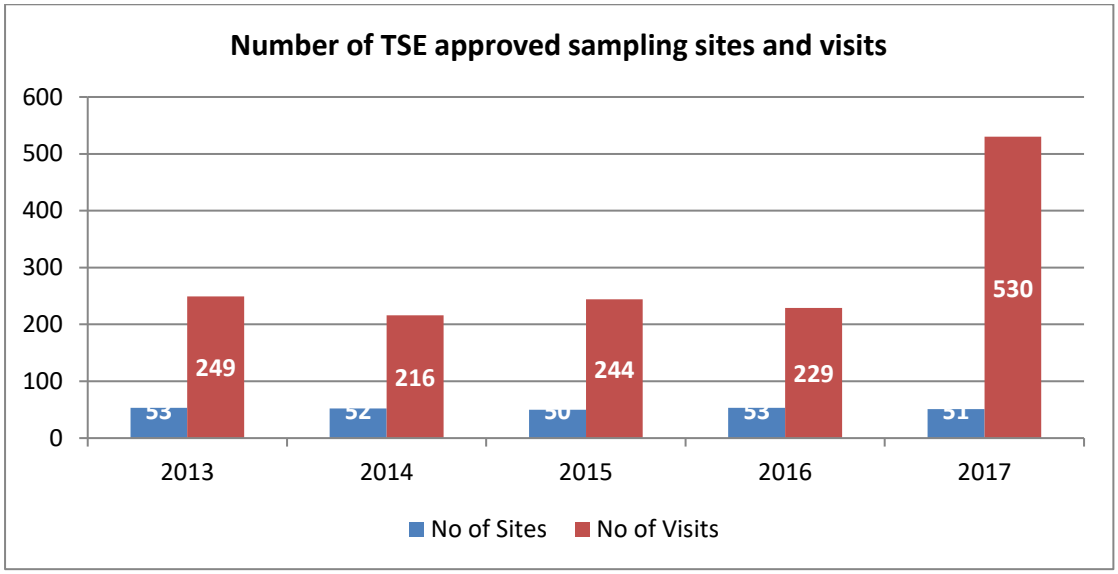
- The 'On-farm' BSE suspects was suspect clinical case that was negated following clinical inspection on farm.

- One of the Classical scrapie cases was in a goat and was reported from a confirmed holding already restricted under scrapie control measures. The sheep case was negated following clinical inspection.

- Twelve cases of atypical Scrapie confirmed in 2017. No classical scrapie cases were confirmed on new establishments in 2017.

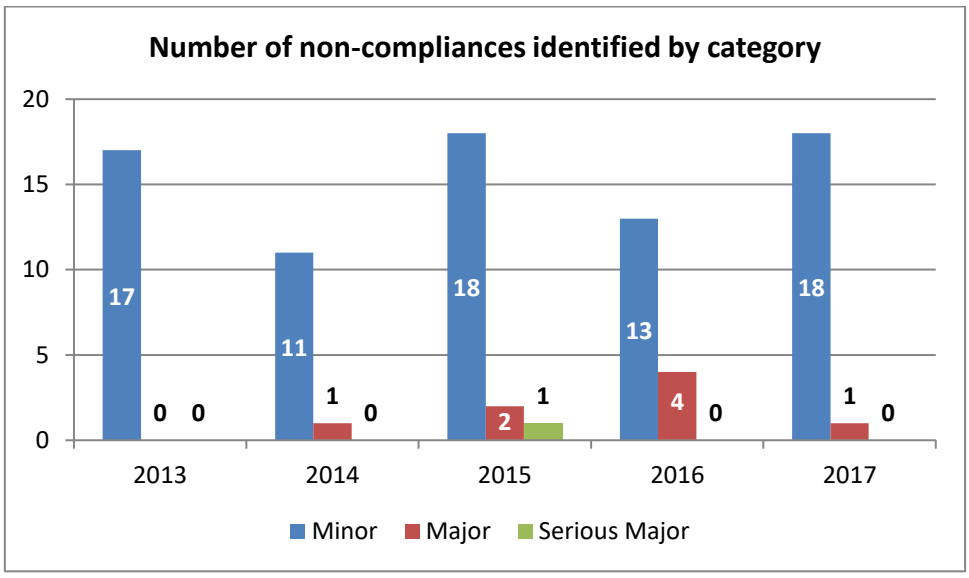
- No new BSE cases were confirmed during 2017

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

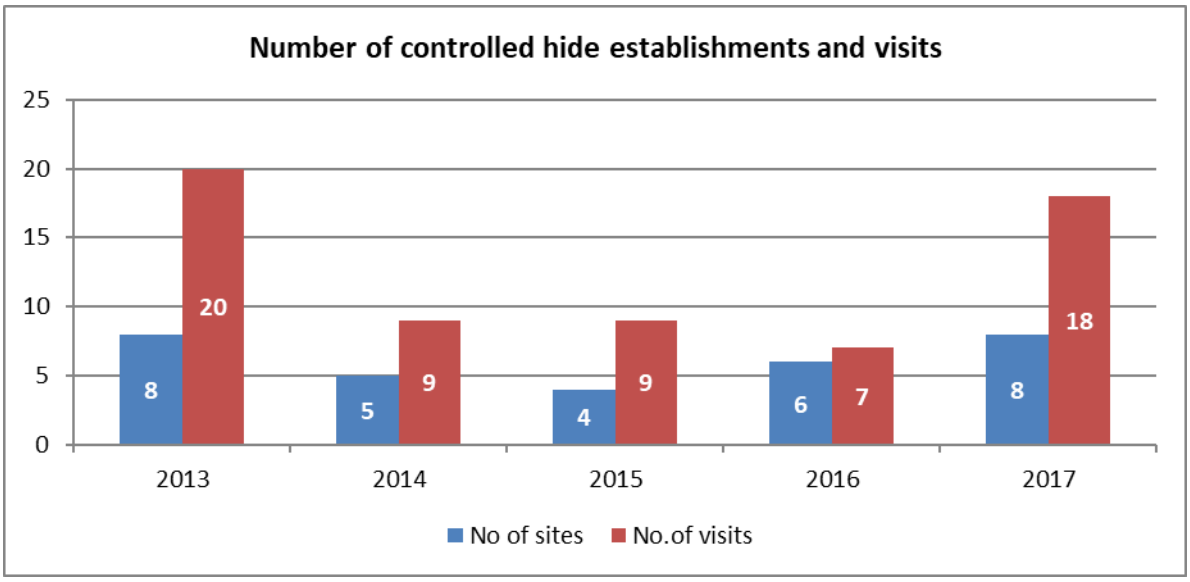


2.193 Nineteen non-compliances were identified at TSE sampling sites during 2017 (eighteen minor non-compliances and two major non-compliances). These mainly related to operational and record keeping issues.

2.194 The two major non-compliances resulted from a sampling issue and a failure to empty a skip without undue delay. Non-compliance notices were issues to the TSE sampling sites and corrective actions were monitored through follow-up inspections. No serious major non-compliances were identified during 2017



2.195 The number of controlled hide establishments visited and number of site visits has remained consistent with the previous year. All visits carried out in 2017 were compliant.



2.196 BSE in cattle in GB

- Following a peak in the number of clinical cases in 1992, the number of new cases now detected by active and passive surveillance continues to remain very low, with no BSE cases confirmed in GB in 2017 and one clinical suspect case reported where BSE was not confirmed in 2017. No clinical suspect cases were reported in the first three months of 2018.

- One case originally treated as Inconclusive in 2015 underwent confirmatory mouse bio-assay during 2016-17. By the end of 2017 the mouse bioassay data for IHC and western blotting confirmed it to be TSE negative.

- The numbers of confirmed BSE cases have continued to remain very low. Only one BSE suspect case was reported in 2017. Further details are available here.

- There were no cases of BSE in NI in 2016.

2.197 Surveillance for BSE[22]

- The main purpose of BSE surveillance is to monitor the level of BSE in cattle over time and thereby check on the continued effectiveness of BSE

[22] Surveillance for BSE is carried out in two ways:

- **Passive surveillance** - the statutory obligation to notify suspected cases of BSE has been in place in the UK since 1988.
- **Active surveillance** – the UK carried out limited active surveillance for BSE in cattle from1999 to 2001. The EU active surveillance programme started in the UK in July 2001. The criteria for inclusion in the testing programme have been changed over the years in response to regular risk assessments.

controls.

- With falling numbers of BSE cases across the EU, the requirement to carry out TSE testing on healthy slaughtered cattle born within EU MS was relaxed on 1 March 2013 (with the exception of cattle born in Bulgaria and Romania). However, TSE testing of the following 'risk cattle' aged over 48 months, where BSE is most likely to be detected, continues to be required under EU law:
  - Fallen stock cattle (i.e. those which die or are killed other than for human consumption).
  - Emergency slaughtered cattle.
  - Cattle showing abnormalities at ante-mortem inspection.

- Cattle born in Bulgaria and Romania or any non-EU country must be tested if aged over 24 months (fallen stock; emergency slaughtered; showing abnormalities at ante-mortem inspection) or over 30 months (healthy slaughtered).

- In 2017 119,078 cattle were examined in GB and 23,862 in NI under the active surveillance programme and one through passive surveillance. No BSE case was confirmed in 2017.

2.198 Scrapie in sheep in UK

- No clinical suspect cases of classical or atypical scrapie were confirmed in 2017 in GB. This represented the sixth successive year without confirmation of classical scrapie on clinical suspects since the disease became notifiable in 1993. There were no clinical suspects reported in GB in 2017.

- There were no cases of Classical Scrapie or Atypical Scrapie confirmed in NI in 2017.

2.199 UK Surveillance for scrapie

- The main purpose of scrapie surveillance is to monitor the level of classical and atypical scrapie in sheep and goats over time and thereby check on the continued effectiveness of scrapie controls.

- The EU requirement for active surveillance in sheep in the UK remained unchanged in 2016:

  - 10,000 sheep aged over 18 months slaughtered for human consumption
  - 10,000 fallen sheep aged over 18 months.
  - Under EU derogation, tests on up to 5,000 healthy slaughtered sheep per year may be replaced with an equivalent number of fallen sheep. In 2017 20,229 were tested in the UK, of which 6,349 were slaughtered for human consumption and 13,880were fallen stock. This includes 160 sheep that died during transit which were also tested for scrapie.

- There were no classical scrapie cases detected in 2016 in the active surveillance 0% (95% CI: 0 - 0.14%). The estimated prevalence using

abattoir survey data was 0% (95% CI: 0-0.19%) again but with wider confidence interval due to reduced sampling through this route.

- In 2017, 12 cases of atypical scrapie were confirmed in GB, eleven in sheep submitted to the Fallen Stock survey and one from a sheep submitted to the Abattoir survey. No cases were confirmed in NI. The estimated prevalence for GB using abattoir survey data was 0.23% (95% CI: 0.056-0.58%). The Fallen stock survey became this year the main contributor to the detection of atypical scrapie, and possibly due to sampling variability rather than significant changes in the prevalence of infection in each of the populations tested by these two surveys. Further details are available at here. No new sheep holdings joined the Compulsory Scrapie Flocks Scheme (CSFS) in 2017. Two holdings terminated restrictions in 2017, leaving only two farms under control on the scheme at the end of the year.

- During the restriction period, fallen and healthy slaughtered sheep aged over 18 months were tested for scrapie. In total 16 samples were tested from these restricted farms. In 2017, the contribution of the Atypical Scrapie Monitoring Scheme (ASM) to the testing throughput of sheep holdings under restrictions by any kind of scrapie declined. Twelve holdings joined the existing 26 monitored due to confirmation of atypical scrapie. Thirty-three of the 35 holdings under restrictions submitted 579 samples to the various testing routes of the scheme.

- Two cases of atypical scrapie were confirmed through the ASM Fallen stock route in 2016.

- The reasons why samples were not submitted by eight ASMS holdings are as follows:

  - Some were owners who in error sent their fallen stock for normal collection rather than *via* the CSFS helpline.
  - Some were owners who erroneously failed to report their fallen stock, usually in the first year of restrictions. An audit visit (normally undertaken around the first anniversary of restriction), usually rectifies this problem.
  - Certain holdings had their restrictions lifted in 2017 and therefore would not necessarily have had any fallen stock to report during their period under restriction in 2017.

- There were no changes in the genotype profile of the classical and atypical sheep scrapie cases confirmed in 2017. However, 600 samples from scrapie negative sheep were genotyped and the results indicated an increase frequency of genotype 1 (by 0.73%), genotype 4 (by 1.02%) and genotype 5 (1.22%); and decrease frequency of genotype 2 (0.19%) and genotype 3 (0.25%) in the sheep population. This therefore indicates that resistance to scrapie of the sheep population continue to increase in 2017.

- In 2017 23,862 cattle were examined in NI under the surveillance programme.

2.200 Scrapie in Goats in the UK

- In 2017 no clinical case of classical scrapie was confirmed from one holding already under restriction under option 3 of Annex VII of Regulation (EC) 999/2001, as amended.
- No clinical cases of classical scrapie were recorded outside CSFS holdings in 2017.
- No atypical scrapie was recorded in goats in 2017.

2.201 UK Surveillance for Goat scrapie

The EU requirement for active surveillance in goats remained unchanged in 2017:

- 500 fallen goats aged over 18 months. No positive cases were confirmed.

- No new goat holdings entered the CSFS in 2017. Two holdings remained under movement restrictions which will last for two years following confirmation of the final case of classical scrapie on the holding. (One of these holdings was culled and fully depopulated in early 2016). Four cases were confirmed in goats submitted under the different testing routes of the CSFS: three Fallen Stock and one from the Annual Cull. There were no clinical suspect goat cases confirmed in 2017. All cases came from the single stocked holding already under restriction. Despite the difference in population sizes of the sheep and goats in GB, cases confirmed in goats outnumbered those confirmed in sheep.

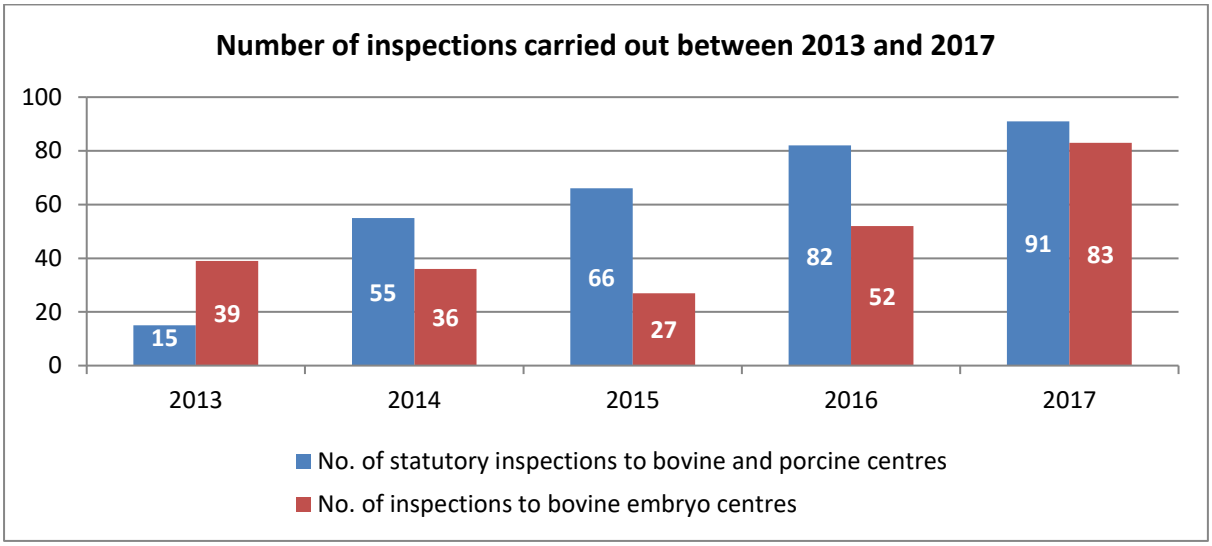
- To date there has still not been any case of atypical scrapie confirmed in goats in GB.

- No cases of classical or atypical scrapie were confirmed in goats in NI in 2017.

- Further details are available here.

Artificial breeding controls

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



Number of control activities undertaken in GB

Activity	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Number of bovine embryo collection/production/transfer teams approved	0	3	15	21	10 (does not include stores)
Number of bovine and porcine semen collection, processing and storage centres approved	6	5	10	6 (1 AQU approval not included)	2 (3 AQU approvals not included)
The number of animals licensed for on farm domestic semen collection	268	247	245	280	329
The number of animals approved to move onto approved AI centres	247	227	273	184	1,950
The number of animals licensed for semen export	1,231	881	1,200	1,312	1,881
Number of samples collected from bovine semen production	123	65	No info available	No info available	No info available
Number of samples collected from porcine semen production	764	303	No info available	No info available	No info available

Please note: Number of animals licensed for on farm domestic semen collection and Number of animals approved to move onto approved AI centres is based on number of applications approved and not animals approved. The number of animals approved for each is;

- Number of animals licensed for on farm domestic semen collection = 270 bovines + 136 boars
- Number of animals approved to move onto approved AI centres = 142 bovine + 1170 boars

Number of control activities undertaken in NI

Activity	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Number of bovine embryo collection/production/transfer teams approved	6	6	6	6	4
Number of bovine and porcine semen collection, processing and storage centres approved	9	9	9	10	10
The number of animals licensed for on farm domestic semen collection	0	0	0	0	0
The number of animals approved to move onto approved AI centres	39	22	32	44	33

Sheep and goats identification and tracing inspections

2.203 The UK has met the requirement in Regulation (EC) No 21/2004 to inspect 3% of sheep and goat holdings covering 5% of national sheep and goat populations.

General information on holdings, animals and checks

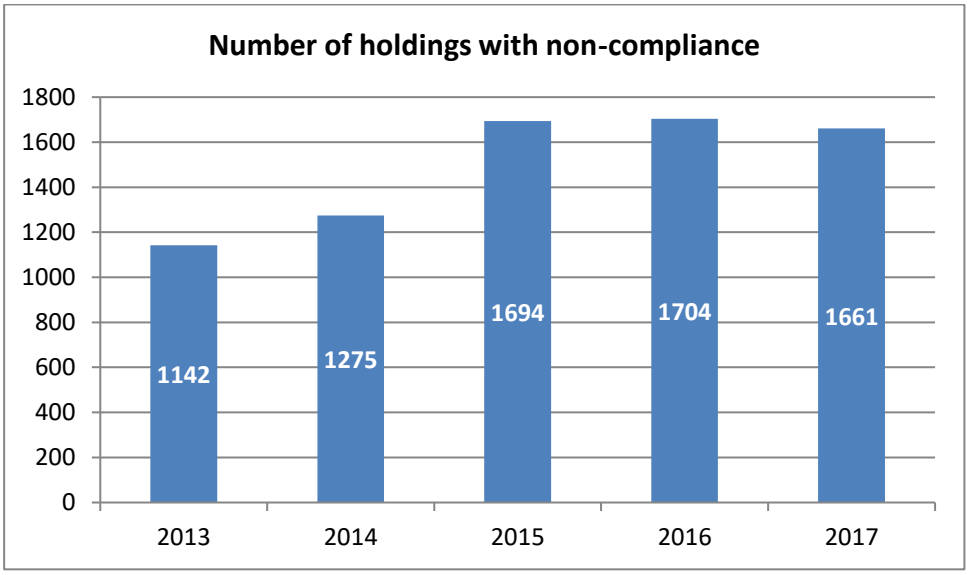
Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Total number of holdings in the Member State as registered at the beginning of the reporting period	117,362	118,502	17,709	124,494	126,931
Total number of holdings checked	3,606	3,648	4,285	3,912	4,067
Total number of ovine and caprine animals in the Member State as registered at the beginning of the reporting period	20,950,950	19,173,173	18,786,694	18,787,469	18,982,072
Total number of ovine and caprine animals in holdings checked during the reporting period	1,705,203	1,568,578	2,037,213	1,817,779	1,846,709

2.204 There have been no significant changes in the risk selection criteria and the assessment of compliance, which are allied to Regulation 1505/2006[23] and EU Statutory Management Requirement (SMR) 8[24].

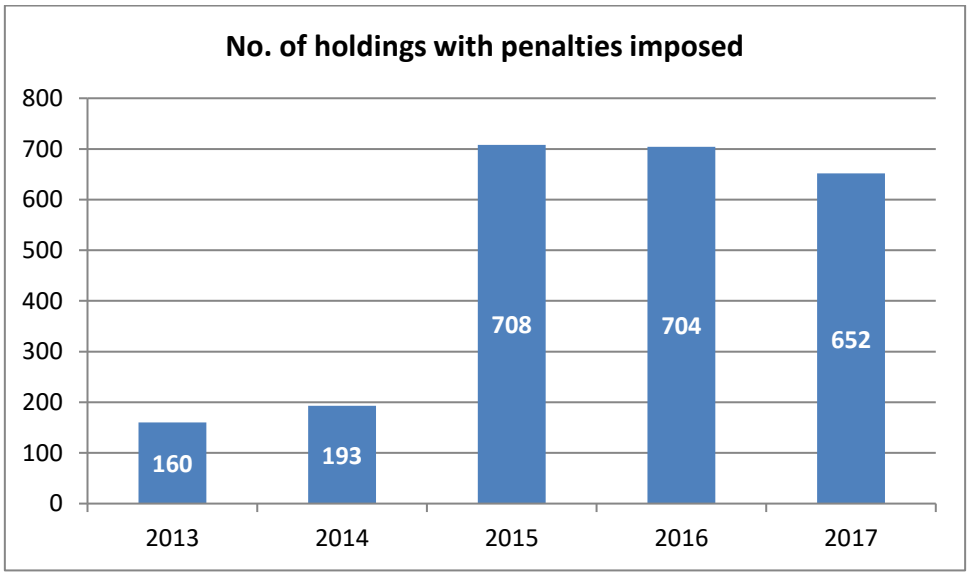
2.205 In 2017 there has been a small reduction (2.5%) in the number of non-compliant holdings.

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

[24] SMR 8 sets out which elements of EU sheep and goat ID rules are covered by cross compliance checks.



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



2.207 In 2017 there has been a small reduction (7.4%) in the number of holdings with penalties imposed. The most common types of non-compliance related to inaccurate or incomplete on-farm records including failure to record movements accurately. There was a small decrease in the number of holdings penalised in 2017.

Cattle identification and registration

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

2.209 In GB, 80% of the holdings inspected are selected using a computerised risk analysis, with the criteria including previous non-compliance, results of previous years' inspections and specific high risk indicators, such as high numbers of replacement tag purchases. In addition to the risk based inspections, 20% of the holdings inspected are selected at random to ascertain the level of compliance across GB. NI has a similar selection process. There were no significant changes to the risk assessment process for the 2017 inspection year.

General information on holdings and bovine animals in GB

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017
Total number of holdings registered in Great Britain at the beginning of the reporting period	75,681	75,485	73,844	72,733
Total number of holdings checked during the reporting period	2,924	2,984	2,885	2,975
Total number of bovine animals registered in Great Britain at the beginning of the reporting period	8,093,880	8,237,396	8,129,271	8,108,766
Total number of bovine animals checked during the reporting period	333,481	330,108	351,765	339,633

General information on holdings and bovine animals in NI

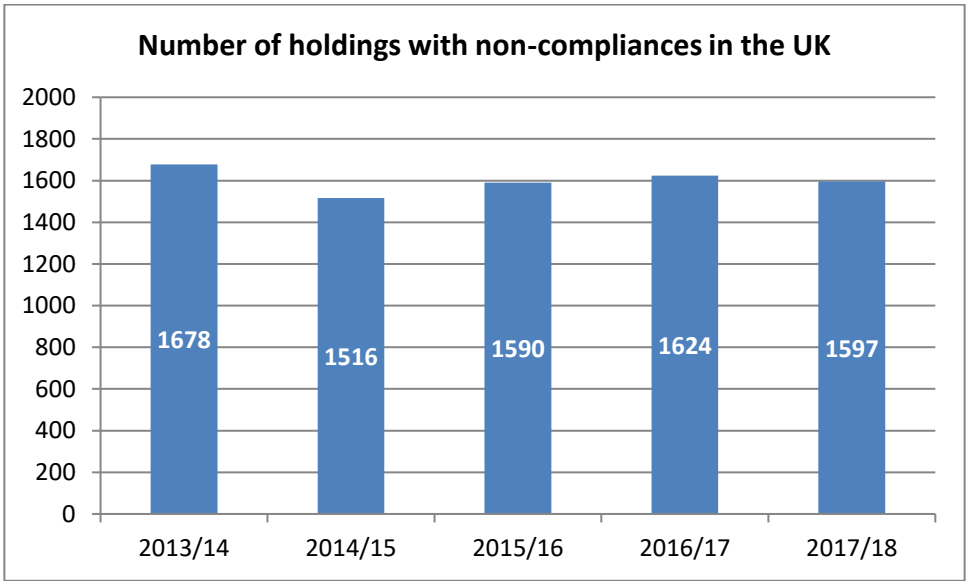
Year	2014	2015	2016	2017
Total number of holdings registered in NI at the beginning of the reporting period	23,167	23,024	22,815	22,330
Total number of holdings checked during the reporting period	826	856	806	841
Total number of bovine animals registered in NI at the beginning of the reporting period	1,522,875	1,550,945	1,616,574	1,614,321
Total number of bovine animals checked during the reporting period	109,737	97,684	89,589	85,291

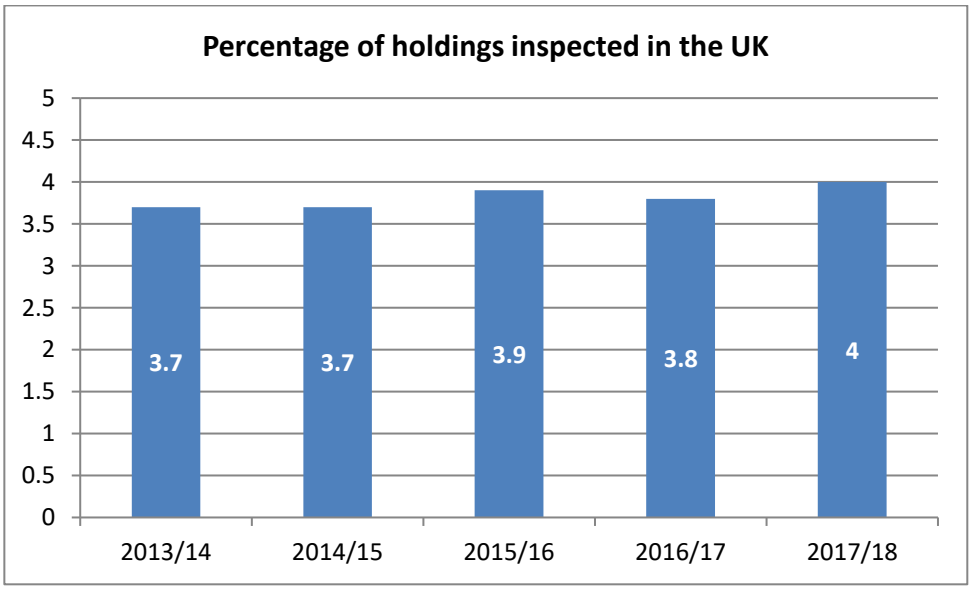
2.210 The results of the Cattle Identification inspection annual programme over the past three years show a small increase followed by a smaller decrease in compliance with the cattle identification regulations.

2.211 A variety of activities are inspected while on farm, such as standards of tagging or record keeping, and making notifications to the central database. During 2017 the most common types of non-compliance related to late or no report of movements and late or no report of births and deaths.

2.212 Commission Regulation (EC) No 494/98 and Regulation (EC) No 1760/2000 set out the minimum penalties. These include movement restrictions to either individual animals or to the whole herd.

2.213 As a result of the 2017 inspections, 13,350 bovine animals were subject to movement restrictions (3,281 animals were subject to individual restrictions and 10,069 were subject to whole herd movement restrictions). This represented 3.14% of the animals subject to inspection. 131 holdings were subject to a whole herd restriction (3.43% of the inspected holdings).





Zoonoses

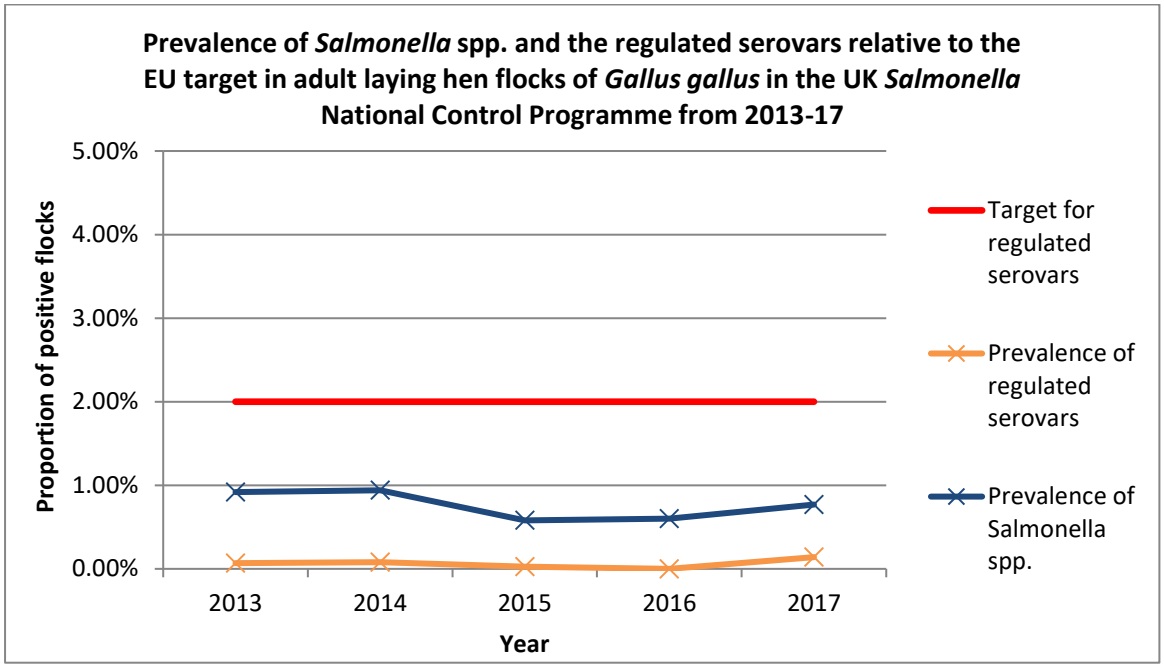
2.214 Control of *Salmonella* in all the UK poultry sectors[25] was maintained in 2017. A reducing contribution of *Salmonella* to the overall burden of food-borne zoonoses has been observed in the UK in recent years. Further information is available at here.

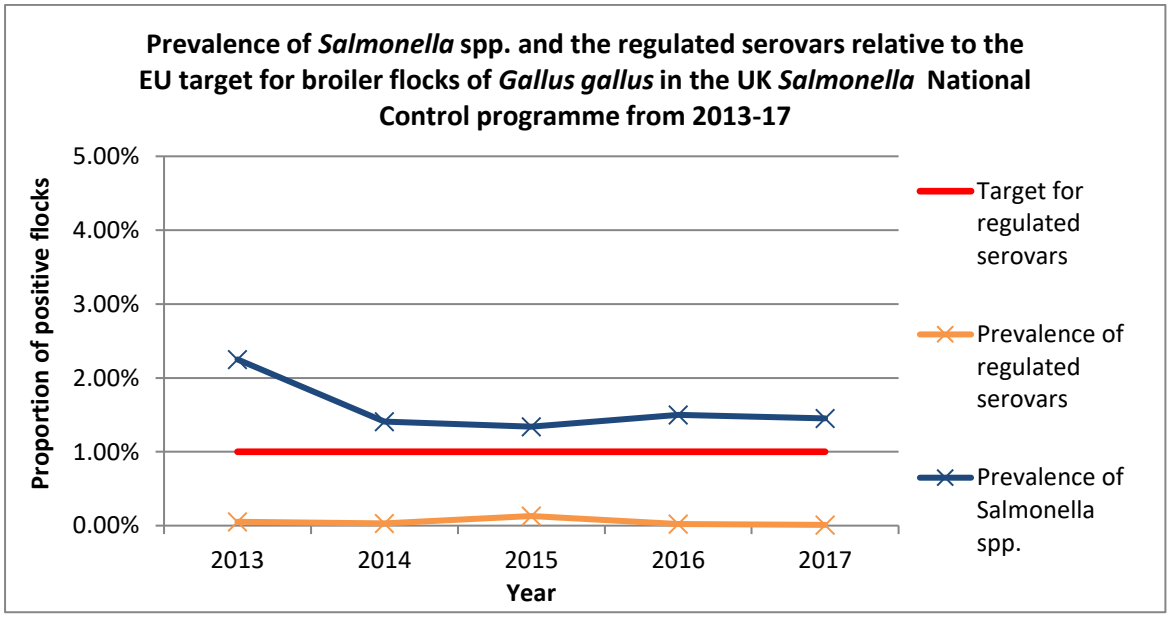
2.215 The SNCP[26] monitoring results for 2017 indicate that the levels of the regulated *Salmonella* serovars are well below the EU designated targets. Official sampling programmes, as required by the EU legislation, are in place for each sector: in total for all poultry sectors 3,426 poultry flocks were subject to annual routine official sampling.

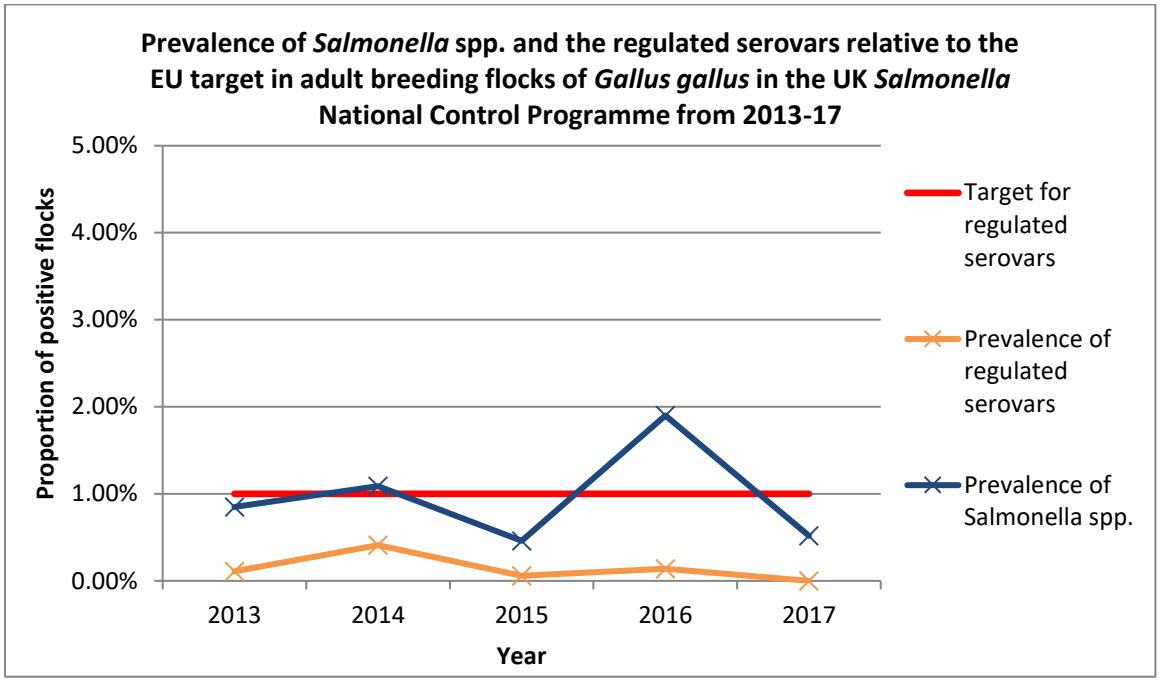
2.216 The UK chicken breeding sector had a reported prevalence for the regulated (target) serovars of 0.0% for 2017 with no adult breeding chicken flocks in the UK detected positive for *Salmonella* Typhimurium,*S.* Enteritidis, *S.*Hadar, *S.*Infantis or *S.*Virchow. Six UK laying chicken flocks tested positive for *Salmonella* Enteritidis and none were positive for Salmonella Typhimurium during 2017, giving an overall prevalence of 0.14% for the target serovars. The prevalence of the target serovars in broiler flocks was 0.01% in 2017, with three broiler flocks detected positive for monophasic *S*. Typhimurium, two flocks positive for *S.* Typhimurium and no flocks positive for *S*. Enteritidis, out of a total of approximately 53,174 flocks tested during the year.

2.217 For turkeys, the 2017 prevalence of the target serovars was 0.27% in fattening flocks. Four fattening flocks tested positive for *S*. Enteritidis and three for monophasic *S*. Typhimurium. A total of 2,578 fattening turkey flocks were tested under the programme. For breeding turkeys, in 2017 no breeding turkey flocks were positive for regulated serovars and the prevalence of the target serovars was again 0%, with 251 breeding flocks in the National Control Programme.

[25] The Salmonella National Control Programmes (NCPs) continued to be implemented in 2017, according to the requirements of Regulation (EC) No. 2160/2003, in breeding chickens (programme in place since 2007), laying chickens (since 2008), broiler chickens (since 2009) and breeding/fattening turkeys (since 2010).
[26] As per the requirements of Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003.


Prevalence of *Salmonella* spp. and the regulated serovars relative to the EU target in adult laying hen flocks of *Gallus gallus* in the UK *Salmonella* National Control Programme from 2013-17
Proportion of positive flocks
5.00%
4.00%
3.00%
2.00%
1.00%
0.00%
2013
2014
2015
2016
2017
Year
Target for regulated serovars
Prevalence of regulated serovars
Prevalence of Salmonella spp.


Prevalence of *Salmonella* spp. and the regulated serovars relative to the EU target for broiler flocks of *Gallus gallus* in the UK *Salmonella* National Control programme from 2013-17
Proportion of positive flocks
5.00%
4.00%
3.00%
2.00%
1.00%
0.00%
2013
2014
2015
2016
2017
Year
Target for regulated serovars
Prevalence of regulated serovars
Prevalence of Salmonella spp.


Prevalence of *Salmonella* spp. and the regulated serovars relative to the EU target in adult breeding flocks of *Gallus gallus* in the UK *Salmonella* National Control Programme from 2013-17
Proportion of positive flocks
5.00%
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2013
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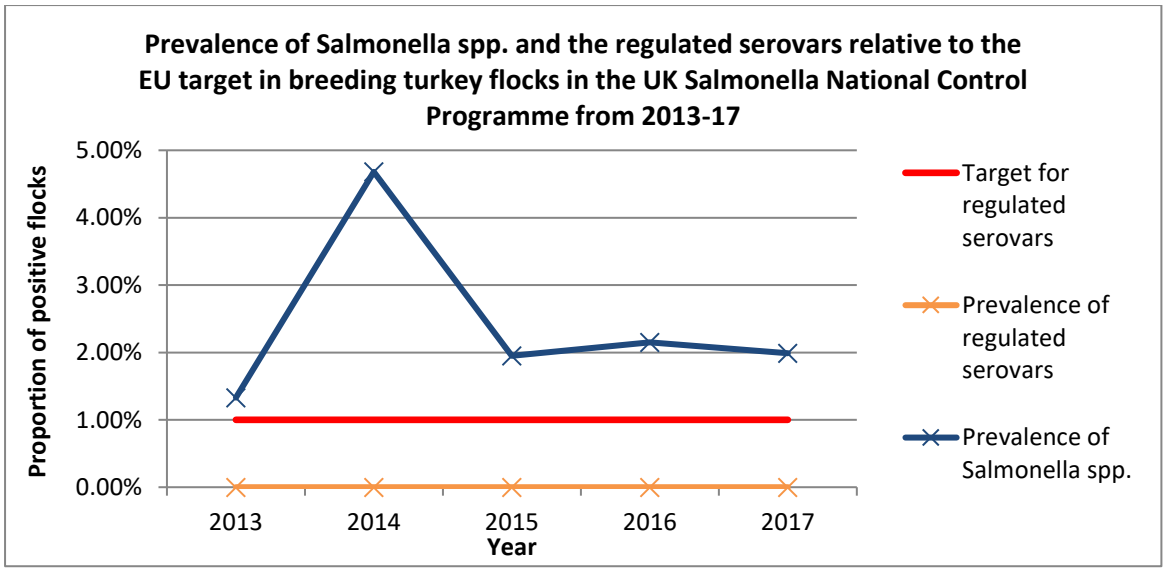
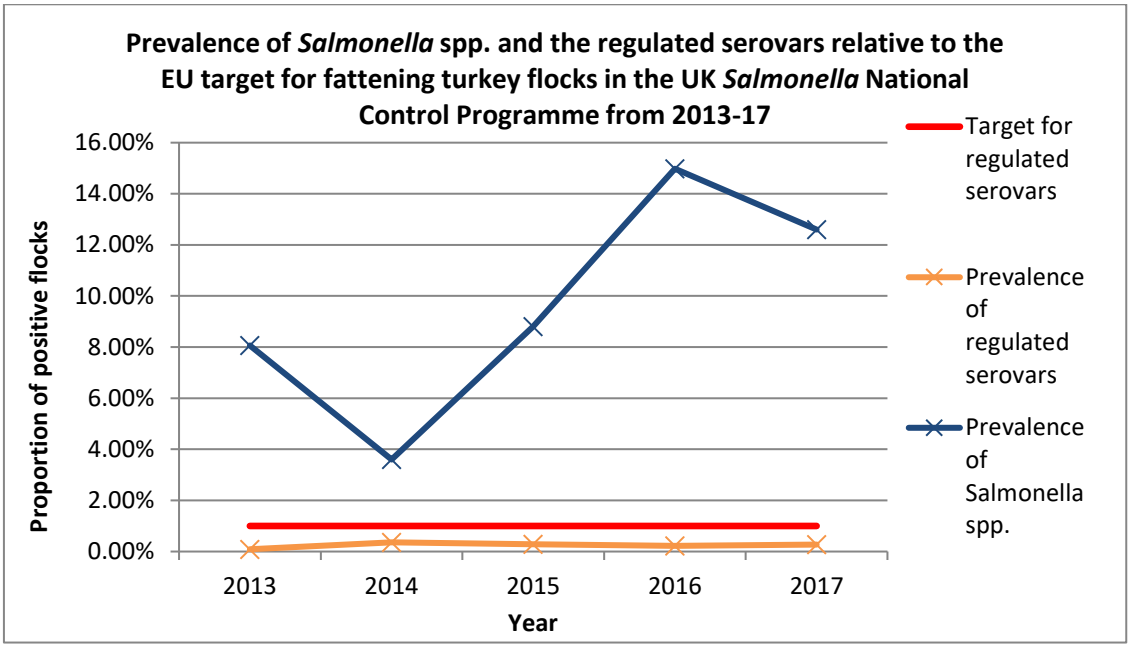
Target for regulated serovars
Prevalence of regulated serovars
Prevalence of Salmonella spp.


Prevalence of Salmonella spp. and the regulated serovars relative to the EU target in breeding turkey flocks in the UK Salmonella National Control Programme from 2013-17
Proportion of positive flocks
5.00%
4.00%
3.00%
2.00%
1.00%
0.00%
2013
2014
2015
2016
2017
Year
Target for regulated serovars
Prevalence of regulated serovars
Prevalence of Salmonella spp.



2.218 The requirements for official sampling are laid out in Regulation 2160/2003 and implementing legislation. There were no significant changes in the intensity and type of controls from 2013 - 2017.

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

Sector	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Breeding chickens	1,766	1,464	1,725	1,396	3,031
Laying	1,411	1,398	1,633	1,445	1,438
Broilers	172	161	180	185	179
Turkeys	252	235	269	252	282

2.219 The assessment of FBO compliance with the requirements of the SNCP for all sectors in the UK indicated general overall compliance. In GB the criteria for defining a non-compliance and the number of compliance inspections varies between poultry sectors, so data can only be compared within a specific sector for the years reported and should not be compared between sectors. In GB most non-compliances were caused by minor deviations from the required sampling schedule, or farm records being unclear or not kept fully up to date. One flock in NI had a major non-compliance that has since been resolved. The criterion for defining a non-compliance is similar across the poultry and turkey sectors in NI.

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Total non-compliances	**100**	**95**[27]	**120**[28]	**152**	**125**

2.220 In England and Wales, laying chicken farms where major non-compliances are detected have financial penalty notices issued for incomplete compliance with the requirements of the SNCP. The penalty notice data for the years 2013-2017 indicates a broadly stable trend in operator non- compliance with a slightly decreasing trend in 2016 and 2017[29]: 20 penalty notices and 8 warning letters were issued in 2017. This financial penalty system is not used in Scotland and NI.

Border controls

2.221 EU legislation[30] requires that border inspection posts (BIPs) carry out 100% documentary and identity checks on imports of animals and animal products. Physical checks are carried out on all consignments of live animals and a set percentage of animal products laid down in Commission Decision 94/360 (1-10%, 20% or 50% depending on the product).

2.222 The level and nature of import controls are laid down in EU legislation so there is no flexibility to target particular types of consignments. Therefore, there were no significant changes during 2017 in respect of imports of products of animal origin. The number of consignments of animal products imported in 2017 was slightly lower at 56,691 compared with 58,457 in 2016. In the case of live animal imports the number of consignments also decreased from 9,375 in 2016 to 8,820 in 2017,

2.223 Compliance remains high for third country imports of animals and animal products. For products the figures are marginally higher than in previous years. In 2017, the number of consignments rejected was 1,134 (2%) compared to 774 (1.3%) in 2016. The major non-compliances are documentary errors, in particular absence of a health certificate or an invalid health certificate. This is likely to be because a lack of understanding or knowledge of the EU rules in the third country exporting authority. For live animals, 61 consignments were rejected in 2017 compared with 50 in 2016.

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

UK controls on imported consignments: Animal Products

[27] GB figures only, revised since 2015 report.

[28] GB figures only, revised since 2015 report.

[29] 21 penalty notices and 13 warning letters were issued in 2016;30 penalty notices and 20 warning letters were issued in 2015;22 penalty notices and 11 warning letters were issued in 2014; 28 penalty notices and 13 warning letters were issued in 2013; and 27 penalty notices and 16 warning letters were issued in 2012.

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

Year	Certificates			Rejects		Reject conclusion		
	Total number	Number controlled	% controlled	number	% of total	Re-exported	Transformed	Destroyed
2013	58,649	58,649	100.0%	820	1.4%	277	4	529
2014	58,710	58,710	100.0%	748	1.27%	222	3	513
2015	57,980	57,978	100.0%	780	1.35%	262	3	512
2016	58,457	58,457	100.0%	774	1.3%	228	2	554
2017	56,691	56,690	100.0%	1,134	2.0%	377	3	783

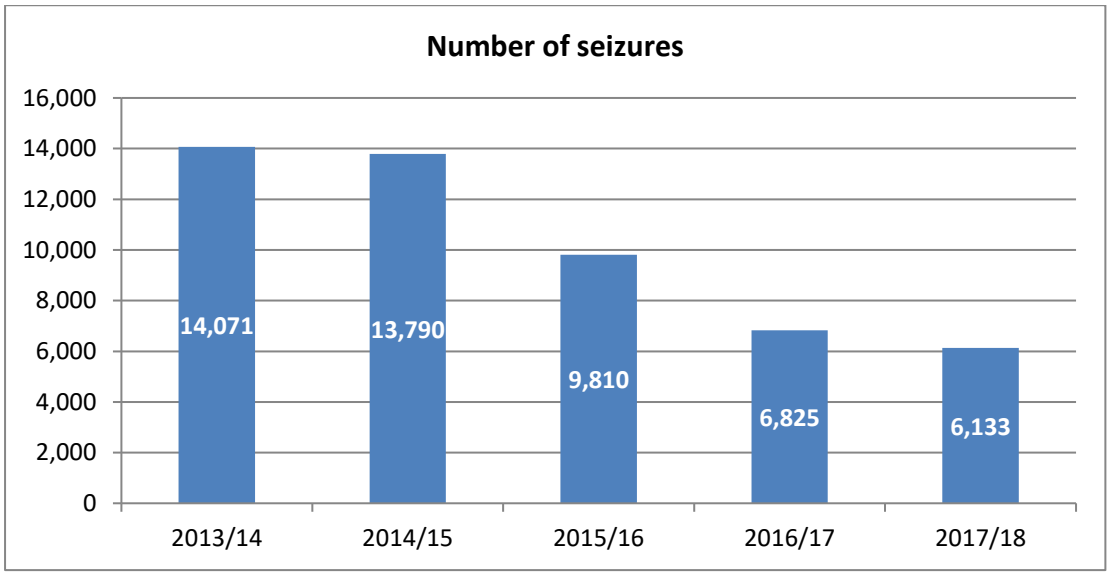
UK controls on imported consignments: Live Animals

Year	Certificates			Rejects		Reject conclusion		
	Total number	Number controlled	% controlled	number	% of total	Re-export	Slaughter	Euthanasia[31]
2013	9,754	9,754	100.0%	109	1.12%	102	0	7
2014	8,987	8,987	00.0%	42	0.47%	38	0	4
2015	9,655	9,646	99.91%	32	0.33%	23	0	9
2016	9,375	9,375	100.0%	50	0.5%	37	0	12
2017	8,820	8,817	100.0%	61	0.7%	50	0	10

Illegal imports[32] controls of products of animal origin

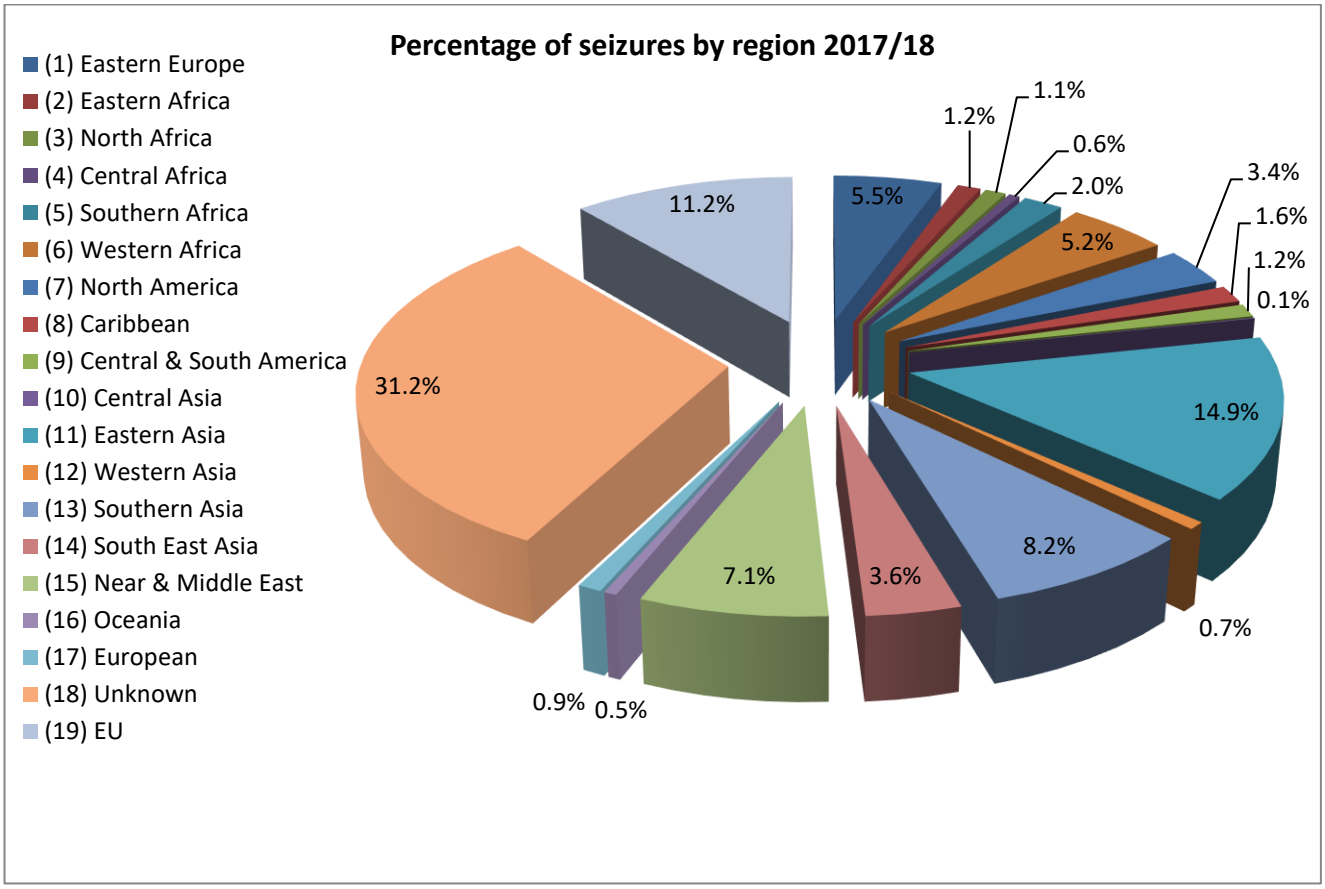
2.225 Between 2015/16 and 2016/17 the number of seizures at airports and ports of illegally imported products decreased by 30.4%, and between 2016/17 and 2017/18 the number of seizures decreased by 10.1%. Figures below show the number of seizures by Border Force (BF), DAERA and those made by inland LAs and Port Health Authorities at relevant UK points of entry.

Number of products of animal origin seized by region during 2017/18



[31] Fish and Gastropoda.

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



2.226 The greatest number of seizures was from passengers returning from Southern and Eastern Asia and South Asia, Near and Middle East and Western Africa and Eastern Europe. Cultural and sporting events (including celebrations as well as student terms) represent times when the level of seizures might be expected to increase. These have varied in size and product type, from unpackaged raw meat and fresh cheese to milk drinks and stock cubes.

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

Bee health

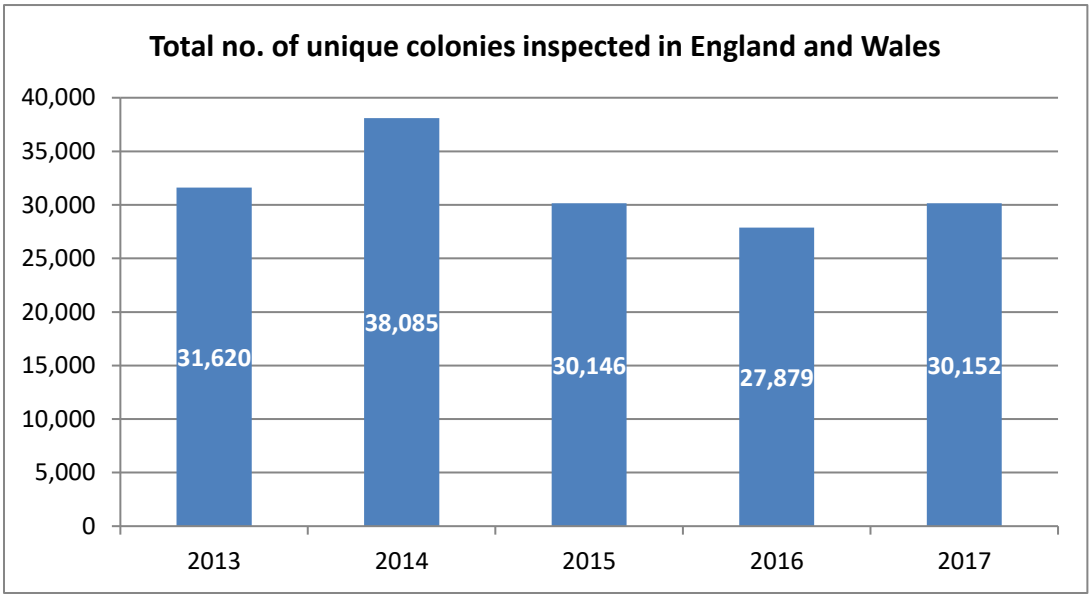
England and Wales

2.228 In England and Wales, the National Bee Unit (NBU)[33] carried out a statutory inspection programme on behalf of Defra and the Welsh Government. Diagnostic support for the inspection programme is provided by Fera Science Limited. Details of the programmes are available on the NBU's BeeBase website[34]. Full details of the NBU's inspections and pest and disease incidence in 2017 and in previous years, are also available on BeeBase.

2.229 The number of colonies infected with American foulbrood (AFB) has remained at low levels in recent years. All colonies found to be infected with AFB are destroyed. European Foulbrood (EFB) is widespread in England and Wales and there are on-going research projects which aim to better understand the disease. The overall incidence has generally been in decline since 2000.

2.230 Honey samples were also collected under contract on behalf of the VMD for the National Surveillance Scheme. Approximately 100 samples are collected each year under Council Directive 96/23/EC[35]; none of these samples were non-compliant.

2.231 A total of 30,512 unique colonies in 5,381 apiaries were inspected across England and Wales by the NBU's Bee Inspectors.



[33] From 1 October 2014 the NBU Inspectorate moved into the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA).
[34] Bee Base Website
[35] ec.europa.eu/food/food/chemicalsafety/residues/council_directive_96_23ec.pdf

Turnaround times on laboratory diagnosis and control measures on diseased apiaries

England

Type of sample	Target (Working days within which 95% of samples should be done)	Percent within target	Number of samples received
Statutory Exotics	1	-	0
Voluntary Exotics	1	98%	149
Import Samples	4	100%	1
Statutory Foulbrood	1	90%	437
Voluntary Foulbrood	1	100%	2

Wales

Type of sample	Target (Working days within which 95% of samples should be done)	Percent within target	Number of samples received
Statutory Exotics	1	-	0
Voluntary Exotics	1	94%	18
Import Samples	4	-	0
Statutory Foulbrood	1	79%	67
Voluntary Foulbrood	1	-	0

2.232 Field work/inspection:

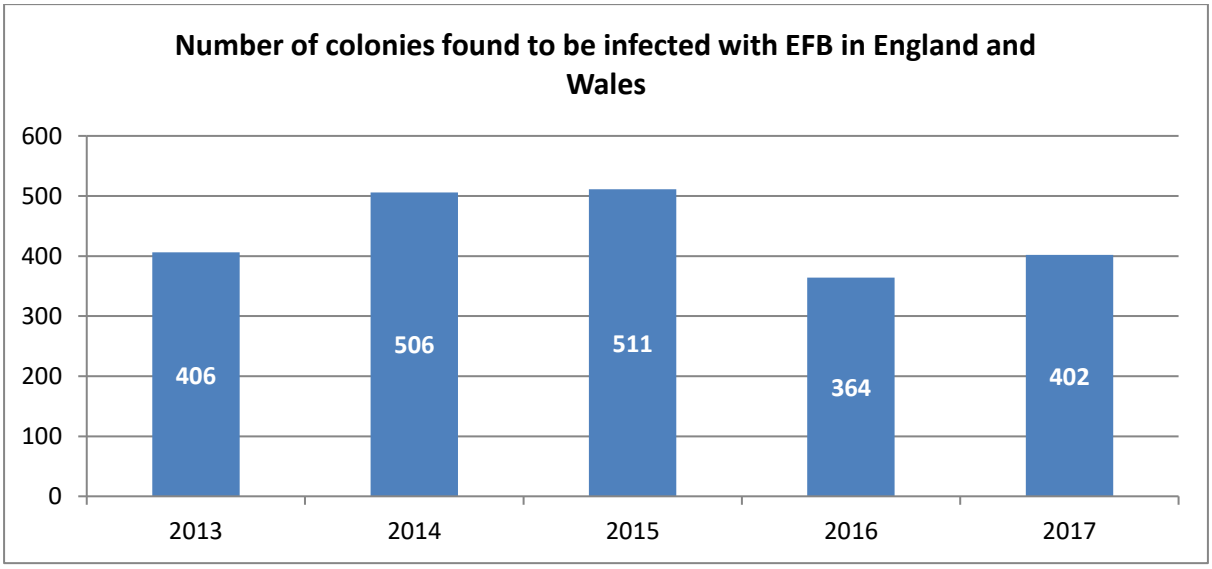
- 139 colonies in 89 separate apiaries were treated by shook swarm/or OTC antibiotic: 86% within 10 days (mean treatment time two days);
- 381 colonies in 203 separate apiaries were controlled by destruction: 99% within 10 days (mean treatment time one day).

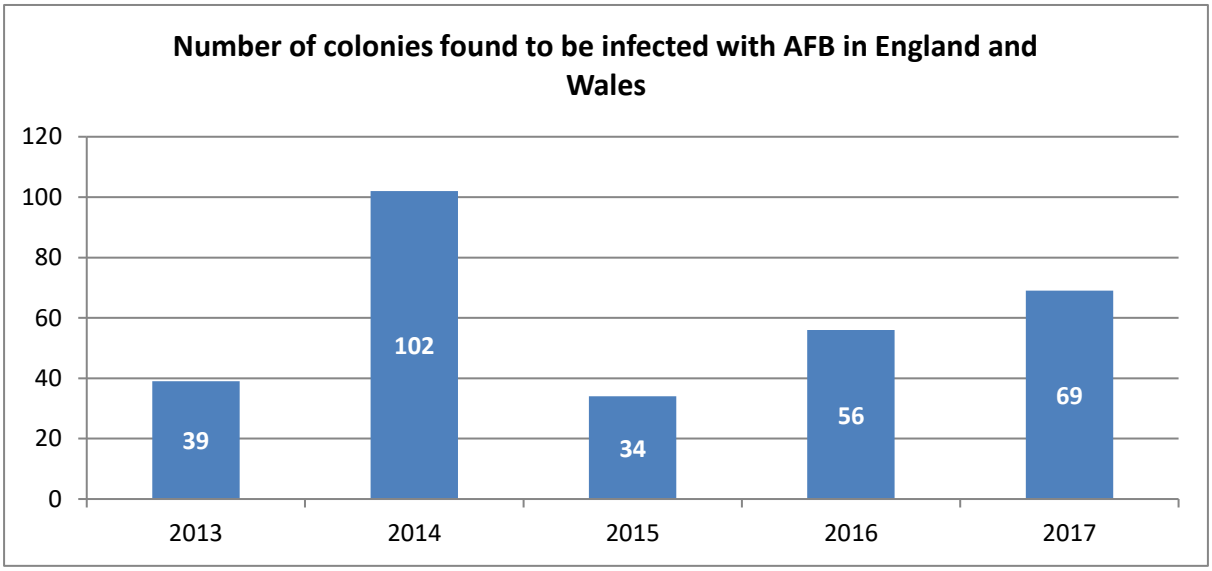
2.233 The NBU's inspection priorities are the detection and management of the statutory notifiable diseases, AFB and EFB, and surveillance for exotic pest species the Small hive beetle[36] and *Tropilaelaps mites*. The numbers of AFB

[36] *Aethina tumida.*

cases over the past 10 years has remained at relatively low levels. There were 69 cases of AFB in England and Wales in 2017

There were 402 cases of EFB disease in England and Wales in 2017. Three additional colonies were identified with AFB and EFB in the same colony.

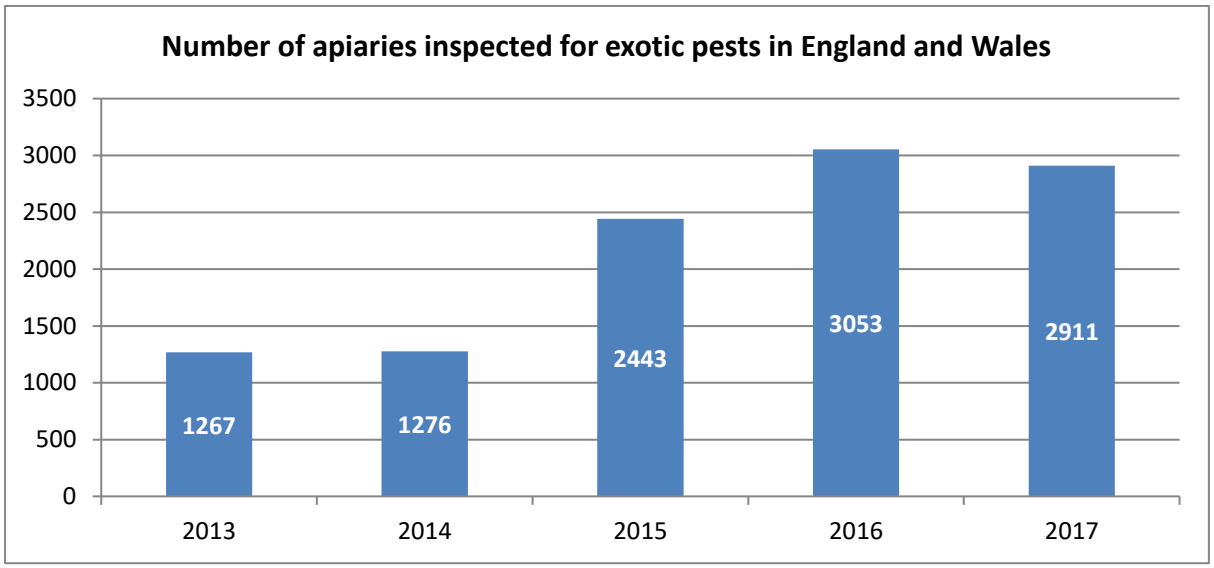




2.234 The NBU continued to search for the exotic pests the Small hive beetle and *Tropilaelaps mites*.

2.235 A total of 14,052 colonies in 2,911 apiaries were specifically examined in England and Wales for the presence of exotic pests such as the Small hive beetle and *Tropilaelaps* mites. In addition, 167 samples were also submitted voluntarily by beekeepers. None of these inspections revealed any findings of Small hive beetle and *Tropilaelaps* mites and no samples submitted by beekeepers tested positive. At present, both pests are believed to be absent from the UK. Surveillance programmes and the use of sentinel apiaries will continue.

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

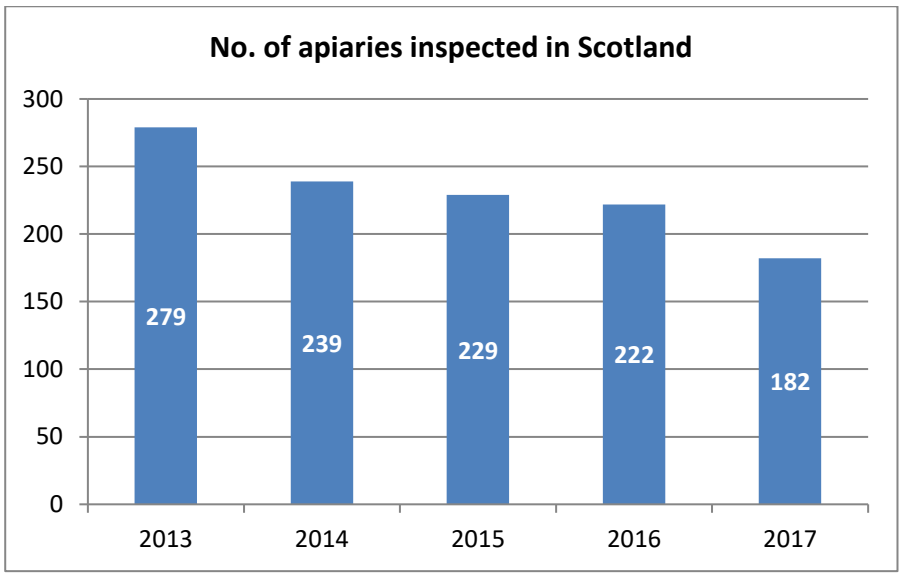


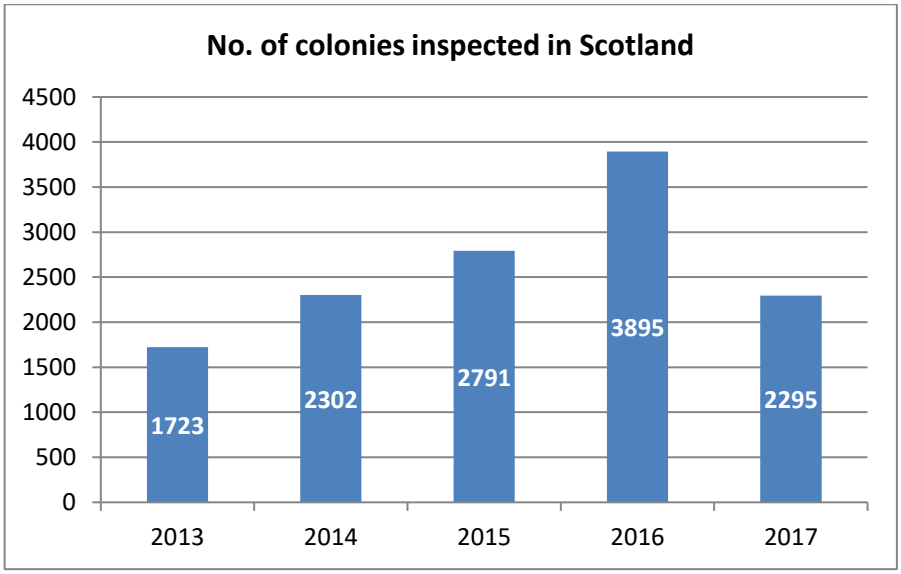
Scotland

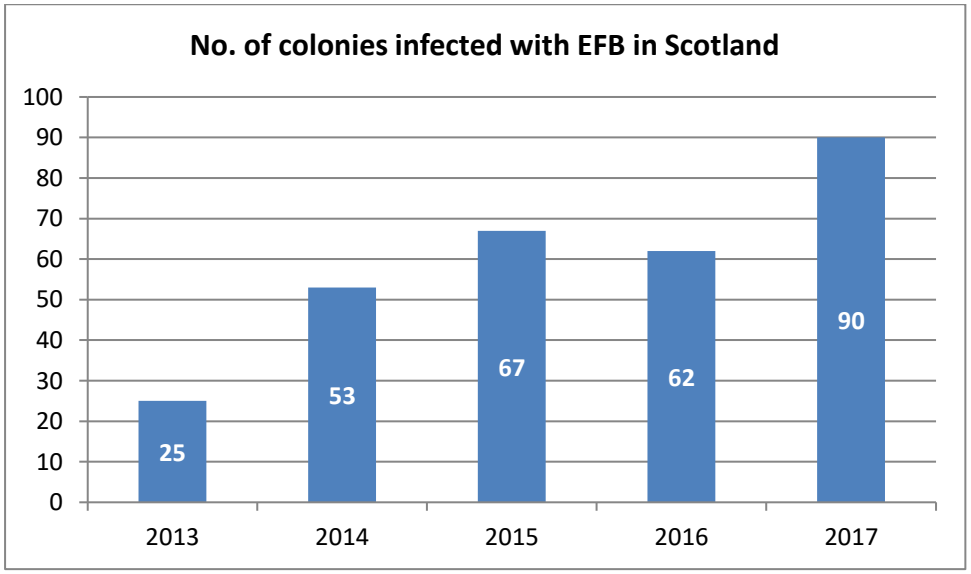
2.237 Scottish Honey Bee Health Surveillance Programme[37] has continued to successfully identify cases of foulbrood as well as helping to provide a detailed picture of honey bee health in Scotland. It has allowed bee inspectors to continue with making their presence known in the local areas and improve engagement with beekeepers.

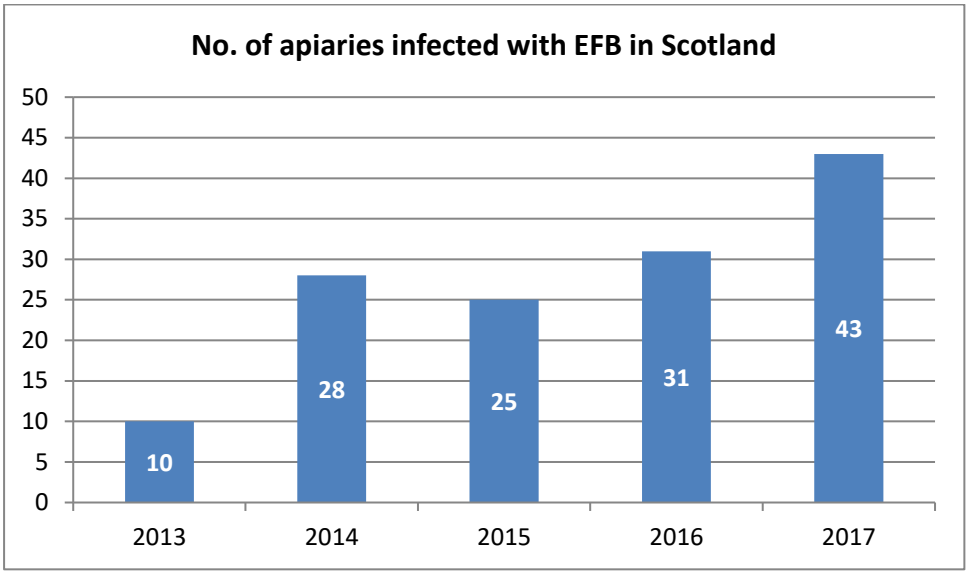
2.238 The Scottish Government EFB Control Plan[38] has been in operation since 2010, where commercial beekeepers[39] are able to complete their own initial disease inspection. In March 2017 this was renamed as the Scottish Advanced Honey Bee Health Standard (SHBHS). The level of EFB has continued to reduce since the programme started. This reduction is not only in the number of colonies infected but also the density of disease which is steadily in decline. The SHBHS continues to bring together several agencies and stakeholders to deliver what is clearly a useful route to dealing with a crisis. Several simple measures adopted with a great degree of cooperation on all sides working in close partnership have been the marker of success. Results of the SG inspection programme are provided below. The spike in numbers of EFB in 2017 is attributable to the uncovering of the disease in the Dumfries area. Investigations are continuing as to the likely source of the original infection.

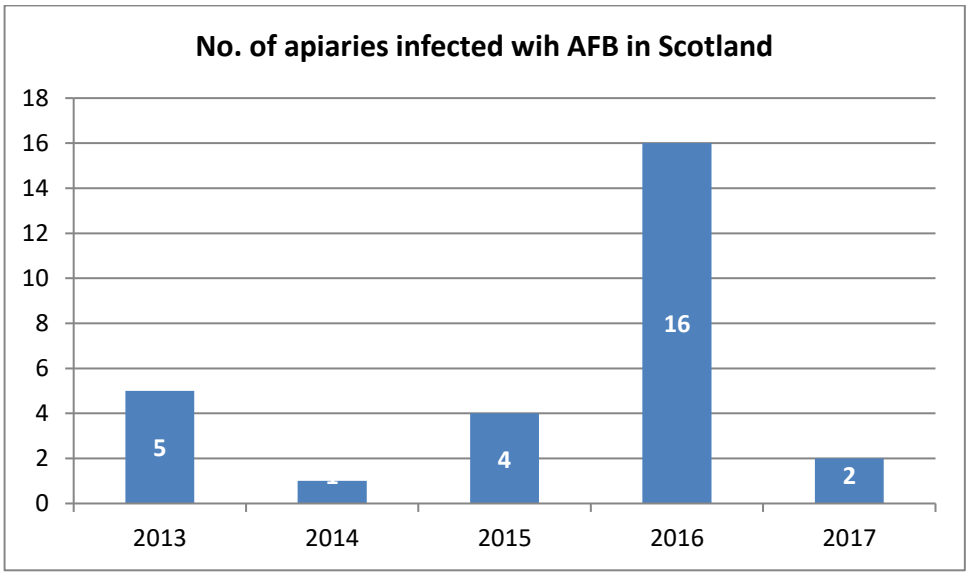
[37] scotland.gov.uk/Topics/farmingrural/Agriculture/animal-welfare/bee/News/surveillanceinscotland
[38] scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0042/00423971.pdf
[39] who have successfully completed a training event and have been authorised by the SG.

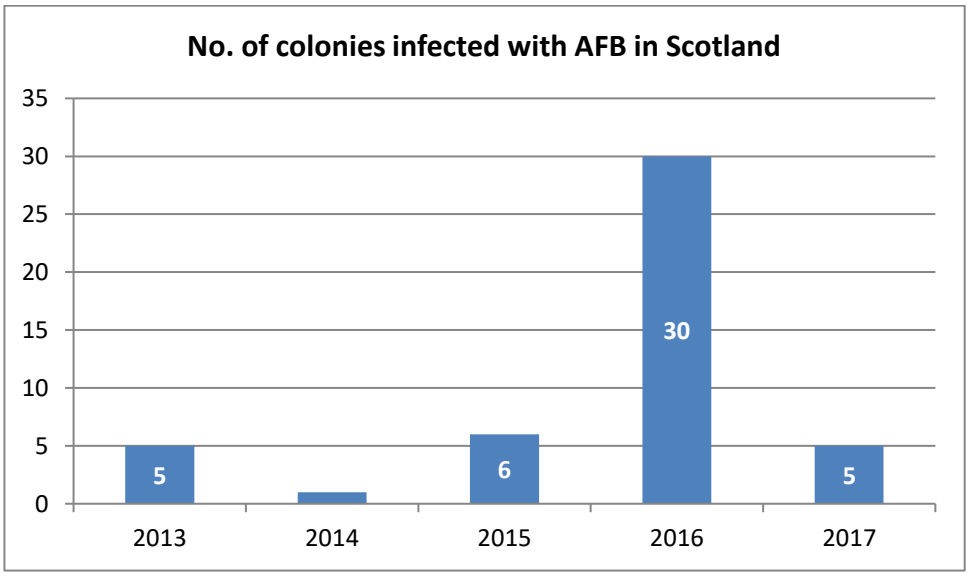

No. of apiaries inspected in Scotland
300
250
200
150
100
50
0
279
239
229
222
182
2013
2014
2015
2016
2017


No. of colonies inspected in Scotland
4500
4000
3500
3000
2500
2000
1500
1000
500
0
1723
2302
2791
3895
2295
2013
2014
2015
2016
2017


No. of colonies infected with EFB in Scotland
100
90
80
70
60
50
40
30
20
10
0
25
53
67
62
90
2013
2014
2015
2016
2017


No. of apiaries infected with EFB in Scotland
50
45
40
35
30
25
20
15
10
5
0
10
28
25
31
43
2013
2014
2015
2016
2017


No. of apiaries infected wih AFB in Scotland
18
16
14
12
10
8
6
4
2
0
5
4
16
2
2013
2014
2015
2016
2017


No. of colonies infected with AFB in Scotland
35
30
25
20
15
10
5
0
5
6
30
5
2013
2014
2015
2016
2017

NI[40]

2.239 The number of apiaries infected with AFB was similar to 2016, with 14 apiaries recorded with the disease. All infected colonies were destroyed and apiaries within a three mile radius listed for a foul brood inspection. EFB was found at one apiary with the infected colony destroyed. Follow-up inspections were completed to check the infected apiaries and complete surveillance inspections.

2.240 The Bee Inspectors continue to search for the exotic pests Small hive beetle and *Tropilaelaps mites,* mostly at targeted apiaries. Samples submitted have all remained negative for these pests. A Sentinel Apiary programme was set up in 2015 to support inspections and provide an early warning of any outbreaks of these pests in NI. Asian hornet has since been added to the Sentinel Apiary programme and beekeepers generally have been encouraged to monitor for this pest.

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

2.242 A total of 237 apiaries were inspected in NI by DAERA Bee Inspectors.

2.243 DAERA Bee Inspectorate has provided support to four UBKA Bee Health Road Shows explaining our Bee Health Inspection role in monitoring and controlling foulbrood diseases. Three practical demonstrations were held in conjunction with UBKA & INIB covering the inspection for and recognition of foulbrood by beekeepers in their colonies.

2.244 The Agri-Food & Biosciences Institute (AFBI) provides a diagnostic facility for bee diseases, which is available directly to beekeepers. AFBI staff have met with beekeeping association representatives to discuss the outbreak of American foulbrood and provided disease identification workshops, in particular at the Ulster Beekeepers Association Annual Conference. During discussions with beekeepers, the neonicotinoid controversy has also been raised. AFBI circulates a questionnaire to beekeepers with respect to overwintering losses. This data is subsequently provided to the CoLoss project, which produces loss maps for Europe. AFBI and DAERA are supportive of the 'All Ireland Pollinator Plan'.

Aquatic Animal Health

2.245 The planned official control programme on aquatic animal health was successfully completed and met the objectives and targets set out in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Defra and Cefas in England and Wales, Service Level Agreements established within Marine Scotland, and the MOU between DAERA and the Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute Fish Disease Unit (FDU)[41]. The successful completion of the official control programme supported the maintenance of approved zone status for the UK for

[40] dardni.gov.uk/index/animal-health-and-welfare/bees/bee-health.htm

[41] Responsible for the fish disease testing programme in NI.

a number of serious diseases of fish and shellfish and contributed to the protection of our high aquatic animal health status.

2.246 Compliance by aquaculture production businesses (APBs) remains good, reflecting the effectiveness of the inspection programmes, and the prompt and consistent actions taken in event of non-compliance.

2.247 The majority of non-compliances were administrative in nature and were dealt with through the provision of advice, warning letters, and enforcement notices followed by further inspections. These actions were generally sufficient to ensure good statutory compliance, with only infrequent need to take further action.

England and Wales

2.248 The intensity and the type of controls have remained consistent over the past five years. With regard to APBs, 298 fish farms and 79 shellfish farms were subject to routine compliance inspection, with an additional 244 unscheduled compliance inspections on fish and shellfish farms, and sites under statutory control due to the presence of a listed (notifiable) disease. A total of 219 samples from fish,18 samples from molluscan shellfish and 7 samples from crustaceans were submitted for diagnostic testing for listed diseases, new and emerging diseases and cause of mortality.

2.249 In addition, 179 official controls were undertaken relating to the application of disease controls on infected sites. The risk based import surveillance programme continued to be directed towards sources of live fish that have been demonstrated to be of higher risk in respect of the introduction of disease. Under the 2017 import surveillance programme a total of 48 samples were subject to diagnostic testing for listed diseases. A total of 9 statutory samples were taken from shellfish farms in relation to the *Oyster Herpesvirus* (OsHV-1 µvar)[42] surveillance programme, and in support of disease freedom status for *Marteilia refringens*, and in continuance of the control programme for *Bonamia ostreae*. Finally, 101 inspections were undertaken relating to the authorisation of 53 new APBs, and the de- authorisation of 29 businesses.

2.250 The Fish Health Inspectorate also registers low risk aquaculture production businesses such as managed fisheries. In 2017, 592 fisheries were registered resulting in a total figure of 10,523 registered fisheries in England and Wales. The FHI undertakes inspections and sampling for veterinary residues on fish farms on behalf of the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD). In 2017, 54 samples were obtained. In addition, the Cefas FHI completed 25 inspections on fish farms holding veterinary medicines mixing licences, again on behalf of the VMD.

2.251 Chronic mortalities in Pacific oysters *Crassostrea gigas* continue to affect shellfish farms in south-west England. The Fish Health Inspectorate and Cefas researchers have investigated several of these mortality events but have yet to establish the causative agent. Investigations by the FHI have shown the presence of *Vibrio aestuarianus* in some of the affected animals from the south-west shellfish farms. Certain strains of this bacteria are known to be

[42] Controlled through national measure in accordance with Commission Decision 2011/187/EU.

immunosuppressive and further work is planned on affected sites during the summer to establish the role of this species in the shellfish mortality events. Further evidence for the involvement of gram negative bacteria of the family Vibrionaceae as primary pathogens of shellfish is accumulating as unexplained mortality events in cultivated shellfish are investigated. The isolation and identification of pathogenic bacteria in shellfish is challenging due to the biological and environmental factors. The FHI has developed and will use a new method for investigating bacterial infections in shellfish through the sampling of haemolymph of moribund animals. This technique has greatly improved the potential to isolate *Vibrio* spp. from shellfish and so will contribute to the identification of cause of mortality in shellfish.

2.252 Crayfish plague, an infection caused by the fungal pathogen *Aphanomyces astaci* is a major factor in the decline of the native white clawed crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes* in England. Whilst over recent years, measures put in place to control the disease, have slowed the spread of infection. In 2017 there were no new outbreaks of crayfish plague in free river catchments.

2.253 As far as unplanned activities are concerned, koi herpesvirus (KHV) disease continues to cause significant mortalities in carp fisheries in England. The total number of managed fisheries experiencing outbreaks of KHV disease in 2017 was 23[47]. Whilst this represents a reduction in comparison with 33 outbreaks in 2016, it is significantly above the average figure of 14 outbreaks per year since the disease was made notifiable in 2007. Environmental conditions, notably ambient water temperatures appear to be the predisposing factor in the length and severity of KHV disease outbreaks in GB. Following an epidemiological study of KHV disease outbreaks since the disease was made notifiable, Defra reduced the length of time the restrictions placed on infected waters post disease outbreak from four years to 18 months. This change in the control programme reflects evidence that indicates that the risk of the transfer of infection is considered very low after overwintering followed by a summer period, when water temperatures are such that clinical disease would occur should infection be present. Infected sites will be subject to disease surveillance whilst under confirmed designation, with the statutory controls removed after 18 months should there be no evidence for the continued presence of the disease. As a result of this change in policy, statutory controls were removed from 98 managed fisheries. The fish farming sector remains free from KHV disease whilst outbreaks in the ornamental fish sector are few with 2 reported in 2017.[43]

2.254 This decline in the incidence of infection over recent years may be due to improved levels of awareness and enhanced biosecurity in the fish farming and ornamental wholesale sectors.

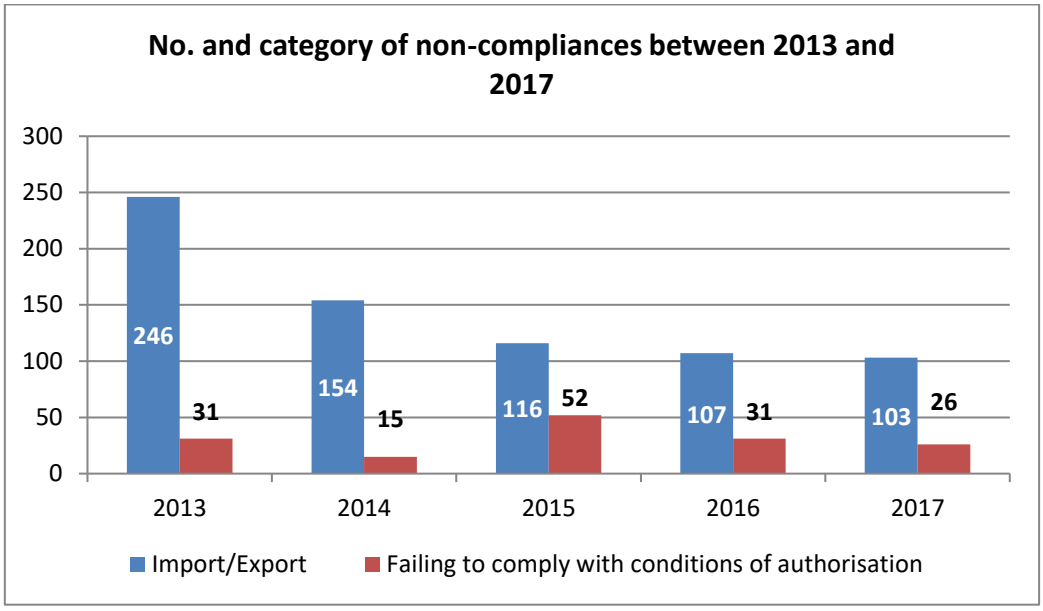
2.255 Spring viraemia of carp (SVC) has been listed as a notifiable disease of fish since 1973, initially as infectious dropsy of cyprinids in any of its forms including spring viraemia and in 1984, redefined as SVC, a listed disease in its own right. The UK experienced sporadic outbreaks of SVC over a number of years which were controlled through the application of statutory disease control measures. During the period 2006-2010 a comprehensive

[43] 33 outbreaks in 2016, 11 outbreaks in 2015, 23 outbreaks in 2014, 15 outbreaks in 2013, 6 outbreaks in 2012 and 6 outbreaks in 2011.

surveillance and eradication programme was completed, following which Great Britain obtained recognised freedom from SVC. With the exception of a single outbreak in a fishery in Northamptonshire in 2011 which was eradicated, there have been no other instances of this disease in GB. However, in April 2017 following reports of mortalities in a number of fish species at a managed coarse fishery in Warwickshire, disease investigations confirmed the presence of SVC. Genotyping of the isolate showed that the virus was of European origin. The fishery comprises of a complex of six waters. A Confirmed Designation was placed on the fishery, and the fish were culled from the infected water which was then drained and disinfected. The fishery will be subject to statutory disease controls for a minimum of four years until the site can be demonstrated as free from infection. An epidemiological study into the source of infection was undertaken but proved inconclusive.

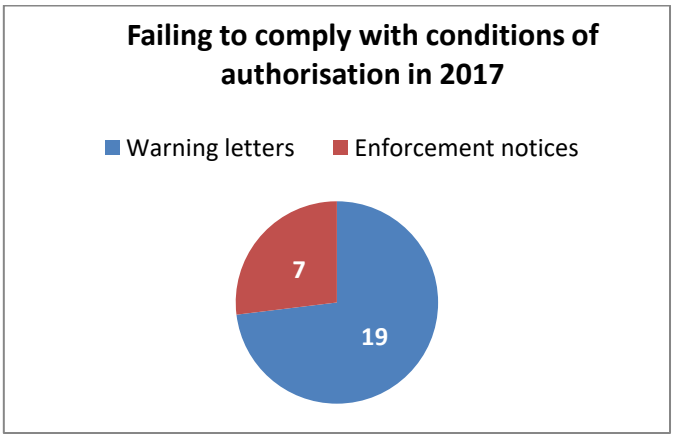
2.256 Sea lice infestations in marine Atlantic salmon farming continue to present economic, environmental and animal welfare challenges to the sector. The paucity of effective therapeutic treatments has resulted in a resurgence of interest in cleaner fish as a biological control mechanism. The main species used are farmed and wild lumpsucker *Cyclopterus lumpus* and various species of wild caught wrasse of the family *Labridae*. Considerable numbers of cleaner fish are in demand by salmon farms resulting in the emergence of a new aquaculture sector cultivating these species in England and Wales.

2.357 The exploitation of wild caught wrasse for use as biological controls against sea lice infestations has continued to cause concern to a number of stakeholder groups. Aquatic animal health legislation regards wild caught fish destined for use for farming purposes as aquaculture animals, and as such, once the fish are introduced into holding facilities they are subject to regulation. During the past year the FHI has authorised 15 wrasse holding facilities as aquaculture production businesses (APB's) and continue to engage with the fishing sector to ensure that all of those involved are authorised. As such they will be required to comply with conditions of authorisation, including the keeping of movement and mortality records and will be subject to regular aquatic animal health inspections. In addition, transporters of fish are also required to be authorised and are subject to inspections for aquatic animal health and welfare purposes.



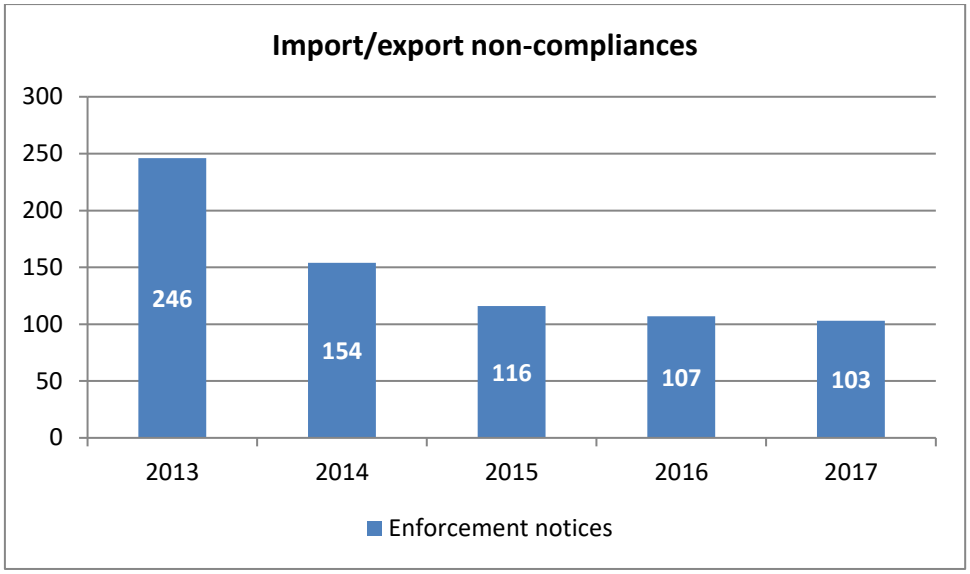
2.258 The number of warning letters (19) served on APB's in 2017 was the same as 2016 (19 in total), although the number of enforcement notices declined to 7 (including 1 second enforcement notice). As was the case in the previous year 12 minor issues were resolved through the provision of written advice. The Cefas FHI has continued to improve engagement with the fisheries sector resulting in a significant increase in the flow of intelligence from other government agencies and from stakeholders about failures to comply with statutory requirements. As a consequence, the Cefas FHI has maintained a programme of unannounced visits to sites under confirmed designation which have identified a number of non-compliances.

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



2.260 As far as trade is concerned import and export activities remained high with the FHI issuing 373 health certificates for the export of aquatic animals from England and Wales. This is a very slight increase in the number of health certificates issued in 2016. Trade in live shellfish exports has continued to be buoyant. Non-compliances, all relating to the import of aquatic animals, have continued to show a decrease over recent years from 246 in 2013, 154 in

2014, to 116 in 2015, 107 in 2016, and 103 in 2017.



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

2.262 The aquatic animal health surveillance programme on imports of live aquatic animals from third countries has continued to provide an important measure in preventing the introduction of serious diseases into the UK. The 2017 risk based import surveillance programme found no evidence for the presence of listed diseases in imported consignments of live fish.

2.263 The FHI initiative to continue with a high level of engagement with trade bodies and with businesses importing live fish has resulted in improved levels of compliance, with less than half the number of enforcement notices issued in 2017 as compared with 2013.

2.264 Illegal importation of live freshwater fish represents the biggest risk to the aquatic animal health status of England and Wales. In 2017, the FHI continued to implement a proactive approach to illegal importation and undertook a number of intelligence-led interceptions of consignments of fish, including a successful joint operation with UK Border Force that disrupted the illegal trade in the export of live juvenile eels (elvers). The FHI works in accordance with the National Intelligence Model (NIM) and has introduced a database for the storage and analysis of intelligence. This has resulted in improved intelligence exchanges with other regulatory bodies, and facilitated better cooperation with other Government Agencies such as BF in the investigation of illegal activities.

2.265 During 2012-16 no businesses were closed as a result of actions arising from official controls.

Scotland

2.266 In accordance with the Risk Based Surveillance scheme[44], 160 inspections relating to fish farms and 81 inspections relating to shellfish farms were conducted in 2017. Two statutory inspections and three statutory samples were taken to determine the presence of Bacterial Kidney Disease (BKD)[45] . One statutory sample was also conducted to rule out the presence of Oyster Herpes Virus (OsHV-1). Throughout the inspection process a total of 7 unannounced inspections were conducted.

2.267 A total of 50 diagnostic samples were taken from fish and shellfish in response to notifications of mortality, suspicion of disease, or through routine active inspection involving the observation of clinical and post mortem signs of disease. Further details are available through published case information here.

2.268 Through a contractual arrangement with the VMD a total of 1,458 samples were collected from finfish aquaculture sites. These samples were submitted to the Fera Science Limited for analysis with respect to residues of chemotherapeutants or environmental contamination. No positive results were obtained from the samples examined. In addition, 10 inspections were conducted at fish farm sites approved by the VMD as 'manufacturers of medicated feedingstuffs intended for feeding to their own fish'. All facilities inspected demonstrated good compliance with ≤6 minor deficiencies.

2.269 Document checks associated with consignments of live aquatic animals introduced into Scotland from neighbouring EU countries were conducted for 267 introductions. Ten notifications to import stock from third countries into Scotland were received. Inspection of all consignments for placing on the market along with the issuing of appropriate animal health certificates was conducted in 63 cases to facilitate trade.

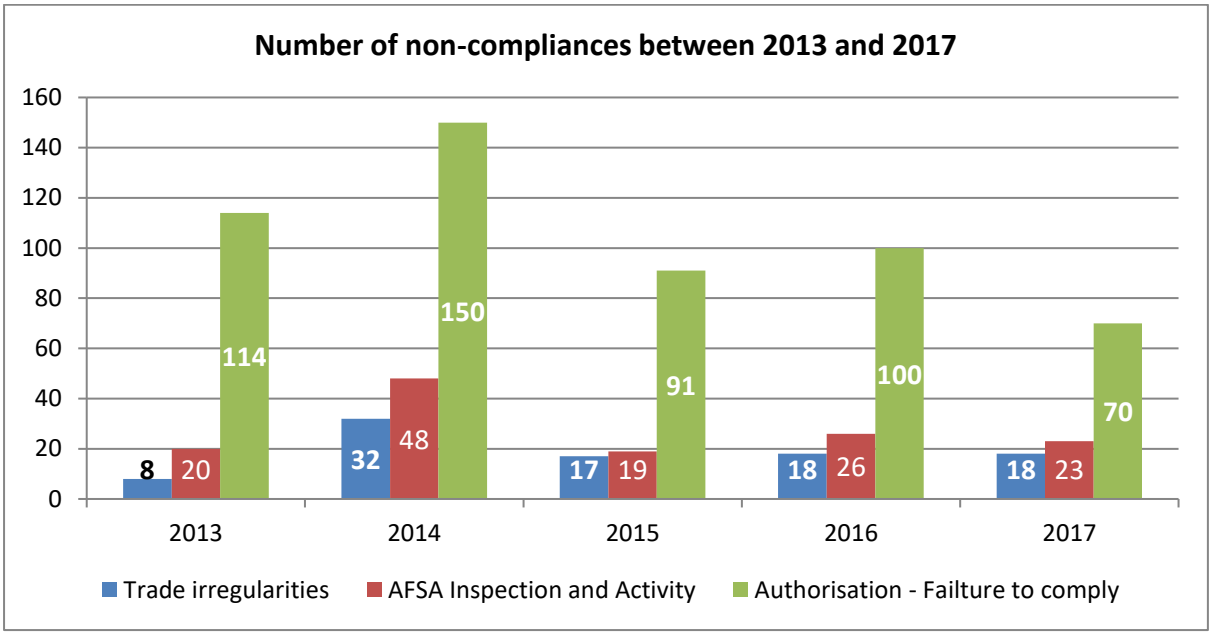
2.270 16 inspections were conducted of consignments introduced into Scotland.

2.271 At the beginning of 2017, five fish farm sites had movement restrictions in place for bacterial kidney disease (BKD[46]). During the year, two of these sites harvested out all stocks, cleaned, disinfected and fallowed, resulting in the withdrawal of restrictions. No other movement restrictions were placed during 2017. The existing BKD policy, introduced in 2011, is one of a domestic control programme applied across the Great Britain health zone and is aimed at controlling clinical disease. Control measures are only placed where the presence of clinical disease is confirmed.

2.272 Movement restrictions for *Bonamia ostreae*[47] remained in place in two sea water lochs in Scotland, as they have been since 2006 and 2007.

[44] Conducted in line with Council Directive 2006/88/EC.
[45] Listed in accordance with The Aquatic Animal Health (Scotland) Regulations 2009.
[46] Listed in accordance with 2006/88/EC.
[47] Listed in accordance with 2006/88/EC.

2.273 The aquaculture sector in Scotland shows a significant level of compliance with legislation to control aquatic animal disease. This is evidenced by the number of instances of non-compliance compared to the number of active sites[48] and the fact that the majority of non-compliances are not considered significant in relation to the risk of contracting or spreading serious aquatic animal disease.



Details of outcomes of the non-compliances found in Scotland during 2017

Trade irregularities	18	All cases resolved through advice or actions taken e.g. re-issuing of missing or accurate certificates. Where relevant, advice was given to importers and assurances sought from CA in exporting country.
Inspection and activity associated with the Aquaculture and Fisheries (Scotland) Act 2007 & 2013	23	Six cases relate to AFSA enhanced inspections - all issues raised were addressed either during the site visit or through follow up recommendations. Four cases relate to farm management statements or agreements - all resolved via receipt of appropriate information. As a consequence of the revised policy, in relation to satisfactory measures to control sea lice, 12 warning letters and 1 enforcement notice (EN) were issued. The conditions of the EN were met and no further action was required to be taken.
Failing to comply with authorisation conditions	70	Two cases relating to authorisation included 1) a failure to notify of an ownership change and 2) a failure to notify of a change to the species stocked. 68 cases related to anomalies concerning record keeping requirements.

[48] There are presently over 700 active fish and shellfish sites in Scotland.

2.274 The main types of non-compliance were administrative in nature, most notably relating to 'failing to comply with authorisation conditions' and relate directly to the maintenance of site records and record keeping. Compliance levels for 2017 are equivalent to those for 2016[49].

2.275 Risk based enhanced inspections continued to be conducted in accordance with AFSA[50] during 2017. Analysis of the number of inspections in comparison to the number of non-compliances suggests a slight decrease in the level of compliance during 2017[51], although this analysis has not been statistically tested.

2.276 During 2017, Marine Scotland's policy was revised with respect to satisfactory measures for the control of sea lice. This policy now includes additional reporting requirements for specified average of sea lice levels on farmed fish, as well as explicit action plans to reduce and control sea lice levels.

2.277 The level of compliance with respect to trade irregularities in 2017 was equivalent to the level observed during 2016. It should be noted that a significant increase in export trade of shellfish occurred in 2017.

2.278 During 2013-17 no businesses were closed as a result of actions arising from official controls.

NI

2.279 The intensity and the type of controls have remained relatively consistent over the past five years and, given the relatively small number of farms[52] and close geographical location in NI, all operational farms are inspected annually.

2.280 With regard to APBs, 25 fish farms and 34 shellfish farms were subject to compliance inspections. In addition, a total of 10 samples from finfish farms, 20 samples from shellfish sites and eight samples from wild freshwater sites were submitted for diagnostic testing for listed diseases, new and emerging diseases and causes of mortality. Inspections were also carried out on 364 exports and 126 imports for fish health purposes.

2.281 Seed mussel imports from England, Wales, and the Republic of Ireland continued in 2017 as in previous years. Consignments of half-grown mussel from rope grown sites in Scotland and the South of Ireland were also imported in 2017. Consignments were all moved with the appropriate Health Certification in order to maintain traceability of seed movements and provide reassurance around movement of non- mussel species onto NI sites.

[49] 2016 = 357 visits with 100 cases of non-compliance (28% non-compliance); 2017 = 254 visits with 70 cases of non-compliance (28% non-compliance).

[50] Aquaculture and Fisheries (Scotland) Act 2007 (as amended).

[51] 2013 - 20 cases of non- compliance from 30 inspections = 67% non-compliance; 2014 - 48 cases of non-compliance from 58 inspections = 83% non- compliance; 2015 – 19 cases of non-compliance from 38 inspections = 50% non-compliance; 2016 – 8 cases of non-compliance from 21 inspections = 38% non-compliance; 2017 – 10 cases of non-compliance from 22 inspections = 45% non-compliance.

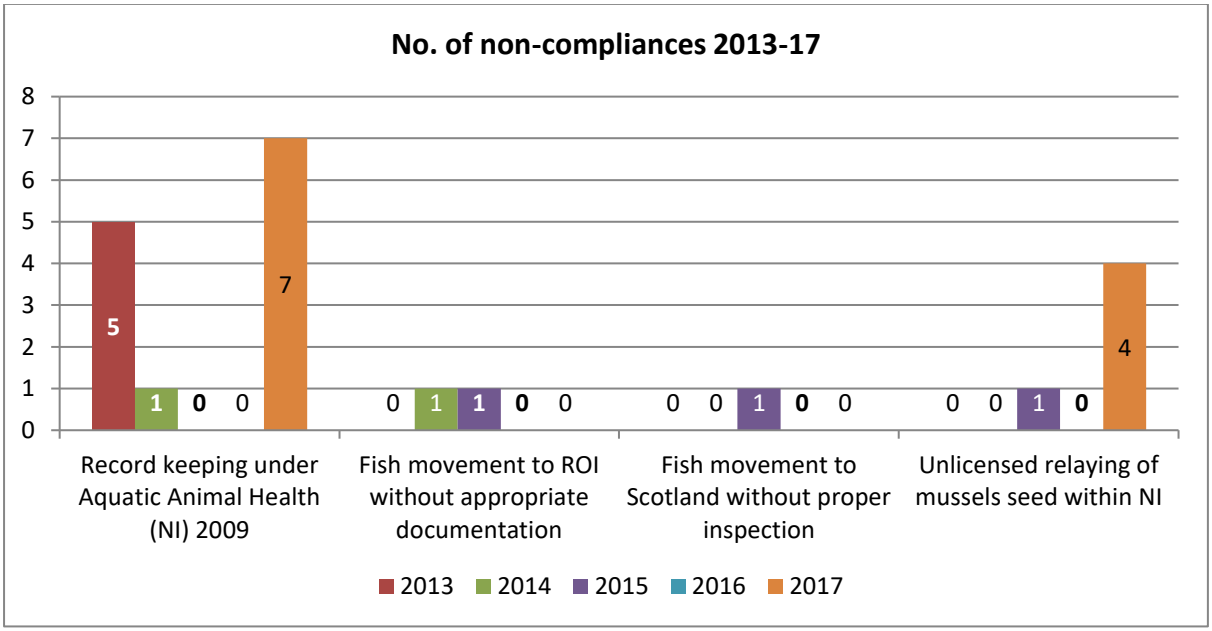
[52] 32 authorised finfish farms and 54 authorised shellfish sites.

2.282 In 2017, as part of DAERA's routine disease surveillance programme, the presence of *Marteilia refringens* was detected in Blue Mussels in two areas of NI, Dundrum Bay and Belfast Lough. There were no reported mortalities or clinical signs of disease associated with either event. Following confirmation of the disease, Confirmed Designation Notices placing movement restrictions for mussel consignments leaving both areas, were put in place.

2.283 DAERA continued the annual sampling and testing for oyster herpesvirus microvariant (OsHV-1 µvar) in Pacific oysters in Larne Lough, the only remaining area in NI within the Surveillance Programme. Results from routine testing carried out in August 2017 were negative. However, following a report of increased mortalities in stock, further samples taken in September 2017 confirmed the presence of this disease. A Confirmed Designation was put in place, adding to the Confirmed Designations already in place in the other four main farming areas, Carlingford Lough, Strangford Lough, Lough Foyle and Killough Bay.

2.284 Confirmed Designation Notices remain in place for *Bonamia ostreae* in Strangford Lough and Lough Foyle (for OsHV).[53]

2.285 Compliance across the aquatic animal health sector in NI is high with a good working relationship and communications between the FHI and APB operators.



2.286 The total number of non-compliances increased significantly in 2017. These non-compliances related to mainly to site maintenance and record keeping. These were dealt with through provision of recommendations and guidance to Operators.

[53] https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/designation-notices-northern-ireland

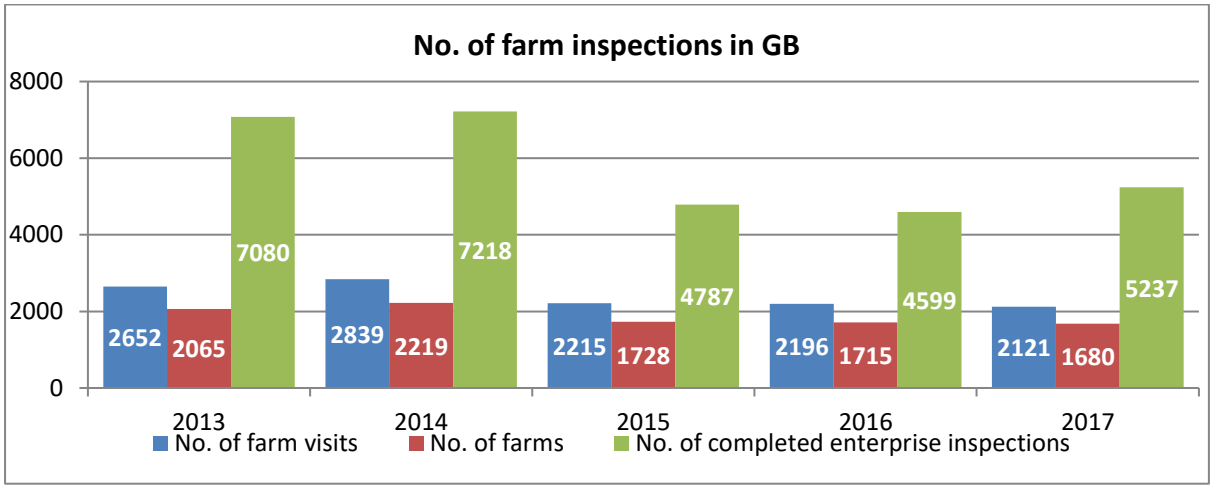
Official controls in animal welfare sector

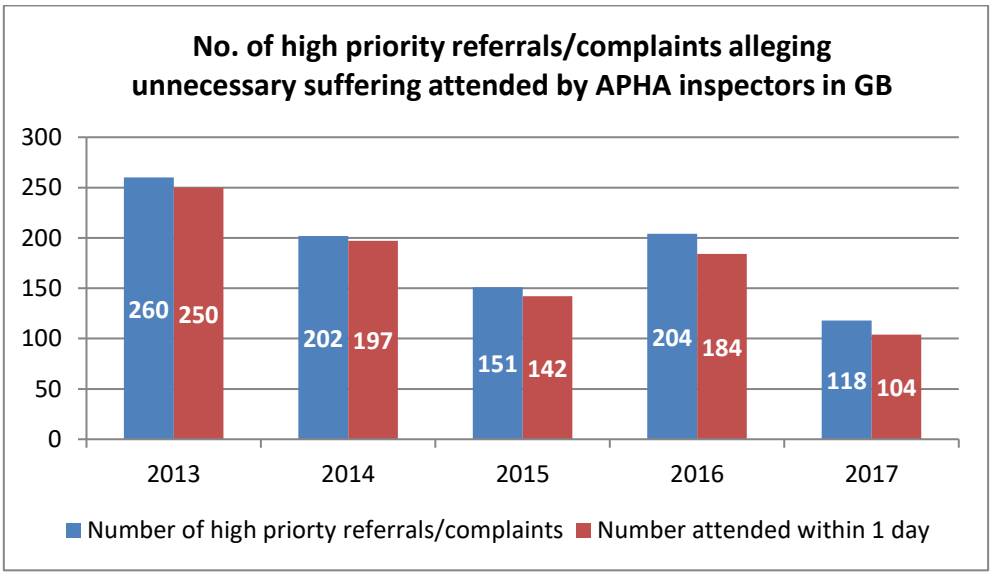
2.287 There were some organisational changes to the operation of official animal welfare controls during 2017. Most controls remained the responsibility of APHA and LAs in GB and DAERA in NI. Defra, the SG and WG continued to delegate the responsibility for animal welfare controls in approved slaughterhouses in England to the FSA and in Scotland to FSS. Welfare at slaughter and killing on-farm e.g. in LA approved slaughterhouses and during disease control situations, continued to be monitored by APHA. APHA are also responsible for following up reports from OVs at approved slaughterhouses of welfare incidents that appear to have arisen on-farm. LAs are responsible for following up reports of incidents that appear to have arisen during transportation of animals. DAERA performed similar functions.

2.288 A centralised FSA referrals process for England and Wales for all non-urgent welfare issues (where animal welfare was not immediately at risk) was introduced in May 2017 in order to improve intelligence gathering and sharing between enforcement partners. All information on referrals for welfare in transport cases, such as late pregnancy, dead on arrivals and poultry catching issues were collated for APHA's welfare in transport (WIT team) to have national oversight and action as appropriate; this was in addition to referral to the relevant LA for investigation and appropriate action. All other FSA referrals suggesting on farm welfare issues or a combined farm/transport issue were triaged by the central APHA administration team and further action and investigation by both APHA and LAs were guided at central level by a dedicated central vet team. It is hoped this system will ensure more consistent enforcement and that it will better support feedback mechanisms to the FSA as any resulting action / enforcement occurs. A similar system will be introduced in 2018 for FSS and Scotland.

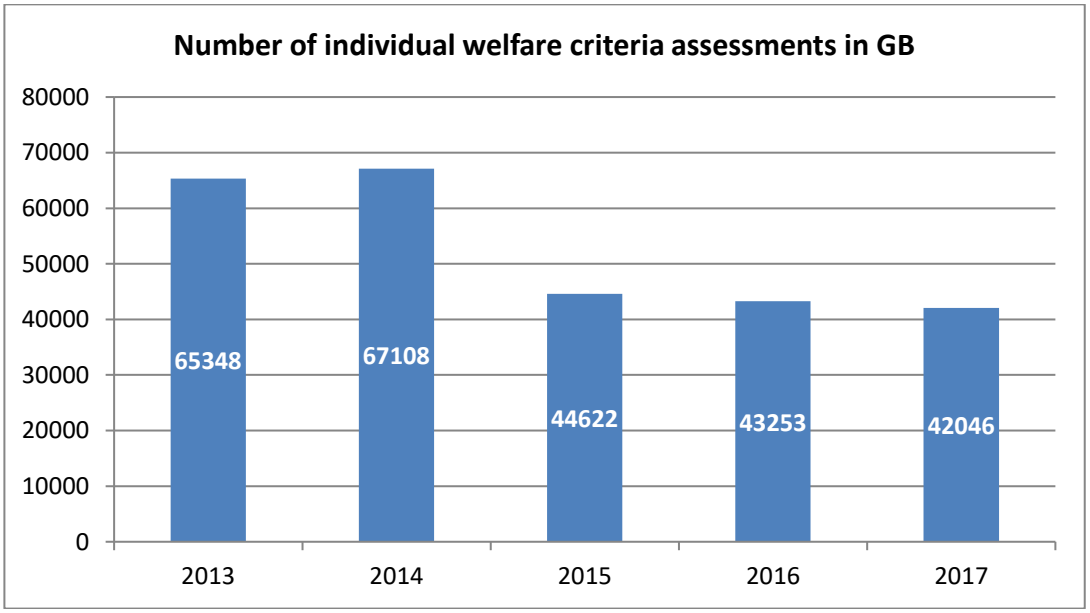
On-farm animal welfare

2.289 In 2017 the total number of farm visits dropped slightly compared to 2016 and 2015, however enterprise visits increased. This is reflected in the number of enterprise types inspected at each visit (for example different species or different production systems) increasing from 2.1 (in 2016) to 2.5 enterprises per visit in 2017. The number of repeat visits in 2017 (to a farm inspected the same year) comprised 21% of all visits, a slight increase compared with 2016.





2.290 All complaints and allegations of poor welfare are risk assessed by a veterinary officer and high priority visits carried out as a matter of urgency. As the graph above shows, in 2017, 118 of the total number of referrals and complaints were assessed as high priority of which 104 (88%) were visited within 24 hours of receipt of the complaint.



2.291 The number of individual welfare criteria assessments dropped again in 2017, this suggests that less criteria were assessed at every enterprise assessment, since enterprise assessments had increased compared with 2016. In 2016, the level of compliance on farms in GB was similar to that recorded in previous years and overall, 94.9% of category assessments indicated compliance with relevant European and domestic

Welfare non-compliance only (C score) in GB

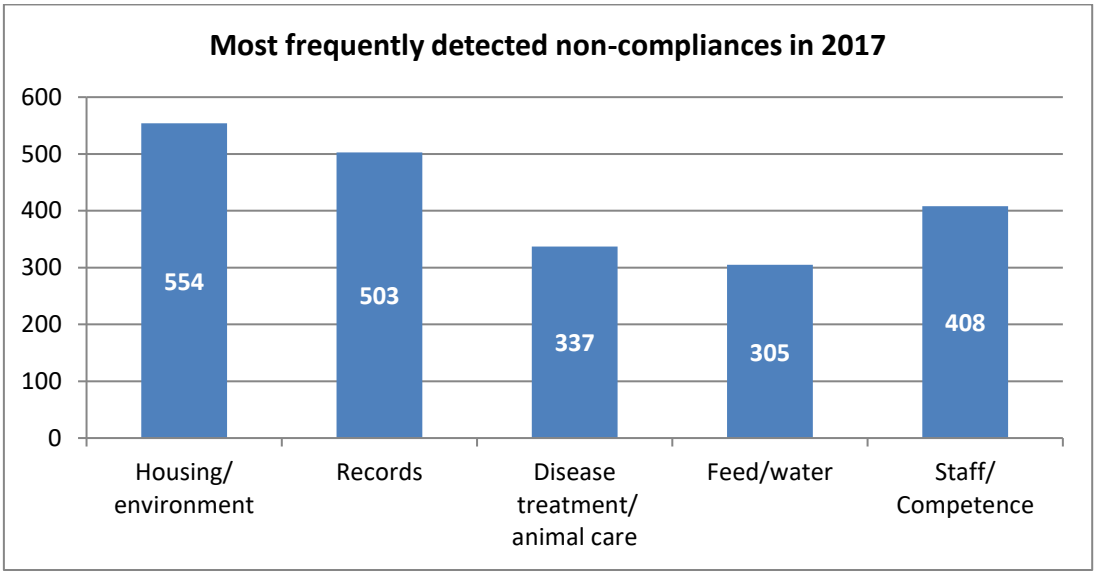
Year	Number of non-compliances per 1,000 assessments	Number of enterprises (% of total inspected) with overall C score	Advisory letters issued
2013	40	1,065 (15%)	266
2014	36	1,062 (15%)	237
2015	37	732 (15%)	205
2016	43	798 (17%)	194
2017	48	899 (20%)	189

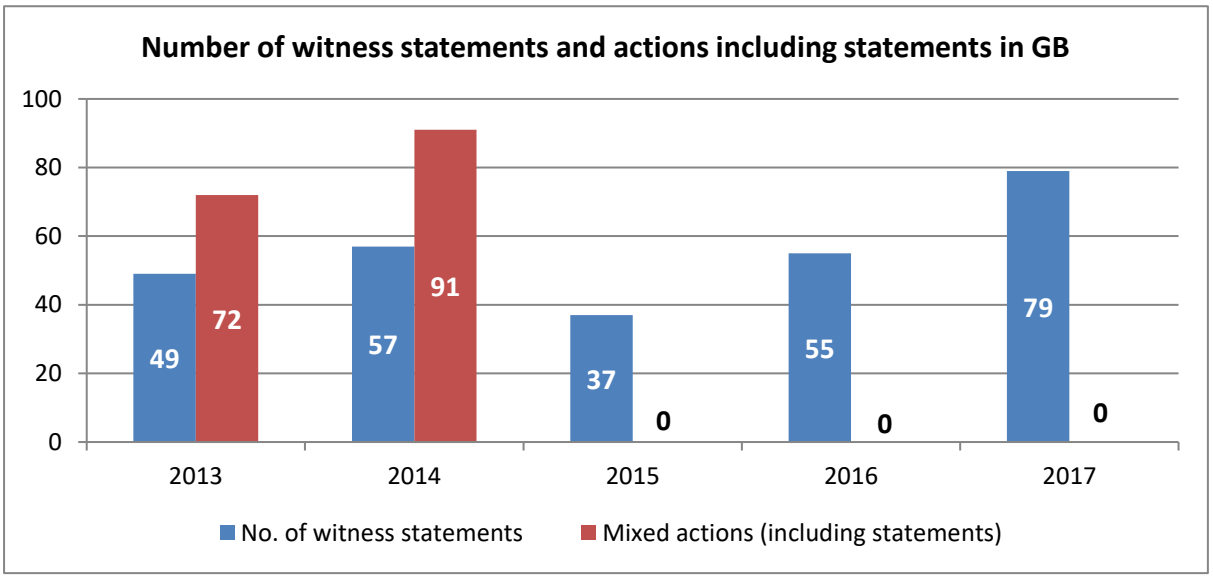
Welfare non-compliance with unnecessary suffering (D score) in GB

Year	Unnecessary suffering found per 1,000 assessments	Number of enterprises (% of total inspected) with overall D score	Average number of days to clear D score
2013	9	308 (4.4%)	12.9
2014	7	215 (2.9%)	16.2
2015	6	158 (3.3%)	15.1
2016	6	154 (3.3%	14.2
2017	8	186 (4.1%)	Not available

2.292 The results of inspection visits are classified into four score categories - A to D. The overall level of non-compliance (C scores) and the level of unnecessary suffering (D scores) are increased compared with 2016.

2.293 As in previous years, the welfare criteria with the most non-compliances related to housing and environment, record keeping, disease treatment, provision of feed, water and other substances, and staff competence/skills. However, there was a 50% increase in non-compliances reported for staffing/ competence suggesting increased poor stockmanship at farm level being detected.



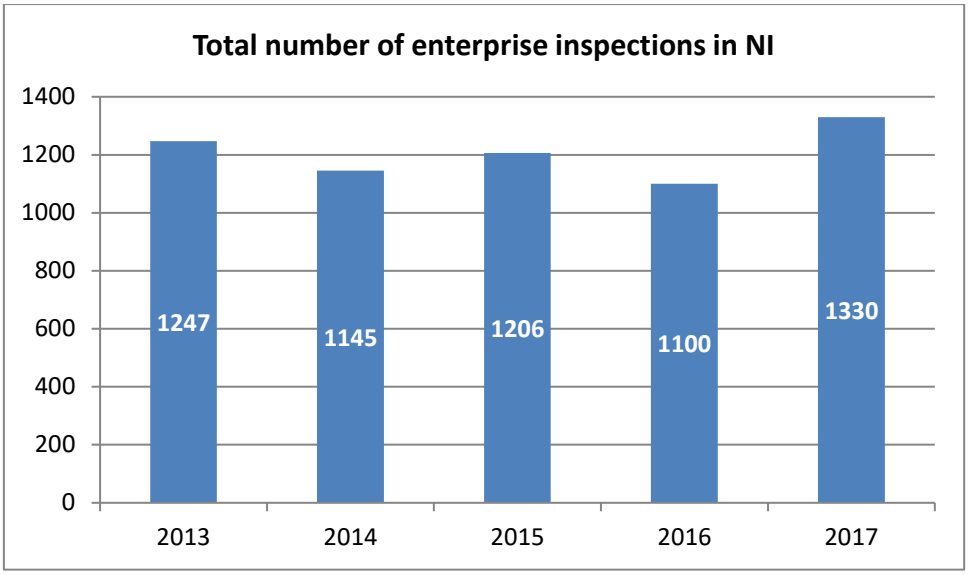


*Please note that from 2015 any statement produced in association with a farm inspection is captured individually and a "mixed action" is no longer required in the database recording / reporting process

2.294 During 2017, APHA provided witness statements in association with 79 farms to enforcement bodies such as LAs and to Non-Governmental Organisations such as the Scottish Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (for Scotland) and the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (for England & Wales) in support of legal action. Additional statements provided for some farms, either in association with the same offences or additional offences, during the same inspection year are not included. This is an increase on 2016 by 50%, suggesting increased formal enforcement action.

2.295 In 2017 DAERA completed 1,330 production site inspections with an overall compliance rate of 94%. Of the 127 non-compliances reported on 74 sites detected by DAERA, 35% of these non-compliances were category C breaches (as described by Commission Decision 2006/778/EC). The most common failures related to inspection, record keeping, staffing, provision of feed and water, and buildings and accommodation hazards. In NI, any farm animal non-compliances found are referred to the Area Based Schemes

Payment Agency and an IN or cover letter served.



Year	Compliance rate at enterprise inspection level	Number of non-assessment level	Number of sites with non-compliances	% of non-compliant sites with category C[81] non-compliance
2014	95%	3	70	30.8%
2015	91%	-	112	56.2%
2016	90%	-	105	23%
2017	94%	-	74	14%

Meat Chicken Directive

2.296 GB has implemented the Meat Chicken Directive (2007/43/EC) through the Welfare of Farmed Animals Regulations[54]. The meat chicken directive is implemented in NI by the Welfare of Farmed Animals Regulations (NI) 2012. APHA, FSA Operations and FSS deliver a system for all eligible flocks resulting in all trigger reports generated being assessed for further action. All farmers are communicated their trigger report results by the FSA/FSS and requested to take action on these as required by the Directive.

2.297 In GB, data collected from the previous year (2016) were used to target farm inspections in 2017 using a ranking process developed in 2015 and initially trialled at the end of 2016 inspection year – using a combination of all-flock cumulative daily mortality rates and total rejections (excluding mechanical process related) to produce a list of the farms to be investigated further. The top 55 ranked farms were investigated and evaluated regarding further action. Meetings were also held with individual companies when multiple sites under the same ownership had been identified for further investigation. Full checks and verifications were carried out on selected farms from the ranked list following an evaluation of the previous year's and ongoing (2017) data just

[54] WOFAR legislation amendments available at:
England: The Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2010
Scotland: The Welfare of Farmed Animals (Scotland) Regulations 2010
Wales: The Welfare of Farmed Animals (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2010

prior to visits being carried out.

2.298 Note that all trigger reports continued to be sent direct to the producer from the FSA and FSS at the time they are generated. This was accompanied by a letter outlining expected action by the producer to investigate and take appropriate action to improve welfare on farm. Further, cross compliance inspection selections and complaints generated inspections to meat chicken farms that are additional to those selected under the trigger report ranking process.

2.299 In the table (below) there were 3,727 trigger reports generated from batches and full flocks; note data in 2016 was erroneous due to loss of data at CA level, although all farms did receive notification at the time.

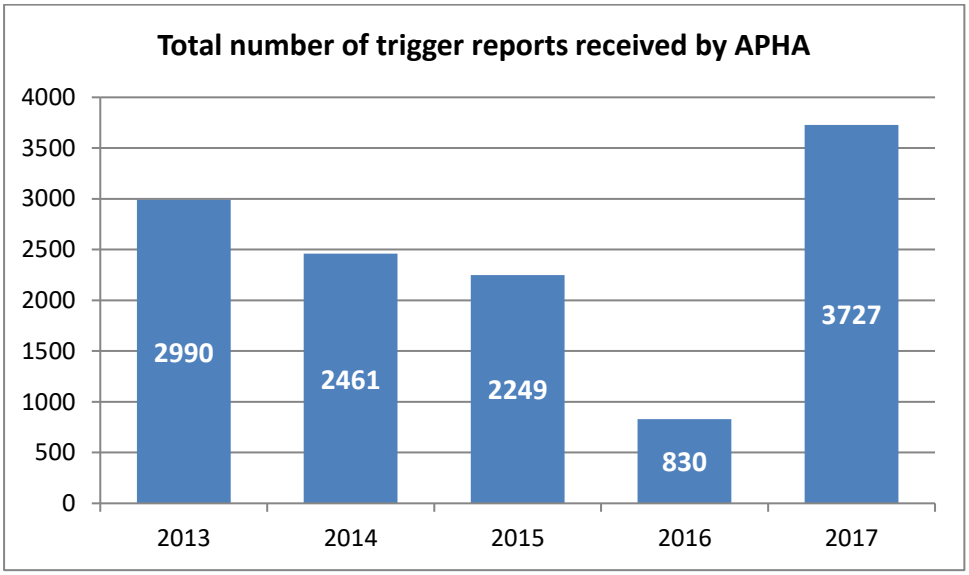


Table: Actions taken in NI and GB during 2017

Action by CA on meat chicken welfare	2016 Number (%)	2017 Number (%)
Farmer notified in writing and requested to take action	2,946 (100)	3,763 (100)
Telephone discussion	296 (10)	25 (0.6)
Action plan received	41 (1.4)	11 (0.3)
Inspection based on historical data to target highest risk farms (from previous year)	5 (0.2)	15 (0.4)
Inspections associated with complaints, referrals or other inspections (e.g. cross compliance, exception report or trigger reports from slaughterhouse)	20 (0.7)	20 (0.5)
Total inspections checked for compliance with 2007/43/EC	25 (0.8)	35 (0.9)
Farms sent warning letters/prosecutions/other further enforcement measures in respect to non-compliances detected at inspection	4 (0.1)	2 (0.05)

2.300 The table below details outcomes from the 35 inspections of meat chicken farms carried out under 2007/43/EC in 2016. This does not include repeat inspections to the same farm. One farm required 3 inspections to bring it into compliance.

Results of combined APHA and DAERA Inspections of meat chicken holdings under 2007/43/EC

Meat chicken inspections 2017	2016 Total (%)	2017 Complaint or targeted	2017 Cross compliance	2017 Trigger Ranked	2017 Total (%)
Number inspected	25	18	2	15	35
compliance with code and legislation	9 (36)	14	1	14	29 (83)
compliance legislation, but not code	12 (48)	3	1	0	4 (11)
non-compliance with legislation, unnecessary suffering not detected	13 (12)	0	0	1	1 (3)
non-compliance with legislation, unnecessary suffering detected	1 (4)	1	0	0	1 (3)

2.301 Actions taken by primary producers resulting in an end to trigger reports being generated included:

- Producer ceased business or sold business.
- Management change, for example, a change in bird strain, a reduction in stocking density from 38kg/m2 to 30kg/m2, producing slower growing birds kept in higher welfare conditions (windows, bales, perches) or stopping thinning (primary depletion).
- Improvements to existing accommodation or new accommodation installed.

2.302 Actions taken by parent companies in 2017 included:

- Terminating contracts with producers with persistently high trigger reports (this explains some of APHA's finding with the highest ranked farms for 2016 that were no longer rearing birds in 2017).
- Changing contracts with producers to try different birds or rearing methods (such as higher welfare / reduced stocking density) where trigger levels could not be otherwise reduced in certain buildings or on certain sites.
- Stopping thinning and reducing stocking density on a number of sites (to meet new retailer contract requirements and reduce risks of *Campylobacter*, but this is also associated with reducing stress in chickens and lower trigger levels).
- Changes to the way vaccines and competitive exclusion products (by gel rather than mist) are administered to day old chicks so the risk of chilling and early death on farm was reduced.
- Proactive monitoring of specific post mortem conditions and reacting to these on a company-wide basis. One example flagged issues with high

numbers of joint lesions in late 2016/ early 2017. The company, APHA and the FSA worked together to establish the cause and investigate whether this was happening in other slaughterhouses / for different birds strains / different companies. Co-operative communication, without revealing sensitive company information, finally traced the issues back to a specific hatchery and the issue was resolved.

- Trialling of *E.coli* vaccination to try and reduce joint lesions and dermatitis and to control late crop mortality associated with *E.coli* infections and factory rejects.

- Placing farms onto Health Performance and Improvement plans (HPIP) where performance issues have been raised.

- Additional management changes including: deep clean programs with farms empty for minimum 10 day to allow two instances of disinfection and formalin fog, IBD vaccination audits, routine use of competitive exclusion products, use of electrolytes for dehydration, water line flushing for the first 10 days.

- Vitamin D supplementation with in birds affected by lameness associated with skeletal development.

- Water acidification to promote intestinal health and improve leg cull numbers.

2.303 For GB, this new approach of sending a letter directly requesting farmers to take action on their trigger reports, in conjunction with seeking private veterinary advice / consultation with parent company managers appeared to have a positive effect on timely actions in response to trigger reports. Combining targeted CA farm inspections and engagement with parent companies at a senior management level appeared also to ensure appropriate and timely action was taken. The main company producing meat chicken in NI presented at a BTSF training event on meat chickens in 2017 and demonstrated the ways in which it had responded positively and saw value in the trigger report system.

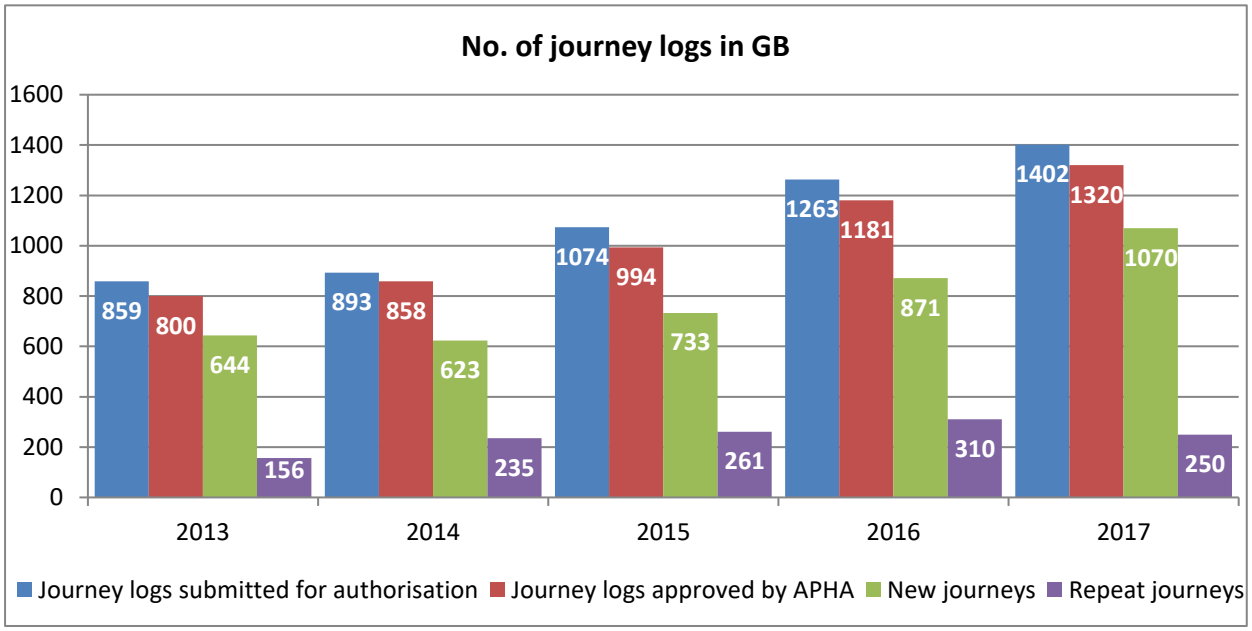
Animal welfare during transport

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

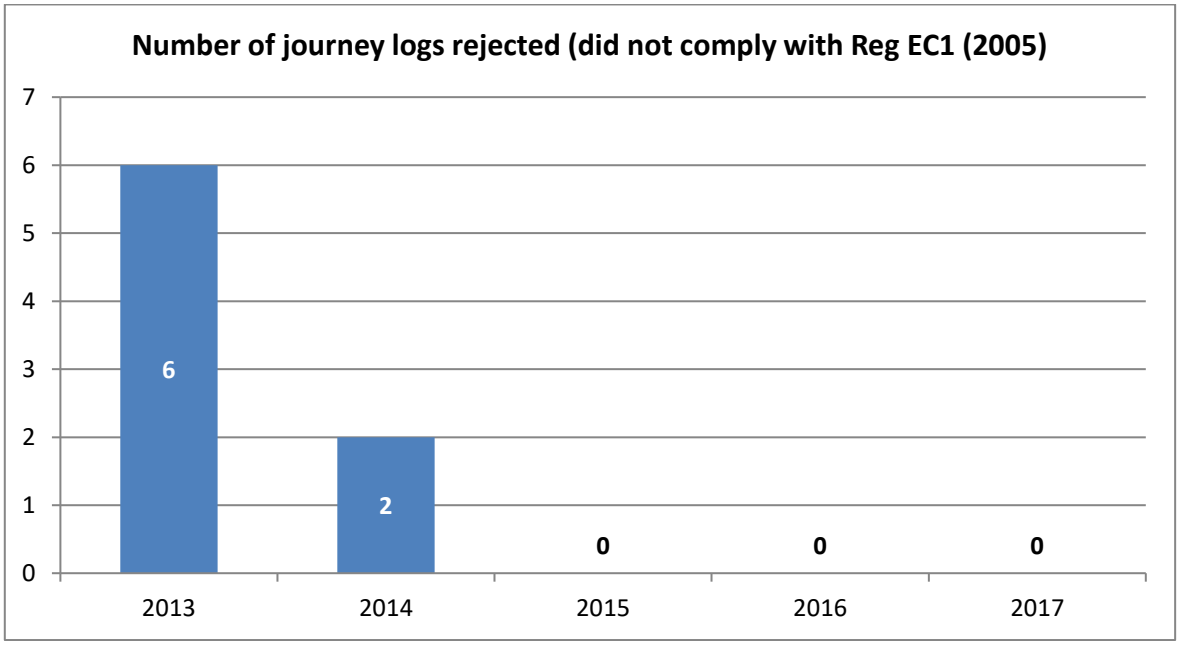
Number of Transporter authorisations in GB

Year	New Applications	New Authorised	Refused	Applications for re-authorisations
2013	688	688	0	3,904
2014	668	665	3	872
2015	844	680	0	55*
2016	883	684	0	149
2017	817	865	8	7,988

2.305 In 2017, due to the 5 year cycle for application for transporter re-authorisation GB, a large volume of new applications were received. APHA conducted a communication initiative advising Type 1 transporter authorisation holders that they would need to apply for re-approval rather than the authorisation being re-approved. The high number of refusals (898) compared to previous years was due to incomplete forms or where additional information was requested and not supplied. In NI, DAERA issued 109 transporter authorisations in 2017 (this compares with 85 transporter authorisations in 2016 and 150 in 2015).



2.306 In GB, 1,402 journey logs were submitted for validation in 2017 of which 1,320 were approved, an increase on the previous year. In NI, DAERA approved 220 journey logs in 2017 (compared to 172 in 2016).



2.307 Whilst no journey logs were rejected by APHA – 82 applications did not proceed to approval and would be deemed cancelled by the exporter. This is likely to be as a result of being unable to demonstrate compliance with the Regulation following request for further information to support the application.

Number of checks of animals and means of transport in UK

Checks and non-compliances	2013 GB	2014 UK	2015 GB	2016 UK	2017 UK
Vehicles inspected (including documentary checks)	125,601	118,881	135,568	93,093	98,668
Non-compliances (excluding documentary non-compliances)	784	1,073	700	722	796
Documentary only checks (vehicles inspected)	5,602	3,783	2,100	3,718	2,625
Non-compliances documentary checks only	115	166	66	10	197
APHA checks of vehicles transporting livestock and horses at ports through GB/UK	100	131	157	384	451
APHA supervised loading inspections	98	147	67	149	71

2.308 The bulk of routine checks of animals and means of transport were carried out by LA inspectors in conjunction with APHA in GB and by DAERA inspectors in NI. Supervised loadings have been undertaken for all consignments of live slaughter export through Ramsgate and Dover. Figures were similar to previous years.

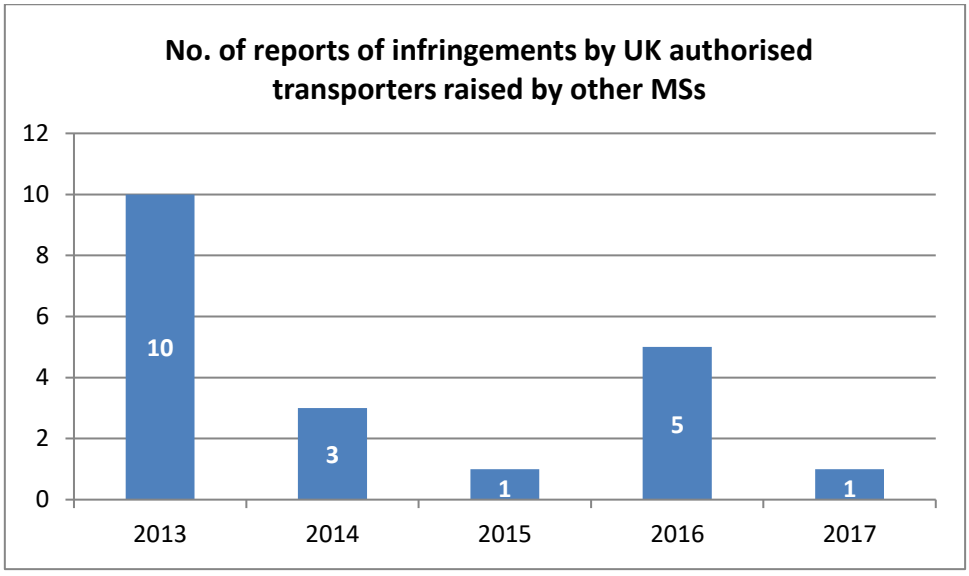
Number of checks of animals and means of transport in NI

Checks and non-compliances	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Vehicles inspected (including documentary	5,744	26,154	6,676	7,459	7,220
Percentage compliance	99%	100%	99%	99%	99%
Infringement detection across departure, destination and market	3%	1%	<1%	1%	1%

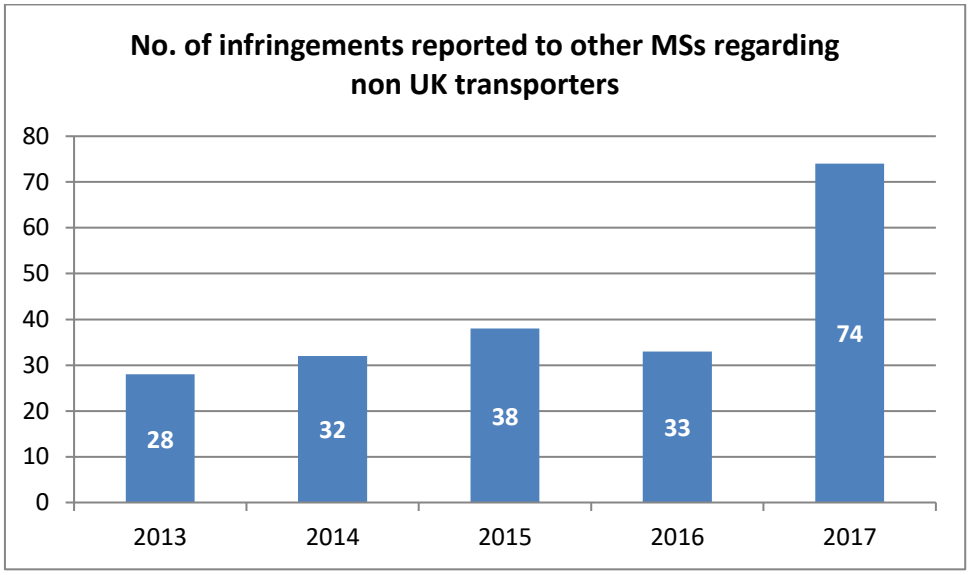
2.309 DAERA inspected 7,220 vehicles in NI of which 52 non-compliances were identified in 2017. This is a 99% compliance rate similar to previous years. This calculation does not include poultry transport vehicles at slaughter.

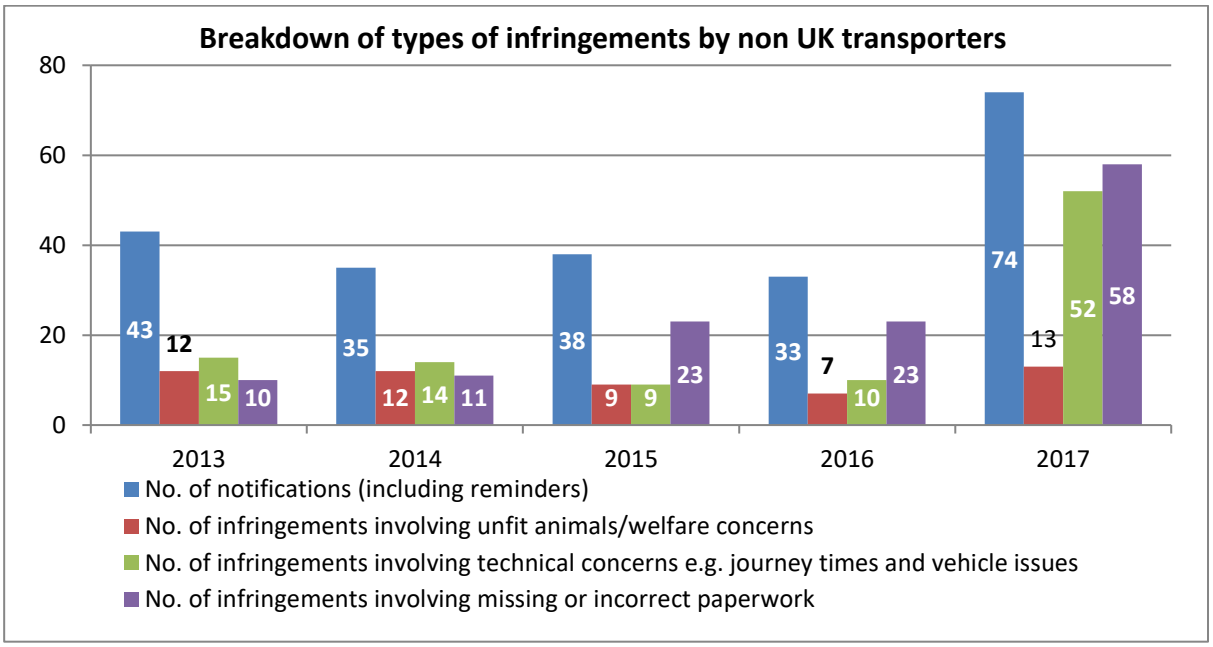
2.310 The GB inspections resulted in a variety of enforcement action ranging from oral warning to prosecutions. The annual report to the Commission explains the action plan that is in place to address any major levels of non-compliance.

2.311 The UK authorities continued to communicate and work with MS contact points regarding potential contraventions of Regulation EC 1/2005 and information exchange under Article 26. Of the one reported infringement made by transporters authorised in GB, notified by another Member State, it related to missing or incorrect paperwork.



2.312 In contrast, 74 formal notifications were made by the UK in 2017, involving non-UK transporters. This is more than double that reported in 2016. There were thirteen reports regarding unfit animals/welfare concerns in 2017, which is a big increase on previous years. 47 of the 74 notifications to other Member States were as a result of interceptions of puppies consigned to GB for commercial purposes, part of a proactive campaign by GB since 2016: the notifications were in relation to lack of required transporter and vehicle authorisations and also accounts for the increase in unfit animals identified.





Animal welfare at slaughter or killing

2.313 Council Regulation (EC) 1099/2009 was enforced through The Welfare of Animals at Time of Killing (England) Regulation [55]with similar legislation in the devolved administrations of Scotland, Wales and NI. In 2017, APHA followed up reports and allegations relating to poor animal welfare incidents during slaughter or killing operations outside approved slaughterhouses in GB and assessed slaughter operations during licensing of slaughtermen in locations outside of slaughterhouses. Where appropriate, APHA provided support to LAs for prosecution.

2.314 Welfare at the time of killing on farm was given a higher priority risk during 2017 as in the previous year. There was proactive engagement with previously known seasonal slaughterers earlier in the year, a process which was centralised in England and Wales to ensure consistency across all areas. Inspections increased by over one third compared with the previous inspection

[55] WATOK

year.

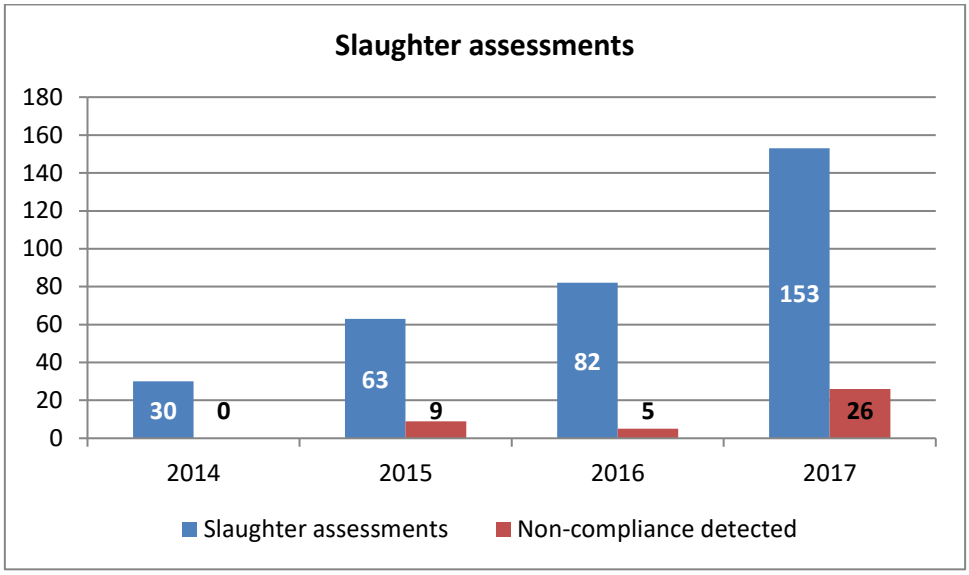
2.315 In GB, 109 of the 153 inspections carried out by APHA were undertaken as part of a licensing assessment of slaughter staff intending to kill animals on farm. There were a total of 83 welfare at killing assessments just before the Christmas peak period. 26 slaughter assessments (31%) were found non-compliant.

2.316 The table describes the areas where non-compliances were disclosed. No assessments revealed unnecessary suffering.

Assessment finding	Licensing	Construction, Equipment, Maintenance	Animals awaiting killing	Handling & Restraint	Stunning & Killing	Bleeding or Pithing
Number of non-compliances	6	16	6	6	18	7

2.317 Inspections disclosed mostly technical non-compliances that could be rectified relatively easily. The most common non-compliances continued to be deficiencies with audible/visible device on the stunner equipment and ammeter / voltmeter; in both cases either not present or not working properly at time of assessment. As with previous years other non-compliances included: lack of back up stunning equipment (manual cervical dislocation considered unacceptable as a back-up option), incorrect licence (old style licence issued under previous legislation) or licence that failed to cover all species killed.

2.318 There were some non-compliances associated with failing to meet the needs of animals in the lairage area prior to slaughter and one instance of the slaughterer being unable to check for an effective stun. Again, issues were raised in relation to use of head to body electric stunning due to lack of legal minimum currents for any species of poultry for this type of stunning. For the species where the research has been done, the current required is the same as for head only stunning. Current approach used by inspectors is that the same currents as for head only stunning are required and furthermore, for other species it is expected the use of 400mA, rather than 240mA.



2.319 104 slaughterman's licences (WATOK) were issued in 2017 by the FSA, in England and Wales. Note that all seasonal slaughterers trained in Scotland will be included in figures for overall certificates of competence (CoC) issued to all slaughtermen (both in slaughterhouses and outside) and in England and Wales where seasonal slaughterers opted to apply for a CoC rather than a WATOK licence. In 2017, the FSA had issued 1037 CoCs, and 1,217 Temporary CoCs.

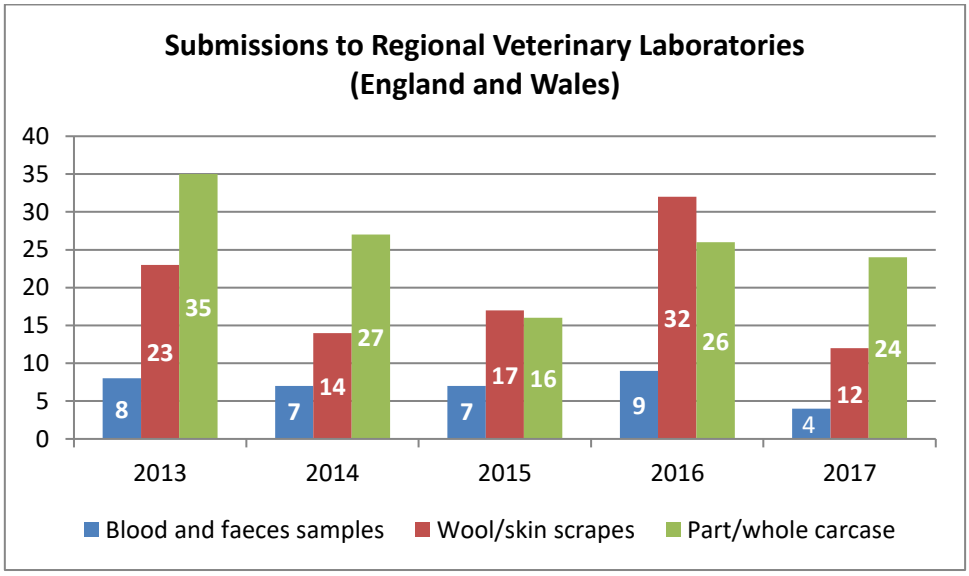
2.320 In Scotland, 122 Certificates of Competence were issued for operatives in slaughterhouses, farms and knacker companies under the Welfare of Animals at Time of Killing (Scotland) Regulations 2012 between January and December 2017. Also, 30 existing ones have been amended to include new activities.

2.321 In NI, DAERA continued to monitor compliance with welfare during slaughter or killing legislation. No significant non-compliance was found. During 2017 there were 24 Certificates of Competence and 64 temporary Certificates issued under the Welfare of Animals at the Time of Killing Regulations (NI) 2014.

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

2.323 From 1 April 2017 the FSA began publishing quarterly reports showing welfare non-compliances in each area of the slaughterhouse. The reports are set out by species and by slaughter method and can be found here.

Welfare forensic pathology and advice



2.324 The Regional Laboratories (RLs) of the APHA received 40 welfare forensic submissions in 2017, of which 24 (60%) were whole/part carcases; most of the whole carcases comprised sheep whilst part carcases mostly involved cattle limbs. The remainder of the samples were wool or skin samples in suspect sheep scab cases and blood and/or faeces samples. These numbers are down on previous years. Three farms were visited by RL staff relating to: necrotic tails in shearling rams, severe ill thrift and worm burden in dairy calves being managed extensively and increased deaths in in lamb ewes where surveillance PME could not determine underlying cause. RLs worked with APHA and LAs to provide witness statements for serious non-compliances detected (prosecutions pending) and there was one court appearance/ conviction. RLs produced summary welfare surveillance reports for communication of welfare- related (mostly on-farm) cases dealt with in 2017.

Official controls in the Plant health sector[56]

England and Wales

Controls on Imported Plants, Plant products and Plant material

2.325 During the Financial Year 2017/18:

- Targets for the inspection of the majority of controlled plant health material imported into England and Wales were met.
- Prohibited material imported or held under scientific licence was subject to the required level of inspection.

[56] fera.defra.gov.uk/plants/plantHealth/

- The majority of import inspection targets were met, however the inspections of other controlled material (low risk) achieved 57% against the target of 65%.

- 100% of required mandatory inspections were completed.

- There was a 0.5 % decrease in the number of consignments declared and requiring control over the previous year (100,0203 in 2016/17 compared to 100,571 in 2015/16).

- For the 44 trades subject to reduced import checks, the required levels of inspection were achieved for 42 trades.

2.326 Chillies (Capsicum) imported from Israel, a trade subject to reduced import checks, did not have the required number of inspection checks. This was due to logistical problems associated with inspecting at the Port of Dover. This issue has been raised with the regional inspector and will be rectified in the future. Further to this Prunus from Argentina is also subject to a reduced check, 46% against a target of 75% was achieved. An advancement in the computer system responsible for selecting consignments for inspection is expected to address shortfall in the future.

2.327 An EU's ban remained in place during 2017 on the import of certain vegetable products from Ghana:

Following persistent interceptions of a number of plant health pests, including Leaf miners (*Liriomyza spp*.) and Tobacco whitefly *(Bemisia tabaci*)

- The EU Commission adopted measures to prevent the introduction into and the spread within the Union of harmful organisms associated with certain plant material originating in Ghana. The measures suspended imports of the following products, initially until the end of 2016.

The measures applied to imports of plant material (other than seeds) of:

- Sweet and chili peppers *(Capsicum)*
- Bottle gourd *(Lagenaria)*
- *Luffa*
- Bitter gourd *(Momordica L)*
- *Solanum L.* (including Aubergines), other than *S. Lycopersicum L* (Tomato)

During 2017 there was a reduction in interceptions of harmful organisms on Ghanaian material. Therefore, in the EU Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed – Plant Health section approved the lifting of the suspension at the end of 2017 on the above products.

2.328 In 2017, restrictions remained in place for the import of South African citrus, following a failure by South Africa to prevent the export of fruit infected with

Citrus blackspot (*Phyllosticta citricarpa)*[57]. This complied with EU emergency measures, agreed by MS at the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed – Plant Health Section. Citrus blackspot is a major concern for citrus-growing EU MS. These emergency measures also continue to be extended to Brazil and Uruguay.

2.329 The EU introduced emergency legislation to help protect MS against the introduction of *Xylella fastidiosa* (*X. fastidiosa*). *Xylella fastidiosa* is a bacterium which causes disease in a wide range of woody commercial plants such as grapevine, citrus, olive and several species of broadleaf trees widely grown in the UK, as well as many herbaceous plants. It has been found to be associated with the rapid decline of olives trees over a large area in southern Italy.

2.330 The legislation includes requirements to protect against introductions from non-EU countries, as well as from those parts of the EU where it is has been detected, including Italy, France, Germany and Spain. Continued requirements for imports of non-EU plants and movements of 'specified plants' (which includes the confirmed hosts of *Xylella fastidiosa* in the EU and further afield) are only possible from areas in the EU where the pathogen is present if stringent conditions are met.

2.331 The UK plant health authorities and other EU MS continue the surveillance procedures for the pathogen. To reflect the evolving situation and to improve preparedness within the EU more generally, the EU Plant Health Standing Committee has recently updated the emergency measures in relation to eradication and containment, which means increased inspections and testing requirements.

2.332 In 2017, the FC customer service standard target of inspecting 95% of imports of wood and wood products on the day of notification of landing, or the next working day, was met. Customer Service Standard response time was achieved in over 97% of cases, thereby meeting the annual target. Since 2013, the FC has received additional resources to increase its inspections of wood packaging material associated with known high risk commodities. The FC were able to:

- Continue to employ a Cross Border Plant Health Liaison Officer, a Project Support Officer and an Assistant Economist to assist in the additional inspection programmes, contingency planning and financial impact assessments

- Increase inspections of wood packaging material associated with known high risk commodities at ports, leading to increased detection of non-compliant wood packaging material

- Meet the EU minimum target inspecting 15% of all imported consignments of eight stated commodity codes

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

2.333 The Canary Islands rejected a number of consignments of potatoes imported from England during the 2017/18 season (August to May annually). 29 exports of ware and seed potato consignments to the Canary Islands were rejected. This compares 28 in the previous year. For each rejection, the Spanish export guidance was followed and often the rational for rejection was not clear despite our challenge. Defra, the Devolved Administrations, APHA and Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board (AHDB) continue to liaise and work with the Spanish Ministry of Agriculture (MAPAMA) to resolve this ongoing issue. An update was issued by MAPAMA in relation to import conditions in March 2018, which has now subsequently been disseminated to exporters. A washed sample was also presented prior to inspection, this was not previously done before 2016 and helped to mitigate issues that were present in the 2016/17 season.

Surveillance and Outbreak Management

2.334 In 2017, surveillance continued within the Paddock Wood area of Kent following the 2012 outbreak of *Anoplophora glabripennis* (Asian long-horn beetle). There were no further findings. The surveillance programme has been extended to 2019, corresponding with two complete life cycles of the beetle.

2.335 The control programme for *Phytophthora ramorum* and *Phytophthora kernoviae* continued. The risk of spread of the pathogens via the trade in plants and plant products has been reduced within the Defra Programme by increased inspections and containment/eradication action whenever the pathogens are diagnosed. The extra Inspectorate resources that were secured in previous years have been maintained to assist with surveys, with additional support continuing from established field inspectors. *Phytophthora* is currently undergoing a fundamental policy review in England.

2.336 FC England maintained their field staff resources to increase the level of surveillance for pests and diseases in trees and woodlands.

2.337 In 2017 ***Dryocosmus kuriphilus*** **(Oriental chestnut gall wasp**) had been identified on approximately forty sites around London. The sites are under active management, with a surveillance plan in place.

2.338 ***Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*** **(Chalara ash dieback)** is spreading at the expected rate, according to Cambridge University modelling. Research programs continue to focus on Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior)* that is resistant to the disease. Defra has been working closely with landowners and LAs to manage the impacts of ash dieback.

2.339 ***Cryphonectria parasitica (*****Sweet Chestnut blight)** caused by a fungus called *Cryphonectria parasitica*, is known to seriously affect sweet chestnut (*Castanea*) species but can also affect oak trees if they are close to a heavily infected sweet chestnut tree. In 2017 there were several outbreaks of Sweet Chestnut blight in South West England and East London. Action was taken to limit the spread of the disease and determine distribution. A prohibition was implemented on May 2017 on the movement of oak and sweet chestnut material, including plants, logs, bark, branches foliage and firewood out of or within the outbreak zones. This was subsequently, lifted in March 2018

following increased understanding about the disease and its behaviour.

2.340 **Thaumetopoea processionea** (Oak Processionary moth) outbreaks continue to be detected in Guildford, Surrey and in the London region all which are under and active management plan.

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

Disease/ Pest	Host	Action
Ceratocystis platani	*Platanus* (Plane)	In 2017, 84% (113 consignments from 135 selected of *Platanus* (Plane) moved from other EU MS were inspected in active growth within six months of arrival, against a target of 75% (101 consignments). 135 consignments were notified In 2016, 78% of intra-EU *Platanus* (Plane) were inspected against a target of 75%
Cryphonectria parasitica	*Castanea* (Sweet Chestnut)	In 2017, the target to inspect 75% (8 consignments from the 10 selected) of *Castanea* (Sweet Chestnut) moved from other EU Member States in active growth within six months of arrival, was exceeded (100%), 10 consignments notified and 10 consignment inspected. In 2016, the target to inspect 75% (39 consignments from 50 selected) of *Castanea* (Sweet Chestnut) moved from other EU Member States in active growth within six months of arrival, was exceeded. 74 consignments were inspected (it is possible that some consignments received more than one inspection and that some inspections were carried out on non-notified consignments).
Phytoplasma ulmi	*Ulmus* (Elm)	In 2017, 91% (127 consignments from 140 selected) of *Ulmus* (Elm) moved from other EU MS was inspected in active growth within six months of arrival against a target of 75%. 140 consignments were notified In 2016, 95% of intra-EU *Ulmus (Elm)* was inspected against a target of 75%
Thaumetopoea processionea	*Quercus* (Oak)	In 2017, 86% (704 from 818 selected) of *Quercus* (Oak) moved from other EU MS was inspected in active growth within six months of arrival against a target of 50% 414 consignments. 2531 consignments were notified

		In 2016, 223 intra-EU *Quercus (Oak)* consignments were inspected against a minimum target of 112 notified consignments.
Dothistroma pini and Dothistroma septosporum; Thaumetopoea pityocampa	*Pinus* (Pine)	In 2017, 84% (223 selected from 264 consignments) of *Pinus* (Pine) moved from other EU MS was inspected in active growth within six months of arrival against a target of 50% (117 consignments). 1,912 consignments were notified In 2016, 178 intra-EU *Pinus (Pine)* consignments were inspected against a minimum target of 94 notified consignments.
Xanthomanus arboricola pv. Pruni / other pests and diseases	*Prunus*	In 2017, the target to inspect 25% the target to inspect 25% of the 1,848 consignments identified for inspection (out of 14,014 consignments in total) was exceeded. It is possible that some consignments received more than one inspection and/ or that some inspections were carried out on non-notified consignments.
Epitrix spp	*Solanum tuberosum*	The target in 2016 was to inspect 50% of all Spanish and Portuguese notified ware consignments. 320 consignments were notified and 251 (78%) were inspected.

2.341 For the above preventative action on deliveries at point of destination, legislation on notifying tree movements was initially introduced in 2013, with subsequent additions. In 2017, the target inspection rates for consignments in active growth within six months of arrival were:

- 75% minimum of notified and selected consignments of Elm, Plane, and Sweet Chestnut
- 50% minimum for notified and selected consignments of Oak and Pine
- 25% minimum for notified and selected consignments of Prunus

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

Surveillance surveys[58] carried out during 2017

Disease/ Pest	Surveillance
Ralstonia solanacearum (Brown rot) tuber survey and *Clavibacter michiganensis* (Ring rot) tuber survey	• The target was exceeded for inspecting 95% seed stocks from the Seed Potato Classification Scheme (SPCS) (All E&W seed stocks excluding Pre Basic not marketed) from an estimated 669 seed stocks. • This compares to 877 inspections in 2016 and 784 inspections in 2015. • 87 (73%) consignments of E&W ware from EU seed & EU ware inspected against a target of 120. This compares to 98 consignments (82%) in 2016 and 108 consignments (90%) in 2015, against a target of 120. • The target was exceeded for inspecting 95% of consignments of EU seed entering the SCPS scheme. 171 inspections were carried out against a target of 131. This compares to 109 (84%) in 2015 • 832 (90%) consignments of EU seed inspected from 924 selected for inspection– a consignment from each grower/ variety to be inspected. This was against a target of 95%. • This compares to 1049 consignments (98%) in 2016, and 749 consignments (100%) in 2015.
Brown rot river survey of treated/scheduled water courses completed	• In 2017, the Brown Rot river survey was completed during September, involving approximately 200 samples from 24 water courses and 48 sampling points. There were no positive results in 2017. • In 2016 there was a positive diagnosis (in six samples over two sampling points) at Sixteen Foot Drain, close to March, Cambridgeshire. 23 sample sites were negative • In 2015, the Brown Rot river survey sampled 25 water courses and 50 sampling points. There was one positive diagnosis at the River Loddon, near Reading, Berkshire. • In 2014, the survey involved samples from 22 water courses. All samples were negative.
EU minimum: *Phytophthora ramorum & Phytophthora kernoviae survey of Parks, Gardens & Commercial establishments*	During 2017/18, 1,736 retail outlets and nurseries were visited against a target of 1,000 (target met). 228 wider environment sites were inspected against a target of 300. 384 sites trading in *Phytophthora ramorum* hosts received an additional inspection visit (83%) against a target of 95% of 369 retailers trading in *P ramorum* hosts, that can receive plant passports. The total number of visits was 2,384. In 2016/17, 1,530 visits took place at retail outlets and nurseries, there were 504 wider environment sites inspected as well as 384 additional visits to plant passporting nurseries. The total number of visits was 2,418.

[58] Required under EU legislation.

<table>
<tr><th>Disease/ Pest</th><th>Surveillance</th></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>In 2015/16, 1,680 visits took place at retail outlets and nurseries were visited, there were 747 wider environment sites inspected and 369 visits to plant passporting nurseries. The total number of visits was 2,796.

This compares to 2014/2015, when 2,353 visits were undertaken at retail outlets and nurseries, there were 1,305 visits to parks and gardens, 481 visits to plant passporting nurseries, a total of 4,139 visits.</td></tr>
<tr><td>PCN survey</td><td>The EU requires 0.5% of the area used to produce ware potatoes to be sampled. For England and Wales, this amounts to 450 ha – growers are randomly selected for inspection.

In 2017, 456ha was sampled, with 474 samples taken, 57% was found to be infested

<table><tr><td>Total area sampled (ha)</td><td>456</td></tr><tr><td>Area of fields with G pallida only (ha)</td><td>245.26</td></tr><tr><td>Area of fields with G rostochiensis only (ha)</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>Area of fields with combined population (ha)</td><td>13.0</td></tr><tr><td>Total infested area (ha)</td><td>258.26</td></tr></table>
In 2016, 151.6 hectares (31%) were found to be infested from a sample area of 482.9 hectares

In 2015, 279.9 hectares (54%) were found to be infested from a sampled area of 514.8 hectares.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Epitrix surveillance</td><td>In 2017, for England and Wales a target was set to inspect 200 consignments of ware potatoes grown from UK seed. 179 consignments (90%) were inspected.
In 2016, for England and Wales a target was set to inspect 200 consignments of ware potatoes grown from UK seed. 166 consignments (83%) were inspected.
In 2015, for England and Wales a target was set to inspect 200 consignments of ware potatoes grown from UK seed. 198 consignments (99%) were inspected</td></tr>
<tr><td>Anoplophora chinensis survey, Xylella fastidiosa survey, Leptinotarsa decemlineta survey, Erwinia amylovora survey, Potato spindle tuber viroid survey, Rhynchophorus ferrugineus survey, Giberrerella circinata survey, Dryocosmus kuriphilus survey & Bemisia tabaci survey (all ongoing as EU reporting periods vary and are not synchronised with business plan).</td><td>No set targets per pest. Plant hosts were inspected as part of Quarantine Surveillance inspections.
Quarantine Surveillance inspection visit frequency is determined by a PHSI established risk matrix.</td></tr>
</table>

2.343 As part of quarantine surveillance, inspection visits were determined according to the following risk matrix:

General Quarantine Surveillance

Client Plant Health Risk Rating	Minimum & Maximum achievement	Achievement
Very High risk (10-12 visits per year)	170 visits (100% of required visits)	160 - 94%
High risk (4-6 visits per year)	1,176 visits (100% of required visits)	1,180 - 100%
Medium risk (2 visits per year)	Min - 50% of required visits = 2,037 visits Max – 4,074 visits (100%)	2,710 - 67%
Low risk (once every two years)	Min - 50% of required visits = 899 Max – 1,778 visits (100%)	1,360 - 76%

Review of client's business is reviewed throughout the year and can result in target changes between quarters.

2.344 **Brown Rot (*Ralstonia solanacearum*).** During 2016, two watercourses in the Middle Level area of the Cambridge Fens was found to be contaminated with a pathogen that causes the brown rot of potatoes. In 2017, further surveillance was conducted of the Cambridge Fens found that a limited number of additional watercourses were found to have been contaminated this led to an extension of the existing statutory Notices.

2.345 **Ulluco (*Ullucus tuberosus)*.** In 2017, following an investigation by the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA), it was found that the Andean root tuber had been imported into the UK from a number of different sources that were found to be infected with harmful viruses. Although, Ulluco can be legally imported from outside the EU with a phytosanitary certificate, biosecurity advice was issued recommending that the crop should not be grown or imported in the future.

Scotland

2.346 In Scotland for 2017, the number of import consignments from third countries decreased on previous years. Operational targets were met.

2.347 Seed potato exports decreased from 81,398 tonnes in 2016 to 65,923 tonnes in 2017, while ware potatoes saw an increase from 8,760 tonnes in 2016 to 9,115 tonnes in 2017. New regular exports of Brussel Sprouts to the USA and Cherry fruit to South Africa are hoped to continue in the forthcoming year.

2.348 All pest and disease surveys required by EU legislation were successfully undertaken.

Enforcement activities for Single Market and EU surveillance activities

Disease/ Pest	Surveillance
Dothistroma Needle Blight of Pine	• Joint growing season inspections to forestry nurseries were undertaken with Forest Research. This year DNB was not found at any site.
Erwinia amylovora Fireblight	• Five nurseries requested fireblight buffer zone status and had host plants tested for latent symptoms. All samples taken from nurseries and the surrounding buffer zone were negative. One is awaiting final inspection in 2018/19.
Phytophthora – Nursery Trade	• Registered nurseries producing susceptible material for *P. ramorum* and *P. kernoviae* continue to receive 2 site inspections plus one based on risk. • *P. ramorum* was identified on *Rhododendron* hybrids at a production nursery near Edinburgh. The material originated on plants imported from Germany. Infected stock has been destroyed. Control measures which have also been in place at two production nurseries in Perth for *P. ramorum* has now been lifted.
Phytophthora – Gardens/Landscaped sites	• In 2017, there were 10 new outbreaks identified. Taking into account the new outbreaks, there are currently 57 'active' outbreak sites, with 39 for *P. ramorum*, 8 with *P. kernoviae* and 10 with both pathogens. There are also 45 gardens which have 'non-active' status where controls have been lifted and continued monitoring is undertaken as part of general surveillance activity. • This compares to 51 active outbreak areas for *P. ramorum* and *P. Kernoviae in 2016*

NI[59]

2.349 In 2017/18 5,531 inspections were carried out on horticultural plants and plants in the wider environment and forests. A further 2,653 inspections were carried out on agricultural crops. Inspections were for a wide range of organisms considered to be a risk and including those required under EU protected zone surveys.

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

2.351 Inspections have continued for Phytophthora ramorum in nurseries and in forests. There were two aerial surveys of forests focusing on Phytophthora ramorum in larch and Neonectria in spruce. No new Phytophthora ramorum infections were found. Neonectria fuckeliana was confirmed at eleven new sites. The significance of this pathogen and the involvement of other factors in its pathology are still unclear.

2.352 A survey of ash for Ash Dieback (Hymenoschyphus fraxineus) included perimeter buffer surveys of previously infected planted sites and a wider

[59] dardni.gov.uk/index/plant-and-tree-health.htm

environment survey based on 10km grid squares. The survey focused on the wider environment to assess the spread to native ash. Infection was confirmed in a further fourteen 10 km grid squares. The wider environment survey also included inspection for Emerald Ash Borer and inspections of oak and birch for Oak Wilt and Bronze Birch Borer.

2.353 Advanced notification of arrival for statutory requirements resulted in 251 wood and bark inspections to be carried out at the point of entry. There were 24 wood and bark phytosanitary certificates issued.

2.354 During routine testing in August 2016 the Netherlands National Plant Protection Organisation (NPPO) found Potato Spindle Tuber Viroid (PSTVd), on stock supplied by the AFBI potato breeding collection at Loughgall in March 2016. DAERA initiated an Incident Management Plan under serious plant health contingency arrangements. In response to the finding 591 samples from six locations were tested. The former Plant Breeding Station at Loughgall provided the only positive finding. Immediate action was taken adopting the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organisation (EPPO) protocol and the UK Pest Specific control plan for PSTVd and resulted in detention of all stocks with infected and associated material destroyed.

Summary of new disease outbreaks at the end of 2017 (NI)

Disease	Outbreak sites
Erwinia amylovora	0
Phytophthora ramorum Ash Dieback	14
Potato Cyst Nematode (PCN)	9 fields restricted, 15 fields cleared

Surveillance pests surveys carried out during 2017 (NI)

Disease	Surveillance
Bemisia tabaci	524 inspections, no findings
Liriomyza bryoniae	535 inspections, no findings
Leptinotarsa decemlineata	62 (hort) inspections, no findings
Erwinia amylovora	634 inspections, 0 positive sites
Anoplophora spp	406 inspections, no findings
Phytophthora ramorum	468 inspections, 0 positive sites
Clavibacter michiganensis and Ralstonia solanacearum	256 samples of seed and ware potatoes were tested for Ring Rot and Brown Rot. In addition, there were 30 water samples from rivers and processors and seven Woody Night Shade plants sampled were tested. No findings.
Diabrotica virgifera	Five fields trapped as part of all Ireland strategy. No findings.
Rhizomania	13 fields inspected and four beet samples tested. No findings.
PSTVd	11 inspections, with 62 samples taken, no findings

Summary of intensity and type of plant controls in the UK

2.355 In the UK, during 2017, overall compliance in the official controls improved. In 2017, import inspection targets were largely met for England and Wales.

2.356 Notifications made for harmful organisms has declined in 2017 in England and Wales to 493 findings compared to 654 findings in 2016. This can attributed to a more systematic response by the EU in relation to repeated interceptions. Further to this, the EU has publicised entries on the EU alert list and sought sight of action plans from countries to address non-compliances. This has made third countries more proactive in addressing issues. Although the previous Indian and Ghanaian bans have elapsed commodities that were responsible for high levels of non-compliance are now traded under stricter phytosanitary controls from the third countries therefore, leading to reduced interceptions. In 2017, the six countries with the greatest number of pest notifications were: Dominican Republic, Uganda, India, Nigeria, Vietnam and Lao People's Democratic Republic, with these notifications accounting for approximately 43% of pest interceptions. The four most commonly intercepted pests were: *Bemisia tabaci (*tobacco whitefly)*, Thaumatotibia leucotreta (False Codling Moth). Thrips* sp., and *Liriomyza sp.* (leaf miners) – these accounted for 58% of all pest interceptions.

2.357 Other reasons for non-compliance related to 226 for no documentation, 100 for prohibited material and 176 for other document infringements.

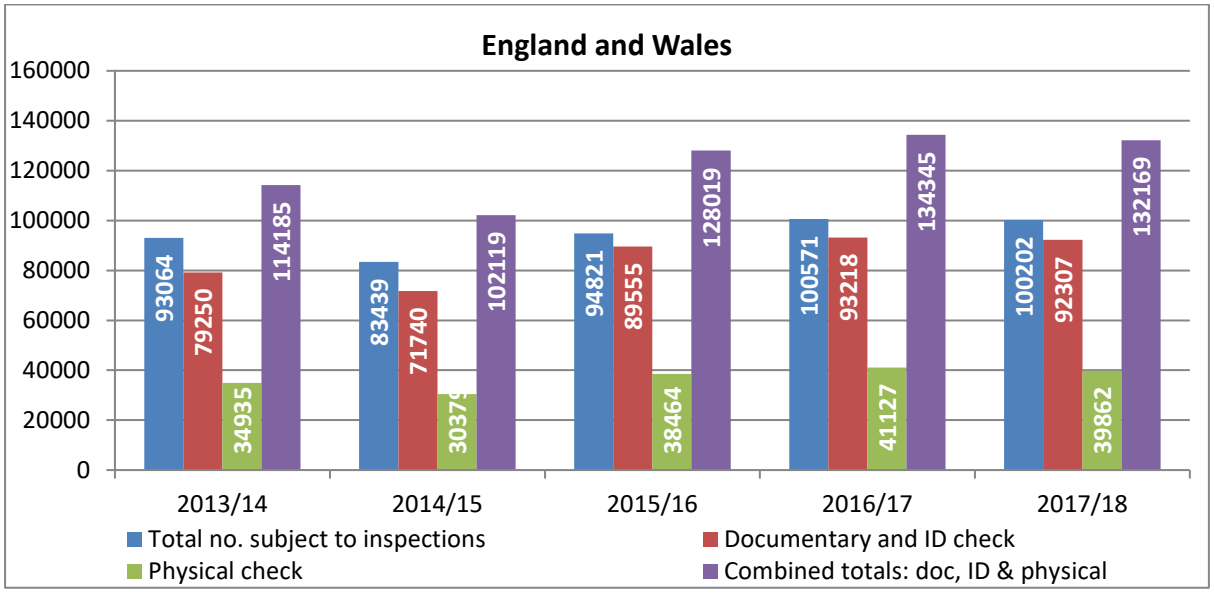
2.358 When harmful organisms or outbreaks are found at ports or inland, the vast majority of businesses co-operate with APHA PHSI and other inspectors in destroying affected stock. Additionally, most businesses will enter imports correctly into the advance notification system (PEACH) and produce records for plant passport inspections.

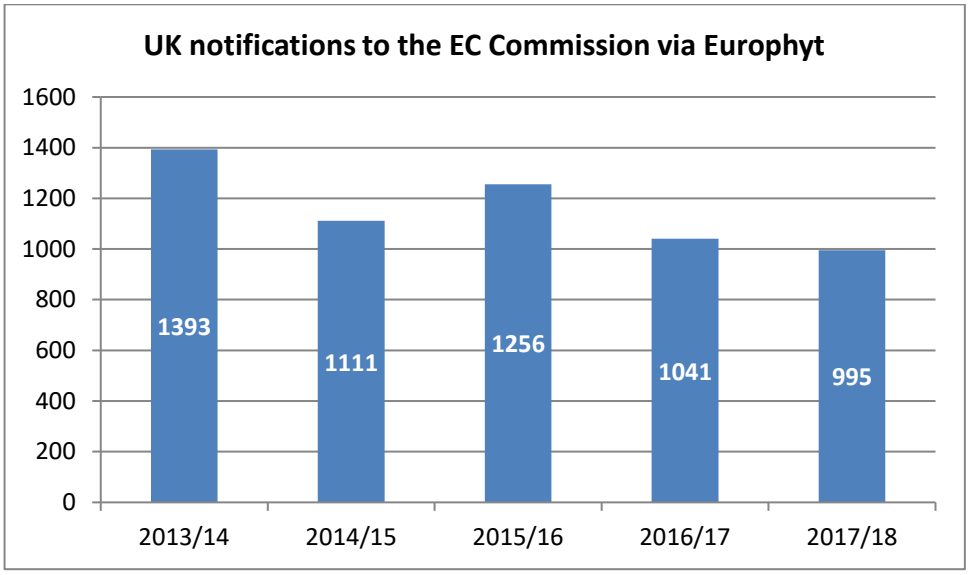
2.359 Pests present in imported consignments pose a risk to crops, plants in commercial production and in the wider environment in the EU. The root causes were lack of awareness or understanding of the EU import requirements and a disregard for the risks presented by sending plants and plant products infested by pests into or within the EU, with the profit motive outweighing the long-term potential benefits of maintained and improved crop production and biodiversity.

Summary of imports subject to inspections[60]

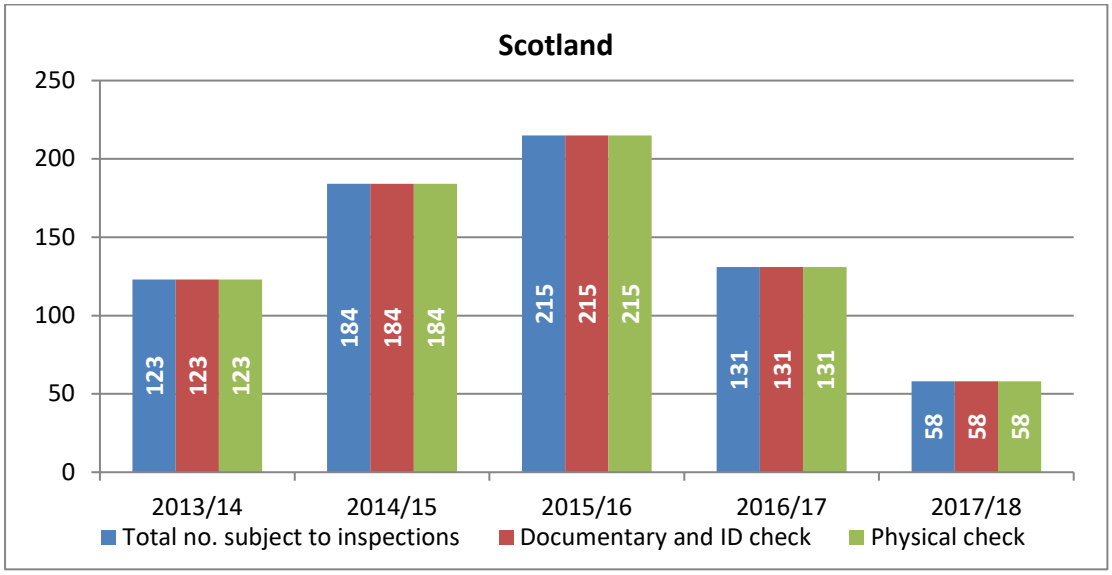
2.360 In England and Wales, the number of consignments declared and requiring controls was 100,202, similar to that of 2016 (0.55% decrease). In 2016, there was an increase of 5% (100,571)

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



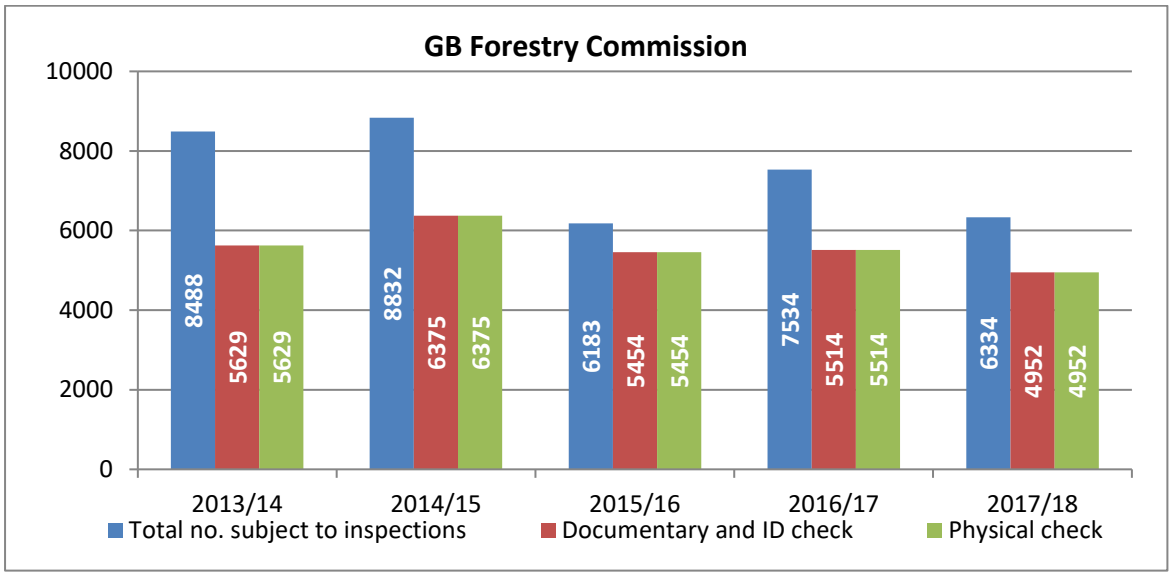


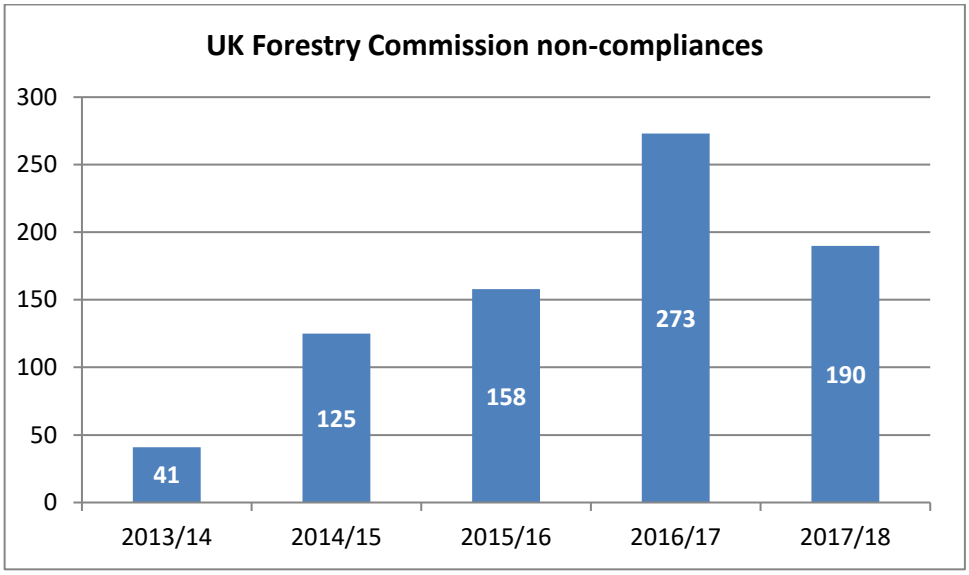
2.361 The number of non-compliances and notifications to the European Commission for England and Wales fell to 995 in 2017.



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

Soil samples taken from a consignment of bonsai imported from Japan were found to be free from quarantine nematodes although some saprophytic, non-quarantine species were found.





2.363 For the FC, the number of non-compliances decreased from the previous year but still remained high when compared to further previous years. This was mainly due to an exercise that was conducted that reviewed the compliance of wood packaging that had cleared Customs control but was still awaiting final delivery.

2.364 The majority of non-compliances involved wood packaging material not being compliant with the international standard ISPM15 (absence of marks or illegible marks) and therefore the material was subjected to remedial action, this accounted for over 79% of the non-compliances, other areas of non-compliance were in relation to dunnage (10%) sawn timber (9%) and Other (2%).

2.365 One significant case involved the interception of regulated stone material from China and the finding of the quarantine forestry pest of a live longhorn beetle larvae in pallet wood associated with the consignment.

2.366 The causes of the non-compliances resulted from the failure by wood packaging material manufacturers and treatment providers in the country of export to ensure that the material was compliant with ISPM15:

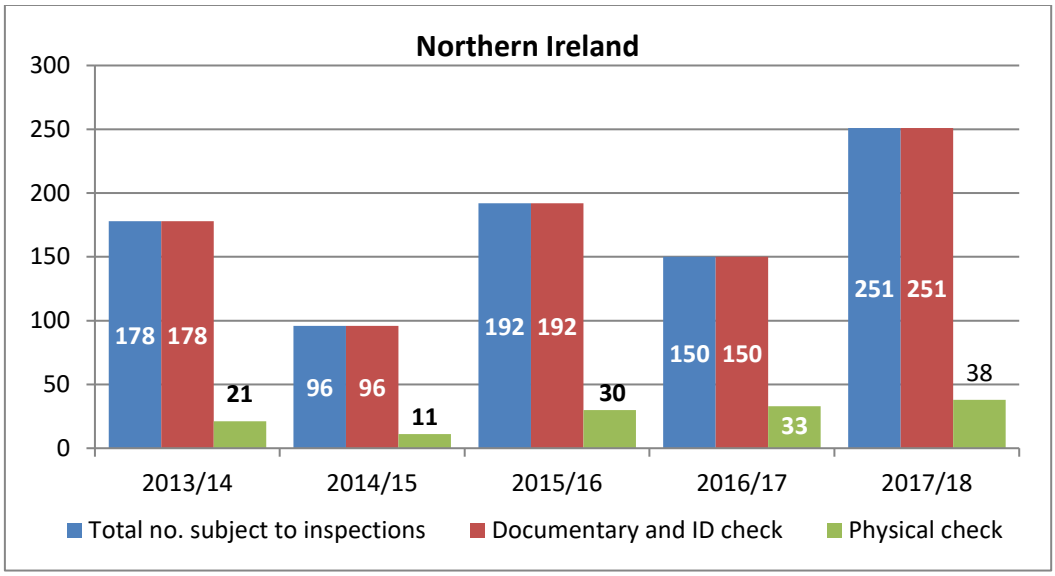
- Clearly marked with a traceable ISPM15 mark.
- Within the bark tolerance level permitted.
- Free from pests and signs of live pests.

2.367 The main significant consequences of the non-compliances are that a quarantine pest such as Asian Longhorn could be introduced into the country. The root cause is poor compliance with ISPM15 marking requirements or wood packaging material that has not been subjected to ISPM15 approved measures and maybe fraudulently marked.

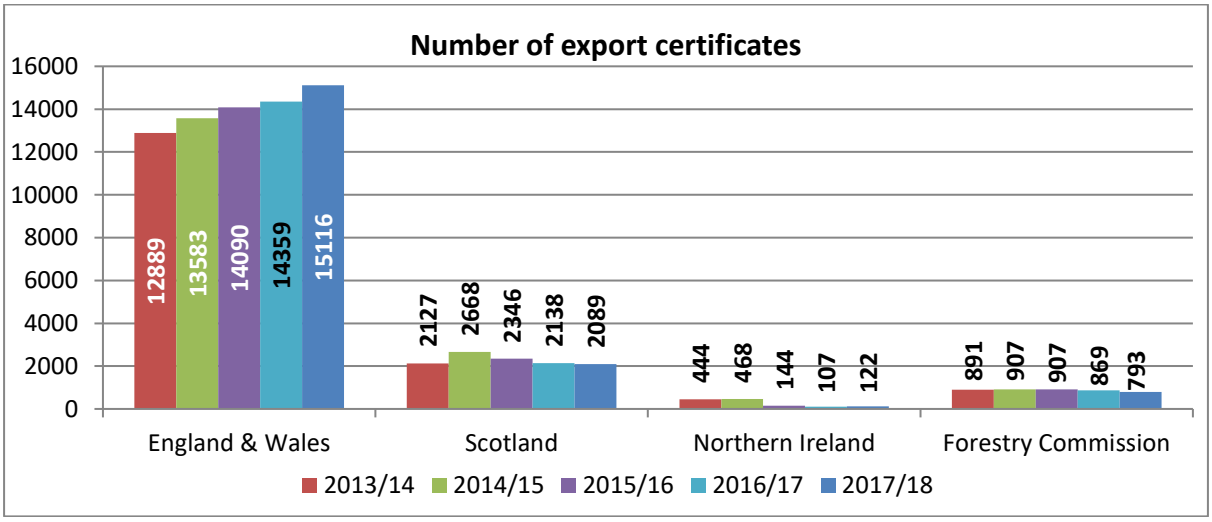
2.368 In 2017, there remained a decreased focus on inspections of wood packaging material associated with stone and iron materials from China in response to Commission Implementing Decision 2015/474 (amending 2013/92/EC). This legislation required a lower inspection level of 15% of imports for all eight CN Codes included within it.

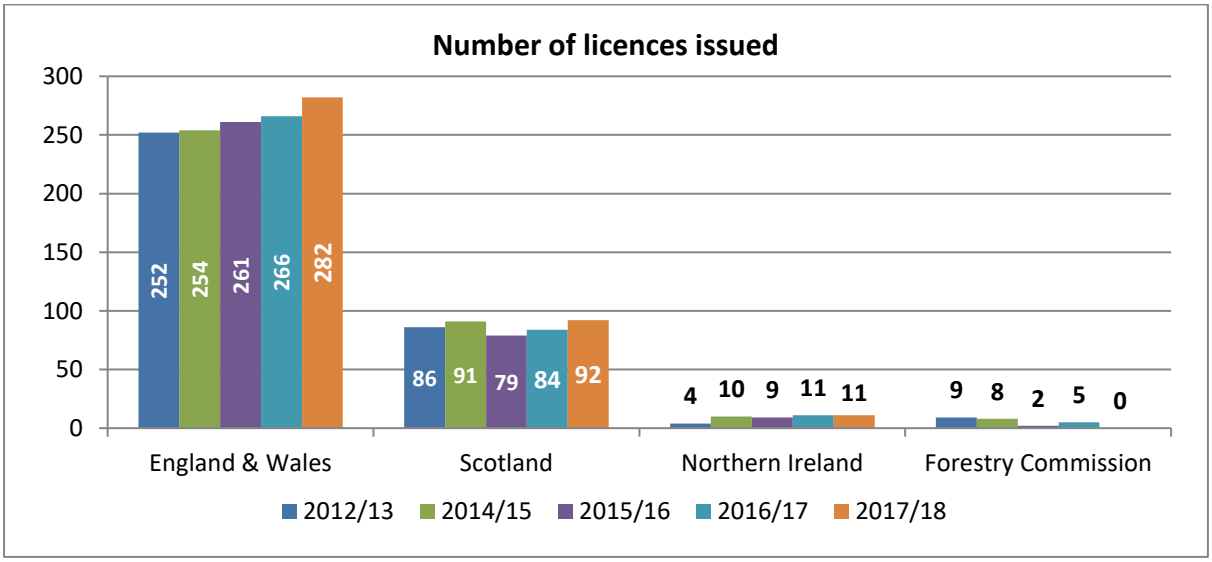
2.369 Since the 1st January 2018 the FC have increased the number of controlled species of wood being imported from countries where the Round Headed Apple Tree borer beetle (*Saperda candida*) is known to be present. This has not resulted in a significant increase in timber inspections as the species of wood added to the controlled list is not regularly traded at commercial levels in the UK.

2.370 The intensity and type of controls for sawn timber in 2017/18 were consistent with the previous two years in terms of performing 100% documentary, identity and physical plant health checks for imports of controlled timber. The exception to this check is for wood of maple from Canada where physical inspection checks are performed on a reduced frequency basis.



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





2.372 The number of phytosanitary certificates issued by the FC during 2017 continued to decrease. The number of businesses registered to issue plant passports during 2016 remained exactly the same as the previous years (10). The number of scientific licences issued in 2017 by the FC was 0.

2.373 In England and Wales, in 2017 282 licences were issued to allow for the import or to hold prohibited plants and plant pests, this was a slight increase from 2016.

2.374 In Scotland, in 2017 there was a slight increase in the number of scientific licences issued in comparison to 2016. Scientific licence holders in Scotland are contacted every year. The on-going inspection programme of licensed establishments includes visits every three years, with more frequent inspections of establishments that hold high risk material. All new establishments are inspected before licences are issued.

Enforcement trends: Actions taken in cases of non-compliance

2.375 For APHA PHSI, enforcement of import controls is mainly by action on non-compliant consignments (re-export or destruction at the importer's expense). During 2017 in England and Wales, the number of non-compliant actions fell to 995 from 1,041 in 2016, a fall of 4%. sThe number of actions is significantly lower in comparison to the period 2011-2015, when there has been a relatively consistent level of non-compliance actions of between 1,100 and 1,400 actions per year.

CHAPTER 3
NATIONAL SYSTEMS OF AUDIT

Food and feed sectors

Official Controls for which the FSA is responsible

Audit of Local and Port Health Authorities

3.1 In England the approach to audit of LAs (including PHAs) has been risk based, involving an assessment of the performance of selected authorities by comparing data from the LAEMS annual submissions against audit selection criteria. Following a desk top analysis of LAEMS data LAs are then allocated and prioritised against a range of appropriate follow up audit actions from full on site audits (core audits) to one day audit visits and in depth desktop assessments. Other available information on LA performance is also used to inform audit selection.

3.2 Following consultation with policy and delivery colleagues themed topics for official controls delivery are also selected for inclusion in the annual audit plan – these are known as “focused audits” where an official controls theme is audited across a number of LAs with the production of reports for each LA and a summary report for the sponsoring FSA manager.

3.3 In 2017/18 (April 2017 - March 2018), no focused audits were carried out in England, with resources instead being targeted at those LAs having performance data that suggested there may be an issue with their delivery of official controls. In Quarter 4 (Jan - March) of 2016/17 the England audit team conducted a pilot of one day assurance audits focusing on Service Organisation, Management and Internal Monitoring Arrangements. This pilot showed that this audit approach was effective at identifying the root cause of any performance issues and the audit approach was adopted for 2017/18. For 2017/18, a total of 19 one day assurance audits, 11 desktop assessments (contacting LA about specific performance issues - verifying data and requesting further evidence and action plan) and 24 desktop audits were undertaken.

3.4 In the last 4 years all 22 LAs in Wales have been subject to a programme of full audits to assess performance in delivering food hygiene and food standards official controls. A detailed review of the findings of the full audit programme is underway.

3.5 In 2017/18 follow-up audits were undertaken at 2 LAs to assess progress in implementing agreed full audit action plans. A focused audit programme to assess the extent to which all 22 LAs in Wales were meeting the requirements of the statutory FHRS was also undertaken.

3.6 A new programme of audits of LAs in NI has commenced covering all 11 new LAs with a pilot audit in March 2017. The audit programme will examine the

organisation and management of the new food services in each of the LAs. The programme will run between 2017 and 2020.

Main recommendations

England

3.7 The recorded audit recommendations vary depending on the scope and type of audit. In relation to the 1 day assurance audits, 19 audits were undertaken to single and merged LAs during the audit year. The majority of recommendations raised concerned compliance with statutory inspection frequencies (15), appointment of authorised officers (15), development and implementation of a service plan (12), development and implementation of a documented for database management procedure (11) and development and implementation of documented procedures on internal monitoring (12).

3.8 Findings were reported to the individual authorities.

3.9 Recommendations from audit programmes were accepted by the audited authorities and corrective action plans were agreed. Ongoing follow-up audit verification checks, including on-site visits where necessary, are carried out to ensure that the agreed actions are prioritised and remedial action is taken within an acceptable timescale.

Wales

3.10 Overall, the findings of the full audit programme are that LA food hygiene official controls are largely being delivered in accordance with the FSA's Framework Agreement and Food Law Code of Practice. LAs continue to adopt a risk-based approach to interventions at food businesses, and with the benefit of FSA grant funding, are working with businesses to support them in achieving compliance.

In respect of food standards official controls, the findings of the full audit programme are variable. Overall, planned interventions are not being carried out at the prescribed frequencies in the Food Law Code of Practice, but LAs have adopted a risk based approach. In general, records of planned interventions are not sufficiently detailed to verify the extent to which business compliance has been assessed. LA delivery of reactive food standards interventions is generally undertaken in accordance with the FSA's requirements.

3.11 In general, the statutory FHRS is being effectively implemented by LAs in Wales. The scheme continues to have a positive impact on food business compliance with food hygiene legislation.

FSS

3.12 The focussed audit programme on capacity and capability was continued into a second year during 2017/18. Six LAs were selected for audit. A report was produced and published for four of the LA audited and an action plan put in place (as appropriate) to address the recommendations made. The assurance category assigned following audit were either substantial assurance (one),

reasonable assurance (one), limited assurance (one) or insufficient assurance (one). Two others are either waiting to be published or agreed.

NI

3.13 Following the reform of local government, which saw the LAs in NI reduce from 26 to 11 in April 2015 a new audit programme was implemented. It will form part of the FSA in NI's annual audit programmes for the next three years (2017-2020). During 2017-18 four audits of LAs were planned and carried out, including one pilot audit. Three reports were agreed but have yet to be published. A total of nine recommendations were made covering internal monitoring, control procedures, authorisation of officers, approval of establishments, resources to conduct official controls and food complaints.

Programme	Dates	No. of authorities/ DAERA NI Units	No. of establishment 'reality checks'	Final report(s) or other correspondence issued/published/due	No. of recommendations
ENGLAND					
1 day assurance audits focusing on Service Organisation, Management and Internal Monitoring	April – June 2017	12	0	Final reports are published on the FSA website here.	61
1 day assurance audits focusing on Service Organisation, Management and Internal Monitoring	July – September 2017	5	0	Final reports are published on the FSA website here.	4
Desktop Audits	July– September 2017	11	0	Summary letter and action plan sent to LA	-
Audit revisits	July – September 2017	3	0	Updated LA action plans are published on the FSA website against the original individual LA audit report.	-
1 day assurance audits focusing on Service Organisation, Management and Internal Monitoring	Oct – Dec 2017	2	0	Final reports are published on the FSA website here.	2
Desktop audits	Oct – Dec 2017	34	0		-
Follow up work on open desktop audits and 1 day assurance audits	Jan – Mar 2018	-	-	Final reports are published on the FSA website here.	37.
Audit revisits	Jan – Mar 2018	4	-	Updated LA action plans are published on the FSA website here.	-
WALES[61]					
Follow-up audit to assess LA progress in implementing agreed full audit action plans.		2	-	Updated LA action plans are published on the FSA website here.	-

[61] All reports can be found on the FSA website here.

FHRS focused audit programme	April16-Mar 17	22	-	The findings of the audit programme will be published in a summary report in 2018	-
SCOTLAND[62] FSS					
LA Capacity and Capability audits	April 2017 – March 2018	5	7	Reports published for all LAs audited on the FSS website here.	18
Follow up core audit to assess implementation of the action plan.	April 2017 – March 2018	2 follow up visits to two LA's	0	Reports published for all LAs audited on the FSS website here. Updated action plans are added to the original audit reports and re-published	2
NI					
LA Organisation and Management audit programme	March 207-March 2018	Four audits (including one pilot audit)	0	Three reports agreed and issued but not yet published.	9

[62] All FSS audit reports are published at on the FSS website here.

FSA Internal Audit

3.14 The FSA's internal audit team carries out risk based systems audits on operational systems, processes and procedures for the FSA in England, Wales and NI and for FSS in Scotland as part of annual programmes agreed with the respective audit committees. FSA Internal Audit also carried out one audit on behalf of the VMD. These internal audits ensure that requirements of the UK Public Sector Internal Audit Standards and Article 4(6) of Regulation (EC) 882/2004 are met.

3.15 In accordance with EU guidance, there is also a five-year cycle for all official controls to be audited and so, as well as focusing on high risk areas, the audit plans for the 2016/17 and 2017/18 financial years included operational areas which were lower or medium risks, with follow up audits to monitor implementation of corrective actions from previous audits.

3.16 The main objective of the programmes of audits conducted by the FSA internal audit team during the 2017 calendar year in relation to official controls was to provide assurance to FSA and FSS management and the respective Boards that enforcement was effective, consistent, risk-based and proportionate.

3.17 The four grades of audit opinions or equivalent used during the period covered by the report were "Substantial[63]", "Moderate[64]", "Limited[65]" and "Unsatisfactory[66]". The following audits were completed and reports issued between January and December 2017

Policy area audited	Audit Opinion	Recommendations
Animal Welfare (FSA)	Moderate	6
Animal By-Products (England and Wales) Follow up audit	Limited	7
Animal Welfare (FSS)	Moderate	6
Animal By Products follow-up (FSS)	Substantial	3
Incidents Resilience (FSA)	Moderate	8
Raw Drinking Milk (FSA)	Limited	7

3.18 The majority of the corrective and preventative actions agreed with management were aimed at improving implementation of policy and procedural guidance to ensure effectiveness in the application of official controls and their outcomes. Audit reports also identified the need for improved records and more effective monitoring of official control activities to help identify and correct poor practices and recurring issues.

[63] "Substantial" means the framework of governance, risk management and control is adequate and effective.
[64] "Moderate" means some improvements are required to enhance the adequacy and effectiveness of the framework of governance, risk management and control.
[65] "Limited ", there are significant weaknesses in the framework of governance, risk management and control such that it could be or could become inadequate and ineffective.
[66] "Unsatisfactory" means there are fundamental weaknesses in the framework of governance, risk management and control such that it is inadequate and ineffective or is likely to fail.

Defra internal audits

Animal traceability – England RPA – GB

3.19 An audit relating to animal traceability of official food/feed controls was carried out by GIAA on behalf of RPA in 2017; covering the processes and procedures used by RPA to maintain the accuracy and integrity of cattle movement data throughout England. The audit testing conducted during this review provided a 'substantial' level of assurance.

3.20 One 'medium' priority action concerning cattle movement reporting was raised through this review. Progress on the delivery of the action is being tracked by GIAA, who provide the internal audit service for RPA.

APHA – England

3.21 APHA has developed an assurance/audit programme to effectively monitor the delivery of Official Feed and Food Controls under Regulation 882/2004. In 2017, recommendations from the previous year's audit were implemented and an Assurance Framework, Assurance Manual and Assurance Plan has been created. An internal audit was also completed on International Trade - Artificial Breeding Controls and achieved a substantial rating with four recommendations, all of which were accepted and will be implemented. Further audits to cover high risk OFFC controls will take place in 2018.

Veterinary Residues Surveillance

3.22 The VMD carried out audits of Fera and AFBI laboratories. The audits were carried out by external laboratory experts, to check compliance with the requirements of commission decision 2002/657/EC.

3.23 Both laboratories were given a very good reports, with very few recommendations, which have been implemented.

Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance

3.24 Auditing of antimicrobial resistance surveillance and policy is carried out by external providers in accordance with the UK Five Year AMR Strategy 2013-2018. Collection of caecal samples is carried out by FSA on behalf of the VMD; an SLA is in place detailing the KPIs for sample collection. APHA carry out all AMR testing on behalf of the VMD. Success is measured through submission of data to the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) in compliance with Commission Decision 2013/652/EU and through KPIs as stated in the Service Level Agreement. Success of surveillance of antibiotic sales is measured through publication of data in the annual national report, UK-Veterinary Antimicrobial Resistance and Sales Surveillance, and through stakeholder feedback.

UK Internal Audit Programme (England - Defra), NI, Scotland and Wales)

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

OFFC Internal Audits carried out in 2017

Audit Programme	Conclusions/recommendations
ENGLAND – Defra Internal Audit carried out three audits and two follow up audits.	
TSE Sampling	• Final report issued May 2017 with substantial assurance. • The conclusion was that the TSE Policy team have efficient and effective procedures in place to ensure that TSEs in England/GB are identified, monitored and reported correctly to the EC. There is also suitable engagement with the devolved governments and other delivery partners. No issues (high, medium or low) were identified.
Bovine TB third party assurances	In response to a request from HM Treasury to conduct an evaluation of the impact of the bovine TB Strategy, an internal meta-analysis of existing data and research has been commissioned. Independent academics will be sought to provide challenge and peer review of the work. There are no plans to publish the output before 2019/20.
Defra's policy and lead Competent Authority role in relation to food businesses - composition and standards labelling	• Assurance Moderate • Recommendations: Three Medium
Bee Health	Fieldwork completed December 2017
Follow Up of Protected Food Names	• Recommendations have been completed • Two have been replaced with new actions
Follow Up of Beef labelling	• Recommendations have been completed • One has been replaced with a new action
SCOTLAND - SG Internal Audit Division (SGIAD) carried out two audits of 'discreet official controls areas' (as per their five year audit strategy)	
Pesticide Residue Monitoring	• Assurance: Limited • Recommendations: Two High, One Medium Fieldwork Concluded: 19/12/17
GM Crops/Seeds	• Assurance: Reasonable • Recommendations: Three Medium Fieldwork Concluded: 19/12/17
Animal Strategy, Planning and Exotics Diseases/Disease Control	• Assurance: Substantial • Recommendations: Two Medium Fieldwork Concluded: 19/12/17

Follow-up of 2016-17 OFFC Audit	• All recommendation and observations actioned fully. Follow-up Report issued: 29/12/17
WALES – The European Funds Audit Team (EFAT) within the Corporate Governance & Assurance (CG&A) Division of the WG has developed a five year audit strategy for Official Feed & Food Controls. The overall purpose of this strategy is to put in place an approach that will allow the Head of CG&A to manage the audit function to deliver a balanced assurance to the Permanent Secretary and the European Commission on the adequacy and effectiveness of OFFC controls for which the Welsh Government is the competent authority.	
Review of the Service Level Agreement between Welsh Government and APHA and monitoring of Key Performance Indicators, including the following areas: • Animal Identification and Gatherings • Animal Welfare • Bovine TB • Exotic animal diseases / contingency planning • Zoonoses • Animal by-products • Egg Marketing • Poultry Meat Marketing • Exotics • International Trade • TB • TSE • WLRS • Bee Health	Assurance: Reasonable Recommendations: Two Significant, One Merits Attention Report issued: November 2017 Follow up of the three recommendations has been conducted by the Departmental Operations Team and all have been confirmed as implemented.
DAERA NI - Internal Audit Branch continued with implementation of the audit strategy covering arrangements for animal health and welfare controls for which DAERA are responsible	
Follow-Up Review of EC FVO Animal Health – Bovine Tuberculosis Eradication in NI	Audit Opinion: Satisfactory Final Report Issued 07/08/17
Follow-Up Review of Enzootic Bovine Leukosis Surveillance Testing	Audit Opinion: Satisfactory Final Report Issued 21/09/17
Plant Health Control, risk management and governance examined for the following areas: - Cost recovery for NI Seed Potato Certification Scheme; - Effective management of Plant Health in NI; - Forest Service Risk Register.	Audit Opinion: Limited Three Priority Two Recommendations Fieldwork completed 19/12/17 * Internal Audit raised concerns in relation to the setting of fees and charges for the NI Seed Potato Certification Scheme. Concerns in relation to rebating of Tuber Inspection fees were also highlighted as the rationale for applying rebates was not clearly documented.
Animal By – Products	Audit Opinion: Satisfactory

	One Priority Three Recommendation Draft Report Issued 30/11/17
Trade Certification	Audit Opinion: Limited 11 Priority Two, Four Priority Three Recommendations Fieldwork completed 25/11/17

Directorate F audits and missions

3.26 The following is a summary of the Directorate F audit information for the UK for 2017, with links to the fact-finding mission reports:

Inspection No.	Title	Inspection Period	Links to Reports
2017-6194	AMR in certain food-producing animal populations and food	Mar 2017	Report details
2017-6069	Synergies of Official Controls with FBO own checks and third-party assurance schemes	Oct 2017	Report details

Control Bodies

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

Control body	Control tasks	Progress
APHA (from 1 January – 31 December 2017)	Scrapie genotyping service under contract to Defra in support of the GB Voluntary Scrapie Flocks Scheme and the CSFS	The Central Sequencing Unit, APHA had the following Audits, Inspections, Proficiency Tests (EQA) and Quality: • LRQA 9001:2008 Inspection 11 Jan 2017, no actions raised in CSU and audit criteria was met. • NRL Inspection on 30 Jan 2017. Five recommendations were raised for the CSU. The inspectors found the CSU laboratory facilities continued to be maintained according to the NRL requirements. • UKAS ISO 17025:2005 Accreditation Re-assessment visit on 10 Oct 2017. There were three findings raised, two Mandatory & one Recommendation. Accreditation was maintained for the current scope. • Three Vertical audits were completed; actions raised for Scrapie genotyping tests were in Feb (four corrections & one opportunity), May (four corrections & one opportunity) and Oct 2016 (four corrections). Procedures & processes were seen to be fit for purpose and meeting the requirements for UKAS ISO 17025 and ISO9001. • Three Test Audits were carried out in CSU on CSU SOPs with one being for the Scrapie genotyping tests. The SOPs were found to be fit for purpose and compiled with ISO17025 and ISO9001 • CSU 2017 Annual Quality Review was discussed at the CSU Management meeting on 1st Feb 2018. The review covers the period 1 Jan 2017 to 31 Dec 2017 for ISO 17025:2005 and ISO 9001:2008. • Internal Quality Assurances were undertaken twice in the year in March & October. • Two VETQAs Proficiency Testing Schemes were successfully completed: • Scrapie Tissue genotyping (NRL), Distribution 12725/SE PT0093 Feb 17 • Scrapie Tissue genotyping (NRL), Distribution 12871/SE PT0100 May 17 Two other EQA –previously done alongside Cellmark, were successfully completed in June & Dec 2017.

Commercial Transport carrier Companies approved by Defra and audited by APHA to bring dogs, cats or ferrets to GB in accordance with the EU Pet Travel Scheme	Documentary and identity checks as required are undertaken by carriers to confirm compliance with the EU pet travel Regulation (576/2013)	• In 2017, 314,261 cats, dogs and ferrets were moved into GB on approved routes under the EU Pet Travel Scheme[67]. • APHA carried out checks on a sample of those animals as part of routine quality assurance checks on the work undertaken by the carriers. This surveillance is carried out randomly at entry points. Where any non-compliance was found, the carrier was informed and if required, the animal was either re-exported or placed in quarantine depending on the circumstances. No carriers were suspended or had their agreements terminated during 2017. Any non-compliances discovered during audit were addressed directly with the carrier concerned and additional training was provided by APHA.

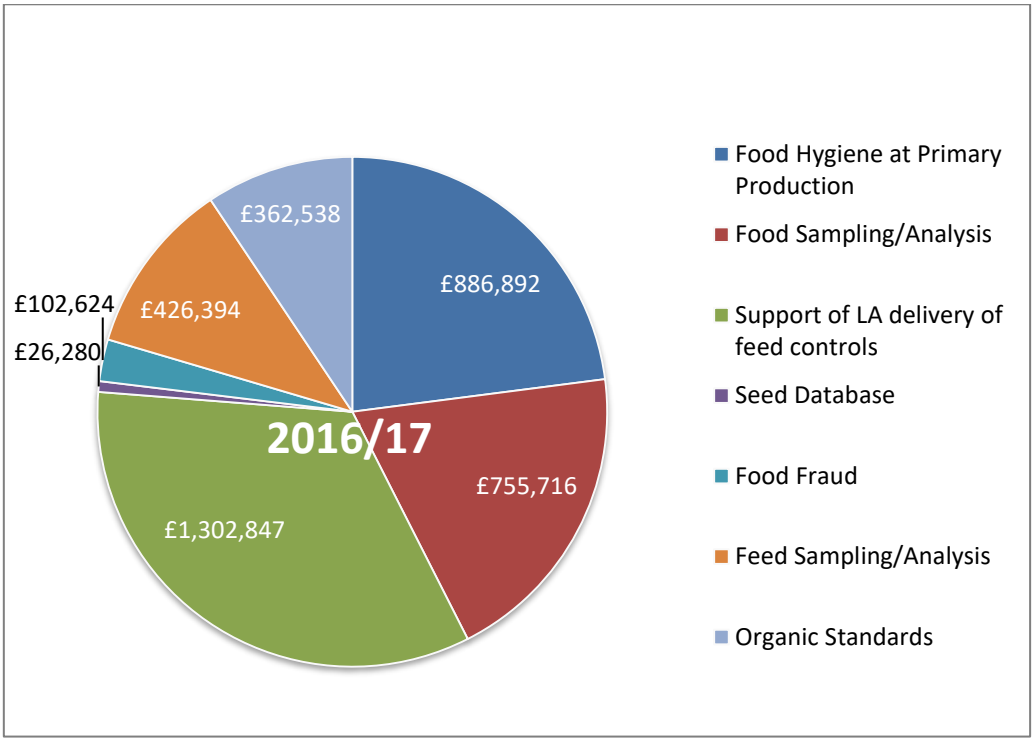
[67] gov.uk/take-pet-abroad/overview

CHAPTER 4
RESOURCES

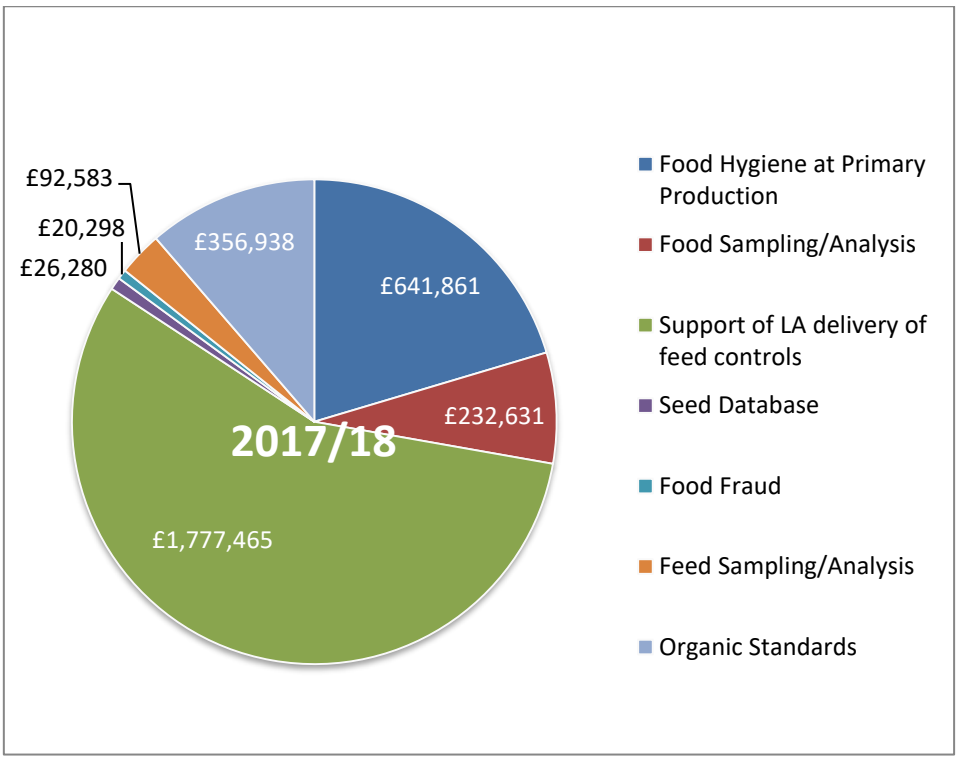
Food and feed sectors

Grants

4.1 The following graphs show the financial support (£) provided in grants to LAs and control bodies by central government for feed and food control work over the last two financial years[68].



[68] Funding for FHRS and FHIS ended in 2015/16. On 31 March 2017 the FSA ceased providing funding to LAs for Shellfish Official Controls, Food Sampling Analysis (England and NI) and Food Fraud.



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

Programme	Provided to
Food Hygiene at Primary Production	The FSA provided funding of £571,154 distributed via NTS to LAs. Wales provided £8,317 in this area. FSS provided funding of £62,390 for LAs and Scottish Government Rural Payment Inspections Division and Poultry Unit for the delivery of primary production inspections
Food Fraud	The FSA ceased funding for the national co-ordinated food standards sampling programme from 1st April 2017 onwards. FSS SFCIU provided £20,298 to LAs for sample analysis in 2017/18.
Food Sampling/Analysis	The FSA ceased funding to LAs across England and NI on 31 March 2017. FSA Wales continued to provide funding of £9,228.79 to LAs in Wales. FSS in Scotland provided £223,402 (covers FY 2017/18).
Feed Sampling/Analysis	The FSA provided £63,962 to LAs across England and NI to undertake targeted sampling for the presence of undesirable substances in feed. Wales provided £28,621 funding to LAs in Wales. FSS did not provide funding for feed sampling in 2017/18
Support of LA delivery of feed controls	The FSA provided £1,355,126 to LAs in GB to undertake a programme of inspections of feed business establishments across all sectors. In NI DAERA carries out official feed controls and has its own budget for this work, so there is no cost to FSA in NI. Wales provided £442,338.77 to LAs in Wales.

Organic Standards	Defra provides an annual grant to Control Bodies to carry out specific obligations. In 2017 this was £356,938 and payment is UK wide as Control Bodies approval covers UK.
Seed Database	Defra provides funding to The Soil Association to run the seed database for operators to identify available organic seed. £26,280 is paid to database manager for UK wide management.

Plant health sector

4.3 As in previous years, APHA resource allocation continues to be challenging due to many variables, including fluctuations in border control and outbreak response. Greater advanced notice on new regulations has helped with planning. Additional funding was available to maintain the number of PHSI inspectors in 2016/17 (110) in order to increase the number of inspections and the range of activities to improve import controls at UK borders.

4.4 The FC continues to operate a full cost recovery inspection regime. In 2013, the FC received additional resources for a planned two year period to increase its inspections of wood packaging material associated with known high risk commodities. and this funding was extended in 2015/16, 2016/17 and continued in 20176/187. Forestry Commission England recruited additional field staff to their inland plant health team to increase the surveillance level of trees and woodlands for pests and diseases.

4.5 For the last three calendar years, Scotland has been operating full cost recovery of fees covering the costs of documentary checks, identity checks and physical plant health checks of certain imports of plants, plant products and other objects from third countries which are required by Article 13a (1) of the 2000/29 directive. The new legislation was introduced in 2015.

4.6 In the implementation of the All-Ireland Chalara Control Strategy in NI, two temporary inspectors were engaged for 5 weeks from September to undertake inspection, and sampling duties for Ash Dieback. This resource was supplemented by full time Plant Health Inspectors from Plant Health Inspection Branch, Forest Service.

CHAPTER 5
ACTIONS TAKEN TO IMPROVE PERFORMANCE OF CONTROL AUTHORITIES

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

Food Standards Agency

FSA Operations

5.1 FSA Operations regularly engage with operational audit colleagues in FSA NI and FSS in order to share best practice, coordinate activity and communications with industry. FSA Operations have strengthened business planning, risk management and performance reporting across each of the four divisions, adopting Group-wide approaches to issues where appropriate.

5.2 In 2017, the Incidents and Resilience Unit reorganised its 'front-line' incidents response in England into four teams to improve resilience and provide additional capacity. Focus was also placed upon further developing the unit's capability to conduct food chain analysis during foodborne outbreak investigations as well as providing an incident prevention resource to identify root causes of incidents and encourage 'best practice' across industry. This additional capacity and capability is available to support incident teams in Wales and NI.

5.3 The Incidents and Resilience Unit also conducted a review of the effectiveness of the food withdrawal/recall system operating in the UK. The project team included FSA, FSS and an external reference group comprising representatives from across the food industry, regulators and consumer groups. Four key themes were identified:

- Being Clear on Roles and Responsibilities
- Enhancing Withdrawal and Recall Communications
- Root cause analysis, feedback and prevention
- Raising Consumer Awareness

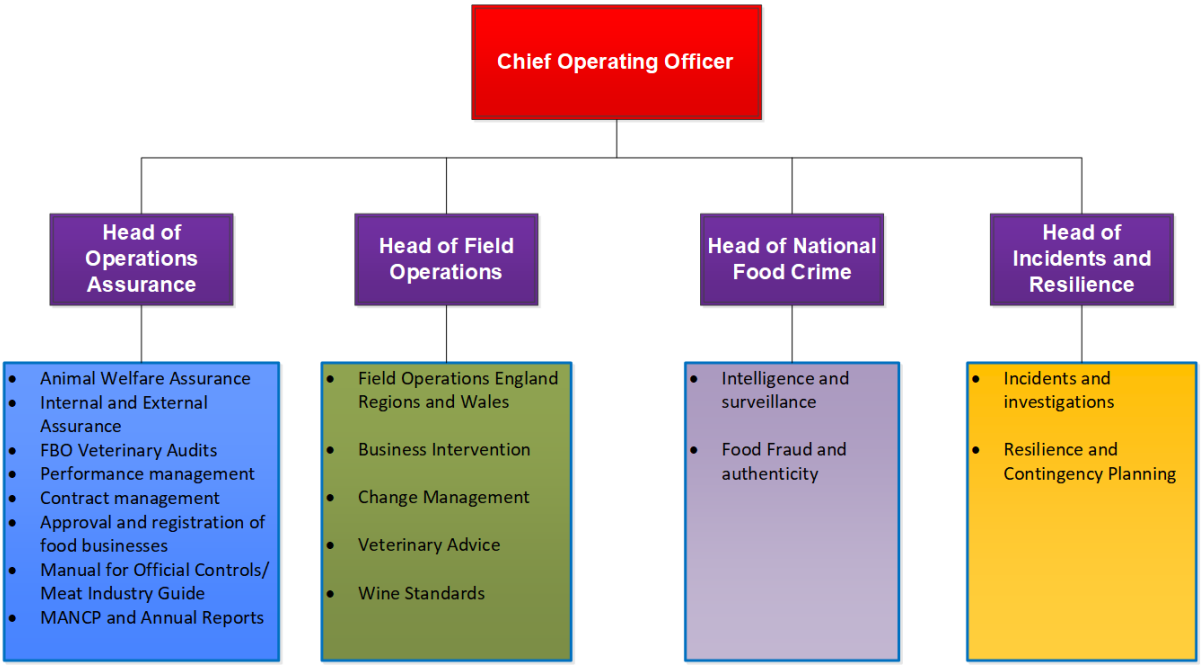
Work to address these areas and improve the systems will continue into 2018/19.

5.4 In the area of wine inspection, Field Operations have restructured the agenda and delivery team to align with a growing industry, EU Exit demands and associated risks. A closer working relationship and collaborative approach is being developed with senior industry stakeholders.

In recognition of the risk that raw cows drinking milk poses to public health a complete review of the dairy agenda has been undertaken. A structure that better manages the risk is to be implemented.

As a direct response to national incidents that have a potential impact on public health, the FSA's intervention using unannounced inspections to support formal audits is being reviewed.

5.5 The organisation chart below shows the 2017/18 overarching responsibilities for FSA Operations:



Food Standards Scotland

5.6 The FSS operational delivery function is led by the FSS Director of Operations, and comprises the following teams:

- Operational Delivery
- Enforcement Delivery
- Audit
- Scottish Food Crime & Incidents Unit

5.7 After vesting day, FSS continued to use the Manual for Official Controls (MOC) issued in collaboration with FSA as Competent Authority (CA) guidance on Official Control (OC) delivery in meat premises. As there was a need to have a separate Scottish guidance that would reflect more accurate the landscape and requirements for the OC delivery in Scotland, FSS created its own Scottish Manual for Official Controls (SMOC) while still collaborating with the technical portfolios in FSA for relevant input and contributions.

5.8 Following the establishment of FSS we took the opportunity to review the LA Audit Scheme. Various changes were made including:

- Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 will be the new audit standard
- On site verification visits will continue, but may be without prior notice

- A root cause analysis for any deficiencies raised will be expected as part of the development of an action plan
- Level of Assurance assigned to each audit.

5.9 This revised scheme has now become well established.

Revision of the Food Law Codes of Practice and Practice Guidance

5.10 A revised Food Law Code of Practice (England) came into force in March 2017, the main amendments being to:

- Facilitate consistent interpretation and approach by LA officers delivering official controls, specifically in relation to risk scoring; by updating advice and clarifying the risk descriptors used in the food establishment intervention rating schemes.
- Provide additional guidance on the communication of food incidents and hazards, and addressing food criminality.
- Further clarify qualification and competency requirements of LA officers since the implementation of the previous Code revision.
- Streamline the document to improve readability
- Update links, terminology, and references to legislation.

5.11 A new revision of the Food Law Practice Guidance (England) was published in October 2017. This brought the Practice Guidance in line with the Code of Practice (England) changes made in March 2017. Significant areas of amendment included:

- A new section on National Food Crime Unit.
- Section added on catering waste requirements of Regulation (EC) 852/2004.
- Section added on Imports Early Warning system to protect UK consumers from risks associated with imported foods.
- Material added about extra approval requirements for business supplying minced meat, or meat preparations, to be served less than thoroughly cooked.
- Clarification of LA requirements with regard to raw drinking milk and cream, intended for human consumption.

5.12 Work has begun on the next review of the Food Law Code of Practice which will consider and reflect changes brought about by Regulating our Future and EU Exit.

5.13 The current Food Law Code of Practice NI (February 2016) is currently being reviewed (consultation period of July-September 2018), to incorporate the amendments referred to above and also to embed ROF principles into the food hygiene risk assessment of food businesses. This aims to ensure that enforcement practices are risk based, proportionate and effective, to reduce unnecessary burden on businesses. The proposals are to:

- Clarify and update the descriptors for method of processing, consumers at risk, and confidence in management at are used to rate and assign the frequency and nature of interventions.
- Introduce the new definition of full compliance and sustained compliance.
- Provide greater focus on higher risk businesses and those with persistent or serious non-compliances by reducing the frequency of interventions in the lower risk compliant businesses.

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

5.15 The Development team consists of three members of FSS and three LA representatives, who have been tasked with the development of the proposed "Ladder Model" and the creation of a new combined Food Law Enforcement matrix.

5.16 The pilot was very successful resulting in nine of the pilot LAs opting to be early adopters of the new approach from the 1 April 2018 with full rollout to all remaining Scottish LAs planned for the 1 April 2019.

5.17 A review of the Food Law Code of Practice (Scotland) will be delivered in 2018, with a new Interventions Code of Practice to encompass the Food Law Performance Rating scheme scheduled in 2019. Further individual Code publications are proposed from 2020 onwards.

5.18 The Food Law Code of Practice (Wales) was the subject of a consultation in January 2018 to update advice in-line with the Codes for England and NI. The Code for Wales is due to be laid before The Minister for approval in June 2018.

Revision of the Feed Law Code of Practice

5.19 The Feed Law Code of Practice (Scotland) was updated in March 2016 to reflect the implementation of Earned Recognition in Scotland. As part of the work to develop the centralised feed delivery model, a Feed manual is under development and is based on the Feed Law Code of Practice and Practice Guidance.

5.20 The Feed Law Enforcement Guidance (NI) was updated in September 2016. A further update is due in 2018.

5.21 The Feed Law Code of Practice Guidance was published in Wales in December 2016 to fully implement the earned recognition[69].

Delivery of Official Feed Law Controls in England

5.22 In April 2018, in line with the FSAs ambition to be an 'excellent accountable modern regulator', the FSA published its 4-year Animal Feed Official Control

[69] food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/flpgwales2016.pdf

Delivery Strategy (England), informed by the findings and recommendations of:

- A programme of LA audits, in 2016, in England, which assessed the adequacy of official controls on feed of non-animal, including at primary producers.

- An internal FSA review in 2016, in England, which assessed the effectiveness of the New Feed Delivery Model.

- The findings and recommendations of the United Kingdom Animal Feed Threat Assessment 2017.5.15 In April 2018, in line with the FSAs ambition to be an 'excellent accountable modern regulator', the FSA published its 4-year Animal Feed Official Control Delivery Strategy (England), informed by the findings and recommendations of:

    - A programme of LA audits, in 2016, in England, which assessed the adequacy of official controls on feed of non-animal, including at primary producers.

    - An internal FSA review in 2016, in England, which assessed the effectiveness of the New Feed Delivery Model.

    - The findings and recommendations of the United Kingdom Animal Feed Threat Assessment 2017.

5.23 The overarching aim of strategy being to safeguard public and animal health by driving up sustained improvements in business compliance, through intelligence led enforcement.

General Hygiene

Training for authorised officers

5.24 The FSA previously announced that it will not be continuing the centrally managed classroom based training programme for LA food and feed law authorised officers in its current form from 1 April 2017/18.

5.25 However, the cascade training materials were updated and made available on the FSA website from November 2017. Since 1 April 2017 - 31 March 2018, the FSA e-learning websites (see below) have trained a number of enforcement officers and FBOs. The table below shows the courses covered by the e-learning websites, the number of visits made to each site in the last 12 months and those trained:

Name of E-learning	No. of visits in the last 12 months*	No. of people trained
Allergens	304,764	48,000 enforcement officers and FBOs.
Vacuum Packing	8,100	750 enforcement officers and FBOs.
Food labelling	101,037	The-e-learning course has trained (issued a CPD certificate to) to over 478 enforcement officers and FBOs
Traceability	29,364	The-e-learning course has trained (issued a CPD certificate to) over 423 enforcement officers and FBOs.
Root Cause Analysis	22,633	The-e-learning course has trained (issued a CPD certificate to) over 372 enforcement officers and FBOs.

*The visits metric is the number of sessions on the website (a single user looking round the site and leaving). If somebody visits the site twice they will be counted twice.

The above mentioned e-learning websites can be found at:

http://allergytraining.food.gov.uk/
http://vacuumpackingtraining.food.gov.uk/introduction/
http://labellingtraining.food.gov.uk/
http://traceabilitytraining.food.gov.uk/
http://rcatraining.food.gov.uk/

5.26 Training delivered to FSA frontline staff throughout 2017 included:

- 10 Veterinary Auditors had ISO 22000 training
- 36 members of Operations Assurance and Field Operations staff had Advanced HACCP training
- 88 veterinarians attended a Veterinary Development Day.
- 68 field staff received Meat Processing Activity training
- 30 MHIs received Enforcement training. 57 MHIs received Knife Safety training
- 34 field staff received Slaughter Hygiene Verification training

Training specific to Wales

5.27 During 2017/18, the FSA in Wales funded 11 training courses for 288 LA officers.

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

5.29 The training programme covered the following areas:

- Food Factory Food Standards Inspections
- Shellfish Purification and Inspection of Approved Shellfish Premises
- Primary Production
- Lead Auditor
- Mirco-criteria for Dried, Cured and Fermented Meats
- Food Contaminant
- Annex 5 Consistency training
- Farm Feed Inspectors
- HACCP Level 2 for Feed Officers
- Pet food Producers, Animal By Products and Surplus Food

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

Training specific to FSS

5.31 During 2017/2018 FSS held a workshop for LA environmental health representatives on the Scottish Government A Healthier Future - Action and Ambitions on Diet, Activity, and Healthy Weight consultation. The event was attended by 55 representatives from 21 LAs. The workshop programme included two introductory presentations and three themed workshops focused on: (i) the out of home food environment; (ii) the planning system and the food environment; and (iii) leadership and transforming the food environment.

5.32 A “Food Enforcement Partnership Event” was held in January 2017, in collaboration with the SFELC and the SOCOEHS. Representatives from 31 out of 32 Scottish LAs, SFELC and SOCOEHS were in attendance. The event included updates from FSS, SFELC, SOCOEHS and a number of workshops covering a wide variety topics including Annex 5 Food Law Inspections, the challenges of Brexit, LA Capacity and Capability, and MenuCal.

5.33 A launch event was held for the launch of the “Scottish National Database”. Officers from 28 out of 32 LAs attended.

5.34 FSS continued to support the EH profession by awarding funding for student / graduate trainee EHOs up to the end of the 2018 financial year.

Food Standards Training Manual (FSS)

5.35 In 2017, FSS held seminars and workshops for LA Enforcement Officers to support the launch of the Food Standards Training Manual. The manual has been extensively updated and rebranded for Scotland and provides a comprehensive source of information on Food Labelling and Standards matters for enforcers.

5.36 Sixty-four Officers from 24 Scottish LAs attended the events in Aberdeen and Perth where FSS colleagues gave presentations on Nutrition Labelling, Country of Origin of Meat, Foods for Specific Groups, Additives and the Work of the Food Crime Unit. A speaker from Scotland’s Rural College also presented an overview of the EU Protected Food Name scheme which

includes the rules on Protected Geographical Indications and Protected Designations of Origin.

5.37 With support from the LAs and SFELC, workshop sessions covered the MenuCal system (aimed at encouraging caterers to provide energy and allergen information to consumers), Food Supplements and Infant and Follow-on Formula. Officers also had the opportunity to prepare Allergy Alerts and draft Seizure and Detention notices in respect of serious breaches of food information law. Feedback on the day was very positive, with lots of discussion gene,rated by the presentations and keen interest during the workshops e.g. requests for leaflets on MenuCal.

Training specific to NI

5.28 During 2017/18 FSA in NI funded training for 297 District Council officers, this training covered a wide range of topic areas where development need had been identified. The identification of such development areas had been collaboratively agreed upon by FSA in NI and the NI Food Managers Group. The development areas upon which the training programme was designed covered Food Hygiene, Standards and Dietary Health via the following training: -

- Managing Food Allergens
- Intelligence Training
- Incidents Handling
- Approvals Training
- Country of Origin Labelling
- Vacuum Packaging and Modified Atmospheres
- HACCP Advanced Level 4
- Caloriewise Training

5.29 Evaluation of the training provided identified 93% satisfaction rate with regards knowledge gaps being fulfilled post training.

MMO training

5.30 In 2017 the MMO ran 13 training courses for Marine Enforcement Officers from the MMO, all of which related to fisheries compliance and enforcement.

Meat controls

UK official controls on Mechanically Separated Meat (MSM)

5.31 The moratorium on production and use of desinewed meat remains in place and official controls are applied. The Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) issued a ruling on the definition of MSM on 16 October 2014. The Court of Appeal issued a judgment on 26 May 2017 in a judicial review case brought by an FBO concerning the moratorium. The Court of Appeal found that, taking account of the principles established by CJEU, the FBO's pig and poultry products in question were MSM. The Supreme Court has granted the FBO permission to appeal. The appeal will be heard in due course.

Charging for meat controls

5.32 From April 2016 changes to the charging and discounting system for meat official controls were introduced to deliver more equitable and consistent charges for food businesses. The development of these changes was overseen by a joint FSA / Industry Steering Group that was independently chaired. An overriding principle of the Steering Group was that nothing would be taken forward which would have an adverse impact on public health.

Modernised meat controls for pigs

Visual Inspection

5.33 From June 2014 visual inspection of pigs was successfully introduced across the UK. The exception to the default visual inspection is for establishments where traditional inspection is needed to meet the requirements of an export certificate for trade with Third Countries, the FSA continues to provide assurance that this is done. Defra, with support from the FSA and the devolved administrations, will continue to work with Third Countries towards gaining assurances about the use of visual inspection procedures for exported meat in the future.

Salmonella

5.34 A new obligation in 854/2004 (introduced in June 2014) for Competent Authorities (CA) to collect all information on the total number of Salmonella Process Hygiene Criteria (PHC) samples taken by FBOs, including the number of positive results. The legislation also requires that if the PHC is not complied with on several occasions the CA must require an action plan from the FBO concerned and strictly supervise its outcome. The requirement still only applies to FBOs processing over 37,500 pigs a year.

5.35 Regarding the FSA salmonella database, an on-line application was introduced in 2015 so that data on salmonella can be recorded by OVs in slaughterhouses. Between 1 April 2017 and 31 March 2018 in England, Wales and NI[70], at the 19 establishments that slaughter 100,000 pigs weekly there were 2,740 salmonella tests on pigs of which 48 were positive. In Scotland, in the 2 pig slaughterhouses over the 37,500 pigs a year threshold, 220 tests were undertaken of which 9 were positive, all in a single plant and during January 2018.

Trichinella

5.36 The Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/1375 lays down specific rules on official controls for *Trichinella* in meat. In 2017, no *Trichinella* was detected in domestic or wild animals in over 7 million animals tested in the UK.

[70] At the time of reporting NI figures are based on Calendar Year (January – December 2017)

Shellfish hygiene

5.37 A Governance Board provides oversight and a steer for shellfish work to help prioritise, align and link shellfish work across the UK to ensure it is safe for consumers. The Working Group meets quarterly to review progress, manage issues and identify risks that might impact on effective delivery of official controls for shellfish.

Imported food

5.38 In 2017 additional controls on Imported Food were implemented, while the FSA issued guidance on the application of the controls to authorised practitioners at points of entry for new and amended measures introduced:

- Additional controls on certain feed and food listed in Annex I of Regulation (EC) 669/2009 (as amended) following its biannual reviews.
- Revised measures on food and feed from Japan under the amended Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 2016/6.
- Extension of the controls on bivalve molluscs from Peru under Commission Decision 2008/866/EC.
- Removal of the pre-export checks carried on groundnuts from the United States under Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/949.
- Extension of the controls on bivalve molluscs from Turkey under Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 743/2013.
- Additional controls on betel leaves from India, previously controlled under Regulation 2016/166, and sesame seeds from India, previously controlled under 669/2009, under the new Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2017/186.

5.39 The FSA's Early Warning System (EWS), developed in 2013 to detect potential emerging risks related to imported foods, continued to identify new emerging issues in 2017, including some which were subsequently subject to additional import controls under Regulation (EC) 669/2009 as amended. The EWS system is primarily but not exclusively based on analysis of EU RASFF notifications. Port health and inland authorities and food businesses who have expressed an interest are alerted to new risks when they are identified, which contributes to their targeted sampling programmes to improve the safety of imported foods.

Third country exports

5.40 The FSA works closely with LA officials and Defra/APHA to support activity to approve UK businesses for export to countries outside the EU and to carry out ongoing assessments of compliance in these exporting businesses, particularly where they are exporting to countries with specific conditions on food/feed exports.

5.41 The FSA also continues to work with LAs to enable them to support businesses in their area wishing to export their products and be able to provide the appropriate certification. This export certification is usually issued in respect of processed food and drink products, often not of animal origin, and fish, but in the case of a limited number of products of animal origin, LAs can also provide formal APHA issued export health certificates.

5.42 The FSA has delivered training on the USA Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) requirements to Official Veterinarians (OVs) working in establishments that intend to export beef to the USA. The FSA has also organised workshops with FBOs, officials and representatives from devolved administrations to clarify the application of these requirements. FSA veterinarians continue to work with industry to ensure that those businesses that have expressed interest in exporting beef and lamb to the USA meet their requirements prior to an inspection visit from the FSIS. The UK has formally invited FSIS to audit the UK's delivery of our controls in June 2018; however, this visit has not yet been confirmed by the USA authorities and a technical teleconference has been scheduled in May 2018. Campden BRI has been accredited to carry out the required Shiga toxin- producing *E. coli* (STEC) tests for samples collected by FBOs; official samples, taken by FSA employees, will be tested in the Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI), NI, since the FSIS requires that these official samples are tested in a Government laboratory. A sampling exercise to determine STEC prevalence was carried out in the summer of 2016; generally satisfactory results were obtained. More samples were taken during February/March of 2017 and more will be taken in April 2018 so that data over the winter months is also gathered.

5.43 Further to their initial visit in October 2016, the Chinese authorities carried out an additional inward inspection visit in May 2017 to review the UK's system of controls on the production of beef, with a specific focus on BSE controls. The outcome was positive, with the Chinese authorities agreeing to take steps towards lifting their ban on the export of UK beef, which would include a further inspection visit on BSE controls during April 2018.

5.44 In July 2017, the Japanese authorities carried out an inward inspection visit, also to review the UK's system of controls on the production of beef, with a specific focus on BSE controls, with a view to opening both the beef and lamb export market. Defra provided additional information to the Japanese authorities after the visit to inform their report and recommendations. The outcome was positive and Defra continue to work with the Japanese authorities on developing the required establishment approval documentation and process.

5.45 Later in July 2017, the Chinese authorities made a brief inspection visit to review UK controls on the production of alcoholic drinks. The outcome was positive and exports continue.

5.46 In September 2017, the South Korean authorities carried out an inward inspection to review UK controls on existing exports of pigmeat. The outcome was positive and exports continue.

5.47 Later in September 2017, the USA carried out an inward inspection to review UK controls on existing exports of pigmeat. The outcome was largely

positive, with their report seeking further clarification on the use of contracted vets as Government inspectors in GB. Exports continue. The FSA also organised re-fresher trainings on FSIS requirements to OVs working in plants exporting pork to the USA.

5.48 In October 2017, the Taiwanese authorities carried out an inward inspection visit to review the UK's system of controls on the production of pigmeat with a view to opening the export market. The outcome was positive and Defra are now finalising the arrangements for approval and listing of UK establishments approved to export pigmeat to Taiwan.

5.49 During the first 6 months of 2017, the United States Food and Drugs Administration (USFDA) completed their 2016/17 programme of inspection visits to existing exporters of processed food and drink products to the USA. 49 establishments were inspected and no major issues were highlighted. In September, we were notified that their 2017/18 programme was now being finalised but none were arranged before the end of 2017.

5.50 During 2016, the Chinese authorities introduced changes to their Food Law, which were expected to come into force by October 2017. These changes will require harmonised Export Health Certificates for all food and drink products being exported to China. The FSA continues to work closely with Defra and APHA on the implementation of these changes. However, the implementation date for these new arrangements was delayed until 1 October 2018 at the very earliest and negotiations between the EC and the Chinese authorities on this issue continue.

Food fraud

5.51 The structure and processes of the NFCU, established in 2015, have continued to refine and develop. The NFCU has refreshed and refined its strategic understanding of the food crime threat, building on the inaugural Food Crime Strategic Assessment published in March 2016.[71] The Unit has identified seven principal types of offending within food crime, which have been promulgated more widely through an effective social media campaign in September 2017.

5.52 The National Food Crime Unit (NFCU) has maintained the quantity of incoming intelligence, with over 1200 new intelligence logs created in 2017/18 (up from around 1100 the previous year), while also seeking to improve the quality and relevance of incoming information. This is undertaken through outreach to LAs, industry partners and other regulatory and law enforcement bodies, including through the publication and sharing of a food crime bulletin on a quarterly basis.

5.53 The NFCU has continued to work closely and effectively with LA partners to bring about enforcement responses. This continues to include activity regarding individuals linked to the online sale of the toxic chemical 2,4-dinitrophenol as a fat-burner. The number of fatalities attributed to DNP has fallen in subsequent years, but this remains a threat to UK consumers and the NFCU prioritise this issue accordingly.

[71] food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/fsa-food-crime-assessment-2016.pdf

5.54 Operational co-ordination also manifests through the NFCU's role as national co-ordinator of the annual international activity under Operation OPSON (an initiative run by Europol and Interpol targeting counterfeit or substandard food). This involves the management of co-ordinated activity between the Unit, FSS, FSA in Wales and NI and a large number of local and port health authorities. OPSON VI activity took place in early 2017 and resulted in tangible results around a number of areas, including coconut water authenticity and the labelling of food supplements. This strong and intelligence-led approach has continued into recent activity in early 2018 under OPSON VII.

5.55 FSS established the 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 works 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. These partners include LAs, Police Scotland, HMRC, FSA and the Food Industry Intelligence Network (FIIN). Work continues in an effort to expand the SFCIU information sharing landscape. In 2017, the SFCIU became the joint lead for Operation OPSON for the UK and played a crucial intelligence support role in the 2017/2018 operation, where successful collaborative EU action took place in relation to illegally treated tuna. The Head of the SFCIU recently became a member of the European Food Fraud Network. Contacts made through this network has allowed the SFCIU to assist other EU member states to progress food crime investigations and vice – versa where food crime is impacting on Scotland.

5.56 In 2017 the MMO received 97 intelligence reports with information in relation to establishments handling first sale fish.

Incident Management Protocols

5.57 The FSA continued their programme of drills and exercises to test its Incident Management Plan for non-routine incidents and its arrangements for the protection of consumers during emergencies affecting food and feed. This programme of drills and exercises aims to build the FSA's capability and capacity to respond effectively and efficiently in the event of a food or feed incident. The FSA 2017 exercise programme included 21 exercises, drills and training opportunities to test the FSA's incident response at a strategic, tactical and operational level at varying levels of complexity, both internally and with other organisations. The FSS 2017-18 exercise programme included 16 exercises and training events designed to provide opportunities to rehearse and interrogate current incident management arrangements in the event of a non-routine incident, at strategic, tactical and operational levels. This programme has contributed to FSS' strategic aim to ensure 'Food is Safe' by ensuring that FSS is equipped to manage and respond effectively to food incidents.

5.58 In 2017 FSS undertook a review of its incident management preparedness, intended to evaluate its current food incident response and identify any areas for development since its establishment as an independent organisation in

2015. New improved incident management structures and protocols have been developed for non-routine incidents and are currently being embedded throughout the organisation supported by training and exercising.

5.59 During 2017 the FSA and FSS continued their joint working to review and develop Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to support crisis management processes on a four nation basis. Eleven SOPs have now been published on the FSA and FSS intranet and supported by training or drilling to raise staff awareness.

Regional presence in England

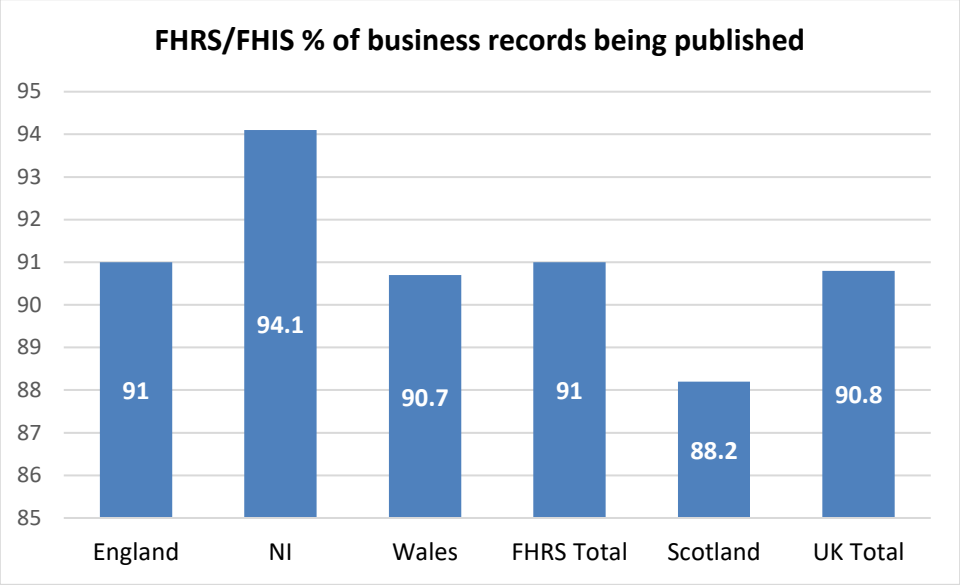
5.60 The FSA's Relationship Management Team provided support to 100% of LA Food Liaison Groups, by participation in the meetings or by providing written briefings. Priority was given to highlighting and discussing the Regulating Our Future programme, EU Exit encouraging LAs to consider the impact on them and their delivery of official controls following our exit from the EU, raising the profile of the Food Information for Consumer Regulations and the consistency of application of FHRS. The team provided feedback on LA delivery of official controls to inform FSA policy and shared intelligence with the National Food Crime Unit. Additionally, the team hosted meetings across all the nine English regions, which consulted on the Regulating Our Future principles. These were attended by LA Heads of Service and food lead officers covering both hygiene and food standards disciplines. This provided the opportunity for LAs to raise issues and contribute to open policy making. Briefings were drafted for the FSA Chairman of the Board and numerous new Board member visits were organised and accompanied.

5.61 In addition, throughout 2017 the team input to the successful delivery the Smarter Communication Platform, a central communication platform across England. This standardises and coordinates communications across LAs in England and the devolved nations, to improve communications and promote FSA priorities and objectives. Alongside this, reactive work to support other FSA departments with specific work highlighted from media allegations of food safety breaches.

Food Hygiene Rating / Food Hygiene Information Schemes

5.62 The FSA and FSS continue to work with LAs to deliver the Schemes. The Food Hygiene Rating Scheme (FHRS) is operated by all LAs in England, Wales and NI. All LAs in Scotland operate the Food Hygiene Information Scheme (FHIS).

5.63 FHRS information was available for approximately 478,000 food businesses which is an estimated 91% of businesses within scope of the scheme. This is a 1 percentage point increase on 2016 (90%). FHIS information was available for approximately 48,700 food businesses and is an estimated 88% of businesses within scope. The chart below shows the percentage of business records published on food.gov.uk of those businesses within scope of the schemes as of December 2017.



5.64 The FSA is committed to introducing the mandatory display of ratings to food outlets in England. The FSA's plans for seeking approval are being aligned with the FSA's Regulating Our Future programme to review the way in which food businesses are regulated. This will ensure that the FSA has a robust and credible scheme that continues to deliver benefits for consumers and in the meantime, continues to improve the impact and benefit of the FHRS scheme.

5.65 In Wales, a statutory FHRS was introduced in 2013. The scope of the scheme has been extended to include, in 2014, trade to trade businesses and, in 2016, certain publicity materials for takeaway food businesses.

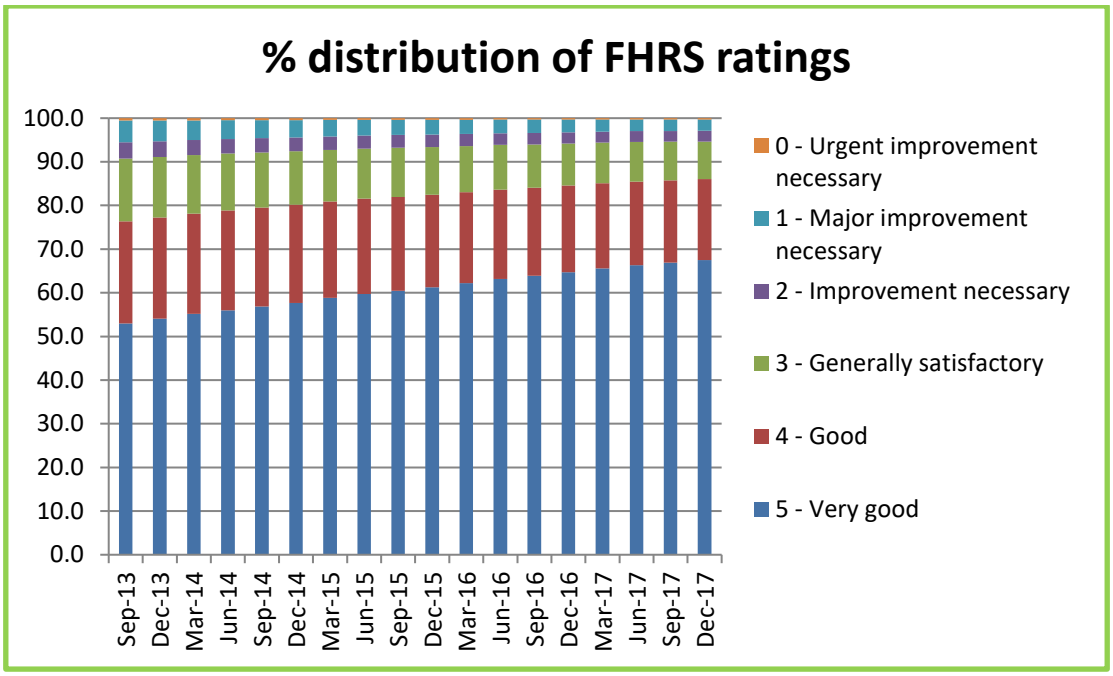
5.66 In Scotland, FSS are undertaking a full review of the operation and presentation of FHIS, which includes consideration of a mandatory scheme. The first phase of extensive engagement with stakeholders has been completed and analysed and has helped inform some potential options. The next phase will be further targeted stakeholder engagement to begin to develop the detail of a revised scheme. However, the review is progressing slower than originally planned due to interdependence with other work areas.

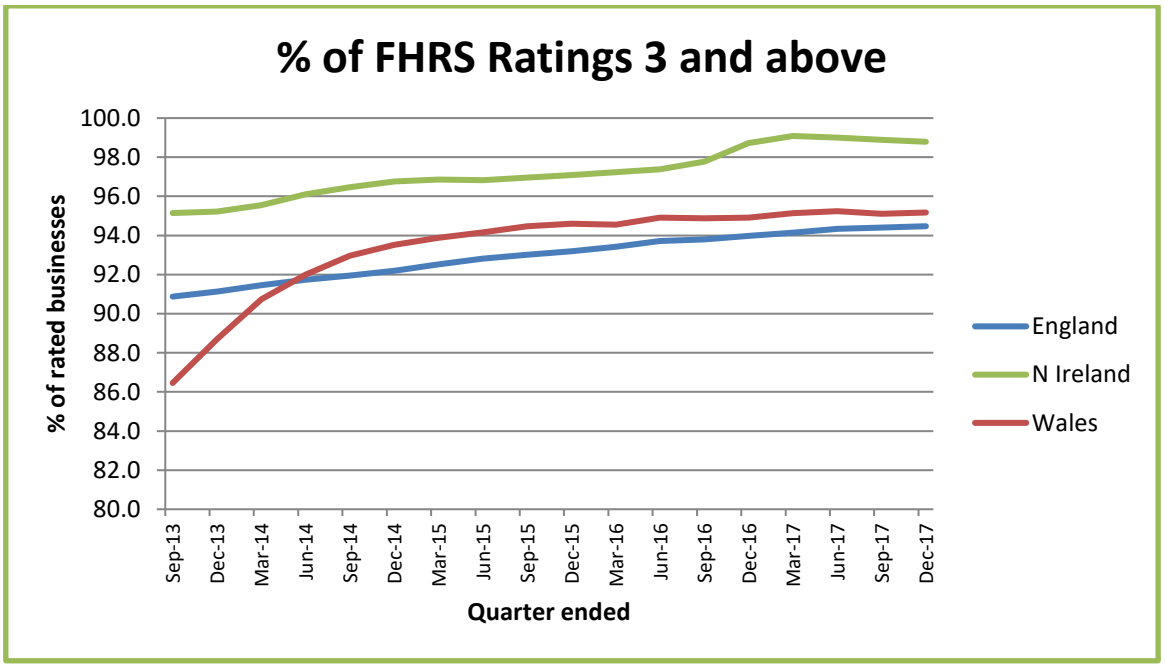
5.67 The statutory FHRS scheme in NI came into operation in October 2016. The Food Hygiene Rating Act (NI) 2016 requires food businesses to display hygiene rating stickers at establishments. A further requirement for operators to publish ratings online where they provide a facility to order food online was consulted upon in 2017 and has been submitted to the NI Assembly.

5.68 Guidance to ensure consistency in implementation and operation of the FHRS by LAs is provided by the Brand Standard in England. In Wales, the equivalent statutory guidance for food authorities was reviewed and updated in 2017. As part of the Agency's on-going efforts to promote consistency in the application of the scheme a third national consistency exercise was run in 2017 for LAs across England, Wales and NI, in which more than 99% of LAs participated. Other consistency related activity included a FHRS data cleansing week to encourage LAs to check and resolve any data discrepancies. In 2017, FSA conducted an FHRS themed audit of all 22 authorities in Wales.

5.69 The FHRS continued to generate significant local press coverage and the FSA ran a UK-wide programme of consumer communication activity to promote the use of the Schemes including a' Look Before You Book' mini-campaign in December focussing on using the scheme when planning meals out in the run up to Christmas and by contributing to articles for consumer and trade magazines and the local press.

5.70 The graphs below, which cover the quarters since September 2013, show an increasing trend in businesses achieving an FHRS rating of 3 and above in England, Wales and NI:





5.71 Statistical analysis by the FSA has shown that 'broadly compliant' premises (FHRS equivalent ratings 3, 4 and 5) are likely to have a smaller proportion of

unsatisfactory microbiological samples taken than 'not broadly compliant premises' (FHRS equivalent ratings 0, 1, and 2). Similarly, 'fully compliant' premises (FHRS rating 5) premises are likely to have a smaller proportion of unsatisfactory samples than all other premises.

Official Controls Auditors Liaison Group

5.72 Meetings of the UK-wide Official Controls Auditors Liaison Group were held on a regular basis. The Group is comprised of UK audit teams involved in auditing official controls and its main purpose is to improve collaborative working so as to avoid duplication of audit effort and gaps in assurance across the UK as well as sharing knowledge and expertise. The discussions by the group included DG Sante's planned audit of the UK National Audit System.

Defra, its Executive Agencies and CRD (HSE)

Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD)

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

Inspection of FeBOs

5.74 The VMD continues to participate/engage in meetings with the Animal Feed Law Enforcement Liaison Group (AFLELG) when meetings are scheduled and its sub group, the National Animal Feed Port Panel (NAFPP).

5.75 The tripartite MOU with APHA/NAP & the VMD is now in place.

5.76 The VMD also has a Service Level Agreement in place with Cefas for them to inspect fish farmers manufacturing medicated feed in England & Wales and Marine Scotland.

5.77 The Veterinary Medicines Regulations came into Force on 1 October 2013 (S.I. 2013 No. 2033). Since then there has been an amending S.I. in 2014. No 599.

Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance

5.78 The VMD is responsible for antimicrobial resistance policy with respect to animal health. The VMD in partnership with Department of Health and Social Care' is responsible for the delivery of the UK Five Year Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Strategy 2013-2018. The VMD compiles data on antibiotic sales and is responsible for the mandatory surveillance of antibiotic resistance in animals in the UK (as required by Commission Decision 2013/652/EU). Data is submitted to EFSA for inclusion in EU surveillance reports. The VMD is the secretariat for the Defra Antimicrobial Resistance Coordination (DARC) group, a cross-government group that meet quarterly to discuss recent trends in antibiotic resistance in bacteria of importance to human and animal health.

Four DARC meetings took place in 2017 summary minutes of which are available on the GOV.UK website.

5.79 The VMD also funds the antibiotic susceptibility testing of bacteria of clinical relevance from APHA's scanning surveillance programme in England & Wales. Findings from both the mandatory UK surveillance and clinical surveillance in England & Wales are published annually in the UK Veterinary Antimicrobial Resistance and Sales Surveillance (VARSS) report.

Veterinary Residues Surveillance

5.80 The planning meeting for the 2018 National Residues Control Programme (NRCP) was held in September 2017 attended by representatives of the NRLs, major contractors, FSA, APHA and two independent experts.

National Pesticide Residues Monitoring Programme

5.81 The 2018 National Pesticide Residues Monitoring Programme has been discussed by the Expert Committee on Pesticide Residues in Food (PRiF) and representatives from Defra, FSA, NI Executive and the SG.

5.82 Four meetings of the independent PRiF, attended by officials from Defra, FSA, NI Executive and the SG were held during 2017. As well as an open event where members of the public were able to join the committee for a day to listen to presentations from the committee, people from the food industry, growers and FSA and had the opportunity to ask questions about pesticide residues.

Beef labelling – England, & Wales

5.83 RPA carryout enforcement of the compulsory beef labelling rules at FSA approved licenced establishments and LA enforce at retail establishments and other establishments under their control. RPA passed on intelligence gathered during its control visits to the relevant LA or FSA (where applicable) for their follow-up action as required. RPA also liaised on an ongoing basis with the Devolved Administrations on cross border enforcement issues.

Beef labelling – NI

5.84 Enforcement responsibility for beef labelling in NI continued to be split between DAERA (approved establishments) and LA (retail), with the FSA having a peripheral role. DAERA inspectors and EHOs continue to liaise on beef labelling issues. LA environmental health departments also submit data on EHO beef labelling inspections to DAERA on an annual basis.

Working across the EU

Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF)

5.85 The Incident and Resilience Unit within FSA Operations is the UK contact point for RASFF notifications. More information can be found here.

5.86 In 2017, the UK issued a total of 379 RASFF notifications, although 2 were later withdrawn. The remainder comprised 49 rapid alerts, 275 border rejection notifications, 49 information notices and 2 new notifications.

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

FSA – Animal Welfare

5.87 In September 2017 the FSA presented a Board paper updating progress on its "Deter, Prevent, Detect, Enforce" animal welfare action plan. This paper can be found here.

5.88 The paper reiterated the FSA's commitment to zero tolerance of animal welfare breaches and outlined its welfare activities in the four key areas of:

- Strengthened verification of compliance.
- Improved accountability and collaboration.
- Improved education and awareness.
- Improved analysis and reporting.

5.89 Annex 1 to the paper outlined the progress made against the FSA's Animal Welfare Action Plan. Key achievements during the year were:

- Recruitment and training of a dedicated Welfare Assurance Team.
- Completion of a CCTV survey in slaughterhouses in England & Wales.
- Development of a joint voluntary CCTV protocol between FSA and industry.
- Working with APHA and Trading Standards to improve welfare on farm and in transport.
- Implementation of a new welfare reporting system.

Defra - Chief Veterinary Officers (CVOs) meetings

5.90 The four UK administrations' CVOs met monthly in 2017, focusing on the specifically veterinary aspects of animal health policy and delivery. The CVOs from the UK, Scotland, Wales and NI were joined by the most senior veterinary official from the APHA and the FSA. On a six monthly basis CVOs from the Isle of Man, Guernsey and Jersey also attended. Standing agenda items included discussion on EU Exit to ensure there is continuous engagement between the administrations, global threats to animal and public health, international trade and a formal report and assessment of risks to animal health and welfare identified by the Veterinary Risk Group. If risks identified were not considered to be sufficiently mitigated they were escalated to the highest levels of the administrations for further action.

5.91 The group considered specific issues in greater depth as needed, including a continued overview of antimicrobial resistance, maintaining an effective surveillance system which will lead to a UK Framework; facilitated a workshop for all administrations to ensure a common evidence base for risk assessment and policy decisions during an exotic disease outbreak and maintained an overview of the Animal and Plant Health Agency's Assured Certification for Export project. TB control issues are considered on a UK basis by CVO's and policy colleagues in the monthly TB liaison group meeting.

The Veterinary Risk Group (VRG)

5.92 In 2017, the VRG met monthly, focusing on identifying, assessing, characterising, prioritising and escalating unexpected animal-related threats and providing technical advice on options for risk management to inform decision making. The VRG reported to the four UK CVOs at their monthly Four Administrations Liaison meetings.

5.93 During 2017, eight threats and vulnerabilities were raised and discussed. Seven of these threats were of domestic concern, including identification of macrocyclic lactone resistance in sheep scab mites and the detection of eyeworm in dogs in the UK, both of which were raised and reported in the Vet Record. One threat of international concern was discussed, regarding risks posed by the zoonotic H5N6 avian influenza strain in Japan.

The Animal Health and Welfare Board for England

5.94 The Animal Health and Welfare Board for England is the principal source of departmental advice to Defra ministers on all strategic health and welfare matters relating to all kept animals in England. It provides support, advice and constructive challenge to Defra's Ministers and officials in developing and implementing animal health and welfare strategy and policy, and in the context of EU exit and post-exit strategy. The Board's responsibilities during 2017 included:

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

5.95 In 2017 the Board met four times, and all meeting notes are published[72]

The Animal Health and Welfare Frameworks

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

5.96 The Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework (Wales AHWF) sets out the long term plan for continuing and lasting improvements in standards of animal health and welfare for kept animals, whilst also helping to protect public health and making a contribution to the economy and the environment.

5.97 The Framework group members play a pivotal role in providing a recognised link between the Welsh Government, livestock keepers, animal owners, industry representatives and the veterinary profession. The Wales AHWF strategic outcomes illustrate how they are supporting and link closely to the work being done across Wales to ensure;

- Wales has healthy and productive animals.
- Animals in Wales have a good quality of life.
- People trust and have confidence in the way food is produced and in the way public health is protected.
- Wales has a thriving rural economy.
- Wales has a high quality environment.

5.98 The Wales AHWF Group have been working with the Welsh Government to develop an evidence base to provide a mechanism for delivery, including;

- BVD Eradication Programme (Gwaredu BVD).
- Sheep Scab.
- Equines.
- Small kept animals.
- Raising awareness of biosecurity and Anti Microbial Resistance (AMR).

5.99 Each year an annual implementation plan is published which sets out the priorities and key actions for delivery. The Framework Implementation Plan for 2017/18 was published on 14 August. The Wales AHWF Group has agreed their priorities for 2017/18, they are:

- Animal Health Planning.
- Anthelmintic Resistance.
- Antimicrobial resistance (AMR).
- Biosecurity.
- BVD.
- Engagement with the Welfare Sector – Equine and Companion Animals.
- Increased Collaboration and Partnership Working.
- Sheep Lameness.
- Sheep Scab.

5.60 The current Chair is due to stand down in May 2018, the process to recruit a new chair to the group is being undertaken and will be in place by 1st June. Priorities and key actions for 18/19 will be agreed once the new chair is in place. Information on the Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework including key documents and the published minutes of the Wales Animal Health and Welfare Group [2] can be found here.

5.61 The English National Animal Health and Welfare framework is being reviewed and updated to help LAs plan and deliver against Defra's animal health and

welfare national priorities. This framework sets out national priorities whilst retaining flexibility to react to local financial pressures and priorities. It is anticipated to be published during Summer 2018.

Working with LAs

5.62 Defra and APHA continued to work with the LAs' National Animal Health and Welfare Panel (NAHWP) to exchange and disseminate information and to identify and address common issues. The panel met quarterly, led by LAs and included representatives from each region allowing a national picture to be understood. Priorities set out in the National Animal Health and Welfare framework are discussed and agreed with the NAHWP.

5.63 LAs direct their enforcement activity based on risk-assessments and intelligence. Defra are investigating whether analysis of local intelligence could improve national delivery of Animal Health & Welfare enforcement. Defra are funding a proof-of-concept project with the National Trading Standards (NTS) Intelligence Unit to analyse intelligence related to cattle dealers.

5.64 In Wales, the Welsh Government has established a collaborative structure, working in partnership with the Welsh Heads of Trading Standards in the delivery of animal health, welfare and animal establishment licensing legislation. The aim of the Partnership Delivery Plan is to deliver outcomes over and above the LAs statutory responsibilities. The Plan is based on the Intelligence Operating Model which concentrates resources and provides a long term strategy for additional enforcement activity and focuses actions on resolving these issues with measurable results.

Co-ordinating work on biosecurity across Defra and its agencies

5.65 Defra assesses thousands of risks to animal and plant health including aquaculture, bees and risks to the environment. These risks are constantly evolving as risk pathways change, whether due to climate change, trade patterns or other factors. As a result, Defra continues to update its approaches to risks and issues related to biosecurity, covering animal, plant, bees, aquatic animal health, and invasive non-native species, across the continuum of activities on biosecurity – pre-border, at the border and within the UK. Monthly biosecurity meetings were held throughout 2017 to enable timely escalation of new and changing biosecurity risks to animal and plant health and the environment from invasive non-native species. These meetings are held with senior officials and Ministers and provide strategic oversight and direction.

Risk Assessment – Understanding the risk

5.66 Defra continued to monitor the international disease situation and conducted and produced 8 Preliminary Outbreak Assessments on a range of global outbreaks such as *Foot and Mouth Disease, Equine Infectious Anaemia*, *Bluetongue*, *and Avian Influenza*. Defra communicated information about the new outbreaks to the BIPs and BF to ensure that all regulatory and anti-smuggling controls at the border were responsive to new or changing animal

health risks and to ensure that they focused on the most high risk routes and goods. Further information can be found at here.

Bee health

England and Wales

5.67 In England and Wales Defra and APHA continued to work in partnership with beekeeping stakeholders to deliver the objectives of the Healthy Bees Plan[73]. Bee stakeholders, officials from Defra, APHA, Fera Science Ltd, the Welsh Government, and the Scottish Government met together four times at the Bee Health Advisory Forum[74]. Topics discussed included the healthy bees plan review, stakeholder bee health training programmes, EU Exit and the future for food, farming and the environment, queen replacement strategies, bee research and contingency planning for exotic pests.

Scotland

5.68 In Scotland, the Honey Bee Health Strategy[75], now in its eighth year of operation brings together, in a partnership arrangement, all sectors of the beekeeping sector from frontline beekeepers, SG Bee Inspectors, scientists at SASA and policy makers. Implementation of the Strategy involves representatives from the Scottish Beekeepers Association (SBA); Bee Farmers Association (BFA), Scotland's Rural College (SRUC) as well as observers from the NBU and Defra policy. The Strategy is taken forward under the auspices of the Bee Health Improvement Partnership who deliver on outcomes as agreed by the main steering group.

NI

5.69 The NI Strategy for the Sustainability of the Honey Bee[76] which is in its seventh year of operation is currently being reviewed. This review will integrate the Bee Health elements of this Strategy within the All Ireland Pollinator Strategy. During 2017 DAERA Plant Health Policy Branch continued to engage with the Ulster Beekeepers Association and the Institute of NI Beekeepers in implementing the strategy.

Aquatic animal health

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

England and Wales

[73] nationalbeeunit.com/index.cfm?sectionid=41

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

[75] gov.scot/Topics/farmingrural/Agriculture/animal-welfare/bee/strategy

[76] dardni.gov.uk/strategy-for-the-sustainability-of-the-honey-bee.pdf

5.71 The Defra annual stakeholder meeting took place in London in July 2017 and was attended by officials from the competent authority, the devolved administrations, the official services and representatives of trade bodies. This meeting provides an opportunity to consider current issues in relation to aquatic animal health from a UK perspective.

5.72 The Cefas FHI has continued to engage with other government agencies on improving working practices in a number of areas including with Natural England on habitats regulation assessments, the EA on response to disease outbreaks in wild aquatic animals, and FSA on contingency planning and support during emergencies.

5.73 The FHI is represented on the Government's National Investigators Group. This group promote the need for all Government Departments to participate in the new National Crime Agency[77] Integrated Operating Model (Threat, Harm and Risk from Organised Crime Groups). The FHI is also taking forward inter-Agency cooperation including participating in a multi-Agency investigation into a number of potential breaches of food and animal health regulations in the shellfish sector, and in illegal activity associated with trade in live eels.

5.74 The FHI investigation and enforcement Inspector remains seconded to the Marine Management Organisation[78] to lead a number of high level investigations into illegal activities in the marine fisheries sector.

5.75 Following the award of the Cabinet Office's Customer Service Excellence (CSE) standard in 2015 the FHI was subject to a further audit by independent consultants on the quality of delivery to stakeholders. Further progress was made in achieving the required standard in the 57 criteria under assessment. The audit report stated that the assessor was impressed with the commitment to providing good quality customer focused service.

5.76 The FHI use a monthly survey called 'Customer Thermometer' to assess stakeholders views of the quality of service provided. This is an electronic system of obtaining feedback. A total of 1010 customers were invited to respond to the survey with a 47% response rate. Of the responses receives 83% rated the FHI service as excellent and 14% as good. A small paper based survey of 72 stakeholders was undertaken with a 33% response rate and a customer satisfaction score of 94%.

Scotland

5.77 Communication between Marine Scotland and internal and external organisations ensured appropriate co-operation and co-ordination for relevant cases throughout the year. During 2017 communications were maintained with veterinarians from the APHA, representatives from the Scottish Environment Protection Agency as well as colleagues within Marine Scotland Compliance. Communications were also maintained with other parts of UK government and devolved administrations that have a responsibility for aquatic animal disease control.

[77] nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/

[78] gov.uk/government/organisations/marine-management-organisation

NI

5.78 The excellent lines of communication which exist between the DAERA FHI and the FHI at Cefas were again evident throughout 2017. The sharing of good practice and technical expertise has proved beneficial in the on-going maintenance of a high fish health status.

5.79 DAERA continued on-going co-operation with the Marine Institute[79], with a number of meetings taking place in 2017 to discuss common fish health issues, such as fish movements, contingency planning and matters in relation to the All-Island Bottom Grown Seed Mussel Fishery.

5.80 DAERA co-sponsors a North South Body, namely the Loughs Agency, which is responsible for the inland fisheries of the Foyle and Carlingford Areas. This allows for excellent lines of communication and effective working in the years ahead, especially with regard to aquatic diseases in the wild, contingency planning and disease outbreak situations.

Plant health

GB

5.81 Biannual meetings of the UK Co-ordination group, which includes all the UK territories, including the Channel Isles and Isle of Man continued in 2017. These meetings discussed a range of topics, including the latest developments on the review of the EU Plant Health Regime and the implementation of the GB Plant Biosecurity Strategy[80], as well as to agree pest risk management measures, and to hear reports from all territories on actions taken against plant pests.

5.82 In England and Wales, Plant Health and Seeds Inspectorate continue to co-ordinate their inspections with the RPA Inspectorate through the use of the Procedure for Electronic Application for Certificates from the Horticultural Marketing Inspectorate (PEACH) notification system which allocates inspections to each inspectorate thus reducing the risk of unnecessary duplication of inspections. There is also co-ordination with HM Revenue and Customs through the use of the Automatic Licence Verification system which feeds data on the plant health status of goods to the HMRC CHIEF Computer system, thus automating the release of goods when permitted by an inspector.

5.83 PHSI exchanges information with Port Health Teams, the FC and UK Border Force when items of potential interest are found which may be of interest to other agencies.

5.84 PHSI are working more closely with UK BF in the passenger channels at Gatwick and Heathrow airports and postal depots in order to increase detection, raise public awareness and to counter smuggling. PHSI and BF are cooperating on Quarantine Pest Disease awareness campaigns.

[79] the Competent Authority for fish health in the South of Ireland marine.ie

[80] gov.uk/government/publications/plant-biosecurity-strategy-for-great-britain

5.85 The FC continues to work with Defra's APHA Plant Health Inspectors who have been actively performing wood packaging material inspections whilst completing their own import checks.

5.86 Representatives from Defra, APHA PHSI, the Devolved Administrations, the FC Plant Health team, and FC Forest Research attended Defra Plant Health Risk group meetings[81] in 2017. This Group carries out a monthly assessment of plant health threats faced by the UK, including the prioritisation and review of Pest Risk Analyses and entries on the UK Plant Health Risk Register.

5.87 The review of options for improving phytosanitary certificate security and fraud prevention continued, with co-operation from APHA, all the Devolved Administrations, FC, Defra, the Crown Dependencies and the Government supplier of forms and documents. Following the good progress in 2016, during 2017, prototype tamper proof security labels were supplied to all UK parties to view and assess effectiveness. Following agreement and approval of the new label system by all parties, the implementation date is the beginning of April 2018.

5.88 As in previous years, PHSI worked with Natural England and FC Plant Health team on aerial surveillance of *Juniper*, photographing and mapping for PHSI ground truthing. In addition, where aerial surveillance identified positive *Phytophthora* cases in Larch (*Larix*), PHSI carried out all non-forestry follow up inspections. Details of locations and inspection results are shared between APHA and FC.

5.89 Excellent co-operation has continued between agencies including APHA PHSI, FC, Fera Science Ltd, Forest Research and Defra, along with the organisation Fera Science Ltd. This has been key in delivering Incident Management responses to pests and diseases such as *Cryphonectria parasitica.*

5.90 Co-ordination has continued between APHA PHSI and NI regarding domestic movement of plants. This included PHSI providing assistance on setting up and operating Fire Blight *(Erwinia amylovora)* Free Buffer Zones. This co-operation also then included work on the new bacterial disease *Xylella fastidiosa* and the sampling regime for the six highest risk plant hosts of *X. fastidiosa.*

NI

5.91 DAERA and Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) continue to work in partnership on a number of key issues including Plant Health. Both jurisdictions continue to implement the All Ireland and Chalara Control Strategy. A revised strategy has been drafted based on scientific evidence proposing options to effectively manage the changing situation. These options are currently being considered in conjunction with DAFM and stakeholders to determine the future control policy.

Legislation

[81] Co-ordinated by the UK Chief Plant Health Officer.

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

Procedures

5.93 In England and Wales, APHA's Plant Health and Seeds Inspectors operate through a series of SOPs, which contain detailed advice on the full range of their activities. SOPs are reviewed and amended following changes to legislation, and Inspectors are notified of updates. The SOPs are also made available to partner organisations within the UK plant health service.

5.94 In 2017, APHA PHSI import and plant passporting processes were audited and re-accredited under ISO 17020. The PHSI had a successful audit inspection from UKAS. With only a few minor changes needed, the PHSI passed and maintained ISO accreditation to 17020 for plant passporting and imports, with audit inspections by APHA ISO Quality Standards team and UKAS external assessors.

Information systems

5.95 In 2016 the Cefas FHI introduced electronic collection of data during compliance and surveillance inspections of fish and shellfish farms across England and Wales using tablet technology (the FHIPad). This technology has removed the need for paperwork in the field (saving 21,000 pieces of paper), improved the validation of data collected and facilitated the real-time submission of data to the Starfish database. Inspectors working in the field have improved access to information such as conditions of authorisation of farms, and biosecurity measures plans thus providing a more effective and efficient service to stakeholders. The technology has been further developed to facilitate the near real-time submission of sampling data. The FHIPad and Starfish database have set a benchmark for the effective use of new technology across the Defra network. In addition the FHI has supported the development of a mobile friendly webservice to allow fish farmers to contemporaneously submit stock movement records to the Starfish database to meet legislative requirements. This webservice also functions as a transport log to fulfil welfare in transport regulation requirements.

5.96 To help improve engagement with stakeholders the FHI launched a Facebook page in 2015. Engagement with stakeholders has significantly increased with over 3,300 followers. In 2017 the total number of views on the FHI page was 74,816, the Facebook page has been engaged on other newsfeeds 24,612 times and the FHI enforcement video has been viewed 101,649 times.

Training

5.97 178 representatives attended animal health and welfare and plant health training courses organised through the European Commission's Better training for Safer Food (BTSF). The BTSF learning materials were cascaded to staff of Competent Authority involved in official controls through in house courses through in house courses.

Animal health and welfare

5.98 APHA provided a wide range of training courses during 2017. Details of these are set out below:

- Three new Egg Marketing Inspectors attended a five day Egg Marketing training/induction course. This ensured the Inspectors were aware of legislation, marketing and inspection requirements and the testing/sampling required to be carried out. These staff will continue to train alongside experienced Inspectors before final sign off by the Government Technical Advisors.

- Quarterly meetings/training days are held with all 33 Egg Marketing Inspectors. This ensures that Inspectors are kept up to date with industry, policy and agency changes and targets training where required.

5.99 In November 2017 FSA/Defra held a one day workshop for veterinary and inspection staff to discuss the appropriate use of V shaped restrainers for religious slaughter of sheep.

Field epidemiologists

Epidemiology Investigator Training – One Health

5.100 30 Field Veterinary Officers and Senior Veterinary Inspectors attended enhanced training in specialist One Health areas as listed below. The aim of this was to provide a regionally based cadre of veterinary staff who have the capability to carry out field investigations, to make better use of the national experts in a consultancy role. It also enhances overall resilience, aids succession planning and provided development opportunities for those involved. A blended approach to training was applied and trainees were presented with pre-reading material and pre-recorded power point presentations in the run up to classroom training which was delivered November 2017. Classroom training gave trainees the opportunity to explore scenarios and network with external visitors from Public Health England and Food Standards Agency. In addition to this trainees were encouraged and have been invited to attend field investigations supported by an experienced colleague.

- Salmonella training – 10 Vets from APHA received training.
- Antimicrobial Resistance training – 10 Vets from APHA received training.
- Toxicology and Chemical Hazards training – 10 Vets from received training.

5.101 144 members of staff have completed the following new Vet and Tech Induction pathways:

- Veterinary, Technical and Scientific Induction Pathway – 14 staff received training.
- Tuberculosis (TB) – induction - 28 staff received training.
- Animal By-Products – induction - 21 staff received training.
- Veterinary medicine – induction - 28 staff received training.
- Contingency planning and exotic diseases - 30 staff received training.
- Veterinary public health - induction - 23 staff received training.

5.102 164 staff attended Enforcement Support face-to-face training, which covered creating witness statements, delivering statements in a courtroom environment as well as the legislation surrounding enforcement.

5.103 A new Witness Statement course has been developed in the latter part of the year to concentrate on writing witness statements. A successful pilot in Wales was completed.

5.104 42 staff completed Enforcement Support e-Learning. This e-Learning covers the information in the face-to-face learning and acts as a learning resource as well as refresher training for those that have previously attended the face to face learning. An update to the Enforcement e-Learning was recently introduced with an updated test as well as updated information on legislation.

5.105 342 staff attended Animal Welfare related training, 113 of which completed an introductory e-Learning module 'Core Animal Welfare' which provides people with basic training on animal welfare and covers the theory and legislation involved. 224 of which completed Cross Compliance e-Learning which outlines the principles of cross compliance and enables people to inspect the welfare of livestock and report their findings in a considered, fair and consistent manner. Five staff attended Seasonal Slaughter training in November 2017; a one day course designed to provide an understanding of the slaughterhouse processes enabling staff to make appropriate welfare assessments. The course incorporated both theory and observed practical sessions. The plan is to roll-out further courses in 2018-19.

5.106 59 staff attended Pigs and Poultry Post-Mortem training. This course is aimed at APHA veterinary field staff who undertake investigations into reports of notifiable porcine and avian animal diseases as part of normal duties. Practical demonstrations and practice is completed. A total of eight courses were delivered, with an overall 27% shift in knowledge from the courses. The aims of the course were to:

- Highlight the health and safety issues relating to field work of this type.
- Review the aetiology and pathogenesis of the swine fevers, avian influenza and Newcastle disease.
- To review the sample types collected in such report cases and their means of dispatch.
- To review the general anatomy of pig and poultry species.

- To demonstrate the anatomical positions of the key sample sites for report cases.
- To improve the proficiency of each delegate in post mortem procedures.

5.107 A Post Mortem Refresher course was made available, which grants staff online access to training materials, plus an APHA Investigation into Monogastric Notifiable Diseases module. Completion data will be available in next year's report.

5.108 258 staff attended events which have Health and Safety as a central theme. 158 of which attended Cattle Handling training. This training covered the characteristics and behaviours of cattle as well as how to handle them in a safe manner in the correct environment.

5.109 55 Staff attended the one day Health and Safety for Lab Workers and Animal Facility Workers course between March and December 2017. The aim of this course is to provide staff with sufficient knowledge and training required to work safely in a laboratory environment, ensuring an understanding of safe laboratory practices.

5.110 34 APHA staff received Advanced Driving for Work Training and 11 staff completed Driver e-Learning

5.111 53 APHA staff attended Case Officer Refresher Training, with contingency planning as a central theme. These events all allow staff to update their knowledge and skills in the roles and responsibilities they would adopt in the event of a disease outbreak.

5.112 99 APHA attended Livestock Industry Awareness training over the course of 2017. The course aims to provide staff with a working knowledge of the UK livestock industry sectors of cattle (for dairy and beef), sheep, pigs and poultry enabling them to communicate confidently with colleagues, farmers and others, so ensuring continued engagement and credibility.

5.113 36 staff attended the one day Writing Science for Non-Scientists course held during Feb and Oct2017 designed to help Scientists improve writing of science for a non-science audience.

5.114 25 staff attended the Plant Health Imports Refresher course. The event is an annual refresher course for Plant Health inspectors enforcing import controls on plant material entering the UK from third countries. The training is required to maintain ISO accreditation, ensure inspectors are aware of the rapidly changing legislation in this area and for inspectors to be updated on new and emerging plant pest threats. This fits with one of Defra's key strategic objectives, namely 'a nation protected against natural threats and hazards, with strong response and recovery capabilities'.

5.115 37 staff attended the one day DRF Train the Trainer course, held during July and August 2017, to ensure provision of quality data which may then be extracted for epidemiological analysis and report writing.

5.116 29 staff attended the one day Animal Feed Controls Training Day in October 2017 which covered the statutory requirements relating to Animal Feed Control, including working in partnership with other agencies and stakeholders. The training was aimed at all those who were/are involved in the delivery of the UK National Feed Audit Programme, with a preference to those new in their roles, and those aligned to the Animal Feed Control ODN.

5.117 Other activities of significance were:

- Modular learning in Tracing Documents and Record Keeping Requirements continue to be available for up skilling in the arena of Animal By Products.

- During February and March 2018, a further 102 Government veterinary staff from across the UK administrations successfully completed the EuFMD Foot and Mouth Disease Emergency Preparation course (FEPC). This is the third such course that the UK has participated in (following on from previous courses run in 2015 and 2016) and brings the total of UK government veterinary staff trained to approximately 300. The FEPC provides interactive and flexible online web-based learning covering: FMD disease pathogenesis, clinical signs (including lesion ageing), epidemiology, disease investigation, biosecurity and laboratory diagnostics and runs over a four week period. Online tutoring and expert technical support are provided by colleagues from EuFMD, the Pirbright Institute and experienced APHA veterinary staff.

Bee health

5.118 During 2017 in the UK:

- Six new Seasonal Bee Inspectors received in house training, a week long residential course at the NBU (Sand Hutton) followed by an intensive week field based training with competent Inspectors, and further supervised working.

- A number of Bee Inspectors attended City and Guilds training and qualified from Level 2 Disease Management and Safe Use of Veterinary Medicines Modules. A number of Regional Bee Inspectors also passed their Level 3 City & Guilds Land Based Skills Assessors to deliver and assess the above Disease Management course.

- Bee Inspectors received additional training as part of field-based contingency exercises carried out for potential exotic threats to apiculture.

- All NBU staff undertook mandatory, e-Learning on protecting information, fraud prevention and unconscious bias.

- All NBU staff attended the NBU annual technical training workshop at Sand Hutton. APHA also welcomed a delegation from the Scottish Government Bee Health Inspectorate and Policy teams to the training.

Aquatic animal health

5.119 Members of the Cefas FHI attended a number of training events including Health and Safety at Work, Water Safety, Driving Safety, and Presentation Skills. Senior Fish Health Inspectors attended a training course on The use of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 In addition two newly recruited Fish Health Inspectors completed the BTSF e-Learning course on Animal Health Prevention and Controls for Aquatic Animals.

5.120 Marine Scotland FHI attended a number of training events including; National Marine Plan Interactive, Driving Training, Water Safety and Awareness, Witness Familiarisation, Better Training for Safer Food courses on Animal Health Prevention and Controls for Aquatic animals, and Contingency Planning and Transmissible Animal Disease Control. Five members of Marine Scotland's FHI were undertaking a Post Graduate Certificate in Aquatic Animal Health from the University of Stirling.

Plant health

5.121 For FC, Training for Contract Plant Health Inspectors was held in April 2017 in Edinburgh and at Forest Research's Northern Research Station Laboratories. This involved Wood Identification Techniques using portable microscopes and hand lenses to assist inspectors when performing firewood import inspectors for non-regulated trees species from, for example, Africa.

5.122 PHSI supplied Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) documents for all inspectors describing what must be inspected and the relevant inspection processes. This co-operation continued on the new bacterial disease *X. fastidiosa*. In 2017, APHA PHSI's 'Guidance to trade document on *Xylella fastidiosa*' was updated and shared across the devolved administrations in Wales, Scotland, NI and Forestry Commission.

5.123 In January 2017 the annual PHSI technical training event took place, covering a range of plant health training areas from concept to delivery. Scottish Plant Health Inspectors participated in training curses run by:

- EU's Better Training for Safer Food programme
- Defra/Fera
- SAS/Agauntlet

Emergency and contingency planning

Animal health

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

which are produced by each Government in GB. In addition to the individual country plans, there is an overarching UK Contingency Plan[82] which outlines how the four Administrations work together during the response to a disease outbreak. The revised version of the Plan was published in March 2015.

5.125 On 16 December 2016, Defra confirmed High Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) at a farm in Lincolnshire. The farm was declared an Infected Premises (IP) and all poultry were humanely culled, the carcasses disposed in a bio-secure manner and the establishments underwent preliminary cleansing and disinfection. Any movements of poultry to and from the establishments were prohibited. Upon confirmation of disease, a 3Km Protection Zone (PZ) and 10Km Surveillance Zone (SZ) were put in place. Within the zones there were restrictions on movements of poultry, meat, eggs etc. and a ban on bird gatherings or the release of wild birds. Following this initial case there were a further 11 IPs involving the same strain were confirmed in England and one in Wales and also three dangerous contacts, in different locations in England. The same operational activity, restrictions and zones were applied.

5.126 The UK government declared a prevention zone necessitating that producers and backyard flock keepers had to keep all poultry indoors, or at least covered, as a preventative measure to stop the spread of disease. This zone was lifted in May 2017. A derogation was permitted with regards to the marketing of free range eggs from housed birds for 12 weeks and after that period producers were required to specify that eggs were from barn production. Secondary Cleansing and Disinfection has been completed on all premises and OIE country freedom re-established.

5.127 The outbreaks demonstrated that the contingency plans and control strategies were effective in responding to and controlling the disease.

5.128 APHA has a well-developed, centrally co-ordinated exercise programme in which local offices carry out or participate in at least one local exercise each year. In 2016 the programme was curtailed due to the HPAI outbreaks. In 2017/18 Exercise Blackthorn, a national FMD Exercise will consist of three strategic level national table tops (scheduled for February, March and June 2018) and a two-day real-time simulation (April 25 and 26 2018). A number of on-farm exercises designed as part of this national exercise have already taken place. The internal Emergency Readiness Management Assurance Scheme (ERMAS) mechanism and the exercise programme has allowed staff to complete simulated tests of outbreak governance, processes, decision making and the mobilisation of services.

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

England

5.129 Defra's Contingency Plan for Exotic Notifiable Diseases of Animals[83] was reviewed as required by the Animal Health Act 2002 and published in November 2017.

Wales

5.130 The Welsh Governments Contingency Plan for Exotic Animal Diseases[84] was reviewed and updated in 2016 to reflect the lessons learned from previous outbreaks and exercises. The contingency plan has been subject to review and will be updated in 2018 in light of Exercise Blackthorn.

Scotland

5.131 The Scottish Government reviewed and updated its Exotic Diseases of Animals Contingency Framework Plan, as well as disease-specific annexes covering Rabies and Swine Vesicular Disease[85]. The Plan will be reviewed and updated again in 2018 to reflect changes to APHA's outbreak model. During 2017 the Scottish Government began planning its participation in the 2018 UK Foot and Mouth Disease Exercise Blackthorn, as well as a Scottish Avian Influenza exercise to take place in 2018.

NI

5.132 During 2017 the following contingency planning activities were carried out:

- A Ruminant Day at College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise (CAFRE) Greenmount Campus provided field Veterinary Officers and technical staff with updates on the foot and mouth disease (FMD); other important notifiable diseases of ruminants; their roles and responsibilities during a FMD outbreak.

- Locally based cascade training on notifiable diseases of ruminants and poultry, delivered by members of the Epizootic Team to Veterinary, technical and policy teams.

- Exercise Dexter tested DAERA contingency plans for licensing and movement of milk during an outbreak of FMD, to ensure preparedness for the earliest possible resumption of cross-border trade in bulk milk during a FMD outbreak in NI.

- Exercise Angus tested the setup and running of a movement licensing centre using a hypothetical FMD outbreak as a scenario.

[83] https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/contingency-plan-for-exotic-notifiable-diseases-of-animals-in-england

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

[85] http://www.gov.scot/Topics/farmingrural/Agriculture/animal-welfare/Contingencies

- Familiarisation and training of new staff with emergency roles within the Central Epizootic Disease Control Centre.

Bee health

England and Wales

5.133 Following the first confirmed incursion of the Asian Hornet, *Vespa velutina* in England in 2016, Bee Inspectors responded to a further outbreak in September 2017, where a nest was discovered and destroyed. No further hornets have been seen in the region. Surveillance is ongoing to monitor and respond to further outbreaks. Lessons from the outbreak response were taken to refine contingency planning protocols. Contingency exercises are held annually to test the response to exotic pests and in 2017 this was held in Leicestershire. The exercise was unannounced and lasted four days within which 387 colonies were inspected in 73 apiaries. As well as training new inspectors these exercises are key in practicing the management in the forward operating base. Additionally, the national disease control centre and lead government department meetings were rehearsed to practice the communications procedures between them.

Scotland

5.134 Given the outbreaks of Foulbroods since 2009 the Scottish Contingency Plan for notifiable diseases continued to be practised in real-time. A future exercise will be considered in discussion with the SG partners and stakeholders which will include contingency arrangements for both notifiable diseases and pests.

NI

5.135 The DAERA Bee Health Contingency Plan is reviewed on a regular basis and Department is content that it would meet their needs in an emergency situation. The Plan will be reviewed in 2018.

Aquatic animal health

5.136 Contingency plans[86] for the control of exotic disease outbreaks in the UK have been subject to annual review and the relevant operational manuals were updated.

England and Wales

5.137 Preparations were completed in 2017 for an England and Wales aquatic animal health disease contingency exercise that is scheduled to take place in January 2018

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

Scotland

5.138 Contingency plans and procedures were not required to be implemented throughout 2017. Work continued with respect to their development. Preparations were undertaken to design and implement a joint UK contingency exercise – 'Exercise Galatea' concerning an outbreak of viral haemorrhagic septicaemia to be staged in early 2018. following on from Exercise "Alpheus" undertaken in late 2015.

NI

5.139 DAERA's fish disease contingency plans provide for trans-border arrangements with the South of Ireland. Plans were activated following the detection of *Marteilia refringens* in Belfast Lough and Dundrum Bay and oyster herpesvirus microvariant (OsHV-1 µvar) in Larne Lough. DAERA continues to work closely with the Marine Institute on disease prevention and control measures.

Plant Health

England and Wales

Emergency & Contingency Planning – Plant Health

5.140 Defra co-ordinates the development of contingency plans for England and their publication. The plans are written in consultation with stakeholders and devolved authorities. APHA's Plant Health and Seeds Inspectors have a series of SOPs, which contain the detailed instructions to enable the inspectorate to implement contingency plans. The SOPs are made available to other parts of the plant health services. These are not available through a public website.

5.141 Twenty plant heath contingency plans have now been published, 14 by the Forestry Commission and 6 by Defra. Further plans are being drafted and the published plans are being updated when required.

5.142 The FC published a combined contingency plan for four species of North American budworms (*Choristoneura freemani, Choristoneura fumiferana, Acleris gloverana and Acleris variana)* in 2017. In addition, oak wilt (*Ceratocystis fagacearum)* plans were published during January 2017. A number of other pest and disease contingency plans are awaiting publication or undergoing consultation by experts and stakeholders.

Scotland[87]

5.143 Scotland has its own generic plant health contingency plan[88] and specific contingency plans for *Potato brown rot* and *Potato ring rot*. These plans can be viewed here.

[87] Scotland's contingency plans can be viewed at: gov.scot/Topics/farmingrural/Agriculture/plant/PlantHealth/PlantDiseases/ContingencyPlans

[88] gov.scot/Topics/farmingrural/Agriculture/plant/PlantHealth/PlantDiseases/ContingencyPlans/GenericContingencyPlans/GenContingencyPHI

5.144 Although, these plans are fit for purpose, Scotland is in the process of updating its own generic plan to align with the terminology/structure used in the Generic Contingency Plan for Plant and Bee Health in England and other national plans.

5.145 Defra, FC cross border and SG have produced some pest-specific plans, which on agreement from the UK plant health risk group, have been posted on the UK Plant Health Portal here.

NI

5.146 NI has reviewed and published a revised contingency plan[89] in the event of an introduction of a serious plant health pest or disease, drawing on the DEFRA revised plan. The contingency plan allows for all incidents to be assessed and if appropriate escalated to the DAERA Major Emergency Response Plan arrangements. Close liaison on the potential for joint engagement in emergency responses on a cross border with officials in the Republic of Ireland took place at meetings of the North South Plant Health sub group under the direction of the North South Plant Health Steering Group. The contingency plan will be reviewed on a regular basis.

Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance

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

[89] daera/documents/contingency-plan-plant-health-northern-ireland

CHAPTER 6
ACTIONS TAKEN TO IMPROVE THE PERFORMANCE OF BUSINESS OPERATORS

Food and feed sectors

Training

6.1 Food Sold Online guidance - In December 2016, the FSA published a guidance package on Food Sold Online' which can be found on the FSA website here. This guidance to LAs was designed to support Trading Standards and Environmental Health Officers when working with businesses for food sold over the internet.

6.2 Food labelling - The FSA has produced a library of free e-Learning, guidance, posters, videos and tools to support the enforcement community and food industry to learn about the requirements of food labelling and how to comply with them. Advice is also disseminated to LA representatives via a FSA training programme. The e-Learning course has already trained over 70,000 enforcement officers and FBOs. To supplement this, the FSA has worked with the food industry in their development of best practice guidance documents which promotes further information consistency.

6.3 Community and charity food provision - Guidance on the application of EU food hygiene law was produced in March 2016 to help LA food safety officers make pragmatic assessments on whether or not to register activities carried out in the village hall, community and charity sector. It should also help community and charity food organisers share a common understanding of the legal considerations.

6.4 Guidance to LAs on food brokers - This was produced in April 2016, and was designed to provide a range of useful documents for officers, such as Inspection aide-memoir, case studies, questionnaire and practical ways in which LAs can identify unregistered food brokers operating in their area. It also includes a short fact sheet for food brokers to help food brokers understand their obligations under food law including the need to register as a food business and identifies further sources of information.

Safety, quality and information campaigns

FSA

6.5 Safe summer food - The FSA's 'Safe summer food' communication activity ran throughout summer 2017 and focused on increasing understanding of two of our '4Cs'10: chilling and cooking. The campaign ran from 19 June 2017 (Food Safety Week), focusing on picnics and concluded on the August bank holiday weekend with a focus on barbecues. The campaign reached 13.8 million people via partners, establishing partnerships with the likes of Waitrose, Asda, Morrisons and NHS Choices.

6.6 Let's talk turkey – The FSA's 'Let's talk turkey' campaign ran from 5 December 2017 to 7 January 2018, and centred on talking consumers through the steps they need to take to enjoy a safe Christmas turkey dinner, from buying and cooking the turkey, right through to storing leftovers. Key messages focused on clearing up common misconceptions.

6.7 Know your calories - In late February 2018 the FSA launched a campaign in NI called 'Know your calories' which ran during March 2018. It aimed to raise awareness of the recommended calorie intake for men and women and where to find calorie information on labels, both on the front of packaged food and on menus when eating out.

6.8 Food Hygiene Rating Scheme – The FSA ran a campaign with the aim of encouraging consumers in NI and Wales to be aware of and use the Food Hygiene Rating Scheme (FHRS) before eating out or ordering a takeaway for Valentine's Day. Entitled 'Don't drop your standards, look before you book' this equated eating out with dating and as the target consumers constantly seek and share information online, activity was focused on social media and digital advertising.

6.9 Food Crime - The NFCU continues to drive online conversations around food crime through an extensive and active presence within the social media environment. This included an informal 'food crime week' in September 2017. The Unit also undertakes a broad range of outreach and engagement events to champion the work of the NFCU, its successes and to make clear the Unit's requirements for intelligence from FBOs to support the fight against food crime. This is via conferences, seminars, bilateral meetings and engagement through trade associations.

Shellfish sector

6.10 To support LAs, the FSA has produced a guidance document and aide memoire, monitoring equipment for the inspections has been issued to relevant Shellfish Liaison Groups (a Dissolved Oxygen Meter, Turbidity Meter and Salinity Refractometer) and support and advice is available from the Shellfish / Relationship Management teams at FSA.

FSS

6.11 Pink Chicken Campaign Summer 2017 - FSS ran a Scotland-wide marketing campaign, 'Don't let Pink Chicken spoil summer' over the summer of 2017, which focused on highlighting the issues of undercooked chicken and potential for campylobacter food poisoning when barbecuing. The campaign was aimed at those most at risk and/or less likely to undertake relevant food safety behaviours: a younger, more affluent male audience. The campaign inspired 94% of campaign recognisers to take action.

6.12 New Food Safety Campaign - Kitchen Crimes January 2018 - FSS ran a new food safety campaign 'Kitchen Crimes' to increase awareness of good food safety practices and encourage uptake of twenty specific food safety actions. 15 of the 17 measured bad practices saw a decrease.

6.13 Food Safety at Events and Roadshows - FSS also ran roadshows and attended events across Scotland in 2017 to raise awareness amongst different audiences of food safety best practice, including the Royal Highland Show, Freshers' Fairs and the Scottish Learning Festival.

6.14 Consumer Research - FSS ran waves four and five of its consumer tracking survey, 'Food in Scotland', and conducted additional insight into public opinion on EU Exit food issues.

6.15 Earned recognition for FeBOs – A system of risk-based inspections for the delivery of official controls for feed was introduced in England and Wales from April 2014 and from April 2016 in Scotland. This takes account of FeBOs own-checks and gives 'earned recognition' to compliant members of FSA approved assurance schemes, as well as other businesses with a history of good compliance.

6.16 The FSA have approved assurance schemes operated by the Agricultural Industries Confederation and Red Tractor Assurance.

6.17 The introduction of earned recognition ensures that LA resources available to undertake official feed controls are now better targeted at higher-risk businesses and reduces the burden on compliant businesses.

Department of Health

6.18 Nutrition and labelling – Department of Health has updated updating its Technical Guidance on Nutrition Labelling to reflect nutrition labelling becoming mandatory from 13 December 2016, which can be found here, and guidance on Foods for Specific Groups here.

Animal health and welfare and plant health sectors

Training

6.19 In April 2017, the FSA produced guidance for the poultry industry based on a Red, Amber, Green classification system of poultry crates. The FSA worked closely with representatives from the poultry industry in production of the guidance which promotes greater consistency on how poultry crates should be classified and when they should be removed from service.

6.20 In September 2017, the FSA produced guidance for authorised officers and the meat industry on how to improve the quality of animal welfare referrals. The guide focusses on the capturing, recording and securing of evidence for animal welfare non-compliances.

6.21 In October 2017, the FSA produced guidance for authorised officers and the meat industry clarifying the requirements for non-stun slaughter of small ruminant animals by religious rites. This guidance clarified the legal definition relating to restraint and stunning of animals in order to maximise their welfare.

6.22 During 2017/18 the FSA worked on a guidance for the authorised officers and the poultry industry on catching and transport related welfare incidents. The FSA worked closely with representatives from the poultry industry in production of the guide. The guide identifies common issues seen during catching and transportation and clarifies good practice in recording and reporting animal welfare non-compliances relating to these issues. It will be published in June 2018.

6.23 62 APHA staff attended Salmonella training covering the statutory requirements of the UK Salmonella National Control Programmes in poultry.

6.24 In 2017, National Bee Unit Bee Inspectors provided training to beekeepers in England and Wales during hive-side inspections and through 191 organised beekeeping events; events were attended by a total of 8,717 beekeepers. Each Bee Inspector is an experienced practical beekeeper, with particular experience and training in the recognition and control of bee pests and diseases. Comprehensive training and advice is provided to beekeepers on best practice and biosecurity.

6.25 During 2017, six DAERA Bee Inspectorate provided input to the Ulster Beekeepers Association (UBKA) winter workshops, presenting the findings of 20,165 inspections and emphasising to beekeepers the importance of checking their colonies and reporting anything suspicious to DAERA. Six practical workshops were also rolled out to experienced beekeepers from UBKA and Institute of NI Beekeepers (INIB), aimed at identifying brood diseases in honey bee colonies. This will enable them to assist other beekeepers with inspecting and identifying brood disease in their hives. AFBI provides a disease identification service for the bee inspectorate and bee keepers. During 2016, AFBI processed 150 samples, as well as attending

beekeeping meetings to provide information on diseases and non-indigenous pests (especially in light of foulbrood outbreaks, the finding of the Asian Hornet in GB and controversy surrounding neonicotinoid insecticides). AFBI circulates a questionnaire to beekeepers with respect to overwintering losses. These data are subsequently provided to the CoLoss project, which produces colony loss maps for Europe

Safety, quality and information campaigns

6.26 The UK Plant Health Information Portal continues to be a shared resource providing information about plant pests and diseases, including the assessments of risk undertaken by government. The data underpinning those assessments is included in the portal[90].

6.27 In 2017, APHA PHSI won a bronze medal for the 'STEM surrounds us' garden at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show. The garden, sponsored by APHA, the Scottish Government and Forestry Commission Scotland, illustrated how Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) are being used to protect our country from threats to tree and plant health, and safeguard our economy, environment and wellbeing. More information can be found here.

Guidance

6.28 The Cefas FHI published guidance on biosecurity for fishery managers and for anglers in order to reduce the risk of the spread of fish diseases between recreational fisheries.

6.29 The Cefas FHI has worked closely with other government agencies on improving working practices in a number of areas including with Natural England and Natural Resources Wales on habitats regulation assessments, the EA on response to disease outbreaks in wild aquatic animals, and UK Border Force and the National Wildlife Crime Unit on investigations and enforcement issues.

[90] planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk

GLOSSARY

ABP	Animal By-Products
ADF	Assured Dairy Farms
AFB	American Foul Brood
AFBI	Agri-Food & Biosciences Institute
AFLELG	Animal Feed Law Enforcement Liaison Group
AFSA	Agriculture and Fisheries Scotland Act
AI	Avian Influenza
AIC	Agricultural Industries Confederation
AMR	Antimicrobial Resistance
APB	Aquaculture Production Business
APHA	Animal and Plant Health Agency
AQSIQ	Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine
ASP	Amnesic Shellfish Poisoning
BCMS	British Cattle Movement Scheme
BF	Border Force
BFA	Bee Farmers Association
BIP	Border Inspection Post
BIS	Business, Innovation and Skills
BKD	Bacterial Kidney Disease
BSE	Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathies
bTB	Bovine TB
BTSF	Better Training for Safer Food
CA	Competent Authority
CAFRE	College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise
CD	Confirmed Designation
Cefas	Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science
CHeCS	Cattle Health Certification Standards
CJEU	Court of Justice of the European Union
CRD	Chemicals Regulation Division
CFIA	Canadian Food Inspection Agency
CSE	Customer Service Excellence
CSFS	Compulsory Scrapie Flock Scheme
CVO	Chief Veterinary Officer
DAERA	Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (Northern Ireland)
DAFM	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
Defra	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
DH	Department of Health
DSM	Desinewed Meat
EA	Environment Agency
EAF	Extended Audit Frequency
EBL	Enzootic Bovine Leukosis
EC	European Community (now the European Union)
E. coli	Escherichia Coli
EFAT	European Funds Audit Team
EFB	European Foul Brood
EFSA	European Food Safety Authority

EHC	Export Health Certificate
EHO	Environmental Health Officer
EPPO	European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organisation
ERMAS	Emergency Readiness Management Assurance Scheme
EU	European Union
EWS	Early Warning System
FBO	Food Business Operator
FC	Forestry Commission
FDU	Fish Disease Unit
FeBO	Feed Business Operator
FeNAO	Feed not of Animal Origin
Fera	Food and Environment Research Agency
FHI	Fish Health Inspectorate
FHIS	Food Hygiene Information Scheme
FHRS	Food Hygiene Rating Scheme
FIC	Food Information to Consumers
FIR	Food Information Regulations
FNAO	Food not of Animal Origin
FSA	Food Standards Agency
FSIS	Food Safety and Inspection Service
FSS	Food Standards Scotland
FVO	Food and Veterinary Office
GAIN	Government Agency Intelligence Network
GB	Great Britain
GIAA	Government Internal Audit Agency
GM	Genetically Modified
GMO	Genetically Modified Organism
HACCP	Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point
HPAI	High Pathogenic Avian Influenza
HIN	Hygiene Improvement Notice
HRA	High Risk Area
HSE	Health and Safety Executive
IAA	Intensive Action Area
IMP	Incident Management Plan
IN	Improvement Notice
IP	Infected Premises
IRM	Identification, Movement and Registration
KHV	Koi Herpesvirus
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
LA	Local Authority
LAEMS	Local Authority Enforcement Monitoring System
LT	Lipophilic Toxins
MMO	Marine Management Organisation
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MRL	Maximum Residue Level
MS	Member States
MSM	Mechanically Separated Meat
NAFPP	National Animal Feed Port Panel
NAHWP	National Animal Health and Welfare Panel
NBU	National Bee Unit
NEEG	National Emergency Epidemiology Group
NFCU	National Food Crime Unit

NFDM	New Feed Delivery Model
NI	Northern Ireland
NIM	National Intelligence Model
NPPO	National Plant Protection Organisation
NRCP	National Residue Control Plan
NRL	National Reference Laboratory
NTS	National Trading Standards
NSAID	Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drug
OFFC	Official Feed and Food Controls
OFT	Officially TB free
OG@B	One Government at the Border
OIE	World Organisation for Animal Health
OsHV-1 µvar	Oyster Herpesvirus
OTF	Officially Tuberculosis Free
OFTW	Officially TB Free Withdrawn
OV	Official Veterinarian
OVS	Official Veterinary Surgeon
PAA	Primary Aromatic Amine
PACE	Police and Criminal Evidence
PCB	Polychlorinated Biphenyl
PCN	Potato Cyst Nematode
PEACH	Procedure for Electronic Application of Certificates
PHA	Port Health Authority
PHC	Process Hygiene Criteria
PHSI	Plant Health and Seeds Inspectorate
PPS	Public Prosecution Service
PRiF	Pesticide Residues in Food
PSP	Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning
PSTVd	Potato Spindle Tuber Viroid
PZ	Protection Zone
QUID	Quantitative Ingredient Declarations
RAN	Remedial Action Notice
RASFF	Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed
RDM	Raw Drinking Milk
REHIS	Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland
RPA	Rural Payments Agency
RTE	Ready-to-eat
SBA	Scottish Beekeepers Association
SFA	Specified Food Additive
SFICU	Scottish Food Crime and Incidents Unit
SFEAR	Scottish Food Enforcement Annual Return
SFLEC	Scottish Food Enforcement Liaison Committee
SG	Scottish Government
SG AFRC	Scottish Government, Agriculture, Food and Rural Communities
SGIAD	Scottish Government Internal Audit Division
SHBHS	Scottish Advanced Honey Bee Health Standard
SMR	Statutory Management Requirement
SNCP	Salmonella National Control Programme
SOCOEHS	Society of Chief Officers of Environmental Health in Scotland
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
S.	Salmonella
SPCS	Seed Potato Classification Scheme

SRM	Specified Risk Material
SRT	Self-Reporting Tool
SRUC	Scotland's Rural College
STEC	Shiga toxin- producing E. coli
3-MCPD	3-Monochloropropane -1,2 – diol
TARP	Trade in Animals and Related Products
TB	Tuberculosis
TCZ	Temporary Control Zone
TSE	Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy
TSI	Trading Standards Institute
UBKA	Ulster Beekeepers Association
UAI	Unannounced Inspection
UFAS	Universal Feed Assurance Scheme
UK	United Kingdom
UKAS	United Kingdom Accreditation Service
UKFSS	United Kingdom Food Surveillance System
USFDA	United States Food and Drugs Administration
VARSS	Veterinary Antimicrobial Resistance and Sales Surveillance
VFEI	Veterinary Field Epidemiology Investigator
VMD	Veterinary Medicines Directorate
VMP	Veterinary Medicinal Products
VRG	Veterinary Risk Group
VSID	Veterinary Service Investigation Database
WAEB	Welfare and Enforcement Branch
WASK	Welfare of Animals (Slaughter or Killing)
WG	Welsh Government
WG SF	Welsh Government Sustainable Future