Annual Report for 2018 on progress towards implementation of the UK Multi-Annual National Control Plan

Food Standards Agency
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Food Standards Scotland
For safe food and healthy eating

Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs

Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
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Scottish Government
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Executive summary

1. Overall effectiveness of controls

This section provides a summary of the United Kingdom's (UK) key official control data and activities for 2018, relating to feed and food safety, animal health and welfare (including aquatics) and plant health.

Feed and food sectors

Food establishments where official controls are delivered by local authorities

In 2018/19 in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, the percentage of food establishments where official controls are undertaken by local authorities achieving broad compliance or higher for food hygiene was 90.7% compared with 90.2% in the previous year. The percentage of all food establishments that were rated as having an unsatisfactory level of compliance, where improvements were necessary, was 4.5% compared with 4.7% in the previous year. The remaining 4.8% were yet to be risk rated compared with 5.1% the previous year.

FSS plans to publish data on food establishments where official controls were undertaken by local authorities for Scotland in early 2020.

Meat establishments hygiene

In 2018/19, in the UK, 91.2% of slaughterhouses achieved good or generally satisfactory compliance, compared with 97% in 2017/18. For standalone cutting plants, 97% achieved good or generally satisfactory compliance, which remained unchanged compared to results for 2017/18. Only three slaughterhouses received an audit rating where urgent improvements were necessary, compared to nine in the previous year. In the same period, the 1,028 unannounced inspections were completed compared to 1,069 in 2017/18. These trends remained largely consistent with those observed in 2017/18.

Milk production hygiene

In the UK, 65% of visits required follow-up checks compared with 63% in 2017/18. Follow up was by means of digital evidence of compliance provided by the dairy holding or by physical visits, and resulted in most non-compliances being resolved within agreed timescales. The number of inspections and the extent to which problems were resolved after follow up checks showed that controls were effective.

Egg production hygiene

In England and Wales, compliance levels were 85%, which remained static compared with previous years. There was a 106% increase in the issue of guidance letters compared to 2017/18, and a 65% increase in the number of warning letters issued during this period.

In Scotland compliance was 97%, compared to 100% the previous year and there was also been a rise in the issue of guidance letters.

In Northern Ireland, compliance was 98% compared to 93% in the previous year.

Shellfish hygiene

A total of 9,267 samples were analysed between January and December 2018 across the UK, compared with 10,368 samples in the previous year. Samples tested included routine biotoxin testing, amnesic shellfish poisoning, paralytic shellfish poisoning and lipophilic toxins. Enforcement action was taken where sample results exceeded the maximum permitted levels, resulting in the closure of production areas.

Organic operators

In 2018/19, a total of 546 unannounced visits took place compared to 874 in the previous year. There were 6,351 announced visits were made to operators in 2018/19 compared to 6,382 in 2017/18. Non-compliances and irregularities of a significant nature were all satisfactorily closed or flagged for further investigation.

Feed establishments

During 2017/18[1] there was a 30.8% decrease in numbers of hygiene inspections undertaken in the UK. This aligns with the planned introduction of full earned recognition for the feed sector. The number of re-visits rose by 18.4% and sampling visits dropped by 53.8%. The number of feed business operators given advice fell by 18.4%.

Of the total approval and scheduled inspections by the Veterinary Medicines Directorate, 10.0% of commercial feed mills were fully compliant, compared to 8% in 2017. In 2018, 22.2% of on-farm manufacturers were fully compliant, compared to 9.4% in 2017. In addition, 33.3% of distributors were fully compliant, compared to 50.0% in 2017.

Import controls

In 2018/19, under the EU safeguard measures, 2,473 consignments were tested compared to 2,884 in 2017/18. A total of 46 non-compliances were identified compared to 57 in 2017/18. In addition, 1,223 consignments were tested under Regulation (EC) No. 669/2009, compared to 1,113 in the previous year. There has been an increase in the number of non-compliances from 37 in the previous year to 129. There were no significant changes to the types of consignments checked for imports of products of animal origin. Compliance remained high for third country imports of animals and animal products.

[1] Feed figures are reported one year in arrears; the report presents 2017/18 statistics.

Food contact materials

In 2018/19, 1,371 consignments of imported food underwent documentary checks, of which 11% were also subject to identity and physical checks. There were 1,627 consignments in 2017. In both cases, 100% of consignments were checked. A total of 12 consignments were rejected compared to five in 2017/18.

The UK published three RASFF on food contact materials compared to none in 2017/18.

Fish inspections

In 2018/19, the Marine Management Organisation carried out 655 inspections where first sale fish was handled, compared with 824 in the previous year. They undertook 271 inspections of transportation of first sale fish. Checks were made to ensure compliance with the traceability requirements of the Fisheries Control Regulation.

Animal health, animal welfare, aquatic and plant health sectors

Animal Health

Exotic disease

In 2018/19, 119 reports of suspected cases were investigated. European Bat Lyssavirus was the only disease confirmed in 2018, with nine cases reported in England and one in Scotland. Additionally, there was a fatal human case of classical rabies, after contraction of the virus in Morocco via a cat bite.
All incidents were successfully resolved.

Zoonoses

In 2018/19, the levels of regulated *Salmonella* serovars in chickens were below the EU designated targets. Monophasic *Salmonella* Typhimurium was detected in six turkey breeding flocks in one business, which caused the level of regulated *Salmonella* serovars to exceed the EU designated target for the first time. This was due to the small number of turkey breeding flocks in the UK. The level of regulated *Salmonella* serovars for fattening turkeys remained below the EU designated target. A total of 3,399 poultry flocks were subject to annual routine official Salmonella National Control Programme sampling. With the exception of breeding turkeys, control of *Salmonella* in all the UK poultry sectors[2] was maintained.

[2] The Salmonella National Control Programmes (NCPs) continued to be implemented in 2018, 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).

Animal welfare

On-farm welfare

In 2018/19, the total number of farm visits to individual farms and enterprises dropped slightly compared to 2017/18. The number of enterprises inspected at each visit dropped from 2.5 in 2017/18 to 2.0 per visit in 2018/19. The number of repeat visits in 2018/19 to farms inspected the same year, comprised 22% of all visits, a slight increase compared to 2017/18. All complaints of poor welfare on farm were risk assessed and high priority visits carried out as a matter of urgency. 87% were visited within 24 hours of receipt of the complaint.

Meat chicken directive

In 2018/19, 1,095,902,667 chickens were inspected in the UK, a 4% increase on 2017/18. A total of 3,924 trigger reports were generated and communicated to the producers. This was a 5% increase from 2017 and reflects the overall increase in inspections for 2018/19.

In March 2018, the new code for meat chickens and breeding chickens was published for England, providing updated guidance on meeting the animal welfare needs of meat chickens. Non-compliance where unnecessary suffering was not detected rose from 1% in 2017 to 16% in 2018/19. This rise was the result of farmers not being fully aware of all the changes made to the code part way through 2018.

Animal welfare during transport

In Great Britain, 1,257 journey logs were submitted for validation in 2018/19, 1,195 were approved, which represents a 1% increase on 2017/18. In Northern Ireland, DAERA approved 201 journey logs in 2018/19 compared to 220 in 2017/18.

Bee health

A total of 26,334 unique colonies in 5,248 apiaries were inspected in England and Wales. In 2018/19 there was a decrease to unique colonies in apiaries, due to change in priorities and increased focus on new diseases and exotic pest inspections.

In Scotland there was an increase in inspections from 2,295 to 3,782 apiaries inspected.

In Northern Ireland inspections remained consistent with 2017/18 levels.

Aquatic animal health

Compliance at aquaculture production businesses remained good, showing the effectiveness of the inspection programmes and the prompt and consistent actions taken on non-compliances. Most of the non-compliances were administrative and were dealt with by providing 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.

2. Trend analysis of non-compliance

Statement of overall trends in compliance

Data shows that 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 remained consistent over the past five years.

3. Enforcement action taken in cases of non-compliance

Statistics on enforcement and enforcement trends

Food establishment hygiene

In England, Wales and Northern Ireland, there was a small increase of 1% in establishments subject to formal food hygiene enforcement actions, and an increase of 2.3% in the number of establishments subject to food hygiene written warnings. There was a 23.1% decrease in establishments subject to formal food standards enforcement actions, and 16.4% increase in the number of establishments subject to food standards written warnings.

Results for Scotland are pending publication.

Meat establishment hygiene

In the UK, the number of enforcement actions has remained relatively stable for the past two years, with the exception of those cases referred for investigation. In 2018/19, 256 Remedial Action Notices (RANs) were served compared to 298 in the previous year. A total of 172 Hygiene Improvement Notices (HINs) were served compared to 185 in 2017/18. The continued downward trend in formal and informal enforcement actions is largely because of improved compliance levels by food business operators.

Milk production hygiene

The number of primary inspections and the extent to which non-compliances were resolved after secondary inspection showed that controls were effective throughout the UK.

Additional training was provided to officers on effective enforcement action and the importance of following the hierarchy of enforcement. This has resulted in an increase in the levels of enforcement action taken. This also coincided with a slight increase in the number of establishments categorised as ‘improvement necessary’ and a small decrease in the number categorised as ‘good’ compared to the previous year.

Specified Risk Material Controls (SRM)

SRM breaches referred for investigation in the UK in 2018/19 returned to lower levels, following a spike in 2017/18.[3] In 2018/19 only three cases for SRM presentation were referred for investigation in England and Wales and two in Scotland. No cases were referred for investigation in Northern Ireland.

Fish inspections

For establishments where first sale fish was handled, 24 written and verbal re-briefs were served, compared to 10 in 2017/18. One official written warning was served, compared to two in 2017/18. These were issued for breaches of Fisheries Control Regulations.

Feed establishments

The use of written warnings decreased by 41.9% in 2017/18[4], this aligned with the introduction of full earned recognition for the feed sector. The number of formal actions to address serious breaches of feed requirements increased due to 18 instances where feed was either seized, detained or surrendered, and eight simple cautions.

Plant health

Inspection of the majority of controlled plant health material was 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 inspections of other low risk controlled material achieved 57% against the target of 65%. All 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.

5. National Audit Systems

FSA and FSS audit of local authorities

In England there were no new local authority audits during the first half of 2018/19, due to re-structuring and separation of the FSA's local authority audit and performance management functions. However, a review of outstanding open audits was undertaken and appropriate risk-based follow-up of audit action plans continued throughout the year.

One focussed audit programme on 'infectious diseases and complaints management' was completed during the second half of 2018/19. Ten local authorities were audited for this programme and no significant issues were identified.

[3] The increase in 2017/18 was due to 11 cases of staining/disposal issues and 55 cases of storage/disposal issues referred in Scotland.

[4] Feed figures are reported 1 year in arrears, hence statistics for 2017/18 are presented here

In addition, in the second half of 2018/19, the new Performance Management Team carried out an assessment of the Local Authority Enforcement Management System (LAEMS) data. The data was assessed against a set of performance indicators for food hygiene, as part of a trial approach to track and address local authority performance. This approach, along with wider intelligence received throughout the year, identified concerns with the performance of 32 local authorities in England. These authorities were subject to more detailed assessment and follow up, including the monitoring and oversight of time bound action plans to address key performance issues.

In Wales, follow-up audits were undertaken to assess progress against agreed full audit action plans. In Northern Ireland, audits were undertaken covering local authority organisation and management, mince-meat and meat preparations and an approvals system desktop audit. Scotland's focussed audit programme on capacity and capability continued into 2018/19.

Internal audits conducted by competent authorities

The UK carried out risk-based internal audits on feed and food, laboratories, operational systems, processes and procedures as part of annual programmes agreed with the respective audit committees. Areas covered included, but were not limited to: slaughterhouse hygiene verification systems, animal traceability, exotic diseases, official laboratories, notifiable diseases, animal welfare and beef labelling.

Audit of control bodies

Audits and inspections of control bodies on animal health controls were also undertaken. These covered scrapie genotyping service under contract to Defra and commercial transport carrier companies approved by Defra to bring dogs, cats or ferrets to Great Britain in accordance with the EU Pet Travel Scheme with the EU pet travel Regulation (576/2013).

6. Resources

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

There were no significant changes in any sector.

7. Actions taken to improve performance of control activities

The UK continued its efforts to improve the quality of official controls. A number of initiatives were undertaken across all sectors in 2018/19, such as:

- enhanced training programmes including webinars, eLearning, workshops and seminars
- revised and new policy guidance and instructions
- review of cutting plants and cold stores to improve public confidence in the safety and authenticity of meat processed in the UK
- carrying out activities agreed in the Animal Welfare Action Plan
- additional controls on imported food
- expansion and strengthening of teams that tackle food crime
- ongoing engagement with UK and EU wide working groups to foster closer links, and sharing of best practice on official control delivery

8. Actions taken to improve business compliance

In addition to ongoing support, the following measures were taken to help improve the performance of business operators in 2018/19:

- campaigns to improve understanding of new regulations and enforcement
- development of guides and factsheets to improve compliance, this included guidance on animal welfare during the catching and transportation of animals
- approved assurance schemes, such as commercial feed mills certificated under the Agricultural Industries Confederation's feed assurance scheme
- joint Central Competent Authority working between the FSA, Defra, Department of Health & Social Care and the Devolved Administrations with a focus on gathering evidence on how to improve the provision of allergen information on pre-packaged for direct sale (PPDS) food products

Chapter 1 – Introduction and scope of the report

1.1 European legislation on official controls requires that each member state has in place a Multi-annual National Control Plan (MANCP) demonstrating that it has effective official control systems in place for monitoring compliance with and enforcement of feed and food law, animal health and welfare rules, and plant health law. Member states also have to report annually to the European Commission on implementation of their plan This document is the UK's MANCP annual report for 2018.

1.2 The MANCP and the associated annual reports are produced by the FSA with contributions provided by:

- Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and its agencies
- Food Standards Scotland (FSS)
- Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC)
- Chemicals Regulation Directorate of the Health and Safety Executive (HSE)
- Scottish Government Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate (SG ARE)
- Welsh Government Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs (WG EERA)
- Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs in Northern Ireland (DAERA).

1.3 The report is set out as follows:

Chapter 2	The effectiveness of controls, including trends and enforcement measures
Chapter 3	How audits were implemented and results of audits
Chapter 4	Changes in the allocation of funding, in laboratory networks and NRLs
Chapter 5	Action taken to improve the performance of competent authorities
Chapter 6	Actions taken to improve the performance of business operators

1.4 The latest MANCP and annual reports are available on the FSA's website.

Chapter 2 – Effectiveness of official controls

2.1 In this section we report on the official controls activities undertaken and the level of compliance achieved for 2018/19 compared with 2017/18.

Official controls in the feed and food sectors

2.2 The Food Standards Agency (FSA) produced quarterly resource and performance reports for 2018/19. These are presented to the FSA Board and track the FSA's progress against corporate objectives. The quarter four end of year update provides an overview of 2018/19.

2.3 The Food Standards Scotland (FSS) developed a performance reporting system for updating the FSS Board on a six-monthly basis. Further information on the performance reports are published on the FSS website.

UK local authority food law enforcement

2.4 Data is collected annually from local authorities using an FSA web-based system: the Local Authority Enforcement Monitoring System (LAEMS). The 2018/19 report was published in September 2019.

Key findings in 2018/19

Broad compliance	• Percentage of food establishments across the three countries achieving broad compliance or higher was 90.7% compared with 90.2% in the previous year. • 4.5% of all food establishments were rated as having an unsatisfactory level of compliance, where improvements were necessary, compared with 4.7% in the previous year • Remaining 4.8% of premises were yet to be risk rated compared with 5.1% the previous year
Interventions achieved	• Percentage of due food hygiene interventions achieved increased to 86.3% in total compared with 85.1% in 2017/18 • The percentage of due food standards interventions achieved decreased to 40.8% in total compared with 42.3% in 2017/18
Enforcement actions	The following trends in enforcement actions were reported: • A small increase of 1% in establishments subject to formal food hygiene enforcement actions (5,374) • A 2.3% increase in the number of establishments subject to food hygiene written warnings (154,062) • A 23.1% decrease in establishments subject to formal food standards enforcement actions (316) • A 16.4% increase in the number of establishments subject to food standards written warnings (23,848) • A total of 296 prosecutions were concluded by local authorities across the UK for food establishments failing to comply with food law

2.5 The Scottish Food Enforcement Annual Return is published by FSS. The official data will be published in early 2020.

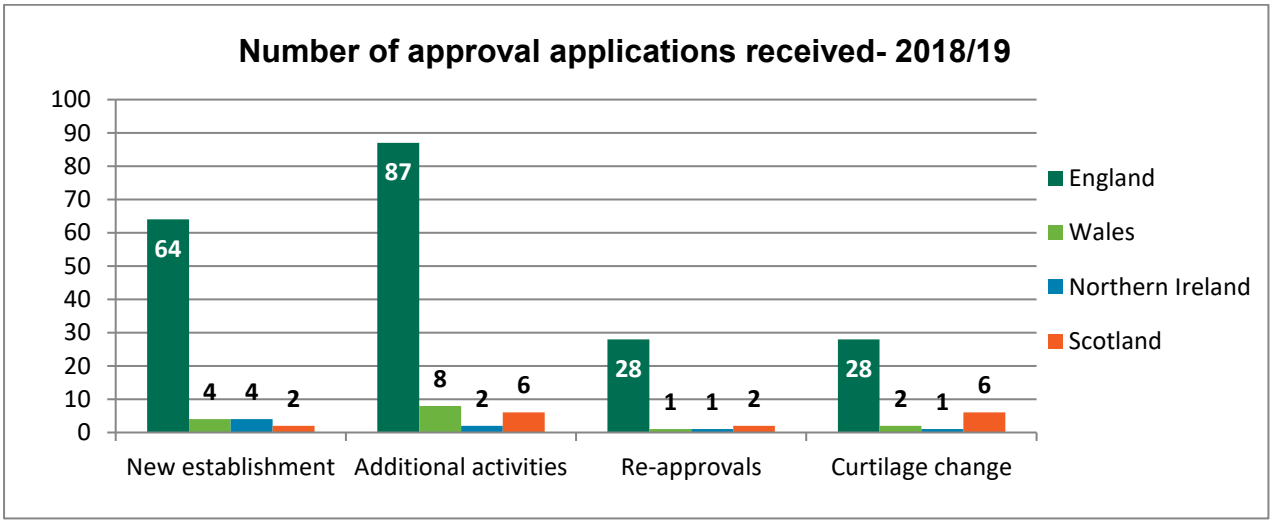
Meat hygiene

2.6 In 2018/19 FSA and DAERA[5] delivered official controls in 924[6] approved meat establishments in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. This included 281 slaughterhouses and 53 game handling establishments.

2.7 In 2018/19, FSS delivered official controls in 93[7] approved meat establishments in Scotland. This included 27 slaughterhouses, 15 game handling establishments and 61 cutting plants (including market stalls).

Approval of new meat establishments

2.8 In 2018/19, the UK received 246 applications for approval or approval related activities, compared to 244 in 2017/18. The chart below shows a breakdown of approval applications received by type and region.

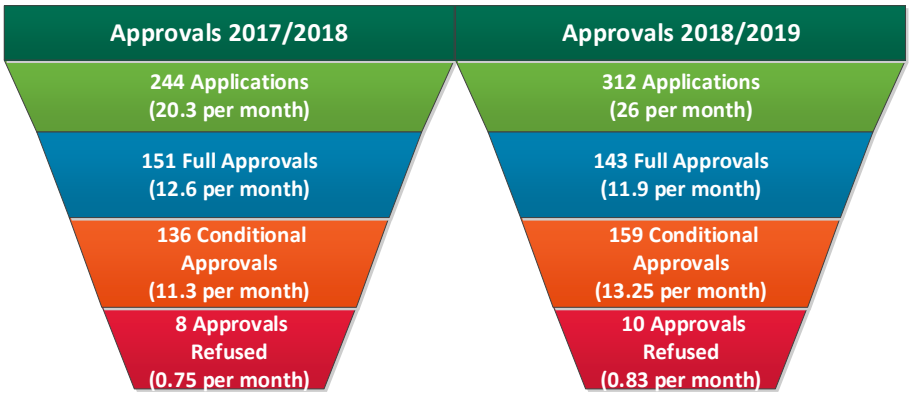


2.9 In 2018/19, the split of approval activity and outcomes in the UK, compared to 2017/18 is shown below.

[5] In Northern Ireland, DAERA carry out all meat hygiene official controls in approved slaughterhouses, cutting plants and game handling establishments on behalf of FSA. This includes inspection verification and audit.

[6] An establishment may be approved for more than one activity.

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



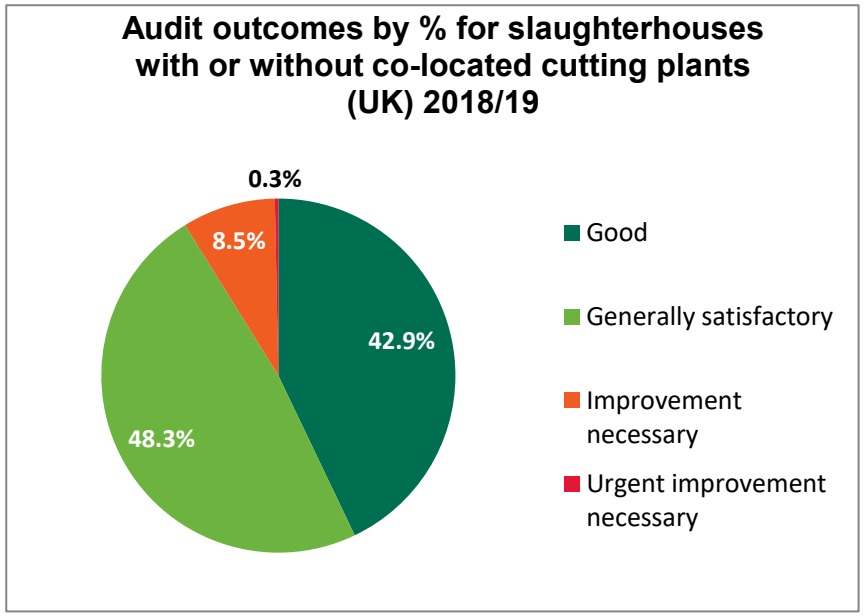
Refusals

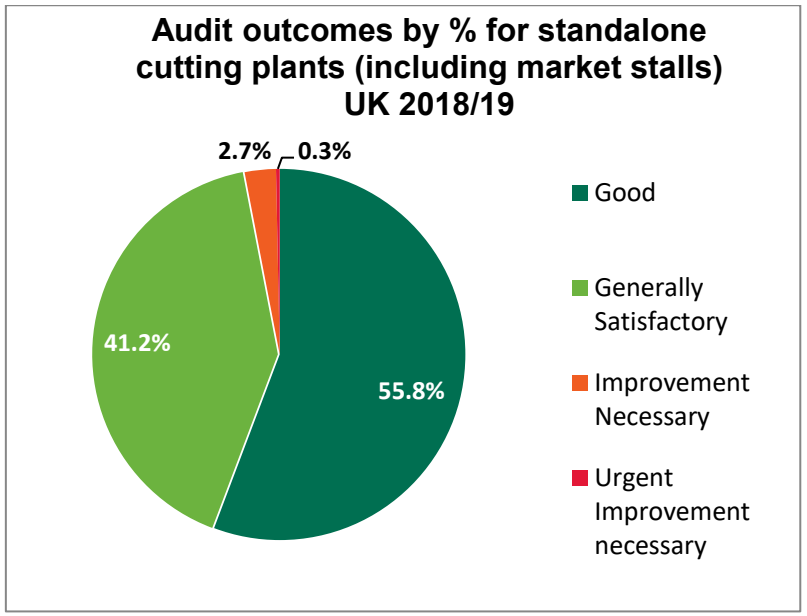
2.10 In 2018/19, nine establishments in England and Wales were refused approval. Two of the nine were subsequently approved after improvements were made. In Scotland, one establishment was refused approval, no further applications for approval were made. In Scotland, nine establishments surrendered their approval: one went into administration; and one was liquidated.

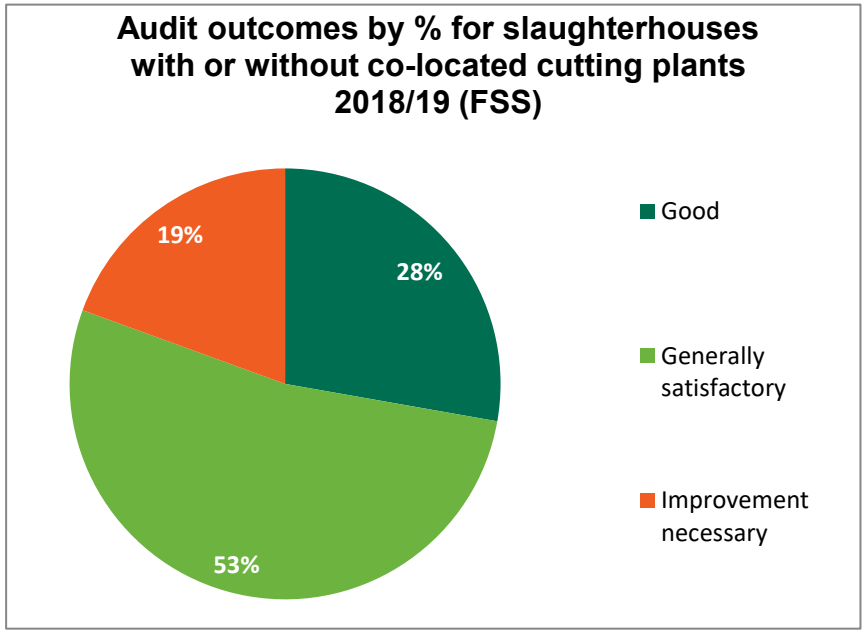
Food business operator audits in meat establishments

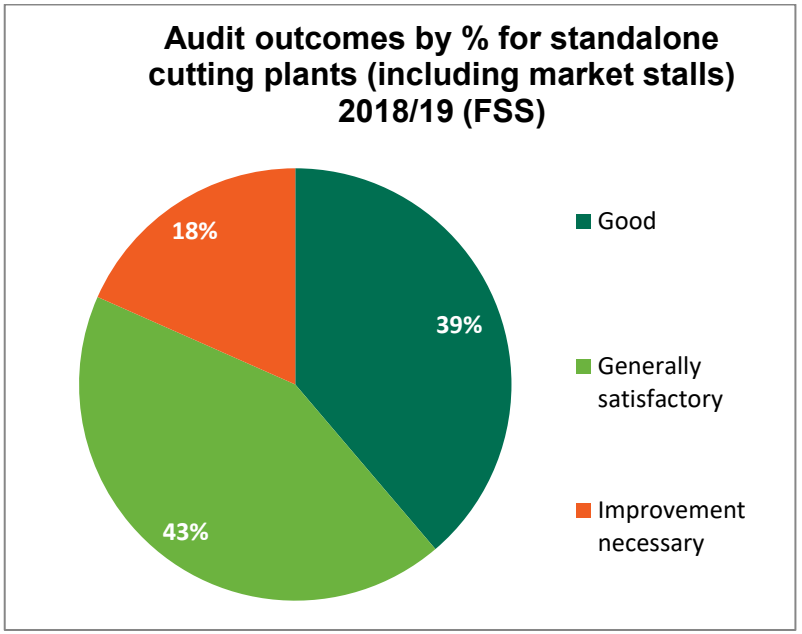
2.11 During 2018/19, the UK continued to conduct routine audits of approved meat establishments. A programme of themed audits was undertaken in slaughterhouses in England and Wales on ABP, TSE-SRM controls and data capture. Key findings and recommendations agreed with industry are being implemented.

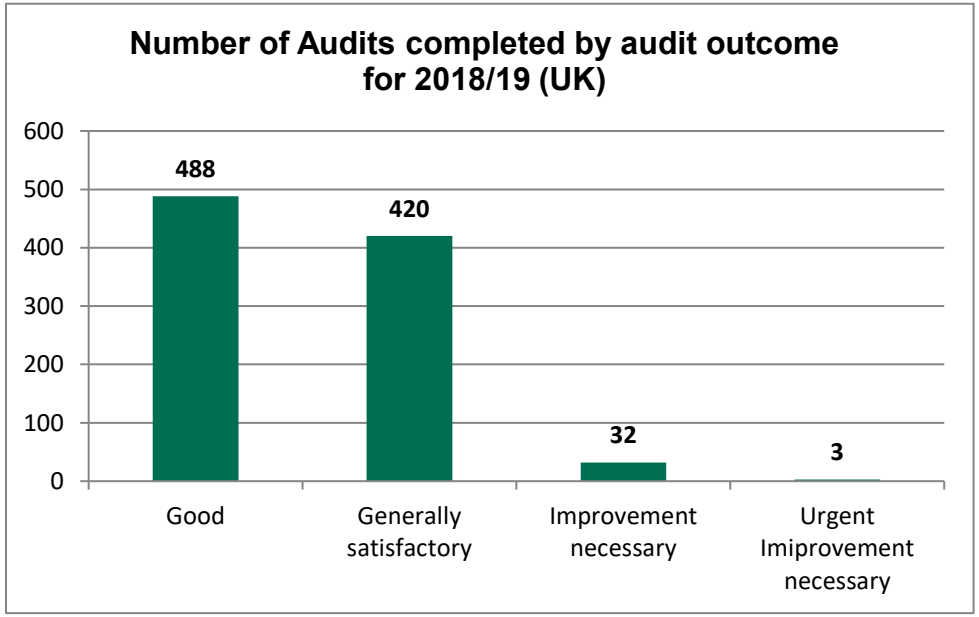
2.12 The charts below provide a breakdown of the proportion of UK businesses for each audit outcome, based on the full food business operator audits. A separate breakdown is also provided for FSS as they operate a slightly different scheme.

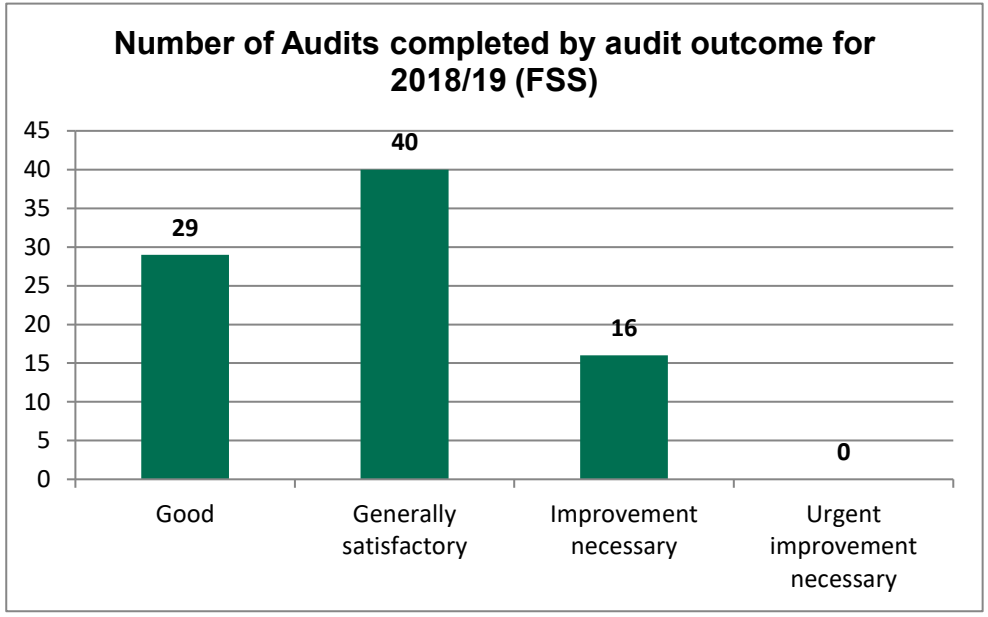

Audit outcomes by % for slaughterhouses with or without co-located cutting plants (UK) 2018/19
0.3%
8.5%
42.9%
48.3%
Good
Generally satisfactory
Improvement necessary
Urgent improvement necessary


Audit outcomes by % for standalone cutting plants (including market stalls) UK 2018/19
2.7%
0.3%
41.2%
55.8%
Good
Generally Satisfactory
Improvement Necessary
Urgent Improvement necessary


Audit outcomes by % for slaughterhouses with or without co-located cutting plants 2018/19 (FSS)
19%
28%
53%
Good
Generally satisfactory
Improvement necessary


Audit outcomes by % for standalone cutting plants (including market stalls) 2018/19 (FSS)
18%
39%
43%
Good
Generally satisfactory
Improvement necessary


Number of Audits completed by audit outcome for 2018/19 (UK)
600
500
400
300
200
100
0
488
420
32
3
Good
Generally satisfactory
Improvement necessary
Urgent Imiprovement necessary


Number of Audits completed by audit outcome for 2018/19 (FSS)
45
40
35
30
25
20
15
10
5
0
29
40
16
0
Good
Generally satisfactory
Improvement necessary
Urgent improvement necessary

2.13 A total of 943 full audits were completed in the UK in 2018/19. In England, Wales and Northern Ireland, 91.2% of slaughterhouses (with or without co-located cutting plants) and 97% of standalone cutting plants were found to be generally satisfactory on compliance. This is consistent with in the figures for 2017/18.

2.14 In Scotland, 85 full audits were undertaken in 2018/19. The findings indicated that 81% of slaughterhouses (with or without co-located cutting plants) and 82% of standalone cutting plants were generally satisfactory on compliance. This represents an 8% decrease in compliance compared to 2017/18 for slaughterhouses and a 16% decrease for standalone cutting plants. These were due to an overall increase in major non-compliances identified during audits.

2.15 The data should be considered in the context that any establishments conditionally approved would not have been 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 2017/18, would not be subject to another audit for 18 months (except in Scotland where the maximum frequency is 12 months).

Urgent improvement necessary

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

2.17 In 2018/19 in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, four slaughterhouses (with or without co-located cutting plants) and five standalone cutting plants received an audit outcome of ‘urgent improvement necessary’. As at 31 March 2019, one slaughterhouse (with or without co-located cutting plants) and two standalone cutting plants still had this rating.

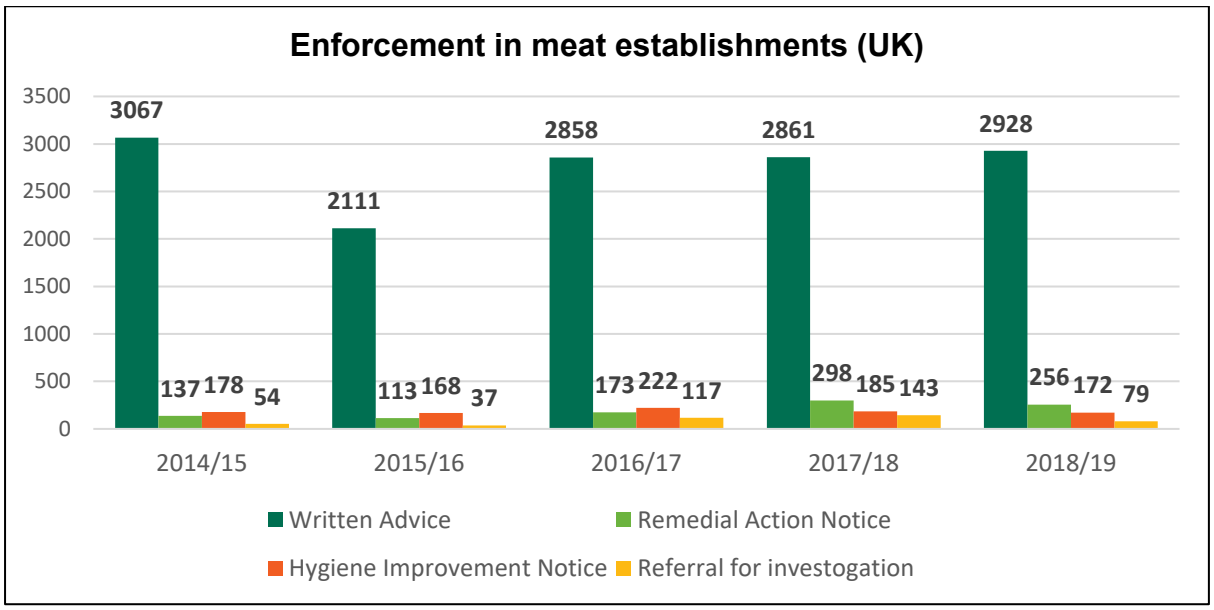
2.18 The intervention protocol seeks improvements through education, advice and enforcement action. In Scotland no slaughterhouses (with or without co-located cutting plants) received an audit outcome of ‘urgent improvement necessary'.

Unannounced inspections in cutting plants

2.19 During 2018/19, 890 unannounced inspections were completed in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. FSS completed 65 unannounced inspections.

Enforcement in meat establishments

2.20 The chart below shows the numbers and types of enforcement action taken by the FSA and FSS in meat establishments, over the last five years.



2.21 In England and Wales, most formal enforcement was taken against relatively few plants. In 2018/19, 10 establishments were responsible for approximately 40% of all RANs served and a further 10 were responsible for over 50% of all HINs served. Of these, five had their approval withdrawn and the approval of a further four is under review with a view to removal.

2.22 In Northern Ireland during 2018/19, enforcement action was required in 28% of the 54 approved establishments compared with 46% during 2017/18. This showed an increased level of compliance year-on-year. This was partially due to the closure of two establishments that were subject to multiple enforcement actions during 2017/18. Increased verification activity by officials using the slaughter hygiene verification system has also been a contributing factor.

2.23 There has been increased compliance through using verbal communication, negating the need for escalation along the hierarchy of enforcement. During 2018/19, formal enforcement action was required in only 5% of establishments compared with 13% of establishments during 2017/18, which suggests that informal enforcement was more effective at achieving compliance.

2.24 Enforcement action was more evenly distributed across slaughter (45% of all action) and cutting (55%) in 2018/19 than in 2017/18, when there was more enforcement required in cutting plants (68% of all action) than in slaughter (32%). There does not seem to be a single identifiable reason for this and improvements are likely due to a combination of factors including those mentioned above.

2.25 In Scotland, most formal enforcement was taken against relatively few plants. In 2018/19, three establishments were responsible for approximately 80% of all RANs served. One plant was responsible for over 50% of all HINs served and subsequently had their approval withdrawn.

Summary

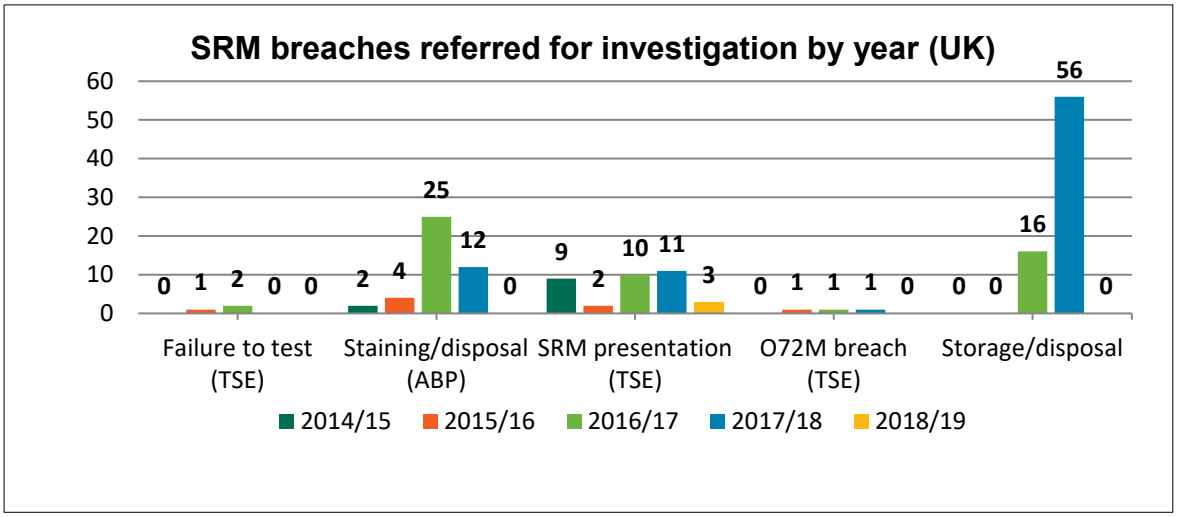
2.26 Overall, enforcement levels in meat establishments remained relatively stable for the past two years, with the exception of those cases referred for investigation. These decreased by 45% compared to 2017/18 figures. This suggests an increased effectiveness in the use of written advice and notices, which has improved overall compliance levels.

2.27 The service of RANs gradually increased year-on-year from 2015/16, but HINs remained relatively stable. This increase is largely due to officers preference for using RANs, as they are flexible, simple to use and very effective in achieving compliance with the relevant regulations. The ongoing validity of a RAN also provides re-assurance to officers that the original legal breach should not recur during the life of the notice.

Specified Risk Material (SRM) controls

2.28 In 2018/19, 100% inspection of bovine and ovine carcases for SRM removal at slaughterhouses were carried out. Verification and audit of food business operator processes for removal, storage, staining and disposal of SRM were carried out in authorised slaughterhouses and cutting plants on a risk-based frequency.

2.29 The chart below shows SRM breaches referred for investigation in the UK for the last five years.



2.30 After an increase in cases referred for investigation in 2017/18,[8] UK SRM breaches returned to lower levels in 2018/19. In 2018/19, only three cases were referred for investigation in England and Wales and two in Scotland.

[8] The increase in 2017/18 was due to 11 cases of staining/disposal issues and 55 cases of storage/disposal issues referred in Scotland.

Milk production - hygiene

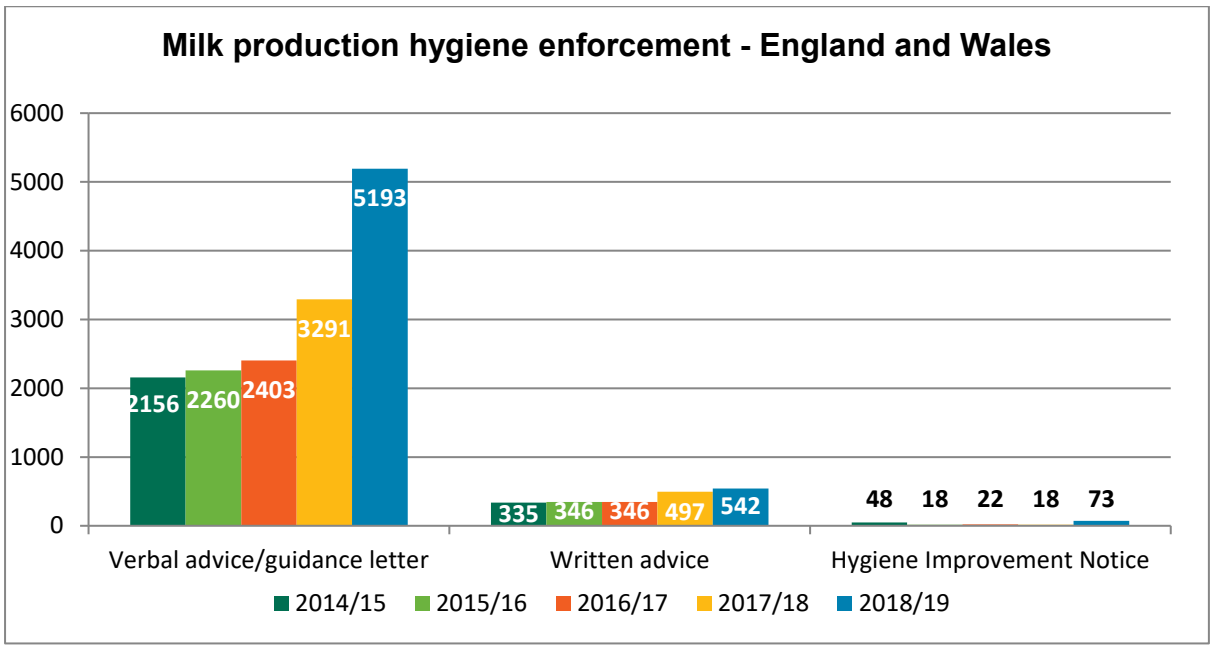
2.31 The number of milk production holdings as at 31 March 2019 in the UK is shown in the table below. The table sets out the d number of primary and secondary inspections carried out in 2018/19. Approximately 74% of visits in England and Wales resulted in follow-up checks, either through digital evidence of compliance provided by the holding or physical visit by an FSA inspector. This resulted in most of non-compliances being satisfactorily resolved within agreed timescales.

Milk production holdings and inspections 2018/19

Holdings and inspections	England and Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland	UK
Milk production holdings and processing establishments	8,889	894	3117	12,900
Primary inspections	953	200	1,020	2,173
Secondary inspections (non-compliance highlighted from primary inspections)	704	8	707	1,419

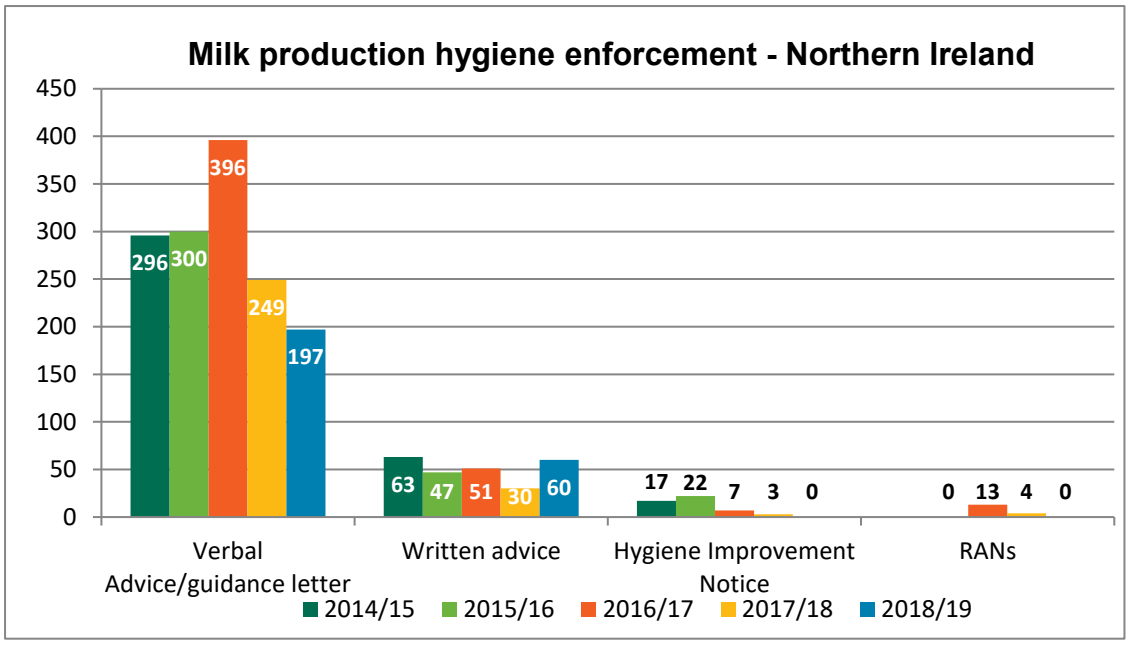
2.32 The FSA has direct responsibility for delivery of dairy hygiene inspections in milk production holdings in England and Wales. In 2018/19, there has been a 4.2% decrease in the number of dairy farms in England and Wales. There was also a high percentage of dairy farms within an assurance scheme recognised by the FSA. 87.4% of all dairy farms in England and Wales are part of a recognised assurance scheme and therefore have a 10 year visit frequency.

2.33 As shown in the chart below, there was an overall increase in enforcement activity in 2018/19 in England and Wales in the form of verbal guidance and guidance letters. This was largely due to training events for officers that focussed on effective enforcement application and consistency in escalating enforcement action appropriately.



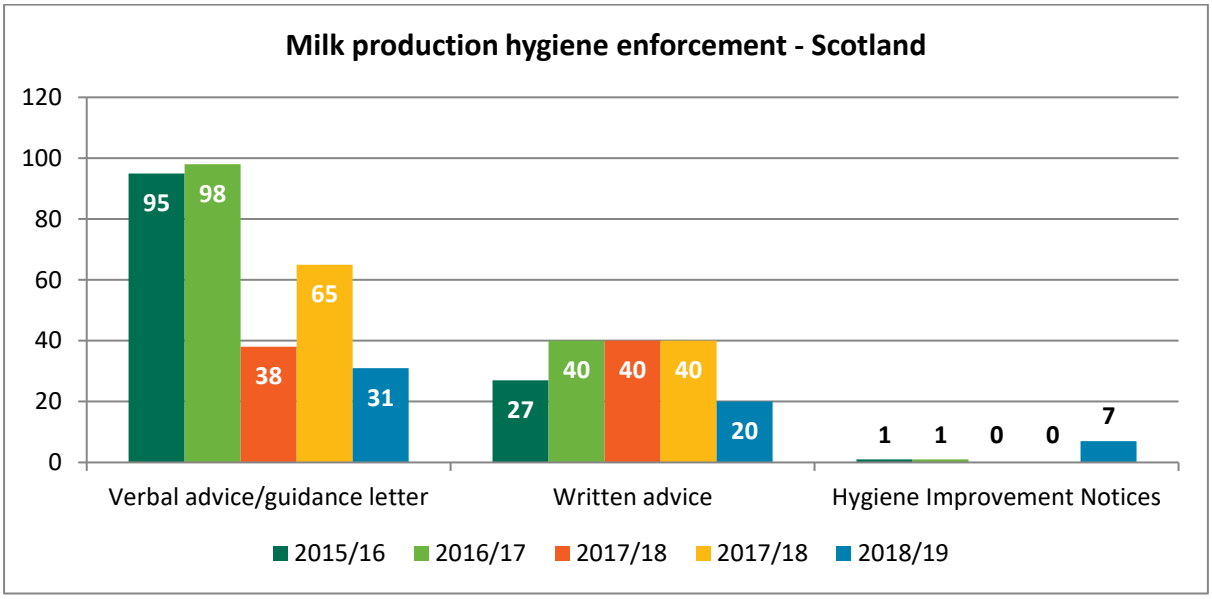
2.34 In Northern Ireland, inspections in milk production holdings and liquid milk processing establishments are carried out by DAERA. Quality assured farms represent approximately 57% of the total number of farms, 1,777 out of 3,117 as at 31st March 2019.

2.35 As shown in the chart below, trends in Northern Ireland remained relatively steady with a decline of 25.3% in verbal advice and guidance letters compared to 2017/18. In 92% of cases the guidance provided was implemented within the required timeframe. This showed a high level of conformance within the industry and a willingness to take on board guidance provided by inspectors.



2.36 Written advice increased by 100% compared to the previous financial year. DAERA identified there had been an issue with the recording of antibiotic written warning notifications. Previous reporting did not reflect the correct number of antibiotic written warning notifications issued. These figures were added to the tracking database in quarter one of 2018, which has increased the overall number of written advice notifications for 2018/19. However, no work had been missed, all antibiotic failures were notified and the necessary investigatory action taken as required.

2.37 In Scotland, inspections in production holdings are carried out by 32 individual local authorities. In 2018/19, the number of dairy farms reduced by 3%. There has been an overall decline in enforcement action as shown the chart below, suggesting improved compliance.



Summary

2.38 The number of inspections and the extent to which problems were resolved after secondary inspection showed that controls were effective across the UK.

2.39 There was also a slight increase in the number of establishments categorised as 'improvement necessary' and a slight decrease in the number categorised as 'good' compared to the previous year.

Raw drinking milk (RDM)

2.40 All raw drinking milk (RDM) producers were subject to six-monthly inspection visits and quarterly sampling and testing (cows) or local authority sampling checks (other species), against criteria in the domestic legislation. Officials visited production holdings quarterly. If the milk failed to comply with the microbiological criteria, it prompted an inspection visit and follow-up testing.

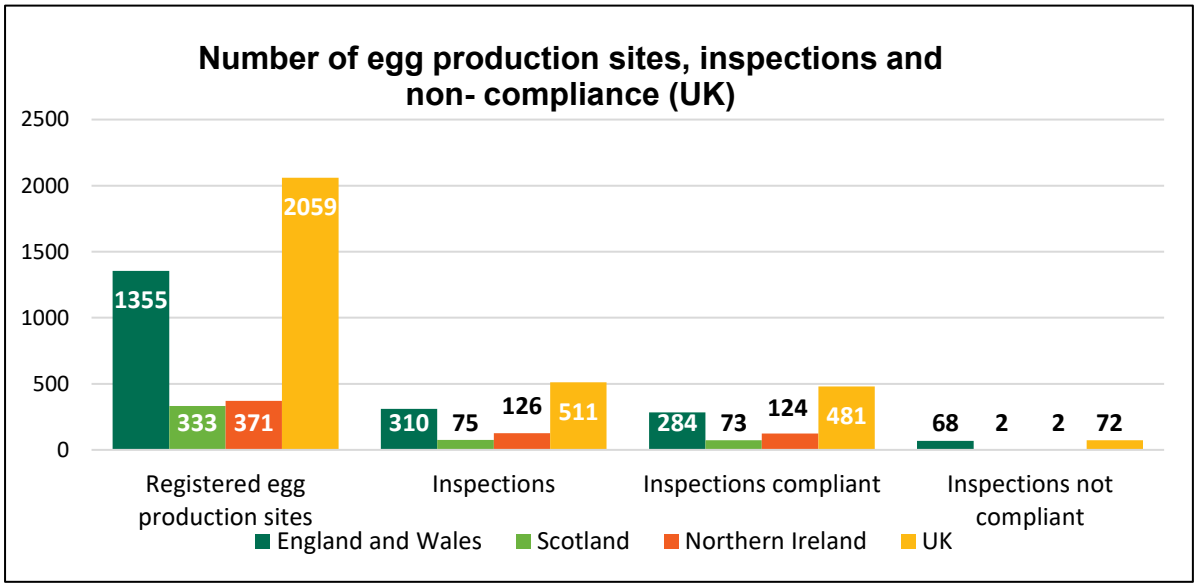
2.41 An increase in the number of registered RDM producers coupled with an increase of outbreaks linked to consumption of RDM led to a review of the official controls in this sector. New controls will require producers to have a food safety management system that assess and control the risks associated with their production systems along with a microbiological sampling programme. The FSA's verification sampling programme has also been adjusted to include routine testing for pathogens.

2.42 A six-monthly inspection frequency also applied to establishments handling and processing high risk RDM products, those with an unsatisfactory history of compliance and where there was low confidence in management.

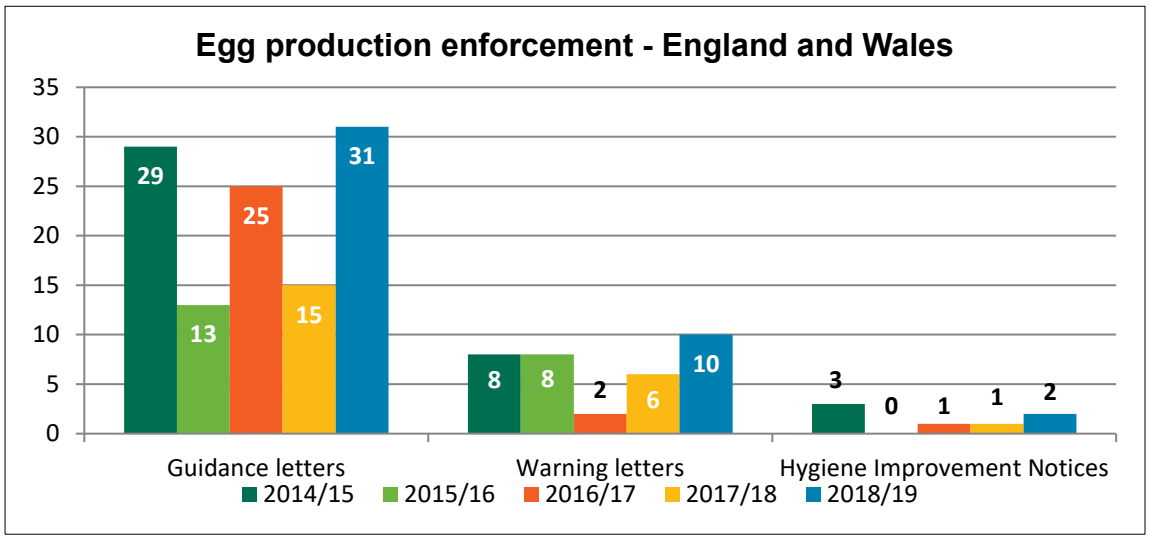
Egg production hygiene

2.43 Food hygiene inspections of egg production sites are carried out by APHA in England and Wales and DAERA in Northern Ireland, for the FSA. In Scotland, the Scottish Government's Poultry Unit carry out inspections for the FSS.

2.44 The chart below shows the total number of registered egg production sites and inspection visits for 2018/19.



2.45 The charts below show egg production enforcement over the past five years, split by England and Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland.


Egg production enforcement - England and Wales
35
30
25
20
15
10
5
0
29
13
25
15
31
8
8
2
6
10
3
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1
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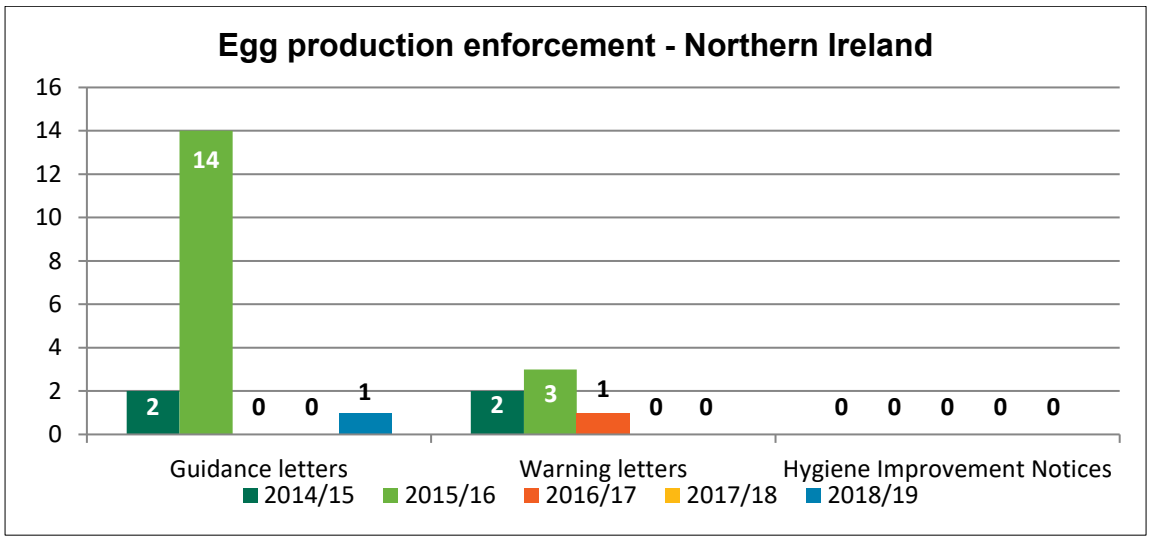
2
Guidance letters
Warning letters
Hygiene Improvement Notices
2014/15
2015/16
2016/17
2017/18
2018/19


Egg production enforcement - Northern Ireland
16
14
12
10
8
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4
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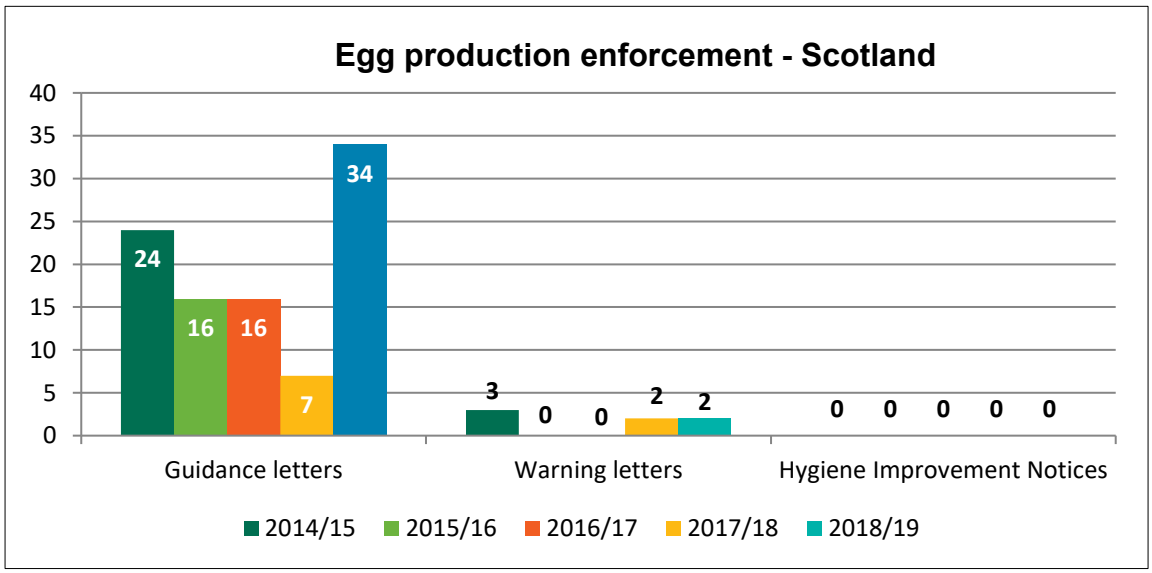
Guidance letters
Warning letters
Hygiene Improvement Notices
2014/15
2015/16
2016/17
2017/18
2018/19


Egg production enforcement - Scotland
40
35
30
25
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5
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24
16
16
7
34
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0
0
Guidance letters
Warning letters
Hygiene Improvement Notices
2014/15
2015/16
2016/17
2017/18
2018/19

Summary

2.46 Egg inspections in England and Wales are prioritised based on risk assessment. Compliant establishments are those where no improvements were needed. Compliance rates in 2018/19 remained static compared to 2017/18, but at a higher level compared to previous years. There has been a 106% rise in the number of guidance letters and a 65% rise in the number of warning letters issued during this period. This increase, particularly on guidance letters, was due to field instructions being updated to require guidance letters to be issued where follow-up inspections were required.

2.47 In Northern Ireland, there was an increase of 51 newly registered egg production sites from 320 in 2017/18 to 371 in 2018/19. This resulted in a year on year increase of 72.6% in the number of routine egg inspections from 73 in 2017/18 to 126 in 2018/19. This figure included inspections to new establishments. Compliance at egg production establishments was 98% for 2018/19 with only one guidance letter issued and no warning letters issued. This showed a high level compliance at egg production establishments.

2.48 Inspections in Scotland are carried out via a three-year rolling programme, all farms receive a minimum of one inspection every three years. Inspections are prioritised according to risk and historical data to inform the assessment and frequency. Compliant establishments are those where no improvements are required. During 2018/19 there has been a 385% rise in the number of guidance letters issued, rising from seven in 2017/18 to 34 in 2018/19. This increase was due to instruction requiring the issue of a guidance letter where action was required and supporting evidence to be provided by the producer.

2.49 In addition, there have been new farm registrations with limited poultry experience, more winter inspections and more non-compliant businesses identified for inspection. These factors all contributed to the overall fall in compliance in 2018/19.

Shellfish hygiene

2.50 The UK carried out shellfish sampling between 1 January and 31 December 2018 as part of the routine biotoxin monitoring programme. The results of sampling activities are summarised in the tables below.

England and Wales

Biotoxin sampling	2017			2018		
	Total samples analysed	Toxin detected	Exceeded maximum permitted level	Total samples analysed	Toxin detected	Exceeded maximum permitted level
Amnesic Shellfish Poisoning (ASP)	746	26	0	652	17	0
Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning (PSP)	833	123	3 (2 production areas closed)	734	87	2
Lipophilic toxins (LTs)	762	40	4 (1 production area closed)	776	167	64 (6 production areas closed)

Northern Ireland

Biotoxin sampling	2017		2018	
	Total samples analysed	Exceeded maximum permitted level	Total samples analysed	Exceeded maximum permitted level
Amnesic Shellfish Poisoning (ASP)	432	0	448	0
Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning (PSP)	436	0	448	0
Lipophilic toxins (LTs)	432	0	474	18
Phytoplankton (seawater)	611	n/a (only trigger levels)	617	n/a (only trigger levels)
Heavy Metals and PAH	7	0	7	0
Microbiological	261 and 70 FBO samples	1	255 and 51 FBO samples	0

Scotland

Biotoxin sampling	2017			2018		
	Total samples analysed	Toxin detected	Exceeded maximum permitted level	Total samples analysed	Toxin detected	Exceeded maximum permitted level
Amnesic Shellfish Poisoning (ASP)	957	59	0	794	21	0
Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning (PSP)	1,399	299	14 (8 production areas closed)	1,157	334	26 (10 production areas closed)
Lipophilic toxins (LTs)	2,072	189	47 (15 production areas closed)	1,859	458	255 (35 production areas closed)
Phytoplankton (seawater)	1,350	0	0	1,301	0	0

Summary of results

2.51 Across the UK, the results remained consistent with 2017 levels, except for an increase in Lipophilic Toxins (LTs). In England, Wales and Scotland, this could not be linked to any one factor. In Northern Ireland, the increase was the result of additional monitoring carried out by the FSA after a series of elevated levels of LTs being detected in shellfish from one production area.

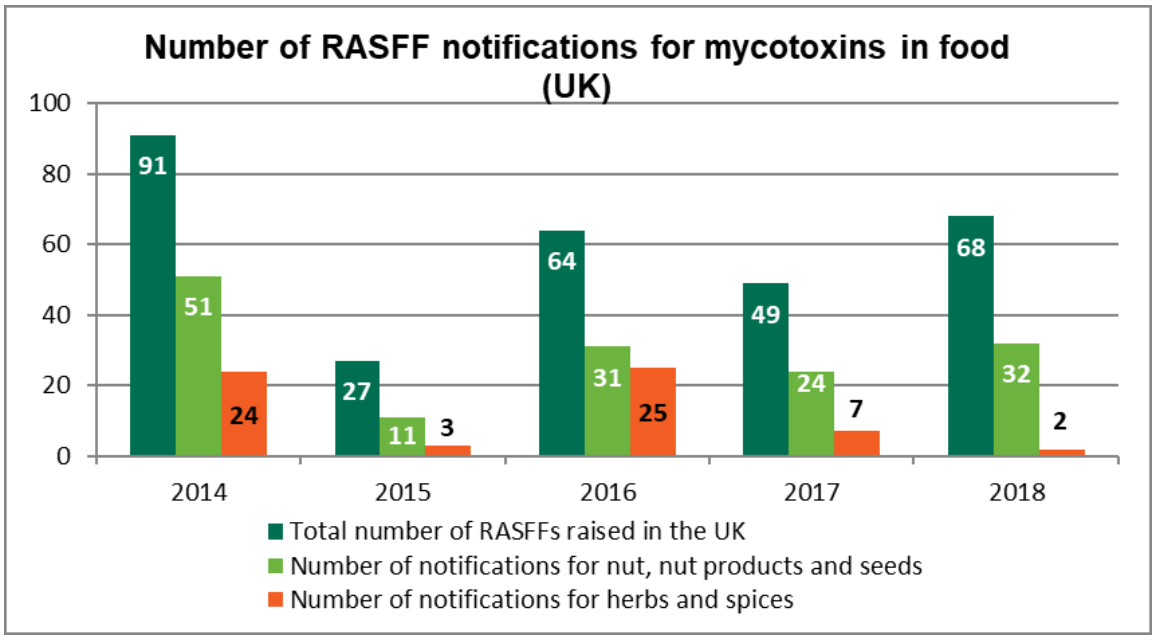
Fish - first sale

2.52 In 2018/19, the Marine Management Organisation carried out 655 inspections of establishments where first sale fish was handled and 271 inspections of transportation of first sale fish. Checks were made to ensure compliance with the traceability requirements of the Fisheries Control Regulation. For establishments where first sale fish was handled, 24 written/verbal re-briefs and one official written warnings were issued for breaches of Fisheries Control Regulations.

Mycotoxins

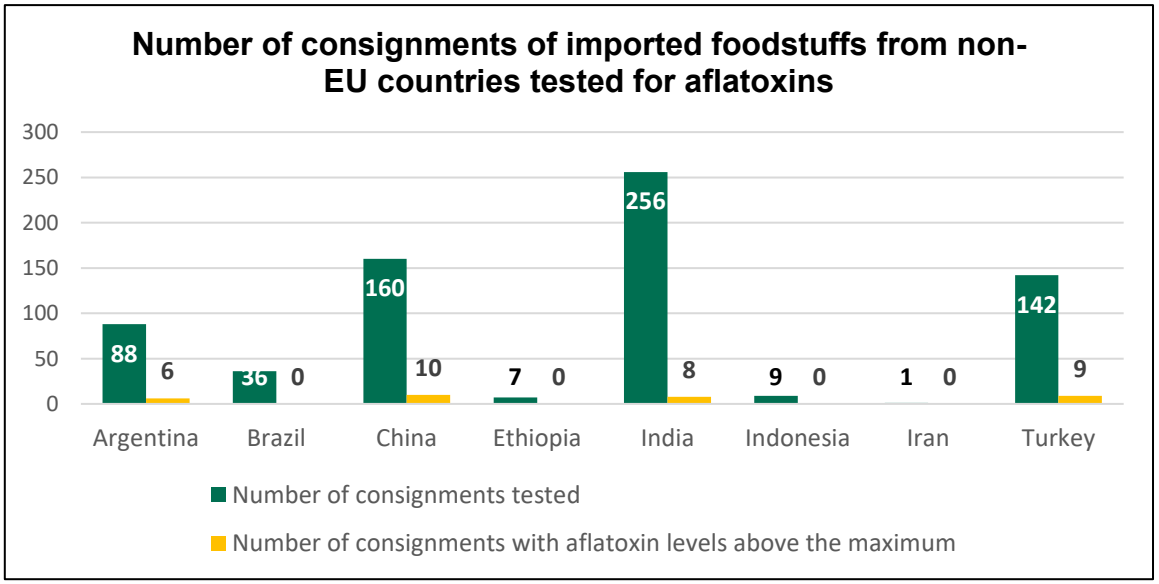
2.53 The UK raised a total number of 68 RASFF notifications for mycotoxins in 2018/19. An increase compared to the previous year, but within the usual range seen over the past five years. The increase was mainly due to more notifications raised on nuts, nut products and seeds. The number of notifications on herbs and spices decreased in the last year. On herbs, spices and nuts no trend has been detected for the number of RASFFs over the past five years.

2.54 The chart below gives the number of RASFF notifications for mycotoxins in food in the last five years.



2.55 The majority of samples tested for mycotoxins were found to be compliant. Where non-compliant samples were found either a product withdrawal or a product recall was undertaken based on risk assessment. Where appropriate, a RASFF was issued.

2.56 The chart below shows the number of samples taken for aflatoxins and the number of non-compliances. Overall the level of non-compliance remained low. Compared with 2017/18, the proportion of non-compliances was only marginally higher than in the previous year, 5 additional non-compliances.



Import controls

2.57 During 2018/19, operational targets for controls on imported feed and food 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.

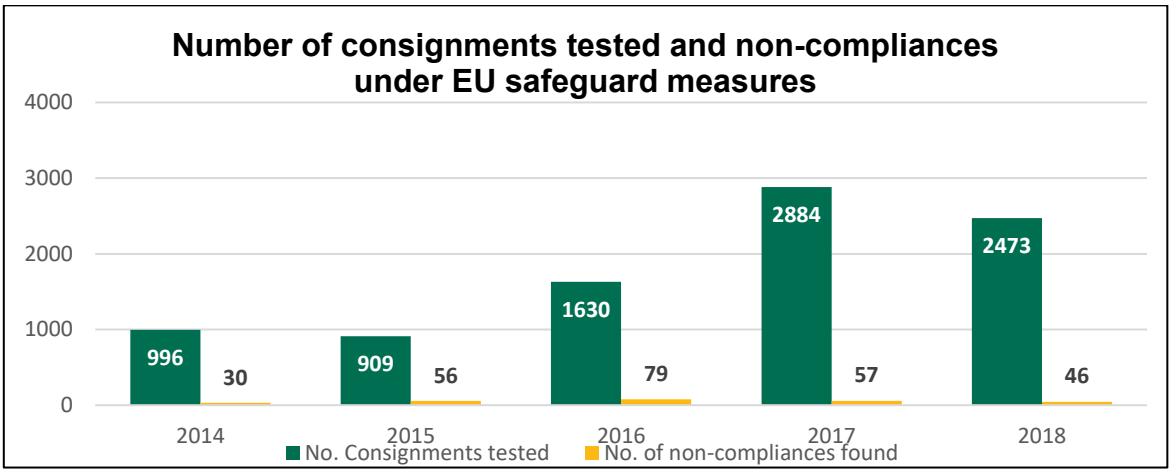
2.58 Official controls were applied on products listed under the relevant regulations, which included 100% documentary checks and the prescribed levels for identity and physical checks, including sampling and analysis. Under the EU safeguard measures 2,473 consignments were tested in 2018.

Official controls on food imported for third countries

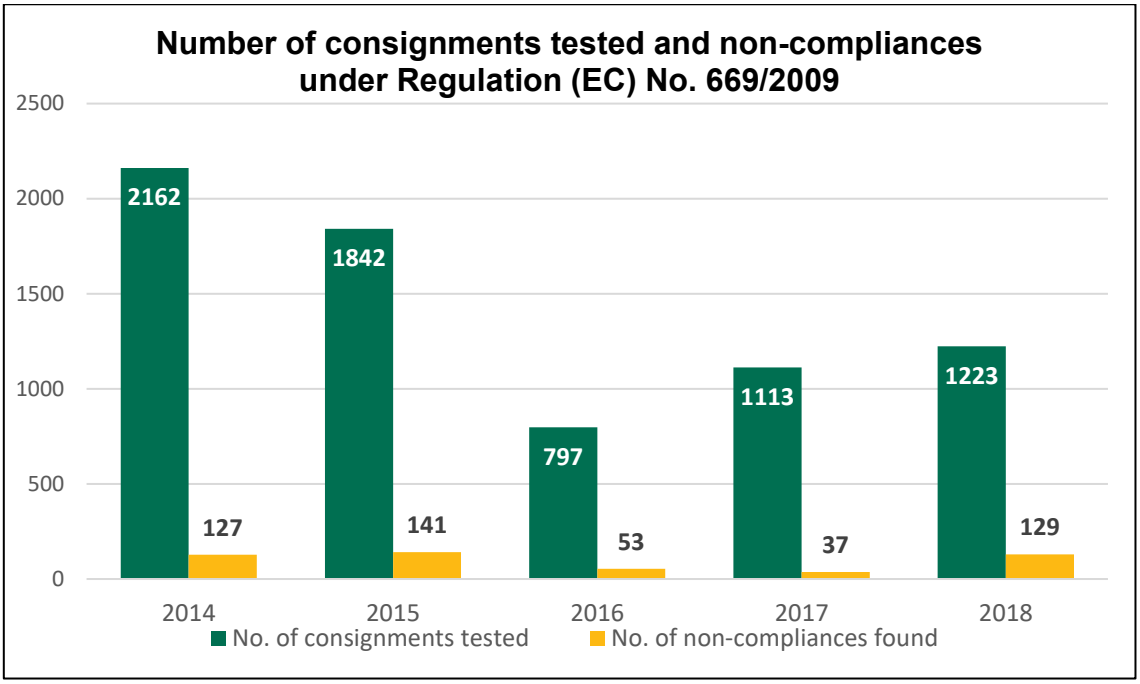
Decision/ Regulation	Country	Product	Hazard	Consignment tested	Unsatisfactory tests
2011/884/EU	China	Rice products	Unauthorised GMOs	139	4
(EU) No. 284/2011	China and Hong Kong	Melamine and polyamide plastic kitchenware	Formaldehyde and primary aromatic amines	144	4
2016/1774/ EU	India	Aquaculture fishery products	Certain pharmaceutically active substances	1,200	1
(EU) No. 2015/175	India	Guar gum	Pentachlorophenoland dioxins	30	0
(EU) No. 2017/186	India	Betel leaves and sesame seeds	*Salmonella*	63	3
(EU) No. 885/2014	India	Okra and curry leaves	Pesticide residues	168	1
(EU) No. 2018/1660	Vietnam India Turkey	Pitahaya (dragon fruit), curry leaves, vine leaves	Pesticide residues	2	0
(EU) No. 2016/6	Japan	Food, feed	caesium-134, caesium-137	28	0

Decision/ Regulation	Country	Product	Hazard	Consignment tested	Unsatisfactory tests
(EU) No. 2016/2106	Various countries	Various products including: groundnuts, hazelnuts, pistachios, nutmeg, dried fruits, dried spices, egusi seeds	Aflatoxins	699	33
Total				**2,473**	**46**

2.59 The below chart shows the number of consignments tested and non-compliances in the past five years against EU safeguard measures. Compliance levels remained consistent when compared to 2017/18.



2.60 A total of 1,223 consignments were tested for compliance under Regulation (EC) No. 669/2009. There has been an increase in the number of consignments tested. The chart below shows the numbers of consignments tested and the number of non-compliances over the past five years.



Novel foods

2.61 From 1 January 2018 the revised novel food regulation (EU) 2015/2283 came into force and dossiers have been managed through a centralised risk assessment process and assessed by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA). Dossiers for which a decision had not been made by 31 December 2017 were moved into the new system.

2.62 Since 1 January 2018 the authorisations for novel food have been generic and there is no longer a need for substantial equivalence dossiers. From the same date there has been a requirement under the Regulations (EU) 2016/2283 for the FSA to assess dossiers for traditional food[9] notifications. In 2018, three traditional food dossiers were assessed by the UK.

Food contact materials

2.63 Controls were carried out by First Points of Introduction (FPIs)[10] in accordance with Regulation (EU) No. 284/2011. In 2018/19, 1,371 (100%) consignments underwent documentary checks, and approximately 11% were subject to identity and physical checks, compared to 1,627 consignments in 2017/18.

[9] Traditional food is a subset of novel food. The term relates to food traditionally consumed in countries outside the EU. It includes foods made from plants, microorganisms, fungi, algae and animals (e.g. chia seeds, baobab fruit, insects, water chestnuts).

[10] Specific ports through which melamine and polyamide kitchenware from China/Hong Kong is permitted to enter into the European Union.

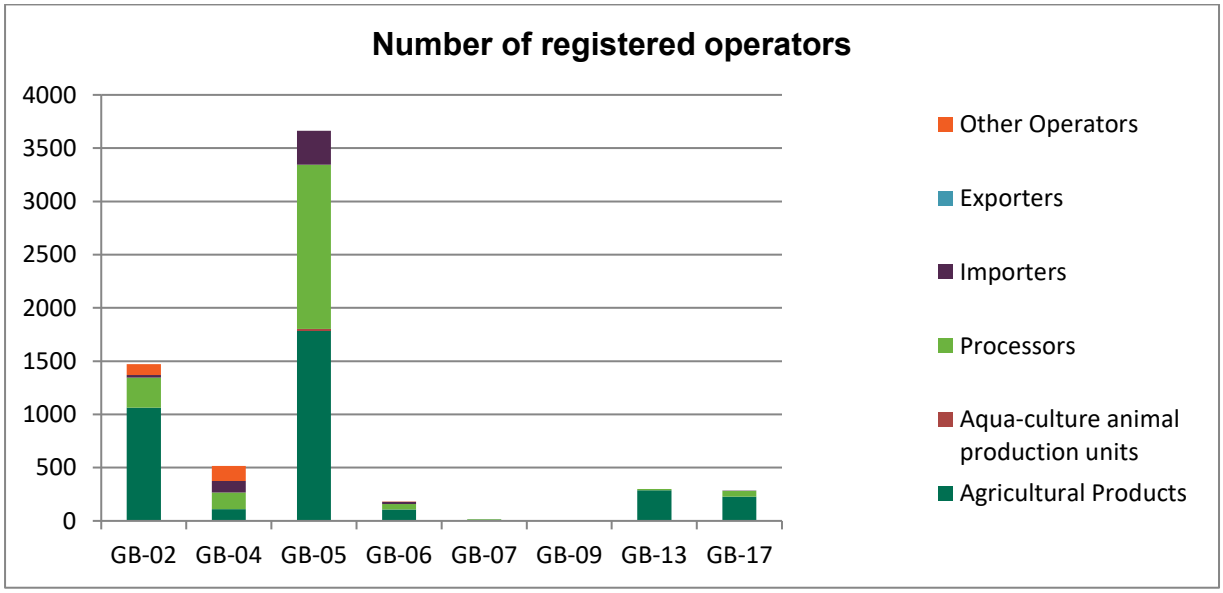
2.64 In total, 12 consignments were rejected in 2018/19, compared to five in 2017/18. Of these, four were rejected due to a failure after physical checks, representing 2.8% of the total 144 consignments that were physically checked. The remaining eight were rejected on the basis of unsatisfactory identity and documentary checks.

2.65 More consignments were rejected in 2018 compared to 2017: 0.9% compared to 0.3% in 2017/18. There has been an increase in the rate of non-compliance for consignments that underwent physical checks and failed on this basis: 2.6% in 2018 compared to 1.1% in 2017, 1.8% in 2016, 2% in 2015 and 8% in 2014.

2.66 In 2018/19, the UK issued three RASFF notifications on food contact materials compared to none in 2017/18.

Organic products

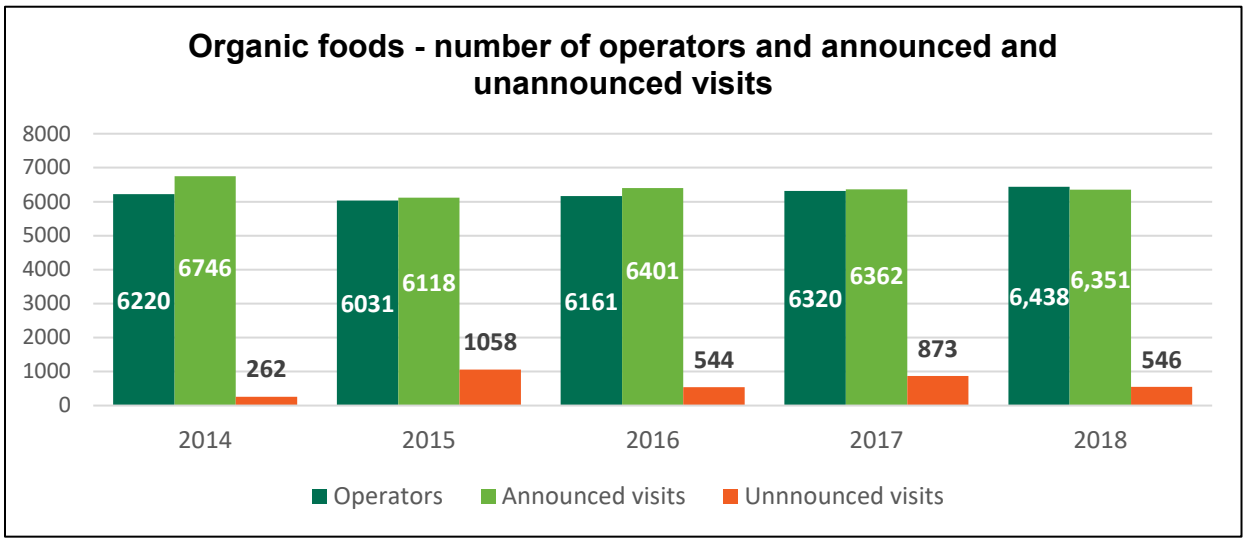
2.67 There are eight private organic control bodies[11] in the UK. Below is the proportion of registered operators by each control body, which has a unique code number to show that it is approved to certify to the EU Organic Standard.



2.68 All operators due for an inspection in the 2018/19, were inspected at least once during the annual cycle. Additional visits were announced or unannounced depending on the circumstances. These annual follow-up inspections were to check non-compliances of a significant nature had been satisfactorily closed or to further investigate an outstanding issue. Visits were also carried out as spot inspections following a complaint, suspicion of non-compliance, irregularity or random checks for compliance. New operators were also targeted because of their inexperience and knowledge of the organic regulations rules.

[11] A Control Body is a body which Defra has delegated its control tasks to under the EU organic regime

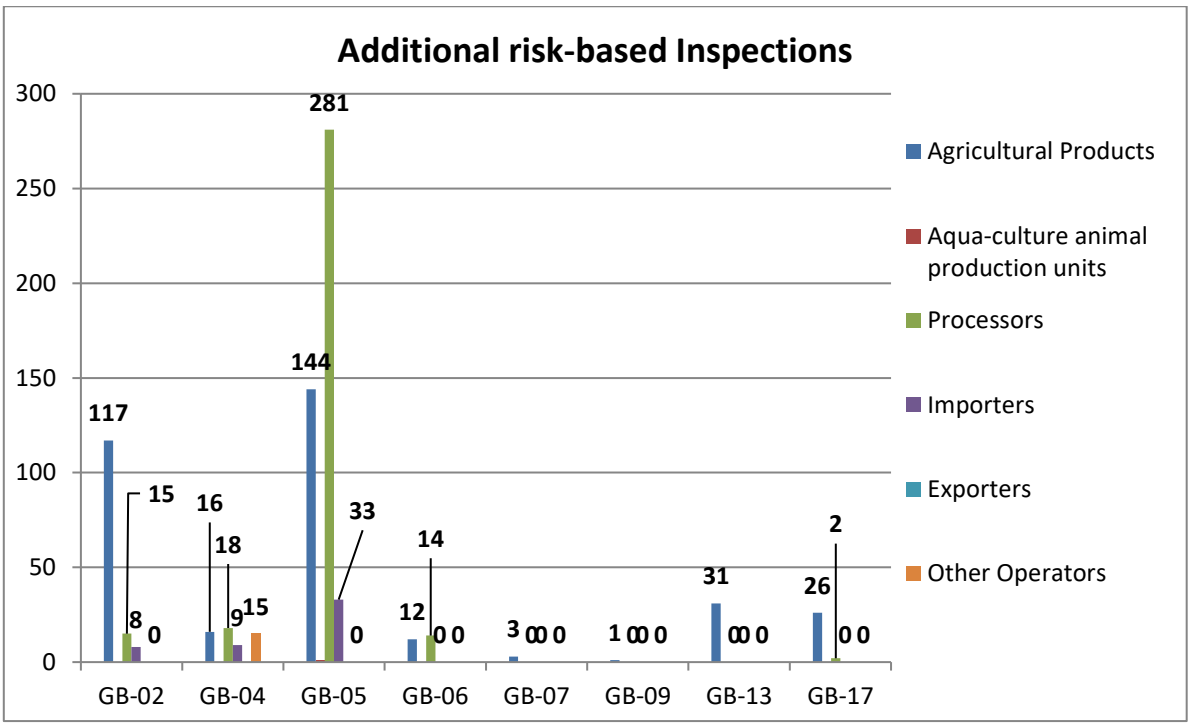
2.69 There were 6,351 announced inspections and visits to the registered organic operators in the UK and 546 unannounced inspections and visits. The chart below shows the breakdown of announced and unannounced visits.



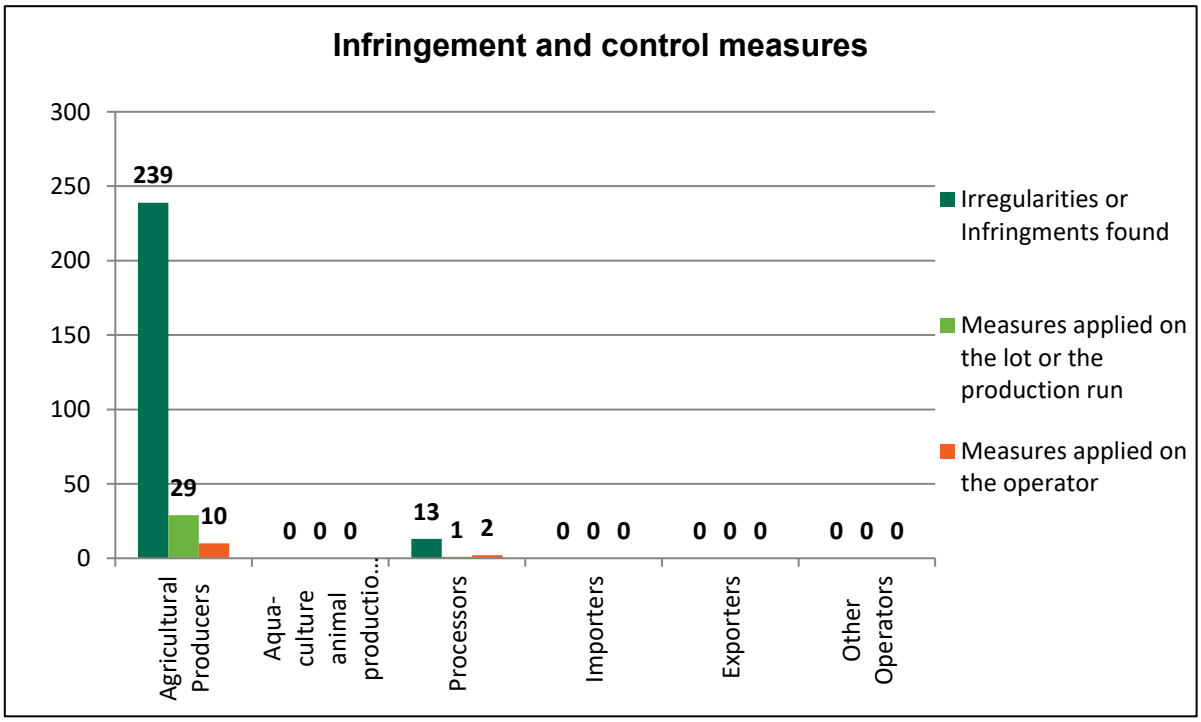
2.70 Risk-based inspections are based on a number of factors where compromised integrity of an organic product is possible. These included:

- the number and severity of non-compliances found at inspections
- checks to confirm if non-compliances and irregularities found during previous visits had been addressed
- a closer look at products at risk of non-organic substitution
- recommendations following an inspection and/or repeated non-compliances
- industry intelligence, for example previous detections of a contaminant in organic products, operations involving complex supply chains were worthy of close scrutiny and non-dedicated sites with parallel production at risk of cross contamination
- animal welfare concerns
- requirements to inspect additional enterprises or changes in the scope of the enterprise of the organic producer
- additional visits where new scopes were added to the range of organic production activities undertaken and/or expansion of organic enterprises.

2.71 The chart below is the additional risk-based inspections carried out in 2018/19.

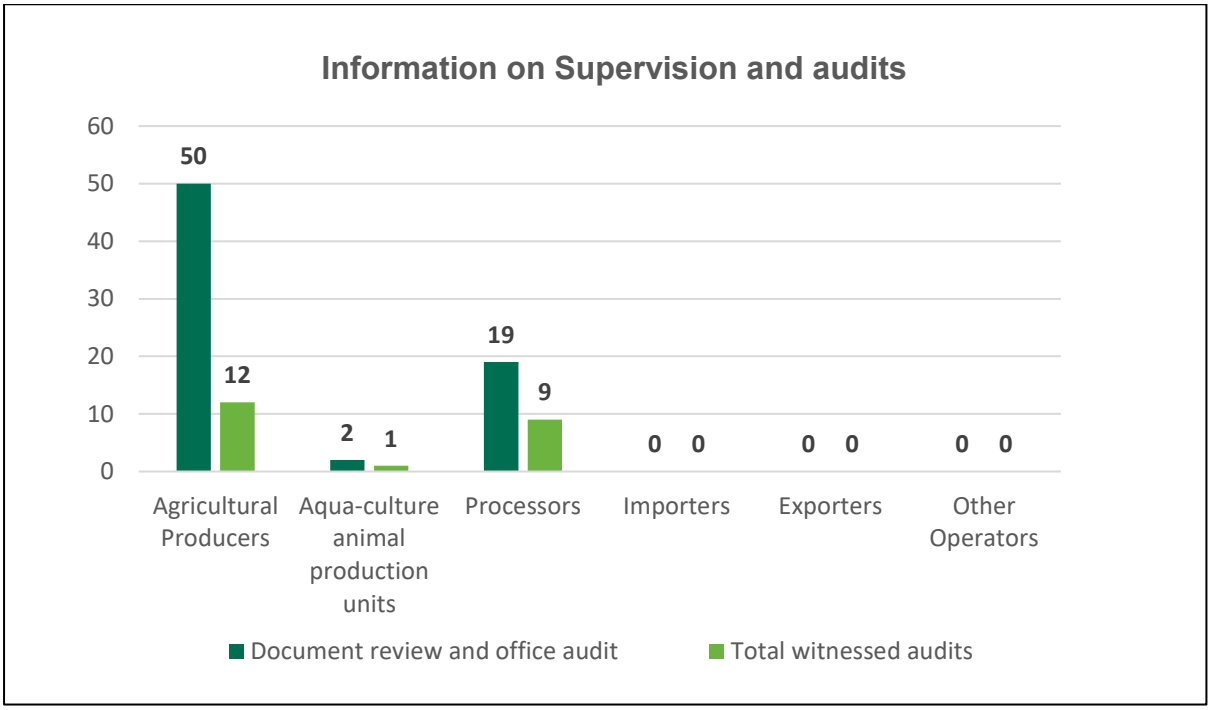


2.72 The chart below illustrates the infringements and control measures applied to registered operators in 2018/19.



2.73 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).

2.74 The chart illustrates the information on supervision and audits in 2018.



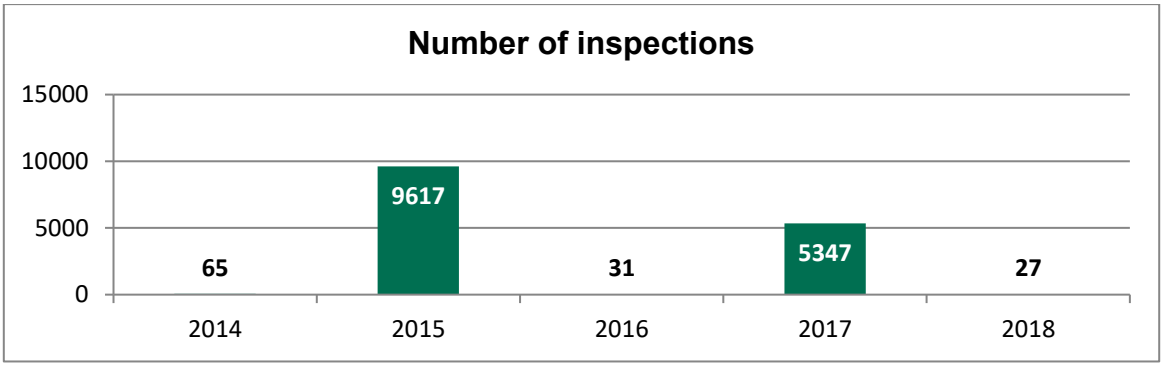
Protected food names (PFN)

2.75 The control bodies responsible for inspecting larger producer groups are participating in a verification/accreditation pilot to ensure accreditation of control bodies meets the scope for PFN inspections.

2.76 The pilot scheme, alongside the cyclical nature of verification, means that there has been a lower number of reported inspection results for 2018/19. It was expected that a large number of inspection reports would be received in 2019/20 once accreditation requirements are confirmed.

2.77 In addition, a new enforcement regime for the PFN scheme has been introduced, which includes an obligation for verification results to be reported to Defra by the body undertaking inspection. No compliance issues were recorded that would result in harm to human or animal wellbeing or mislead the consumer.

2.78 The following data covers the period 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2018.



Natural mineral waters

2.79 In 2018, no non-EEA new recognitions were conducted. Further to this, Defra removed the recognition of a third country natural mineral water (Aqua Viva, Serbia) for failing to renew their recognition during the five year stipulated period. A current list of recognised natural mineral waters in and by the UK is available online. No non EEA recognitions were conducted in Scotland, Northern Ireland or Wales during 2018/19.

Allergen labelling

2.80 The number of allergen-related incident notifications received and progressed in England, Wales and Northern Ireland in 2018/19 was 283, compared to 260 during 2017/18.

2.81 The FSA commissioned a large research study in November 2018 to improve its understanding of food allergy in adulthood by determining its prevalence in the UK adult population. The study is expected to report at the end of 2021. In addition, the FSA launched a campaign in 2018, called 'easy to ASK' to raise awareness of the allergen labelling information that's required by law, and particularly to help young adults be more confident about asking for this information when ordering food.

2.82 In October 2018, the FSA ran a significant piece of work in conjunction with Defra, Department of Health & Social Care and the Devolved Administrations with a focus of gathering evidence on how best to improve the provision of allergen information on pre-packaged for direct sale (PPDS) food products.

Beef labelling

2.83 In England and Wales, the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) operates a risk based and random inspection regime, which focuses on those establishments with a history of non-compliance. RPA completed 254 initial inspections for 2018/19. Where non-compliance was found, establishments were revisited for a follow-up inspection, usually within four to six weeks until compliance was achieved or enforcement action taken. Of the 254 initial inspections, 109 were found to be non-compliant.

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

Year	% non-compliant
2014	32.2%
2015*	54.7%
2016	32.15%
2017	38.92%
2018	42.91%

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

2.85 In 2018/19 a total of 520 inspections were completed, initial and follow-ups giving an overall non-compliance rate of 42.91%. There were 35 enforcement notices issued in 2018 scheme year, compared with 42 in 2017.

2.86 The Scottish Government achieved its planned official controls for 2018/19, 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, 2 achieved an unsatisfactory outcome, resulting in a follow-up inspection being required to ensure that corrective action had been taken. No prosecutions were brought in Scotland in 2018.

Percentage of compliance and actions taken

Year	Establishments inspected	Number of inspections carried out	% compliance of Scottish businesses
2014	22	24	91
2015	18	25	72
2016	25	26	81
2017	36	45	95
2018	39	45	87

Year	Verbal warning	Follow-up inspection	Warning letter	Enforcement notices
2014	2	2	0	0
2015	5	1	0	0
2016	5	5	0	0
2017	0	2	0	0
2018	2	6	0	0

2.87 Northern Ireland achieved their planned official controls for 2018/19, completing a total of 136 inspections. 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 and incomplete company records.

2.88 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 Northern Ireland businesses[12]
2014	48	132	79
2015	53	138	92
2016	44	121	84
2017	51	134	83
2018	50	136	75

Year	Verbal warning	Follow-up inspection	Warning letter	Enforcement notices
2014	4	7	1	0
2015	4	2	0	0
2016	9	2	1	1
2017	9	5	1	0
2018	11	8	2	0

2.89 No significant deviations in types of non-compliance have been found. In the past five years, no evidence of deliberate non-compliance with the regulations for fraudulent purposes has been identified.

Veterinary residues surveillance

2.90 Of the 36,514 samples analysed under the National Surveillance Programme, 168 residues above the maximum residue level (MRL) or other action limit were detected in 148 samples.

2.91 Non-compliances were categorised into three groups:

- unauthorised substances: 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.

2.92 Investigations into non-compliant samples found no evidence of the misuse or abuse of hormonal growth promoters, thyrostatic, beta-agonists or prohibited substances.

[12] Percentage compliance of Northern Ireland businesses was 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

2.93 Non-compliant residues were confirmed for antibiotics, anthelmintics, avermectins, coccidiostats and NSAIDs. Anti-microbial residues in excess of the MRLs were confirmed in samples from calves, pigs and sheep. 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 calves, game, poultry and eggs. NSAID residues were confirmed in cattle.

2.94 The table below summarises results of non-compliant residues for antibiotics, anthelmintics, avermectins, coccidiostats and NSAIDs. Investigations showed that the main cause of these residues were that the instructions for use of veterinary medicinal products had not been adhered to for withdrawal times.

Summary of results of non-complaint residues

What tested	Tested for	Number of inspections or samples	Non-compliant residues found
Calves	Anti-microbials	326	6
Pigs	Anti-microbials	1,869	1
Sheep	Anti-microbials	2,388	1
Cattle	Anthelmintics	518	3
Sheep	Anthelmintics	1,475	21
Milk	Anthelmintics	373	2
Cattle	Avermectins	302	2
Sheep	Avermectins	454	1
Milk	Avermectins	279	2
Cattle	NSAIDS	653	1
Calves	Coccidiostats	17	1
Poultry	Coccidiostats	1,336	1
Eggs	Coccidiostats	589	5
Game	Coccidiostats	10	3

2.95 Non-compliant residues confirmed for heavy metals 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. There were no confirmed non-compliant cases on PCBs.

Pesticides residues monitoring

2.96 The HSE carried out a monitoring programme in 2018/19. The table below shows numbers of samples taken and the percentage of samples tested containing residues over the MRL, over five years. Samples containing chlorate measured over the default MRL were not assessed as over the MRL.

Number of samples taken and % of samples tested containing residues over the MRL

Year	Number of samples	Types of food	% of samples containing residues	% containing residues above the MRL
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	43.7	3.28
2018	3,385	42	42.48	0.15

2.97 The expert committee on pesticide residues in food published quarterly reports on the findings, along with detailed information on the samples discussed in each report.

2.98 A higher rate of non-compliance continued to be found in certain fruit and vegetable products that were tested due to previous year's findings. These were generally in samples produced outside the EU, in particular speciality beans, okra, curry leaves and vine leaves. This was because the EU MRL does not take account of pesticide uses outside the EU.

2.99 HSE checked all residues detected using a risk assessment screen. In 2018, only five samples contained a pesticide residue that was over the MRL. Details of these five samples were passed to the FSA with a draft RASFF notification.

Official controls in the feed sector

2.100 In line with FSA priorities, local authorities in England continued to work on improving the accuracy of information on the number of feed businesses.

2.101 There is a new MOU (2017 to 2020) with the National Trading Standards , providing more comprehensive measurements of the impact of feed controls, undertaken through the feed inspection Programme.

2.102 In England, in 2017/18[13], 99.7% of planned feed inspections were delivered. All local authorities contributed to the planning process for controls to be delivered in 2018/19. The FSA continued to review and make necessary improvements to the feed inspection system.

2.103 The work programme in Wales for 2017/18 consisted of a target of 2,387 inspections. The feed regions completed a total of 2,238 inspections (94%). There were also 156 interventions that resulted in the discovery of feed establishments no longer trading, improving the accuracy of animal feed establishment registers.

[13] In England, Wales and Northern Ireland, Feed statistics are reported 1 year in arrears.

2.104 Feed regions reported carrying out 180 analytical tests out of a target of 160 (112.5%). Samples were taken of imported feed at point of entry, feed manufactured in Wales and feed used on Welsh farms. The returns showed a significant improvement in the delivery of animal feed official controls since the regional feed delivery model began in April 2015, with interventions being carried out across all feed regions and in all local authority areas.

2.105 Data returns for 2017/18 showed an 11% decrease in the number of feed businesses in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. This was because of greater accuracy of data returns after significant efforts to improve this. The table provides a breakdown by business type.

Total number of feed business operators in England, Wales and Northern Ireland as of 31 March 2018

Registered and approved feed businesses by type*	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Primary producers / livestock farms	192,561	193,856	174,718	169,832	135,176
Manufacturers and packers	1,839	1,378	1,153	1,974	15,945
Food businesses placing co-products and surplus food into the feed chain	4,892	5,218	7,194	6,911	7,567
Importers	134	152	134	118	139
Distributors and transporters	2,242	2,901	4,197	3,549	3,465
Total	**201,668**	**203,505**	**187,396**	**182,384**	**162,292**

*Only main categories listed

2.106 During 2018/19, FSS continued to develop a centralised model for feed official control delivery for Scotland, with implementation planned for 2019/20. Data returns for Scotland showed a fluctuation in the number of feed businesses over the last few years. An extensive data cleansing exercise had taken place on all Scottish data and has resulted in an increase in businesses operating in most sectors.

Number of feed businesses in Scotland

Feed businesses by type	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Primary producers	20,705	20,242	18,067	15,423	22,819
Manufacturers	90	88	103	130	141
Food businesses placing co-products into the feed chain	623	647	760	278	329
Food businesses placing surplus product into the feed chain	N/A*	N/A*	N/A*	764	764
Importers	9	7	6	6	6
Distributors	317	313	296	279	318
Stores	96	86	181	169	233
Retailers	1,636	1,064	896	187	166

*new category added in 2017/18

UK feed controls and enforcement

2.107 Enforcement data for 2017/18 showed a 30.8% decrease in numbers of inspections undertaken by local authorities. This aligned with the introduction of full earned recognition for the feed sector. The number of revisits rose by 18.4% and sampling visits dropped by 53.8%. The number of feed business operators being given advice fell by 18.4%.

Number of interventions undertaken by local authorities in the UK

Types of controintervention	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Number of inspections	11,709	12,022	12,391	12,409	8,593
Number of revisits	495	352	301	256	303
Number of feed business operators given advice	6,820	8,359	8,576	7,339	5,990
Number of sampling visits	1,199	1,039	642	831	384

Reported use of formal enforcement activity in the UK during 2017/18

Enforcement activity	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Written warnings for non-compliance identified for the first time and not an immediate threat to feed safety	1,122*	862*	1,590	1,679	975
Improvement notice on issue which required attention or not been actioned after written warnings (not requested from 2013/14)	N/A	N/A	1	8	38
Other formal actions to address serious feed breaches	18**	40**	15	2	28

*Total establishments subject to written warnings

**Total establishments subject to other formal enforcement action

2.108 The use of written warnings decreased by 41.9% in 2017/18. The number of formal actions to address serious breaches of feed requirements increased significantly. There were 18 instances where feed was either seized, detained or surrendered. This resulted in eight simple cautions.

UK animal feed sampling

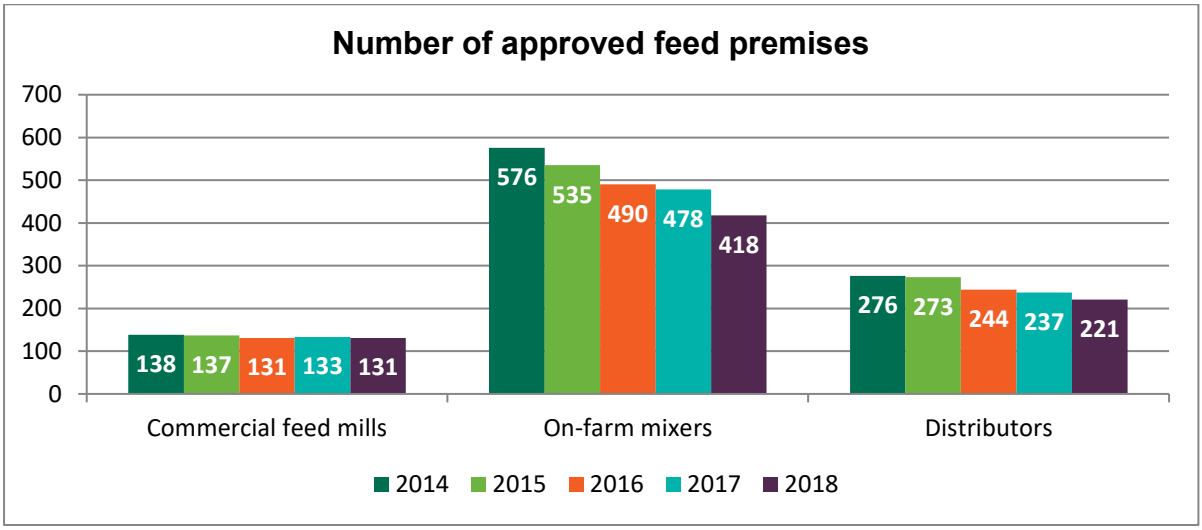
2.109 During 2017/18, local authorities took around 800 samples. These were tested for 6,650 analytes, including heavy metals, dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs, salmonella, mycotoxins, and unauthorised GM events. Results of the analysis of feed samples are shown in the table below. 4.5% of samples were found to be unsatisfactory. This is about four times higher than last year. The majority of those samples categorised as unsatisfactory were due to deficiencies in levels of feed additives and undesirable substances, rather than labelling issues, which dominated the reasons for non-compliance in the previous year.

Results of the analysis of feed samples

Substance	2013/14*		2014/15*		2015/16*		2016/17*		2017/18*	
	No. of analyses	% satisfactory	No. of analyses	% satisfactory	No. of analyses	% satisfactory	No. of analyses	% satisfactory	No. of analyses	% satisfactory
Constituents	5,740	93.1	4,807	60.8	4,751	84.0	2,567	91.2	1,329	79.5
Undesirable substances	23,036	99.7	23,360	97.0	19,354	94.6	16,722	99.6	4,149	90.9
Feed additives	1,975	97.8	2,405	65.4	1,924	78.2	778	75.3	500	61.8
Other	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2,201	0.1	1,145	8.8	672	86.9
Total analyses	**30,751**	**98.3**	**30,572**	**88.9**	**28,230**	**84.3**	**21,312**	**92.9**	**6,650**	**85.0**

Inspection of feed business operators by VMD

2.110 The number of approved feed establishments for the last five years is shown below.

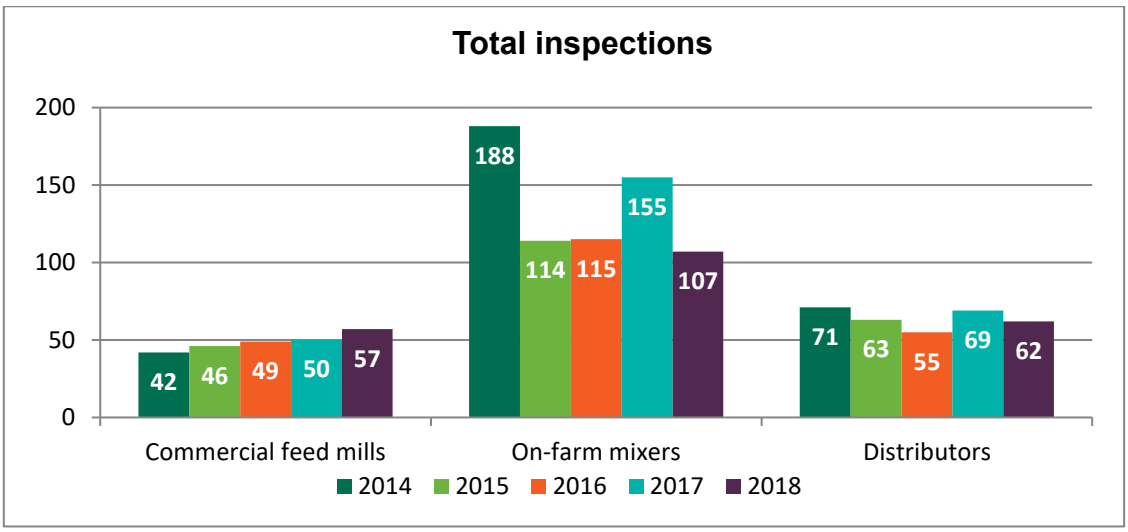


2.111 The official controls carried out by the VMD's inspectors included physical inspection of establishments and equipment, and the taking and analysis of feed samples. The VMD classifies its visits as 'approval', 'scheduled', 'special/follow-up' and 'other':

- approval: inspections carried out to approve new establishments
- scheduled visits: planned, based on the number of feed business operators and inspection frequencies
- special/follow-up visits: to approved feed business establishments for enforcement purposes or to check non-compliances noted at a scheduled inspection have been corrected
- other visits: to non-approved feed business establishments for enforcement purposes, for example the unlawful incorporation of veterinary medicinal products into feeding stuffs.

2.112 '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.

2.113 The chart below sets out the number and type of inspections carried out over the last five years.



2.114 Of the total approval and scheduled inspections carried out in 2018, 10.0% of commercial feed mills were fully compliant, compared to 8.0% in 2017, 22.2% of on-farm manufacturers were fully compliant, compared to 9.4% in 2017 and 33.3% of distributors were fully compliant, compared to 50.0% in 2017.

2.115 Of the 'other' visits carried out, all were to commercial or on-farm feed business operators. These were unplanned visits and diverted resources from scheduled inspections. Twelve 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.

2.116 There were no prosecutions, convictions or court fines imposed in 2018. From April 2017 to March 2018, no seizure notices or improvement notices were issued. There was no significant change to enforcement trends and formal enforcement action remained very low.

Sampling results for 2018/19

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	41	34	3	3
Premixture or feedingstuff tested for 'carryover'	0	0	0	0
Premixture or feedingstuff tested as part of residue investigation	0	0	24	20
Premixture or feedingstuff tested as part of other investigation	0	0	0	0
Premixture or feedingstuff tested for 10 different AGPs	10	10	0	0

2.117 The introduction of 'earned recognition' for commercial feed mills certificated under the Agricultural Industries Confederation's (AIC's) Universal Feed Assurance Scheme resulted in extended inspection interval for mills rated 'good' by the VMD at their previous inspection. This reduced the number of inspections required by the VMD in 2015. The reduced number of inspections of distributers previously noted continued to be stabilised in 2018.

2.118 In summary, feed business operators 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

2.119 Information on inspections and sampling programme for Great Britain and Northern Ireland is set out below:

UK feed inspections and sampling

Stage	Number of inspections checks on the presence of processed animal proteins	
	Great Britain	Northern Ireland
Import of feed materials	32	0
Storage of feed materials	49	25
Feed mills	579	70
Home mixers/mobile mixers[14]	163	35
Intermediaries of feeding stuffs	11	1
Means of transport	22	0
Farms keeping non-ruminants	35	24
Farms keeping ruminants	799	0
Farms keeping both ruminants and non-ruminants	613	56
Total	**2,302**	**211**

2.120 In Great Britain and Northern Ireland there were no non-compliant samples.

[14] 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.

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

Establishments	Number of samples tested for processed animal proteins						Number of non-compliant samples in Great Britain[15]		
							Presence of processed animal protein/animal protein from terrestrial animals (and fishmeal) in Great Britain		
	Feed materials		Compound feeding stuffs				Feed materials	Compound feeding stuffs	
			For ruminants		For non-ruminants				
	GB	NI	GB	NI	GB	NI		For ruminants	For non-ruminants
At import	104	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
Feed mills	973	247	1,222	161	423	13	3	2	0
Intermediaries/ Storage	146	45	47	-	2	0	1	0	0
Means of Transport	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Home mixers/ mobile mixers	32	99	142	49	68	41	1	0	0
On farm	167	221	1,636	0	287	64	1	52	1
Fats and vegetable oils	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	**1,422**	**612**	**3,048**	**210**	**780**	**118**	**6**	**54**	**1**

2.121 In 2018, 5,250 samples were collected in Great Britain. Breaches found were due to heterogeneous low level contamination of ingredients and compound feed with bone spicules at a mill. Source and spread tracings were carried out and the contaminated feed was disposed of through recall exercise. After rigorous cleaning and disinfection and a positive release protocol, operations resumed at the mill with a higher number of visits.

2.122 The national feed audit programme operated from April 2018 to March 2019. In Great Britain, 5,240 samples were collected and 2,342 inspections were carried out. There was a sampling budget to enable 5,600 Microscopic Analysis test samples to be collected and analysed.

[15] Non-compliance figures relate to Great Britain only.

2.123 The risk assessment criteria remained the same as for the previous two years. The number of control inspections completed in the last five years is shown below. Please see detailed reports published online.

Sampling inspection visits

Year	Number of inspection visits		Number of samples collected	
	Great Britain	Northern Ireland	Great Britain	Northern Ireland
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	771
2018	2,303	211	5,250	612

Official controls in the animal health sector

2.124 KPIs reflect the need to ensure compliance with legislation and reflect the particular and different needs of our customers and our own business. Minor changes were made to the KPIs agreed for 2018/19 over those agreed for 2017/18, including removal of one KPI no longer required and enhancement of KPIs on quality management of TB testing.

2.125 There have been several resource impacts on the ability to deliver KPIs over the year including increased Gamma Testing, managing national feed incident and handling several bluetongue disease. A total of 30 KPIs were agreed with policy customers and these measure all significant and important work areas including international trade, science, welfare and surveillance. 24 KPIs were met or exceeded, three were substantially met, one met in part and two were not met.

2.126 The implementation of designation of TB areas and full roll-out of increased TB Skin testing and Gamma Testing, has impacted the ability to achieve one KPIs on TB. Two KPIs that were not achieved were demanding timeliness KPIs where only one action outside the timeframe results in the KPI not being achieved.

2.127 Activities to control bovine TB (bTB) and progress toward achieving officially bTB free (OTF) status for England and Wales remained the most resource intensive part of APHA's business.

2.128 The APHA Science Strategy ensured focus 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 capabilities to make sure APHA responded to new threats as they emerged. The current Science Strategy 2015 to 2020 is planned to be revised and relaunched in 2020.

2.129 APHA investigated 119 reports of suspected exotic diseases in 2018, and detected 10 cases of European Bat Lyssavirus in Great Britain (nine in England and one in Scotland) from June to October. Two confirmed reports of EBLV1 in Serotine bats for the first time in the UK. All other incidents as EBLV2 in Daubenton's bats.

2.130 The following table shows the total number of official investigations:

Animal health Investigations

Disease	Number of investigations
African Horse Sickness	0
Anthrax	2
Aujeszky's	3
Avian Notifiable (Avian Influenza/Newcastle Disease)	30
Bluetongue	14
Brucellosis (excl. bovine brucellosis)	4
Contagious agalactia	0
Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia	0
Dourine	0
Vesicular Disease	1
Bat Rabies	7
Rabies	3
Swine Fever	4
Equine Viral Arteritis	23
Glanders	1
Equine Infectious Anaemia	1
West Nile	0
Enzootic Bovine Leukosis (EBL)	5
Bovine Brucellosis	21
Lumpy Skin Disease	0
Total	**119**

2.131 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 local authorities in England and Wales and the compensation paid for animals slaughtered to prevent the spread of animal disease. A separate report is produced by the Scottish Government.

2.132 In Northern Ireland, Welfare and Enforcement Branch (WEB) inspectors carried out inspections on farms, at livestock markets, abattoir lairages and roadside vehicle checks covering biosecurity, welfare and IRM regulations. Also a number of roadside vehicle checks were carried out

with the PSNI[16], whilst also training police officers to read eartags and check animal movement documentation.

2.133 117 case files were opened on the Veterinary Service Investigation Database (VSID), for 156 investigations into alleged offences under nine separate Veterinary Service Animal Health Group work areas. Progress with these investigations is summarised below.

Progress summary of the veterinary service enforcement investigations opened

Work Programme	Under Investigation	Interview arranged	File being prepared	File passed to public prosecution service	Case closed	Total
ABP	1	0	1	4	8	14
Aujesky's disease	0	0	0	0	3	3
Enzootic disease	0	0	0	0	1	1
Epizootic disease	0	0	0	0	1	1
Identification, registration and movement	9	0	1	6	48	64
Trade of animals and animal products	0	0	0	1	1	2
Tuberculosis	2	0	0	2	9	13
Veterinary public health and food safety	0	0	1	2	3	6
Welfare of animals	12	1	1	14	24	52
Total / (case files)	**24 (21)**	**1 (1)**	**4 (2)**	**29 (17)**	**98 (76)**	**156 (117)**

2.134 In the reporting year, 76 cases were closed on the VSID, for 98 investigations into alleged offences under nine separate Veterinary Service work areas.

[16] psni.police.uk

Outcomes of the veterinary service enforcement investigations closed

Work programme	Under Investigation	Interview arranged	File being prepared	File passed to public prosecution service	Case closed	Total
ABP	1	0	1	4	8	**14**
Aujesky's disease	0	0	0	0	3	**3**
Enzootic disease	0	0	0	0	1	**1**
Epizootic disease	0	0	0	0	1	**1**
Identification, registration and movement	9	0	1	6	48	**64**
Trade of animals and animal products	0	0	0	1	1	**2**
Tuberculoses	2	0	0	2	9	**13**
Veterinary public health & food safety	0	0	1	2	3	**6**
Welfare of animals	12	1	1	14	24	**52**
Total / (case files)	**24 (21)**	**1 (1)**	**4 (2)**	**29 (17)**	**98 (76)**	**156 (117)**

Progress summary of case files passed to the Public Prosecution Service (PPS)

Not directed for prosecution	Directed for prosecution – cases ongoing	Directed for prosecution and convicted	Formal caution delivered	Withdrawn in court	Waiting for direction on	Total sent to PPS
0	18	3	2	1	3	**27**

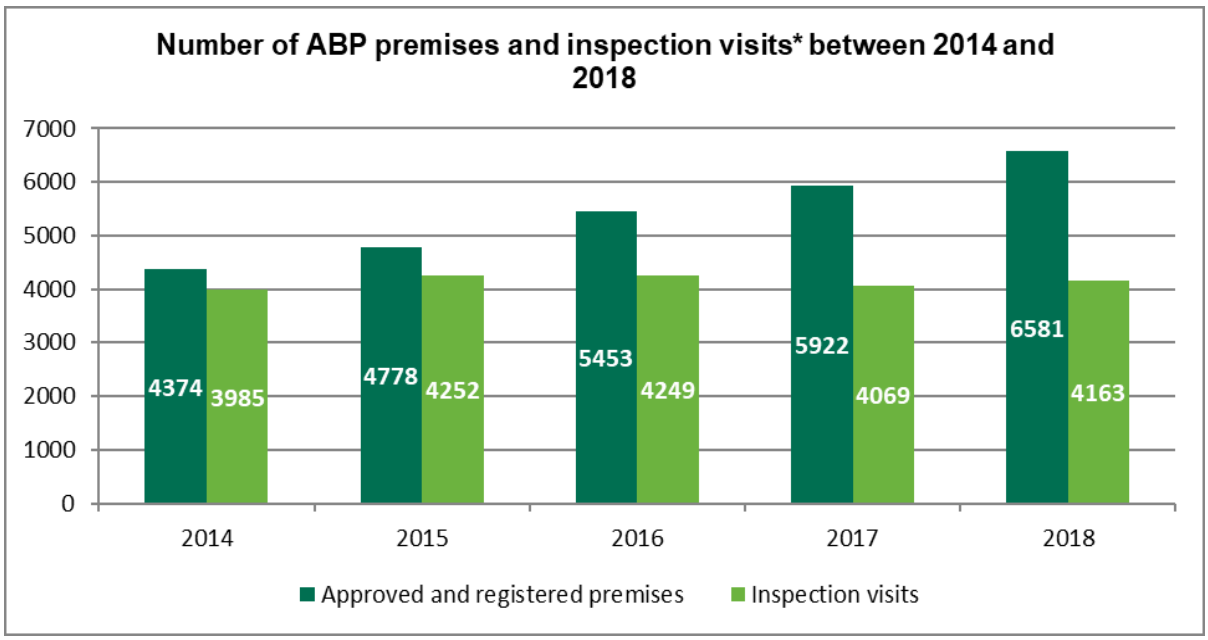
2.135 Twenty people were convicted in court (covering 28 investigations). In the reporting year, total fines of £15,550 were imposed. The results of prosecutions are summarised in the table below.

Custodial sentence	• two people received a two-month custodial sentence suspended for two years
Probation	• two people received two years' probation
Conditional discharge	• one person received a conditional discharge for two years • one person received a conditional discharge for 12 months plus £750 fine
Disqualification and/or imprisonment	• one person received lifetime disqualification from keeping animals, six month's imprisonment suspended for 3 years and four months imprisonment suspended for three years to run consecutively • one person received a two year disqualification for 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 and a three months custodial sentence suspended for two year plus a £2500 fine • one person received a 10-year disqualification from keeping all animals except a family pet, a 12-month custodial sentence suspended for two years plus a £200 fine • one person received a lifetime 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 and a 18 months custodial sentence suspended for four years
Imprisonment	• one person received two months imprisonment plus a £1000 fine

Animal by-products (ABP)

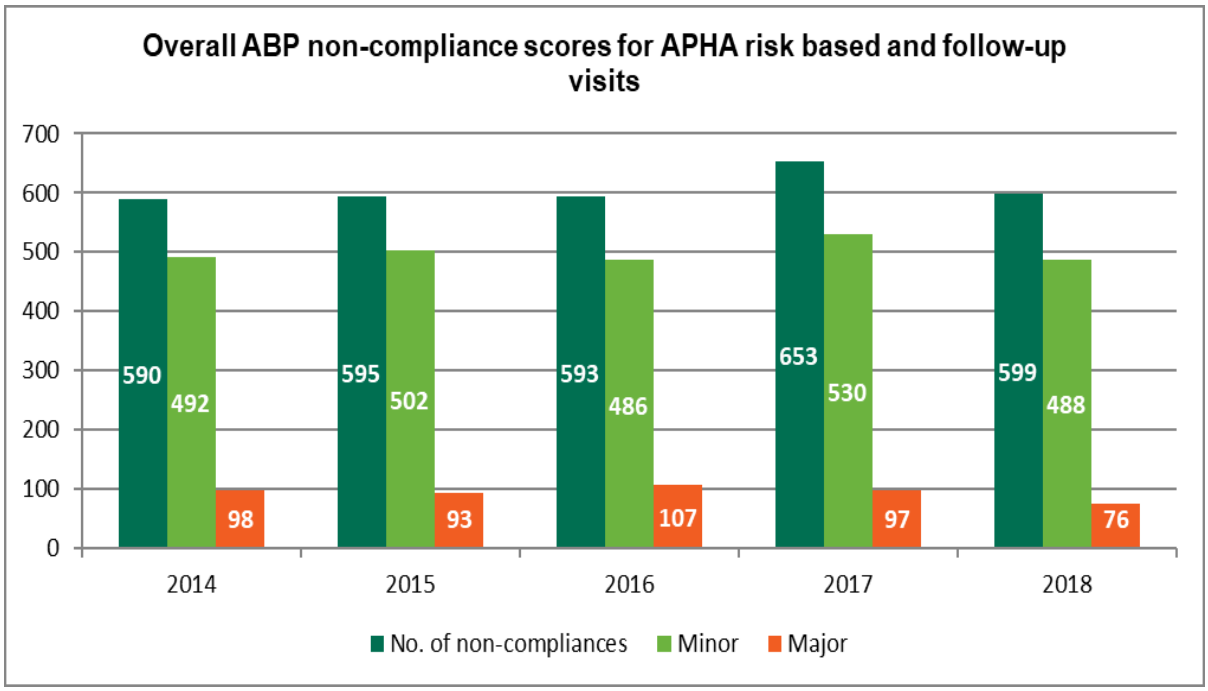
2.136 During 2018, APHA issued 101 new approvals to ABP establishments. As in previous years the majority of these were in the incineration, pet food and storage sectors. The overall number of risk-based visits to ABP establishments remained relatively constant over the last five years. A slight decrease in visit numbers was recorded for 2018/19 compared to the previous two years.

2.137 APHA uses 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 and accounts for annual fluctuations in visit numbers. 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.



*Figures exclude TSE and Controlled Hide Stores

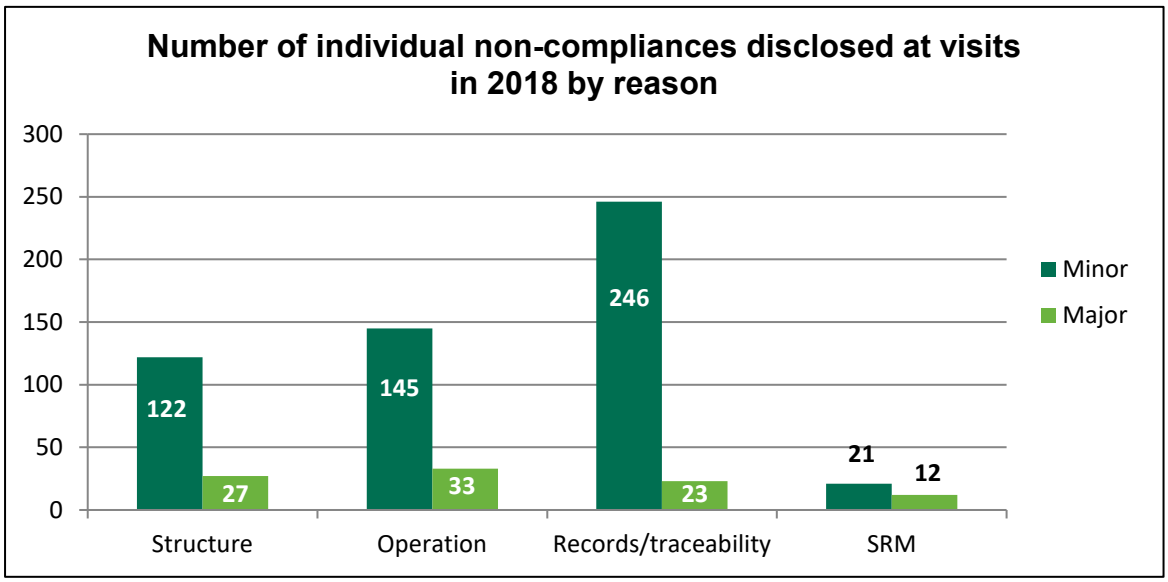
2.138 The number of registration requests has, in previous years, grown significantly. As expected, the number of new registration requests started to slow as businesses obtained their registration.



2.139 The main cause of non-compliance was record keeping issues. The total number of non-compliances[17] has fallen slightly compared to 2017. There was no significant pattern associated with the nature of these non-compliances. In 2018, there were four serious major non-compliances. These related to:

[17] 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. 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.

- failure to resolve a structural issue (broken door) at a handling plant in a reasonable time frame
- failures with an incinerator and separation issues
- a collection centre where ABP material was not being disposed of without undue delay
- a pet food plant operating without effective HACCP controls.



2.140 In Northern Ireland, there were 225 approved ABP establishments and 401 registered establishments/operators. DAERA completed 188 inspections during 2018/19. There were 10 minor non-compliances 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)

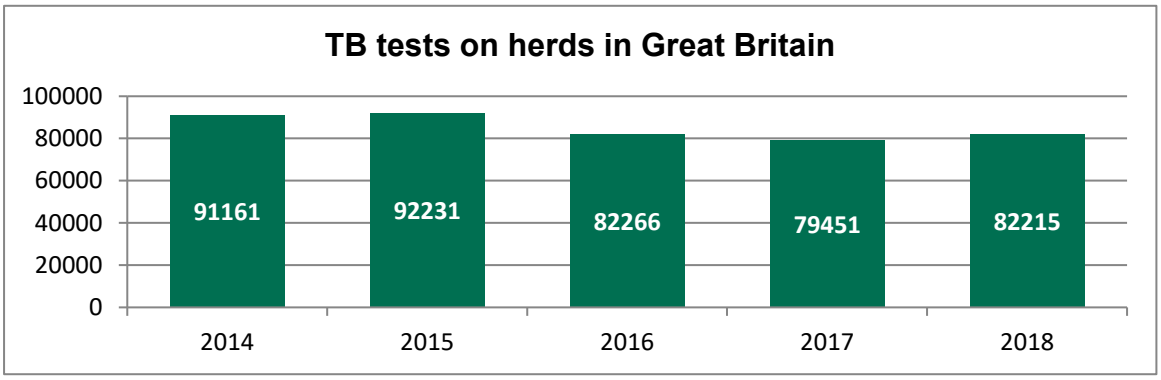
2.141 In Great Britain, during 2018 APHA recorded[18]:

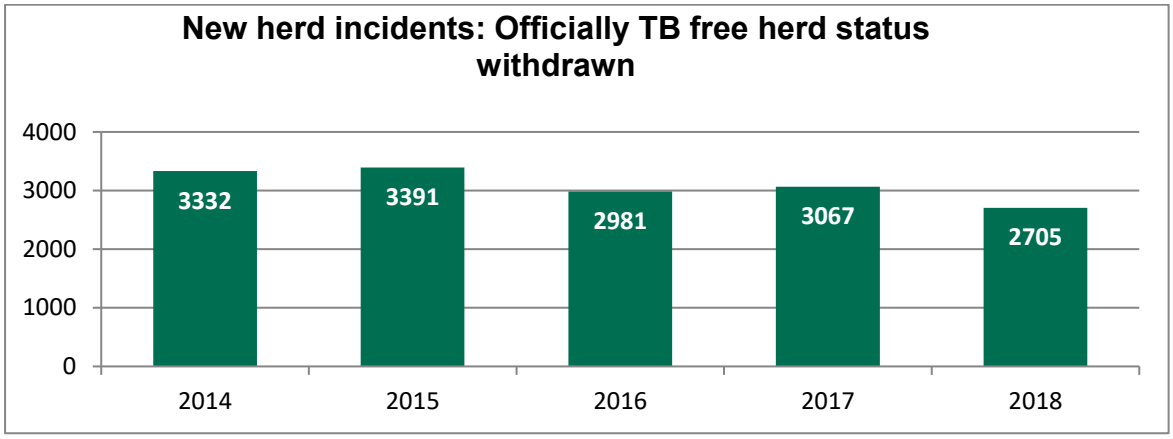
- 82,215 herd tests, with 4,389 herds experiencing a new TB incident
- 2,705 new TB incidents as Officially Tuberculosis Free status withdrawn (OTFW)
- 10.2 million TB tests in bovine animals, including about 740,000 statutory tuberculin skin tests of cattle moved out of annually tested herds in England and Wales, arranged and funded by farmers
- 44,655 cattle slaughtered for TB control purposes[19] by those tests

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

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

2.142 APHA traced bovines moved to or from establishments affected by TB incidents. OTF status was withdrawn within a timeframe based on the time of completion of the last herd (source trace) or individual (spread trace) test respectively. 15,685 standalone tracing skin tests were carried out in 2018, 94.79% completed within the target time. In addition, 4,664 tracing skin tests were undertaken as part of a test of the whole herd.





2.143 In 2018, England continued to be divided for bTB surveillance and control purposes. A high risk area for annual TB testing in the South West 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). From January 2018, the boundaries of the edge area were redefined to slow the geographic spread of the disease.

2.144 Defra continued to implement its long term bTB eradication strategy to gradually achieve OTF status for the whole of England by 2038.

2.145 In February 2018, the government announced an independent review of its bTB eradication strategy, and will publish its response to the recommendations in 2019. The strategy continued to receive EU financial support as part of the UK TB Eradication Programme for 2018. Key programme achievements in 2018/19 included:

- rollout of licensed badger culling operations to nine new high risk areas of endemic high bTB incidence and one in the edge area, bringing to 40% the total land surface under badger TB control operations

- badger culling licensed for the first time in the low risk area, to supplement additional TB control measures in cattle in a defined section of East Cumbria where endemic *M. bovis* infection was identified in badgers in 2017
- new round of applications for badger vaccination projects in the edge area under the Badger Edge Vaccination Scheme
- cuts in compensation payments for some animals compulsorily slaughtered for bTB control
- 50% reduction in compensation for cattle that cannot be processed for human consumption because of a dirty hide
- 50% reduction for cattle moved (under licence) to a positive herd, later removed as test reactors or direct contacts before that herd regains OTF status
- changes to facilitate private slaughter of cattle removed for TB control purposes. Defra pays full compensation for test reactors privately slaughtered by the keeper, if the carcase is totally condemned by the official veterinarian in the slaughterhouse due to lesions of TB detected at post-mortem meat inspection.
- publication of the joint government-farming industry bTB biosecurity progress report in December 2018.

2.146 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 was endorsed by the European Commission as part of the UK TB Eradication Programme for 2018. Key measures implemented in 2018 included:

- the introduction of enhanced TB surveillance in herds in the affected area, contiguous to TB breakdown, after an increase in the number of new bovine TB incidents in the Intermediate TB Area North
- veterinary 'Keep it Out' visits offered to farmers affected by change, and to discuss what they could do to protect their herd from TB
- badger vaccination as part of the suite of measures within the eradication plan, re-established in 2018
- maintenance of ibTB and making information available on cattle herds affected by bovine TB – a review has been put in place which is ongoing
- the regional approach to TB eradication is part of wider Programme, building on existing measures, with two documents published; the TB Eradication Programme for Wales and TB Eradication Delivery Plan
- continued roll out of bespoke Action Plans in persistent TB herd breakdowns lasting 18 months or more
- range of measures applied to persistent TB herds, based on epidemiological situation, such as removal of inconclusive reactors, introduction of Biosecurity Requirements Notices and not allowing clearing test to be used as a Pre-Movement Test
- appropriate enforcement action on farmers who fail to test their cattle on time and those suspected of carrying out illegal activity

- Welsh Government policy - Welsh local authorities and APHA collaborating to establish a local authority TB regulators guide for Wales, designed to meet Welsh requirements
- continuation of reactive surveillance for TB in camelids, goats and deer and other non-bovines
- watching brief on bovine TB in wild deer populations in Wales (samples taken as part of population management culls across a number of locations)
- Welsh Government continues to invest in new tools to eradicate bovine TB in Wales through Great Britain research projects.

2.147 In Northern Ireland, approximately 22,700 herds (1.74 million cattle) were tuberculin skin tested in 2018. 2,008 new reactor herds (a 5.4% decrease from 2017) and 15,329 reactor animals (a 3.9% decrease from 2017) were disclosed. Of these 15,329 skin reactors, TB was confirmed[20] in 6,481, and non-confirmed in 8,848. In 2018 there were 1,826 TB like lesions detected at routine slaughter (not including direct imports). Of these, 1,095 were confirmed and 731 were unconfirmed.

2.148 625 skin test negative animals that were positive to the interferon-gamma test were removed and 86 (13.8%) of these were confirmed. In addition 999 negative-in-contacts animals were removed. A total of 3.28 million animal level tests (a 4.5% increase from 2017) were carried out. This increased level of skin testing in 2018 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 2017.

2.149 The Northern Ireland programme has been approved by the European Commission as part of the UK TB Eradication Plan for 2018 and DAERA's aim is the progressive reduction in the level of TB with the ultimate long term aim of eradication.

2.150 Herd incidence in the 12 months to December 2018 was 9.22% (9.61% in the 12 months to December 2017) and the animal incidence in the 12 months to December 2018 was 0.879% (0.911% in the 12 months to December 2017). The reduced incidences and reactor numbers seen in 2018 are considered by DAERA to be encouraging, particularly since figures do not take into account the increased use of severe interpretation in breakdown herds and are consistent with the aims of the programme.

2.151 New measures introduced in March 2018 to detect disease at an earlier stage contributed to the TB incidence in 2018. These include the increased use of the 'severe interpretation' of the skin test, including the retrospective review of the previous test results; wider application of the more strict Officially TB Free Withdrawn (OTW) disease control measures; and the introduction of a further herd test after a breakdown herd is de-restricted in certain situations.

[20] 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.

2.152 DAERA continued to address the recommendations made by the TB Strategic Partnership Group's (TBSPG) Bovine Tuberculosis Strategy for Northern Ireland. The 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.

2.153 In light of the continued absence of an Executive in Northern Ireland and the rising TB disease incidence, the department introduced some enhanced disease control measures in March 2018 that were possible without ministerial approval. In addition, a public consultation on proposals to eradicate TB based on its consideration of the TBSPG Eradication Strategy has been completed. The results of this have been analysed and a summary of the responses has been published on the DAERA website.

2.154 In May 2018, DAERA established the TB Eradication Partnership (TBEP). TBEP is a DAERA sponsored expert advisory body. It is now well established and has met on a number of occasions to receive briefings from the DAERA Chief Veterinary Officer and officials. It has also initiated a programme of engagement and briefing meetings with key stakeholder organisations.

Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSE)

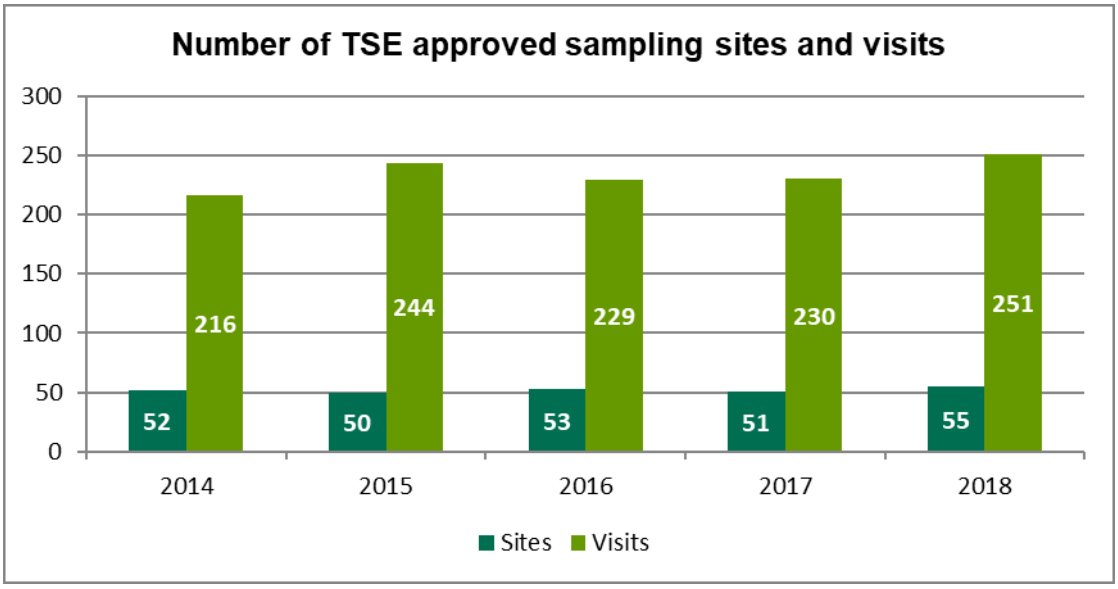
2.155 APHA delivered on all performance indicators within agreed criteria for the 2018 period.

Performance indicators for 2018

Action	Great Britain		Northern Ireland	
	Number	% completed within agreed target	Number	% completed within agreed target
Investigation of on-farm suspect BSE reports	4	100%	0	100%
Investigation of on-farm suspect Scrapie reports	1	100%	0	100%
Tracing of confirmed classical and atypical Scrapie cases	17	100%	0	100%
Risk-based inspection of all approved TSE sampling sites and controlled hide stores	53	195%	56	100%
Restriction of eligible BSE offspring and cohorts	4	100%	0	100%

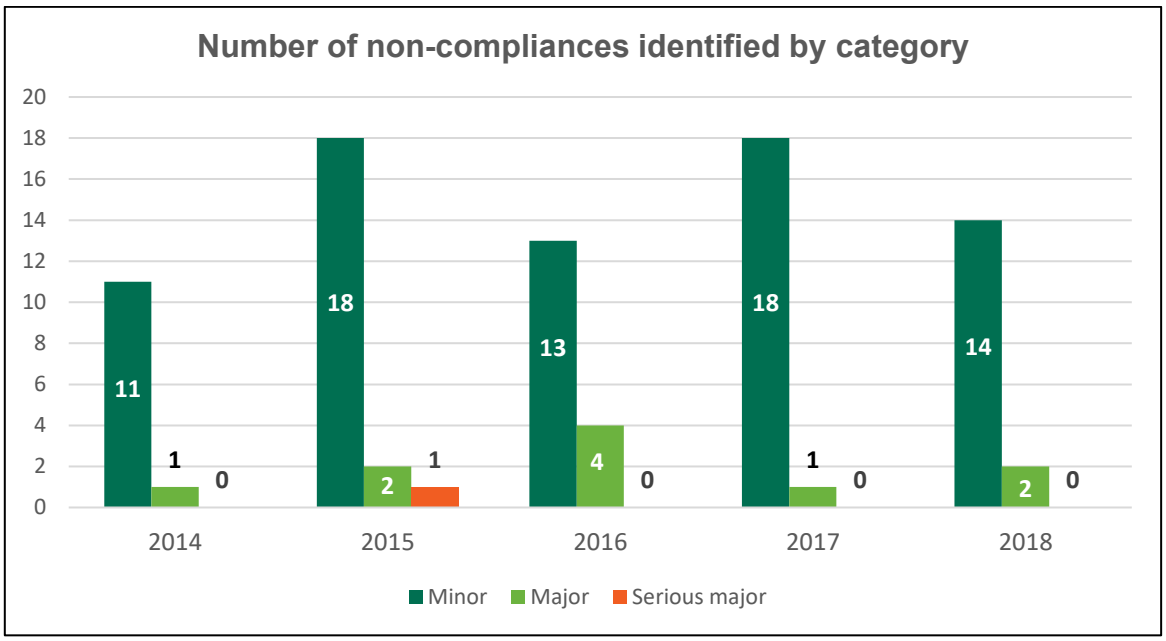
2.156 Of the four 'on-farm' BSE suspects, three were clinical cases negated after clinical inspection on farm. 16 cases of atypical scrapie was confirmed in 2018. No classical scrapie cases confirmed on new establishments in 2018. One classical BSE case confirmed in 2018, through active surveillance.

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

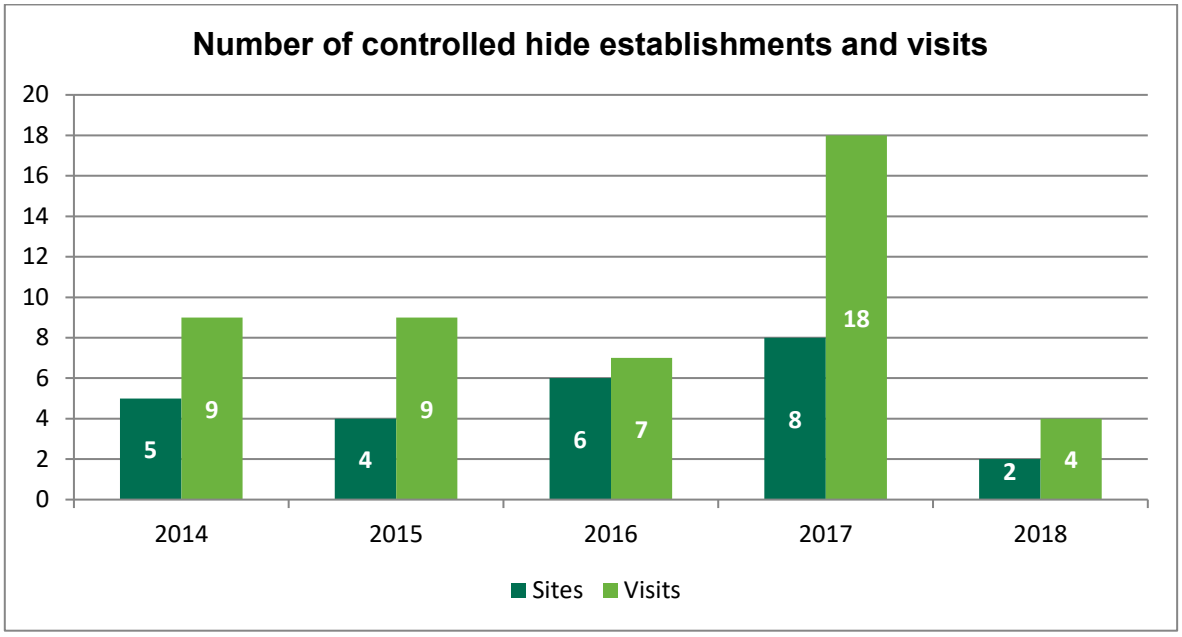


2.158 19 non-compliances were identified at TSE sampling sites during 2018 (18 minor non-compliances and two major non-compliances). These mainly related to operational and record keeping issues.

2.159 The two major non-compliances resulted from a sampling issue and a failure to empty a skip without undue delay. Non-compliance notices were issued to the TSE sampling sites and corrective actions were monitored through follow-up inspections. No serious major non-compliances were identified during 2018.



2.160 The number of controlled hide establishments visited and number of site visits had fallen in 2018 to two sites; visits to these site were found to be compliant.



2.161 In Great Britain, the number of new cases detected by active and passive surveillance continued to remain low, with one classical BSE case confirmed in 2018 and three clinical suspect cases reported where BSE was not confirmed in 2018. Most clinical suspect cases were reported after the confirmation of the classical BSE case when information was in the public domain.

2.162 The numbers of confirmed BSE cases continued to remain very low. Four BSE suspect cases were reported in 2018, one was slaughtered and confirmed negative. TSE surveillance statistics provide further information.

2.163 In Scotland, a suspect BSE report through active surveillance disclosed a confirmed case of classical BSE in 2018. The previous confirmed classical BSE case was three years ago, in 2015. Tracings and euthanasia of offspring and cohorts were carried out. An in-depth epidemiological investigation was also carried out, which revealed no breaches of the TSE and Animal Feed Controls Regulations.

2.164 Consistent with other BSE cases reported globally within these dates, it was not possible to ascertain the origin of the disease. As the BSE case was located in Scotland, this resulted in their BSE risk status being considered as controlled risk. Further information is available in the epidemiological report.

2.165 There were no cases of BSE in Northern Ireland in 2018.

Surveillance for BSE

2.166 The main purpose of BSE surveillance is to monitor the level of BSE in cattle overtime and to check the continued effectiveness of BSE controls. In 2018, 124,723 cattle were tested in Great Britain and 25,307 in Northern Ireland under the active surveillance programme and one through passive surveillance. The classical BSE case in 2018 was identified through active surveillance, which showed the efficacy of the controls in place.

Scrapie in sheep in UK

2.167 No clinical suspected cases of classical or atypical scrapie were confirmed in 2018 in Great Britain. This represented the seventh successive year without confirmation of classical scrapie on clinical suspects since the disease became notifiable in 1993. There was one clinical suspect reported in Great Britain in 2018, which was confirmed negative.

2.168 There were no cases of Classical Scrapie or Atypical Scrapie confirmed in Northern Ireland in 2018.

UK surveillance for scrapie

2.169 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.

2.170 The EU requirement for active surveillance in sheep in the UK remained unchanged in 2016.

2.171 In 2018, 10,000 sheep aged over 18 months were slaughtered for human consumption and there were 10,000 fallen sheep over 18 months.

2.172 In 2018, 20,346 were tested in the UK, of which 5,447 were slaughtered for human consumption and 14,899 were fallen stock (includes sheep that died during transit).

2.173 No classical scrapie cases were detected in 2018, 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.

2.174 In 2018, 16 cases of atypical scrapie were confirmed in Great Britain, 14 in sheep submitted to the Fallen Stock survey and 2 from a sheep submitted to the Abattoir survey. No cases were confirmed in Northern Ireland. The estimated prevalence for Great Britain using abattoir survey data was 0.23% (95% CI: 0.056-0.58%). The Fallen stock survey was 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. No new sheep holdings joined the Compulsory Scrapie Flocks Scheme (CSFS) in 2018, leaving only 20 holdings with confirmed scrapie.

2.175 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 2019, the contribution of the Atypical Scrapie Monitoring Scheme (ASMS) to the testing throughput of sheep holdings under restrictions by any kind of scrapie declined. 16 holdings joined the existing 33 monitored due to confirmation of atypical scrapie. 33 of the 49 holdings under restrictions submitted 435 samples to the various testing routes of the scheme.

2.176 The reasons why samples were not submitted by 23 ASMS holdings were due to some:

- owners who erroneously sent their fallen stock for normal collection rather than *via* the CSFS helpline
- owners who erroneously failed to report their fallen stock, usually in the first year of restrictions; an audit visit usually rectified this problem
- holdings with restrictions lifted in 2018 would not necessarily have had any fallen stock to report during their period under restriction in 2018
- small holders with low numbers of sheep and higher standards of husbandry, so the numbers of fallen stock originating from these premises was minimal.

Scrapie in goats in the UK

2.177 In 2018, there were no clinical cases of classical scrapie confirmed, together with no clinical cases of classical scrapie recorded, outside CSFS holdings. In addition, there were no atypical scrapie recorded in goats.

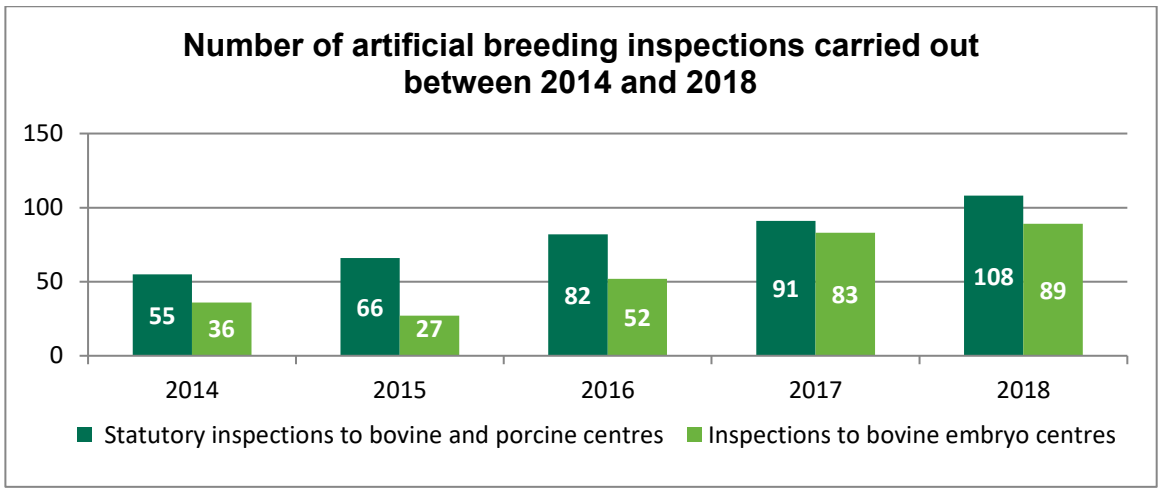
UK surveillance for goat scrapie

2.178 The EU requirement for active surveillance in goats remained unchanged in 2018. There were 500 fallen goats aged over 18 months, but no positive cases were confirmed.

2.179 No new goat holdings entered the CSFS in 2018. Two holdings remained under movement restrictions, which would last for two years after confirmation of the final case of classical scrapie on the holding. One of these holdings was culled and fully de-populated in early 2016, so no culls or fallen stock resulted from this location. There were no clinical suspect goat cases confirmed in 2018.To date, there has not been any case of atypical scrapie confirmed in goats in Great Britain and no cases confirmed in Northern Ireland in 2018.

Artificial breeding controls

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



Number of artificial breeding control activities undertaken in Great Britain

Activity	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Number of bovine embryo collection/production/transfer teams approved	3	15	21	10 (does not include stores)	3 (does not include stores)
Number of bovine and porcine semen collection, processing and storage centres approved	5	10	6 (1 AQU approval not included)	2 (3 AQU approvals not included)	7 (2 AQU approvals not included)
Number of animals licensed for on-farm domestic semen collection	247	245	280	329	262
Number of animals approved to move onto approved AI centres	227	273	184	1,950	1,248
Number of animals licensed for semen export	881	1,200	1,312	1,881	1,204
Number of samples collected from bovine semen production	65	No info available	No info available	No info available	No info available
Number of samples collected from porcine semen production	303	No info available	No info available	No info available	No info available

Number of artificial breeding control activities undertaken in Northern Ireland

Activity	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Number of bovine embryo collection/production/transfer teams approved	6	6	6	4	5
Number of bovine and porcine semen collection, processing and storage centres approved	9	9	10	10	10
Number of animals licensed for on farm domestic semen collection	0	0	0	0	0
Number of animals approved to move onto approved AI centres	22	32	44	33	44

Sheep and goats identification and tracing inspections

2.181 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

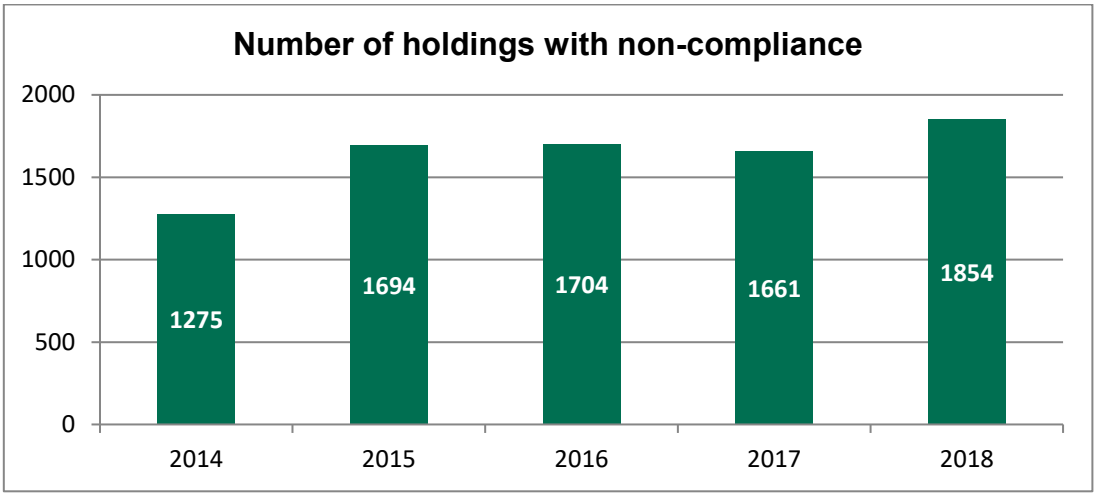
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Total number of holdings in the member state registered at the start of the reporting period	118,502	17,709	124,494	126,931	126,615
Total number of holdings checked	3,648	4,285	3,912	4,067	4,818
Total number of ovine and caprine animals in the member state registered at the beginning of the reporting period	19,173,173	18,786,694	18,787,469	18,982,072	18,625,546
Total number of ovine and caprine animals in holdings checked during the reporting	1,568,578	2,037,213	1,817,779	1,846,709	2,503,827

2.182 No significant changes in the risk selection criteria and the assessment of compliance, which are allied to Regulation 1505/2006[21] and EU Statutory Management Requirement (SMR) 8[22].

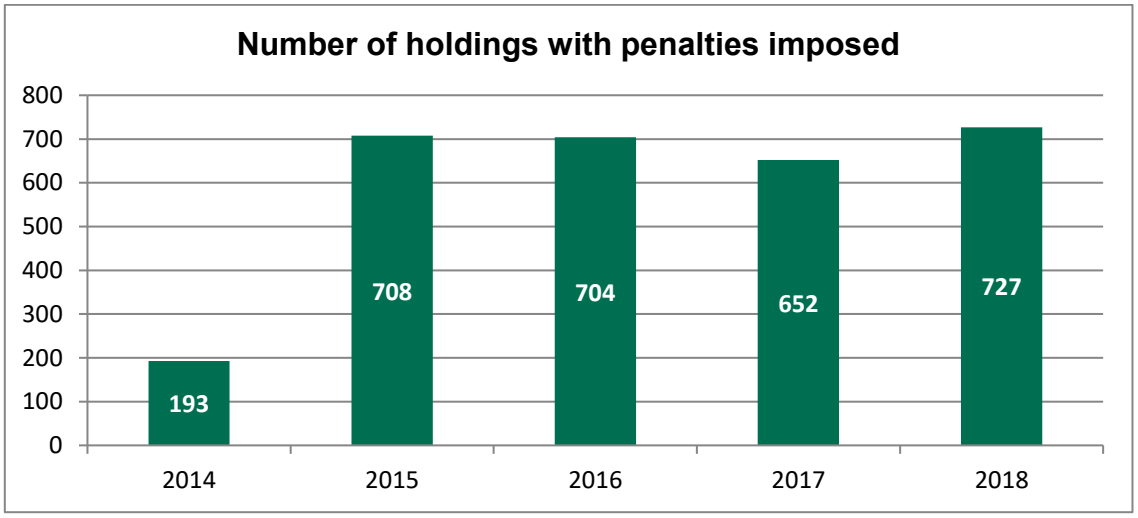
[21] In accordance with Regulation EC No. 1505/2006 a programme of unannounced farm inspections was undertaken to monitor keeper's compliance with EU rules on the identification, recording, and reporting of sheep and goat movements laid down in Regulation EC No 21/2004.

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

2.183 In 2018, there has been a modest increase (10%) in the number of non-compliant holdings. This was primarily due to more inspections being carried out across the member states, additional 781 compared to 2017 figures.



2.184 Penalties were applied to sheep and goat keepers for non-compliance discovered during an SMR8 cross compliance inspection.



2.185 In 2018 there has been an increase (10%) in the number of holdings with penalties imposed which parallels with the increase in inspections. The most common types of non-compliance related to inaccurate or incomplete on-farm records including failure to record movements accurately.

Cattle identification and registration

2.186 Commission Regulation (EU) No 1034/2010 requires a minimum of 3% of member states holdings to be inspected annually. All inspections were completed on time during the reporting period.

2.187 In Great Britain, 80% of the holdings inspected were selected using a computerised risk analysis, 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, 20% of the holdings inspected were selected at random to ascertain the level of compliance across Great Britain. Northern Ireland had a similar selection process. There were no significant changes to the risk assessment process for the 2018 inspection year.

General information on holdings and bovine animals in Great Britain

	2015	2016	2017	2018
Total number of holdings registered at the beginning of the reporting period	75,485	73,844	72,733	71,946
Total number of holdings checked during the reporting period	2,984	2,885	2,975	2,925
Total number of bovine animals registered at the beginning of the reporting period	8,237,396	8,129,271	8,108,766	7,964,321
Total number of bovine animals checked during the reporting period	330,108	351,765	339,633	366,698

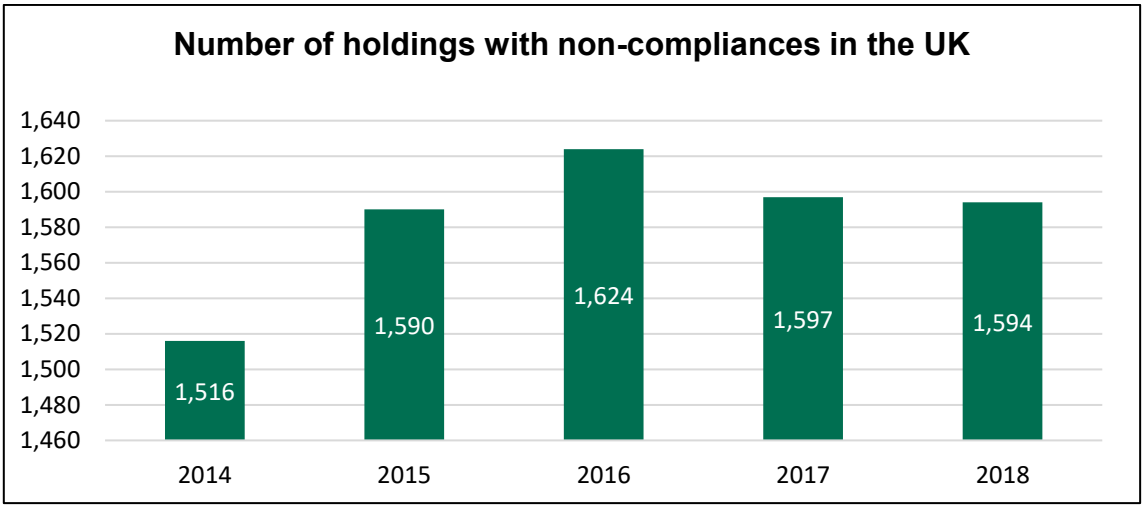
General information on holdings and bovine animals in Northern Ireland

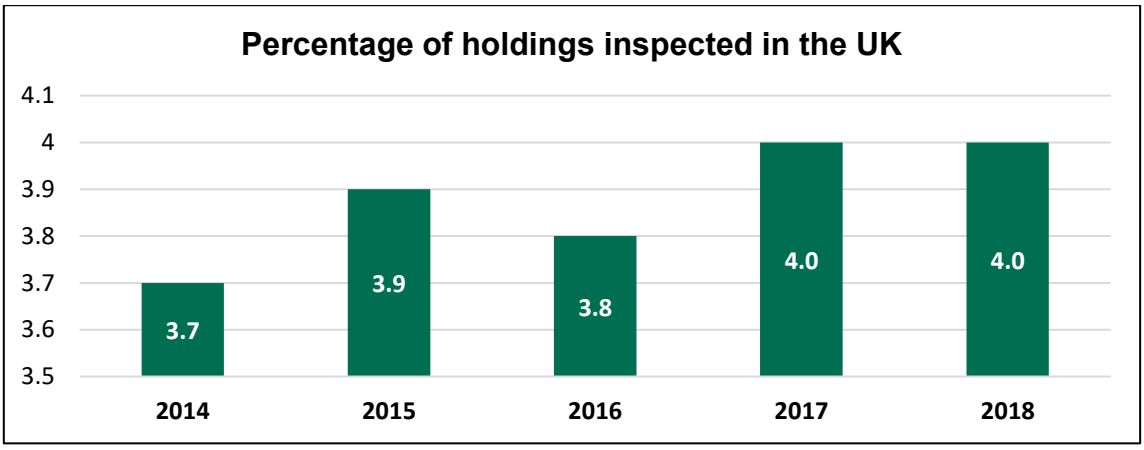
	2015	2016	2017	2018
Total number of holdings registered at the beginning of the reporting period	23,024	22,815	22,330	21,963
Total number of holdings checked during the reporting period	856	806	841	828
Total number of bovine animals registered at the beginning of the reporting period	1,550,945	1,616,574	1,614,321	1,596,974
Total number of bovine animals checked during the reporting period	97,684	89,589	85,291	101,641

2.188 The results of the cattle identification inspection annual programme over the past five years showed a small decrease followed by a smaller increase in compliance with the cattle identification regulations.

2.189 A variety of activities were inspected on farm, such as standards of tagging or record keeping, and notifications to the central database. In 2018/19 the most common types of non-compliance related to late or no report of movements and late or no report of births and deaths.

2.190 During 2018/19, in the UK,11,445 bovine animals were subject to movement restrictions. 3,301 animals were subject to individual restrictions and 8,144 were subject to whole herd movement restrictions. This represented 2.44% of animals subject to inspection. 106 holdings were subject to a whole herd restriction, which equated to 2.82% of all inspected holdings. This represented an improvement on 2017's figure of 3.43%.





Zoonoses

2.191 With the exception of a small number of breeding turkeys, control of *Salmonella* in all the UK poultry sectors[23] was maintained in 2018. Monophasic *Salmonella* Typhimurium was detected in six turkey breeding flocks in one business (and kept on two nearby sites), which caused the level of regulated *Salmonella* serovars in turkeys to exceed the EU designated target for the first time.

2.192 This incident was also the first time that a regulated serovar had been identified in UK breeding turkey flocks since the introduction of the NCP in 2010. A reduced contribution of *Salmonella* to the overall burden of food-borne zoonoses has been seen in recent years on UK kept poultry. More can be found in the report on Salmonella in livestock in Great Britain, 2017.

[23] The Salmonella National Control Programmes (NCPs) continued to be implemented in 2018, 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).

2.193 The Salmonella National Control Programme(SNCP)[24] monitoring results for 2018 for breeding, laying and broiler chickens and also for fattening turkeys showed that the levels of the regulated *Salmonella* serovars were 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 3,399 poultry flocks were subject to annual routine official sampling.

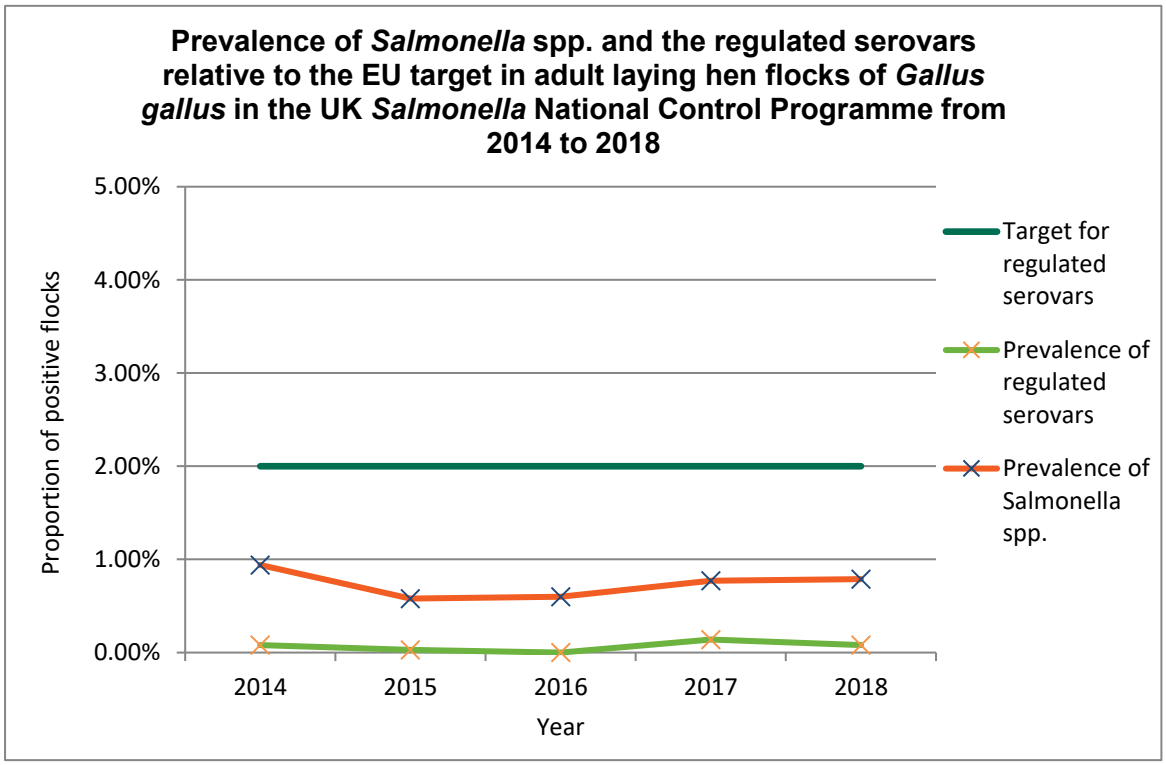
2.194 The UK chicken sector had a reported prevalence for regulated (target) serovars of 0.07% for 201, with one broiler breeder flock positive for monophasic *Salmonella* Typhimurium. No adult breeding chicken flocks were detected positive for *Salmonella* Enteritidis, *S.*Hadar, *S.*Infantis or *S.*Virchow. 3 laying chicken flocks tested positive for *Salmonella* Enteritidis and 1 was positive for Salmonella Typhimurium, giving an overall prevalence of 0.08% for the target serovars. The prevalence of the target serovars in broiler flocks was 0.04% in 2018, with 9 flocks positive for *Salmonella* Enteritidis, 5 flocks positive for *S.* Typhimurium and 7 broiler flocks detected positive for monophasic *S*. Typhimurium out of a total of approximately 50,132 flocks tested.

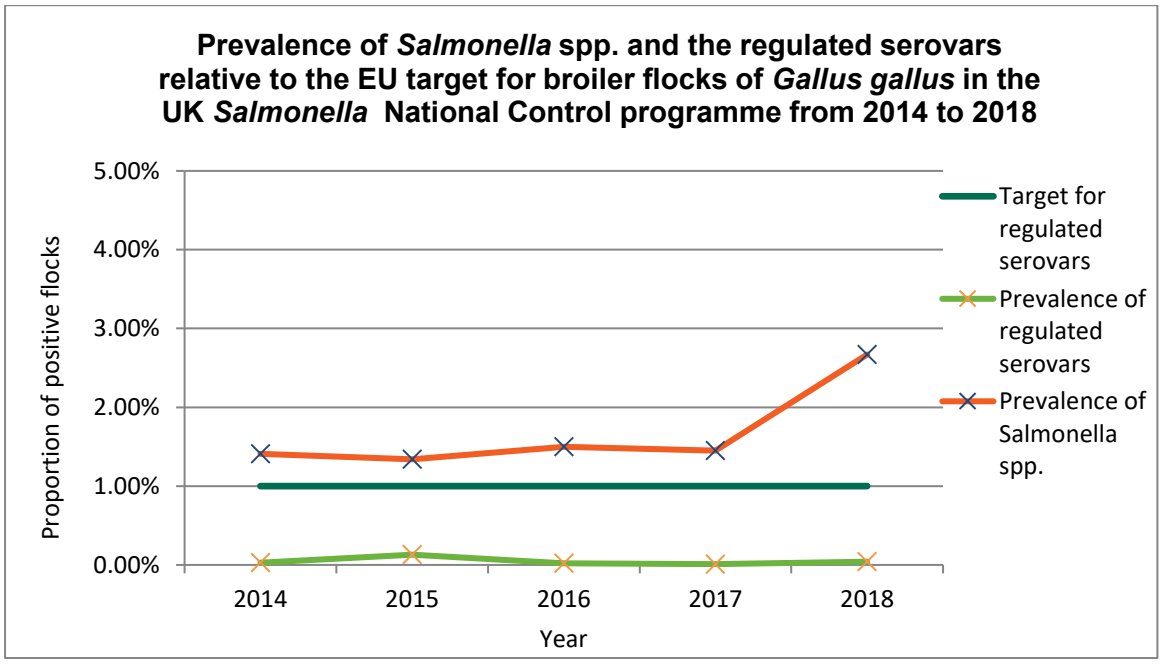
2.195 For fattening turkeys, the 2018 prevalence of the target serovars was 0.30%, which is well below the EU target of a maximum of 1% of flocks positive for regulated serovars in fattening flocks. No fattening flocks tested positive for *Salmonella* Enteritidis in 2018. 4 turkey fattening flocks were positive for *S*. Typhimurium in 2018 and 4 were positive for monophasic *S*. Typhimurium. A total of 2,656 fattening turkey flocks were tested under the programme.

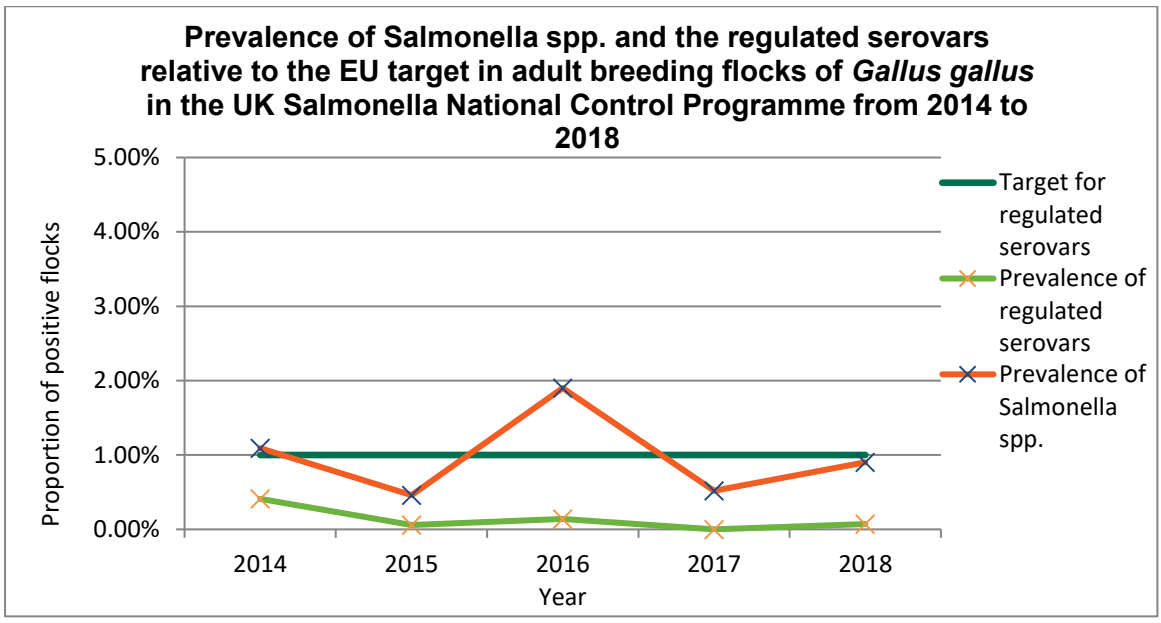
2.196 For breeding turkeys, in 2018 there were 290 breeding flocks tested in the National Control Programme. Of these, 6 breeding turkey flocks were positive for regulated serovars (all were owned by a single company and were positive for monophasic *Salmonella* Typhimurium) and therefore the estimated prevalence for regulated serovars was 2.07%, which is above the EU target of 1% of flocks positive for *S*. Enteritidis and *S*. Typhimurium (including monophasic *Salmonella* Typhimurium strains).

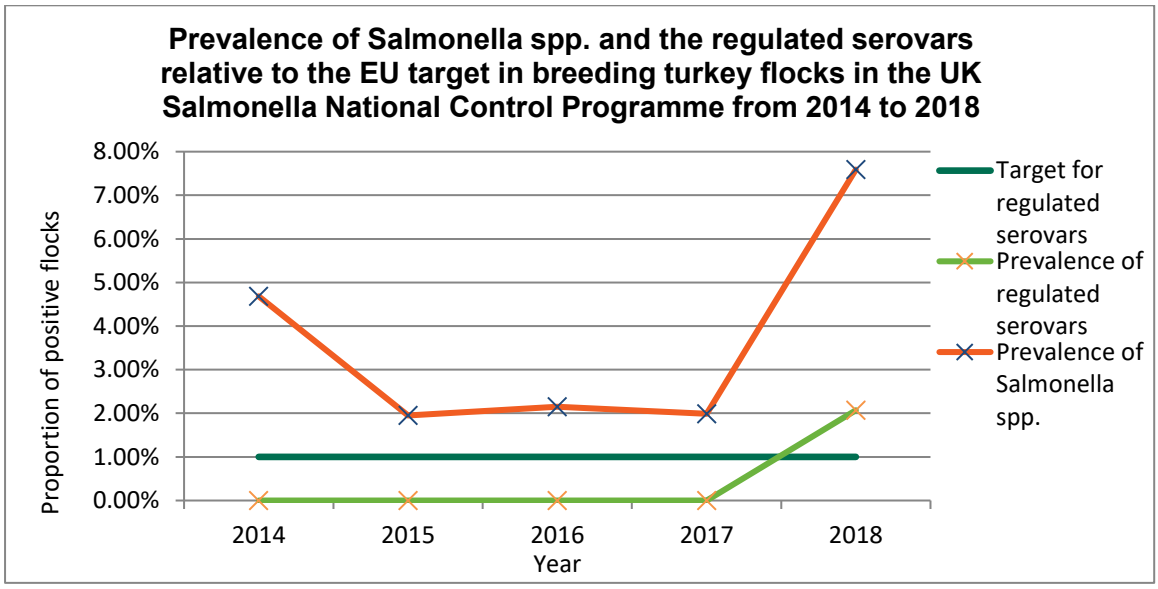
[24] As per the requirements of Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003.

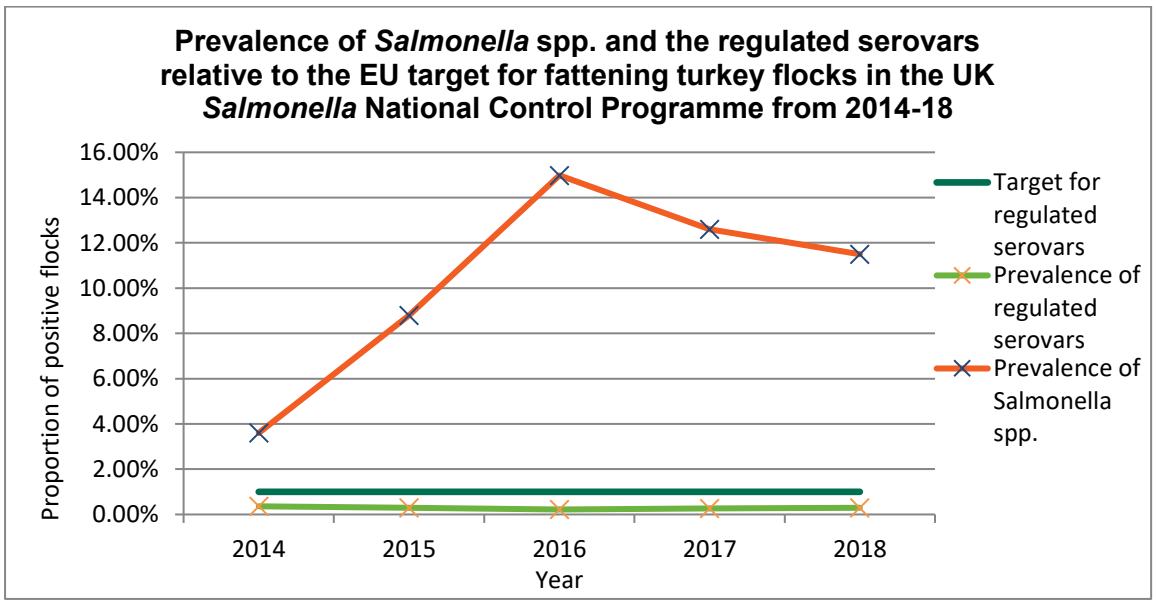
2.197 No turkey breeding flocks were positive for *S*. Enteritidis in 2018. This has been the case since the inception of the UK turkey NCP in 2010.






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 2014 to 2018
Proportion of positive flocks
5.00%
4.00%
3.00%
2.00%
1.00%
0.00%
2014
2015
2016
2017
2018
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 breeding turkey flocks in the UK Salmonella National Control Programme from 2014 to 2018
Proportion of positive flocks
8.00%
7.00%
6.00%
5.00%
4.00%
3.00%
2.00%
1.00%
0.00%
2014
2015
2016
2017
2018
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 fattening turkey flocks in the UK Salmonella National Control Programme from 2014-18
Proportion of positive flocks
16.00%
14.00%
12.00%
10.00%
8.00%
6.00%
4.00%
2.00%
0.00%
2014
2015
2016
2017
2018
Year
Target for regulated serovars
Prevalence of regulated serovars
Prevalence of Salmonella spp.

2.198 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 2014 to 2018.

Number of flocks officially sampled in the UK per year

Sector	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Breeding chickens	1,464	1,725	1,396	3,031	1442
Laying chickens	1,398	1,633	1,445	1,438	1534
Broilers	161	180	185	179	163
Turkeys	235	269	252	282	248

2.199 The assessment of food business operator compliance with the requirements of the SNCP for all sectors in the UK showed general overall compliance. In Great Britain the criteria for defining a non-compliance and the number of compliance inspections varied between poultry sectors, so data could only be compared within a specific sector for the years reported and should not be compared between sectors. In Northern Ireland, the criteria for defining a non-compliance was similar across the poultry and turkey sectors. 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.

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Total non-compliances	95[25]	120[26]	152	125	60

2.200 In England and Wales, laying chicken farms where major non-compliances were detected, financial penalty notices were issued for incomplete compliance with the requirements of the SNCP. The penalty notice data for the years 2014 to 2017 showed a broadly stable trend in operator non-compliance with a significant reduction in numbers in 2018. 32 penalty notices and 26 warning letters were issued in 2018. This financial penalty system was not used in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Salmonella in pigs

2.201 An online application was introduced in 2015 so that data on salmonella could be recorded by OVs in slaughterhouses. In 2018/19, in England, Wales and Northern Ireland[27], in 17 establishments that slaughter 100,000 pigs weekly, 545 salmonella tests were carried out of which 76 were positive. In Scotland, in the two pig slaughterhouses over the 37,500 pigs a year threshold, 332 tests were undertaken of which one was positive.

[25] Great Britain figures only, revised since 2015 report.

[26] Great Britain figures only, revised since 2015 report.

[27] At the time of reporting NI figures are based on Calendar Year (January – December 2017).

Border controls – animals and products of animal origin

2.202 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 2018 for imports of products of animal origin. The number of consignments of animal products imported in 2018 was slightly lower at 56,774 compared with 56,691 in 2017. In the case of live animal imports, the number of consignments also decreased from 8,820 in 2017 to 9,614 in 2018.

2.203 Compliance remains high for third country imports of animals and animal products. For products, the figures are lower the previous year. In 2018, the number of consignments rejected was 983 (1.7%) compared to 1,134 (2%) in 2017. 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, 30 consignments were rejected in 2018 compared with 61 consignments in 2017.

2.204 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

Year	Certificates			Rejects		Reject conclusion		
	Total	Number controlled	% controlled	Number	% of total	Re-exported	Transformed	Destroyed
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
2018	56,774	56,771	100.0%	983	1.7%	375	2	629

UK controls on imported consignments: live animals

Year	Certificates			Rejects		Reject conclusion		
	Total	Number controlled	% controlled	Number	% of total	Re-exported	Slaughter	Euthanasia [28]
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
2018	8,614	8.614	100.0%	30	0.35%	24	1	5

[28] Fish and Gastropoda.

Illegal imports[29] controls of products of animal origin

2.205 Between 2016/17 and 2017/18, the number of seizures at UK airports and ports of illegally imported products decreased by 5.42%, and between 2017/18 and 2018/19 the number of seizures decreased by 2.26%.

Number of products of animal origin seized by region during 2018/19

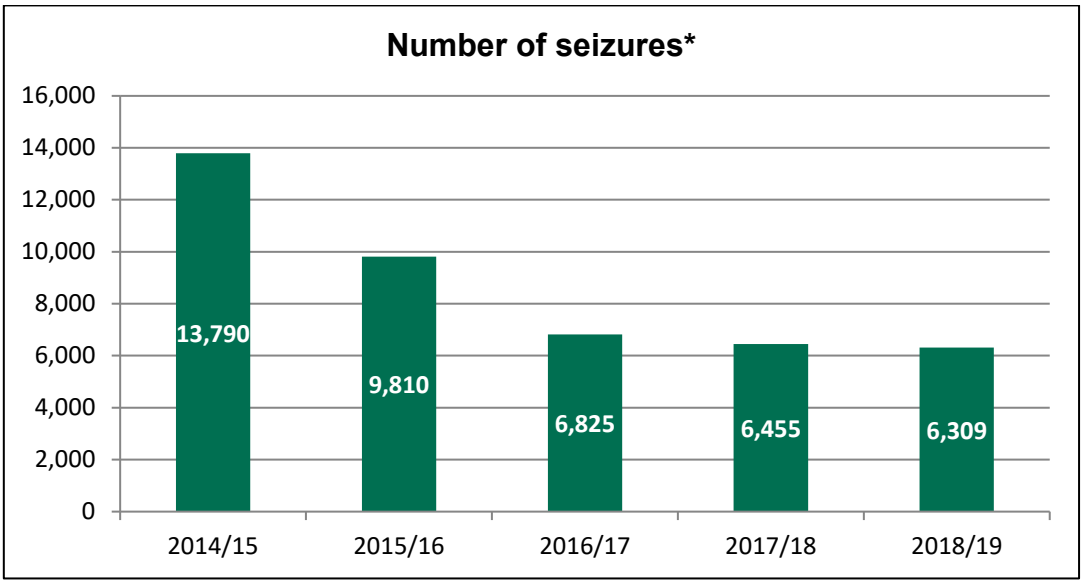


*Figure above shows the combined number of seizures made by Border Force (BF), DAERA and those made by inland local authorities and port health authorities at relevant UK points of entry

2.206 The highest number of seizures in Great Britain was from passengers returning from Eastern Asia, Northern America and the Near and Middle East. Cultural and sporting events (including celebrations as well as student terms) were times when the level of seizures might be expected to increase. These varied in size and product type, from unpackaged raw meat and fresh cheese to milk drinks and stock cubes. By weight, the greatest number of seizures were of unknown origin, followed by seizures from Western Africa and Eastern Asia.

2.207 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.

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

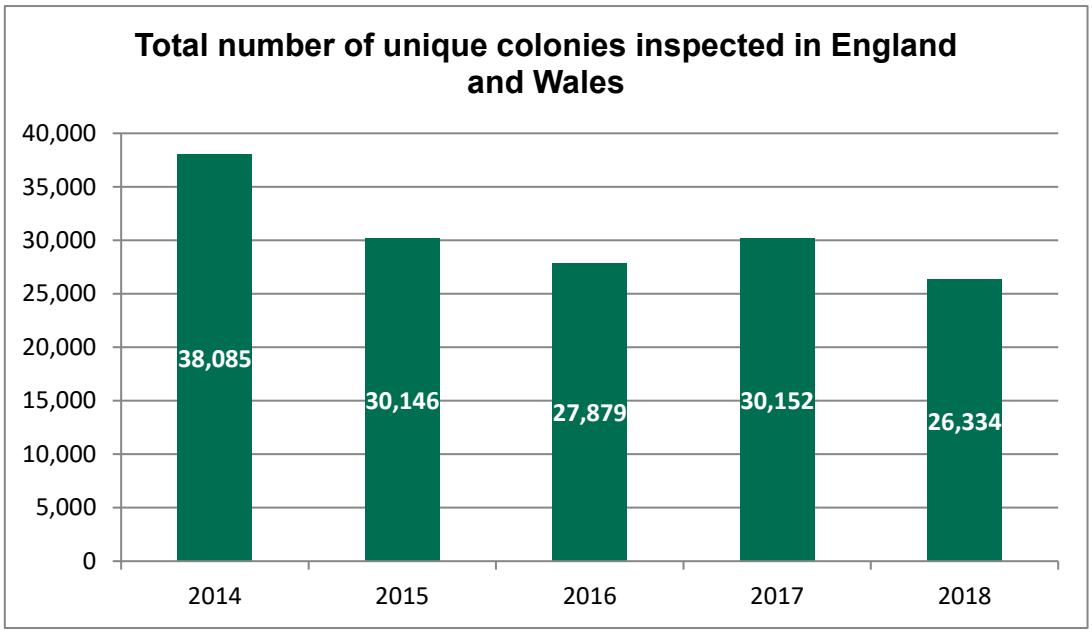
Bee health

2.208 In England and Wales, the National Bee Unit (NBU)[30] carried out statutory inspection programme for Defra and the Welsh Government. Diagnostic support for the programme is provided by Fera Science Limited. Details of the programmes are available from the NBU's BeeBase, along with full details of the NBU's inspections and pest and disease incidence in 2018 and in previous years.

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

2.210 Honey samples were also collected under contract for the VMD for the National Surveillance Scheme. Approximately 100 samples are collected each year under Council Directive 96/23/EC[31]; none of these samples were non-compliant.

2.211 A total of 26,334 unique colonies in 5,248 apiaries were inspected across England and Wales. There has been a decrease in the number of inspections across England and Wales, due to change in priorities and increased focus on exotic pest inspections. Further explanation is provided in 2.216 below. Exotic inspections took longer to carry out than foulbrood inspections and so this resulted in fewer inspections across the year.



[30] From 1 October 2014 the NBU Inspectorate moved into the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA).

[31] https://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/chemical_safety/vet_med_residues_en

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 completed)	% within target	Number of samples received
Statutory Exotics	1	N/A	0
Voluntary Exotics	1	98	177
Import Samples	4	0	1
Statutory Foulbrood	1	95	345
Voluntary Foulbrood	1	100	4

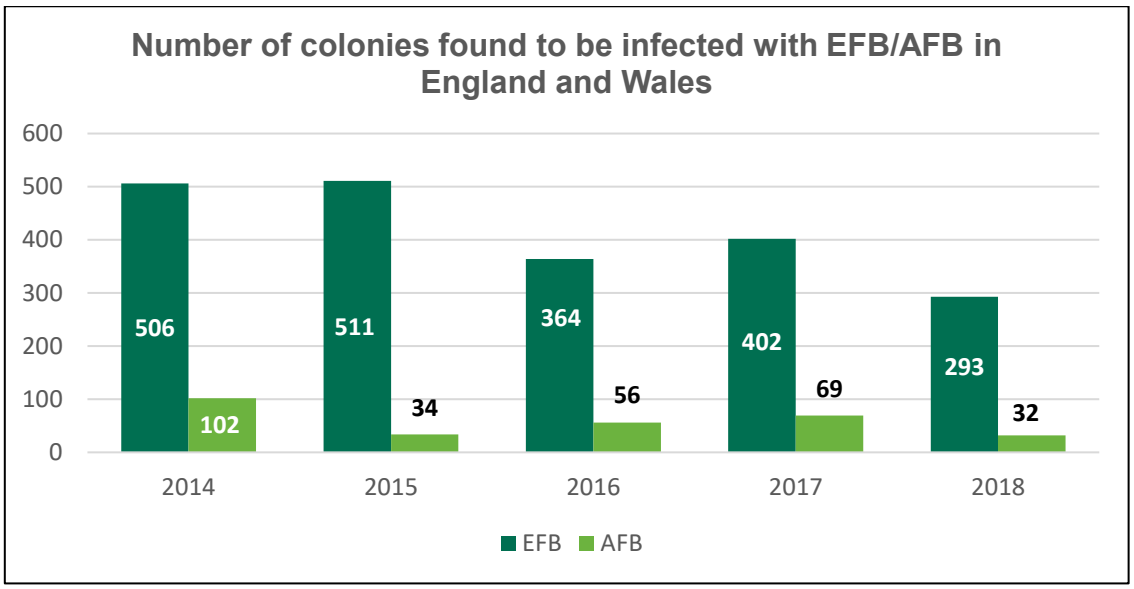
Wales

Type of sample	Target (working days within which 95% of samples should be completed)	% within target	Number of samples received
Statutory Exotics	1	N/A	0
Voluntary Exotics	1	100	21
Import Samples	4	N/A	0
Statutory Foulbrood	1	94	16
Voluntary Foulbrood	1	N/A	0

2.212 Field work and inspection comprised of 108 colonies in 65 separate apiaries treated by shook swarm/or Oxytetracycline antibiotic: 94% within 10 days (mean treatment time two days). While 237 colonies in 162 separate apiaries were controlled by destruction: 98% within 10 days (mean treatment time two days)

2.213 The NBU's inspection priorities are the detection and management of statutory notifiable diseases, AFB and EFB and surveillance for exotic pest species, the Small hive beetle[32] and *Tropilaelaps mites*. The numbers of AFB cases over the past 10 years remained at relatively low levels. There were 32 cases of AFB and 293 cases of EFB in England and Wales in 2018.

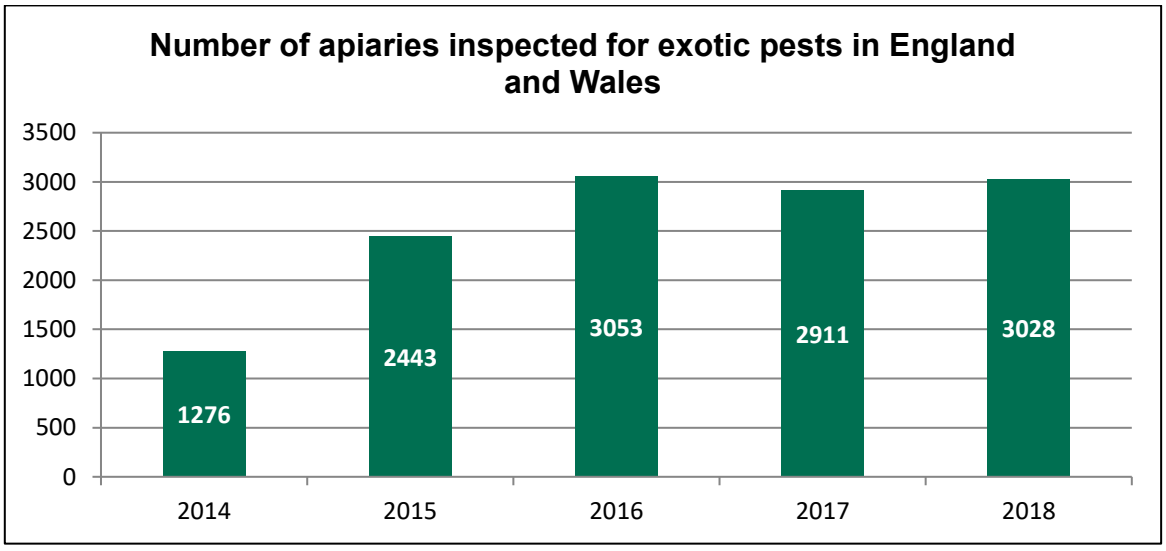
[32] Aethina tumida.



2.214 The NBU continued to monitor for the exotic pests, the small hive beetle and *Tropilaelaps mites*.

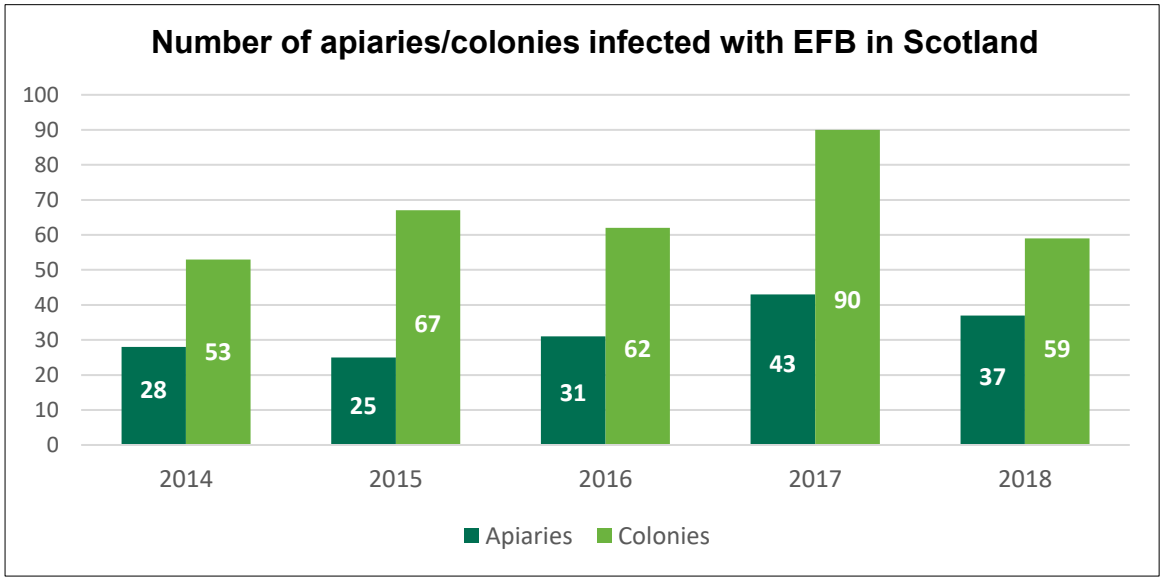
2.215 A total of 13,326 colonies in 3,028 apiaries were specifically examined in England and Wales for the presence of exotic pests. 198 samples were also submitted voluntarily by beekeepers. None of these inspections revealed any findings of small hive beetle and *Tropilaelaps* mites and no samples 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.

2.216 The significant increase in exotic pest inspections in recent years was due to a change of policy after 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.



2.217 The Scottish Honey Bee Health Surveillance Programme[33] continued to successfully identify cases of foulbrood as well as helping to provide a detailed picture of honey bee health in Scotland.

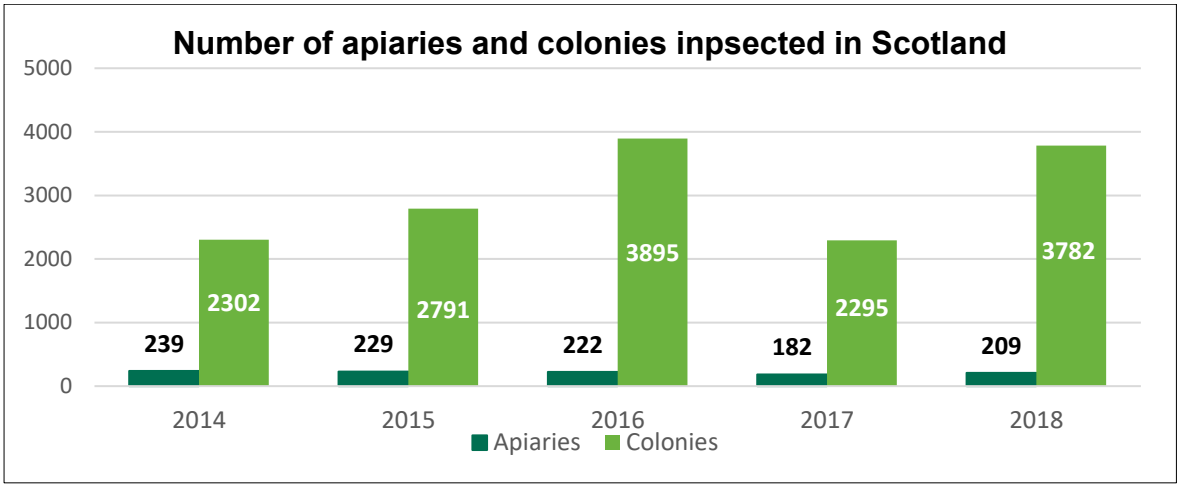
2.218 The Scottish Government EFB Control Plan[34] has been in operation since 2010, where commercial beekeepers[35] are able to complete their own initial disease inspection. The plan was renamed the Scottish Advanced Honey Bee Health Standard (SHBHS) operated during 2018. The level of EFB continued to reduce since the programme. This reduction is in both the number of colonies infected and the observed severity of infection. The spike in numbers of EFB in 2017 was attributable to a new disease focus in the Dumfries area. The SHBHS brought together several agencies and stakeholders to continue delivery of disease control. Simple measures adopted with a great degree of cooperation on all sides working in close partnership contributed to this progress. Results of the Scottish Government inspection programme are provided below.

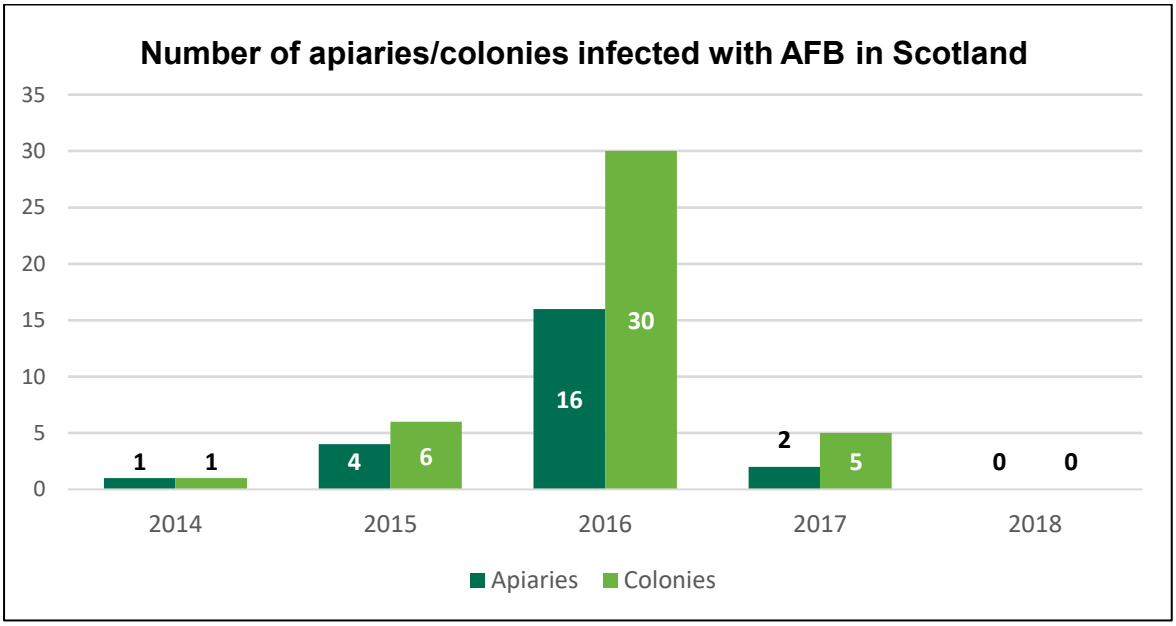


[33] Scottish Honey Bee Health Surveillance Programme

[34] Scottish Government EFB Control Plan

[35] Who have successfully completed a training event and been authorised by the Scottish Government.





2.219 In Northern Ireland, the number of apiaries infected with AFB was down from 2017, with five apiaries recorded with the disease. All infected colonies were destroyed and apiaries within a three mile radius listed for a foulbrood inspection. There was a sharp rise in EFB findings with 14 apiaries recorded with the infection in the North West of the province. Shook swarm or destruction was used to control all the infected colonies. Follow-up inspections were completed to check the infected apiaries and complete surveillance inspections.

2.220 The Bee Inspectors continued to search for the exotic pests, small hive beetle and *Tropilaelaps mites,* mostly at targeted apiaries. Samples submitted remained negative for these pests. Beekeepers have been encouraged to monitor for these pests in their colonies as well as trapping and monitoring for Asian hornet.

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

2.222 A total of 248 apiaries were inspected in Northern Ireland by DAERA Bee Inspectors.

Aquatic Animal Health

2.223 The planned official control programme on aquatic animal health was successfully completed and met the objectives and targets set out in the MOU between Defra and Cefas in England and Wales, the SLA established within Marine Scotland and the MOU/SLA between DAERA and the Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute Fish Disease Unit[36]. The successful completion of the official control programme supported the maintenance of approved zone status for the UK for a number of serious diseases of fish and shellfish and contributed to the protection of our high aquatic animal health status.

2.224 Compliance by aquaculture production businesses remained good, reflecting the effectiveness of the inspection programmes, and the prompt and consistent actions taken in event of non-compliance.

2.225 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.

2.226 In England and Wales, the intensity and the type of controls remained consistent over the past five years. On APBs, 308 fish and 77 shellfish farms were subjected to routine compliance inspection, with an extra 168 unscheduled inspections on fish and shellfish farms, and sites under statutory control due to the presence of a listed (notifiable) disease. A total of 164 samples from fish, 12 samples from molluscan shellfish and 6 samples from crustaceans were submitted for diagnostic testing for listed diseases, new and emerging diseases and cause of mortality.

2.227 Also, 113 official controls were undertaken on the application of disease controls on infected sites. The risk-based import surveillance programme continued to be aimed at sources of live fish posing a higher risk for the introduction of disease. Under the 2018 import surveillance programme a total of 50 samples were subject to diagnostic testing for listed diseases. A total of 3 statutory samples were taken from shellfish farms on the *Oyster Herpesvirus* (OsHV-1 µvar)[37] surveillance programme, in support of disease freedom status for *Marteilia refringens* and in continuance of the control programme for *Bonamia ostreae*. 98 inspections were undertaken on the authorisation of 37 new APBs, and the de-authorisation of 31 businesses.

2.228 The Fish Health Inspectorate also registers low risk aquaculture production businesses such as managed fisheries. In 2018, 345 fisheries were registered resulting in a total figure of 10,724 registered fisheries in England and Wales. The FHI undertakes inspections and sampling for veterinary residues on fish farms for the VMD. In 2018, 50 samples were obtained. In addition, the Cefas FHI completed 12 inspections on fish farms holding veterinary medicines mixing licences, again for the VMD.

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

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

2.229 The FHI received fewer reports of mortalities in bivalve molluscs in 2018 compared to previous years. However, work is continuing into the role of bacteria of the genus *Vibrio* as a cause of mortality in shellfish. The FHI refined a technique for taking samples from the haemolymph of shellfish that will improve the potential to isolate disease producing organisms. This technique will be applied as a standard practice in investigations into disease events.

2.230 In 2018, the European Commission published Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2018/320, which introduced control measures on trade in salamanders and newts. The FHI was asked to undertake delivery of the controls on salamanders and newts. *Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans* (*B.sal*) is an emerging pathogenic fungus that causes high levels of mortality in amphibians salamanders and newts. It has caused mortalities in wild salamanders in Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands, and has been recorded in captive populations of newts in the UK. *B.sal* was subject to an assessment by the EFSA, which concluded that the pathogen presented a serious risk to populations of salamanders in the European Union.

2.231 The trade controls require that imports from third countries are quarantined, with options for PCR testing, heat treatment, or chemical treatment of the animals. Trade between member states requires that the animals are quarantined before despatch. Trade controls were fully implemented in September 2018. No applications have been made to the FHI for the approval of premises for the quarantine of salamanders and newts.

2.232 Koi herpesvirus (KHV) disease continues to represent a serious cause of mortality in common carp in managed fisheries. The exceptional period of dry, warm weather in May and June 2018 resulted in an earlier peak in disease investigations on coarse fisheries, as compared with the usual pattern of Inspectorate activity. However, at 26 the total number of confirmed designations made on managed fisheries in 2018 was high but not exceptional. Unusually three out of the 2018 infected waters that were previously subjected to a confirmed designation, and one water, which was designated in 2017 experienced a recrudescence of infection [38]

2.233 Outbreaks of KHV disease in the ornamental fish sector appeared to be less frequent than in the past. However, three wholesaler premises were culled and disinfected after outbreaks of the disease during the summer period, and in December, two further wholesaler premises were culled and disinfected after an outbreak of KHV disease associated with the import of high-value koi from Japan. As these fish were imported with health attestations indicating they originated from farms that were recognised as being free from KHV disease, the Japanese authorities were informed and asked to undertake an investigation.

[38] 23 outbreaks in 2017, 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.

2.234 Improved levels of awareness and enhanced biosecurity in the fish farming and ornamental wholesale sectors contributed to the containment and control of this disease.

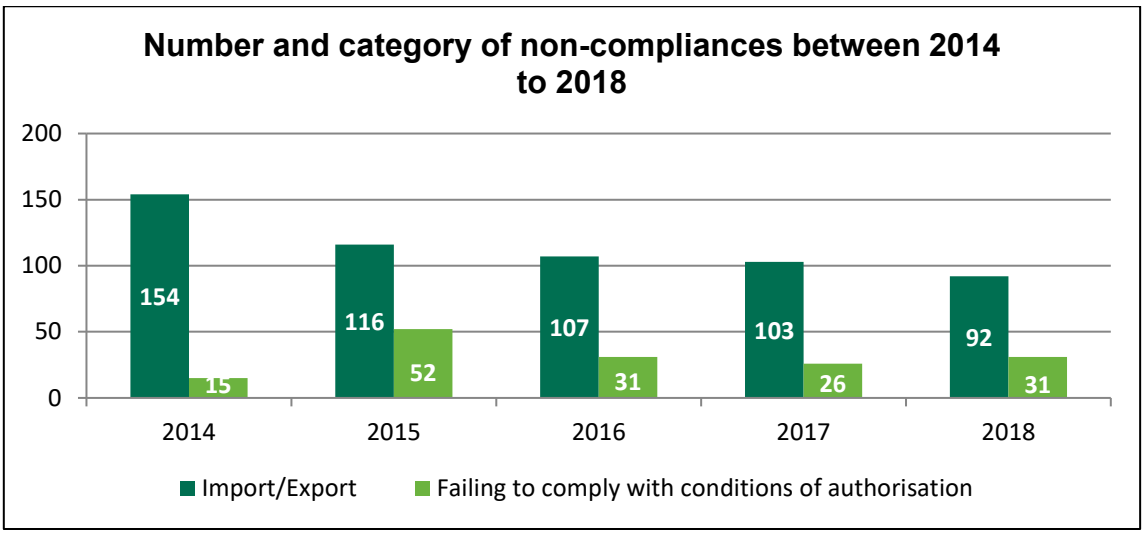
2.235 The FHI also has a statutory duty to respond to reported disease outbreaks. The FHI received a report of suspicion of the disease epizootic ulcerative syndrome (EUS) in a consignment of snakeheads (*Channa aurantimaclata and Channa spp.*) imported from India. EUS is a fungal disease caused by the oomycete *Aphanomyces invadans.* It has been reported as causing disease in over 100 different fish species in both fresh and brackish waters, primarily in tropical and semi-tropical environments.

2.236 The disease expressed as extensive granulomatous ulceration of the skin at water temperatures more than 20°C. Samples taken from infected fish were positive for *A.invadans*, which combined with the clinical disease, confirmed EUS. The affected stocks, that experienced high levels of mortality, were culled and the holding facility disinfected. This is the first confirmation of EUS in the UK. EUS was listed as an exotic disease in EU legislation under Council Directive 2006/88/EC, and as such member states had an obligation to control and eradicate any outbreaks. The FHI will continue to monitor the occurrence of EUS and investigate suspicion in imported fish, in order to provide evidence on whether the disease presents a threat to native fish populations.

2.237 As far as the salmonid sector is concerned, the FHI received fewer reports of disease over recent years, possibly reflecting the trend towards lower stocking densities on farms and adequate water supplies. However, novel conditions occasionally arise as exemplified by occurrence of what appears to be a new condition, cranial maxilla fibrosis in a rainbow trout farm in southern England. This condition that is of unknown aetiology, causes massive proliferation of connective tissue around the head of affected fish, compromising the ability to feed and breathe effectively. Further research is underway to establish the causative agent of this condition

2.238 The value of the long-standing targeted surveillance programme on live fish imported from third countries was again demonstrated through the identification of a new virus affecting goldfish. The programme involves the testing of fish for the presence of diseases at the point of import, or at first destination, and is based upon a risk assessment, with samples prioritised according to volume of trade and the previous history of disease testing.

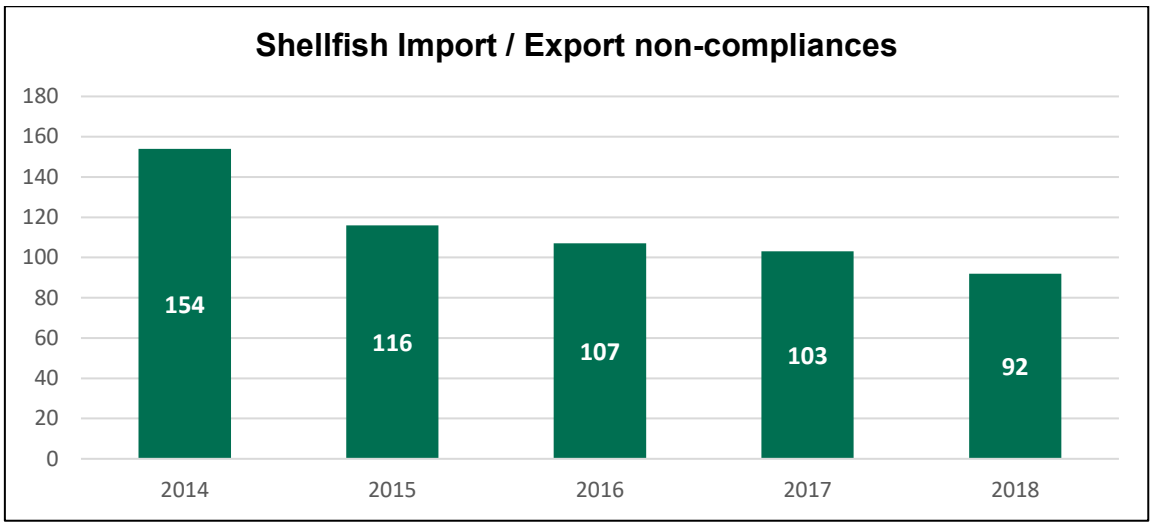
2.239 In 2018, a consignment of goldfish imported from China was subjected to diagnostic testing, with initial results indicating the presence of a viral infection. Molecular genetics tests were undertaken, along with the use of transmission electron microscopy, to visualise the virus. Gene sequencing of the virus demonstrated a 99% shared nucleotide identity with Chinook salmon Bafinivirus. This is the first time that this genus of virus has been found in goldfish. Research is underway to further characterise the virus, establish host susceptibility, and virulence in native species of fish.



2.240 Twenty one warning letters were served on APBs in 2018. This was a slight increase compared to 2017 where 19 letters were served. The number of enforcement notices also increased to 10 in 2018 compared to eight in 2017. 22 minor issues were resolved through the provision of written advice, as in 2017. The Cefas FHI 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 identified a number of non-compliances.

2.241 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 on 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.

2.242 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 2017. Trade in live shellfish exports continued to be buoyant. Non-compliances on the import of aquatic animals, continued to show a decrease over the years from 154 in 2014, to 116 in 2015, 107 in 2016, 103 in 2017 and 92 in 2018.



2.243 The above decline in non-compliances was 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. However, it was important to maintain levels of enforcement in this area in order to prevent this type of non-compliance spreading to higher risk activities.

2.244 The 2018 risk-based import surveillance programme found no evidence for the presence of listed diseases in imported consignments of live fish.

2.245 The FHI initiative to continue with a high level of engagement with trade bodies and with businesses importing live fish resulted in improved levels of compliance, with less than half the number of enforcement notices issued in 2018 as compared with 2014.

2.246 Illegal importation of live freshwater fish represented the biggest risk to the aquatic animal health status of England and Wales. In 2018, the FHI continued to implement a proactive approach to illegal importation and undertook a number of intelligence-led interceptions of consignments of fish. This included an operation to recover illegally imported common carp from a fishery in England, and further cooperation with other government Agencies to disrupt the illegal trade in the export of live juvenile eels (elvers).

2.247 The FHI worked in accordance with the National Intelligence Model and introduced a database for the storage and analysis of intelligence. This resulted in improved intelligence exchanges with other regulatory bodies, and facilitated better cooperation with other government Agencies such as UK Border Force in the investigation of illegal activities.

2.248 During 2013 to 2018 no businesses were closed as a result of actions arising from official controls.

2.249 In Scotland, in accordance with the Risk Based Surveillance scheme (Council Directive 2006/88/)[39], 159 inspections on fish farms and 121 inspections on shellfish farms were conducted in 2018. One statutory inspection was conducted to determine the possibility of undertaking a sampling programme to determine the presence of *Bonamia ostreae*[40] in the controlled zones. Throughout the inspection process a total of 2 unannounced inspections were conducted.

2.250 A total of 25 diagnostic samples were taken from fish 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.

2.251 Through a contractual arrangement with the VMD a total of 1,697 samples were collected from finfish aquaculture sites. These samples were submitted to Fera Science Limited for analysis on residues of chemotherapeutants or environmental contamination. No positive results were obtained from the samples examined.

2.252 Seven inspections were conducted at fish farm sites approved by the VMD as 'manufacturers of medicated feedingstuffs intended for feeding to their own fish'. Six facilities inspected demonstrated good compliance with ≤6 minor deficiencies, one facility[41] was rated with ≥6 minor deficiencies[42].

2.253 Six inspections were conducted of consignments introduced into Scotland.

2.254 At the beginning of 2018, three fresh water rainbow trout farm sites had movement restrictions in place for bacterial kidney disease (BKD[43]). No new movement restrictions were placed during 2018. The existing BKD policy, introduced in 2011, was one of a domestic control programme applied across the Great Britain health zone and was aimed at controlling clinical disease. Control measures are only placed where the presence of clinical disease was confirmed.

2.255 Movement restrictions for *Bonamia ostreae*[44] remained in place in two sea water lochs in Scotland, as they have been since 2006 and 2007.

2.256 The aquaculture sector in Scotland shows a significant level of compliance with legislation to control aquatic animal disease. This was evidenced by the number of instances of non-compliance compared to the number of active sites[45] and the fact that the majority of non-compliances are not considered

[39] Conducted in line with Council Directive 2006/88/EC.

[40] Listed in accordance with 2006/88/EC.

[41] The facility in question had recently changed ownership and no relevant paperwork was in place on this new ownership.

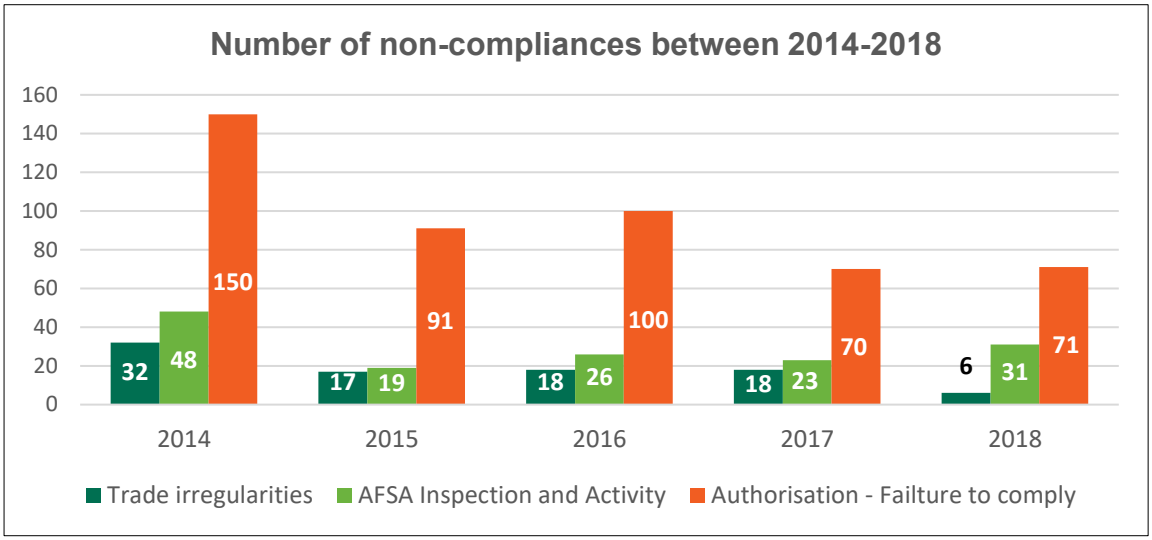
[42] The facility in question had recently changed ownership and no relevant paperwork was in place on this new ownership.

[43] Listed in accordance with 2006/88/EC.

[44] Listed in accordance with 2006/88/EC.

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

significant on the risk of contracting or spreading serious aquatic animal disease.



Details of outcomes of the non-compliances found in Scotland during 2018

Trade irregularities	6	All cases resolved through advice or actions taken, for example 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 and 2013	31	• four cases related to the Act's enhanced inspections: all issues addressed either during site visit or through follow-up recommendations • 14 cases related to sea lice records: all resolved via receipt of appropriate information • five cases related to farm management statements or agreements: all resolved via receipt of appropriate information • On the Scottish Government policy satisfactory measures to control sea lice, eight warning letters were issued
Failure to comply with authorisation conditions	71	• One case related to authorisation involving failure to register a new site before starting farming operations • 70 cases related to anomalies on record keeping requirements

2.257 The main types of non-compliance were administrative in nature, most notably on 'failing to comply with authorisation conditions' and related directly to the maintenance of site records and record keeping. Compliance levels for 2018 slightly increased compare to 2017.

Year	Number of visits	Number of cases of non-compliance	% of non-compliance
2017	254	70	28
2018	283	71	25

2.258 Risk-based enhanced inspections continued to be conducted in accordance with the Aquaculture and Fisheries (Scotland) Act 2007 (as amended) during 2018. Analysis of the number of inspections in comparison to the number of non-compliances suggests a decrease in the level of compliance during 2018, although this analysis has not been statistically tested and the number of enhanced inspections conducted in 2018 was significantly less than in previous years.

Year	Number of inspections	Number of cases of non-compliance	% of non-compliance
2014	58	48	83
2015	38	19	50
2016	21	8	38
2017	22	10	45
2018	7	4	57

2.259 At the end of 2018, Marine Scotland's policy on satisfactory measures for the control of sea lice was subject to a review, having been implemented for a two year period. The outcome of the review will be documented in 2019.

2.260 The level of compliance on trade irregularities in 2018 remained consistent with previous years. It should be noted that a significant increase in export trade of shellfish occurred in 2017.

2.261 During 2013 to 2018 no businesses were closed as a result of actions arising from official controls.

2.262 There are a relatively small number of farms[46] in a close geographical location within Northern Ireland. Throughout 2018, DAERA FHI continued to undertake a risk-based inspection programme, ensuring that inspections were directed towards higher risk operations.

2.263 A total of 31 fish farms were subject to compliance inspections in 2018. As to shellfish farms, site inspections of all authorised farms and three document inspections were conducted. Diagnostic testing for listed diseases, new and emerging diseases, and causes of mortality was undertaken on seven finfish farms, nine shellfish sites and nine wild freshwater sites. Four statutory inspections were undertaken and two statutory samples collected to investigate and determine the causes of unexplained mortalities.

[46] 34 authorised finfish farms and 53 authorised shellfish sites.

2.264 Besides the statutory compliance inspections, 12 unannounced inspections and 26 scheduled visits, aimed at investigating possible non-compliances or to provide technical guidance to operators, were conducted. Six inspections of the transhipment of fish and shellfish from Great Britain and Ireland through Northern Ireland were conducted, providing reassurance of appropriate biosecurity measures being taken. 11 inspections to monitor adult sea lice numbers during harvesting were also conducted.

2.265 DAERA FHI also register low risk aquaculture production businesses, mainly Put and Take Fisheries. In 2018, five new Fisheries were registered and two re-registered, resulting in a total of 250 registered Fisheries in Northern Ireland. The FHI also conducted two inspections on new applications for Put and Take Fisheries.

2.266 To facilitate trade, 759 Health Certificates for the export of aquatic animals were issued in 2018, of which 261 were inspected. A total of 51 inspections of consignments introduced into Northern Ireland were also conducted.

2.267 Seed mussel imports continued in 2018, as in previous years. Consignments of half-grown mussel from rope grown sites in Scotland and wild mussel seed from Ireland were imported. 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 Northern Ireland sites.

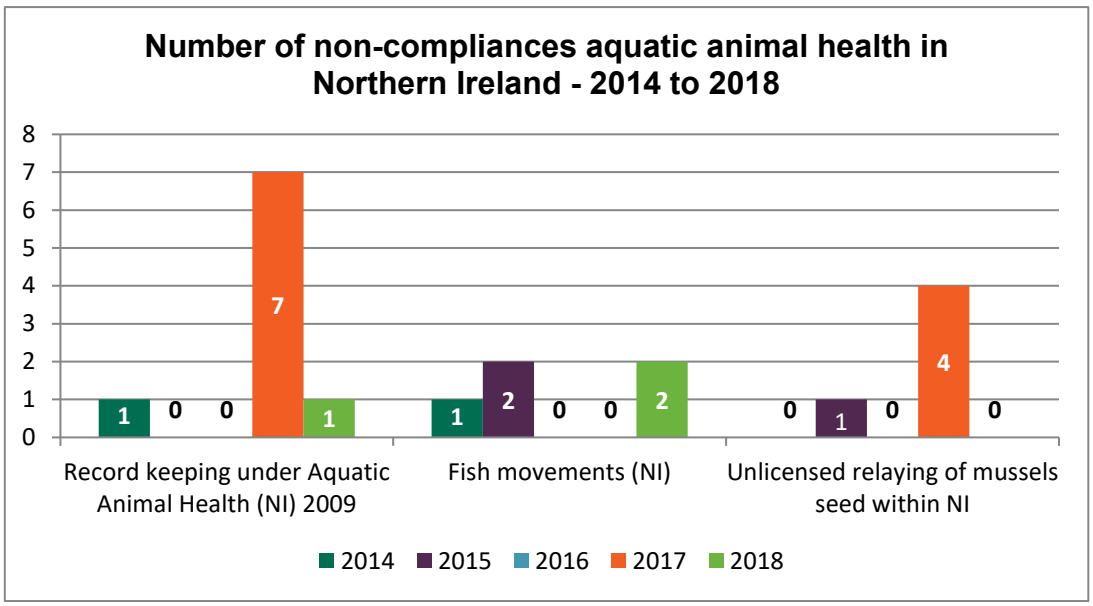
2.268 Larne Lough had been the only remaining Lough in Northern Ireland within the Oyster Herpesvirus (OsHV-1 µvar) Surveillance Programme since 2013. The detection of OsHV-1 µvarin Pacific oysters from Larne Lough in 2017 has effectively removed this area from the Programme. Confirmed Designations remain in place in all the main Oyster farming areas of Northern Ireland, including Carlingford Lough, Strangford Lough, Lough Foyle,Killough Bay and Larne Lough.

2.269 Movement restrictions also remain in place for *Bonamia ostreae* in Strangford Lough and Lough Foyleand for *Marteilia refringens* in Dundrum Bay and Belfast Lough.[47]

2.270 Northern Ireland had its first reported outbreak of Crayfish Plague in 2018. Mortalities of the native white-clawed crayfish (*Austropotamobius pallipes*) were observed by the Northern Ireland Environment Agency during routine field surveys of the River Blackwater catchment in County Tyrone. Subsequent testing confirmed the presence of Crayfish Plague, which was caused by the fungal pathogen *Aphanomyces astaci*, in the three moribund samples collected. Measures were put in place to control the spread of the disease and, whilst surveillance continued, no further mortalities in this or other areas have been observed.

2.271 Compliance across the aquatic animal health sector in Northern Ireland was high with good working relationships and communications between the FHI and APB operators evident.

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



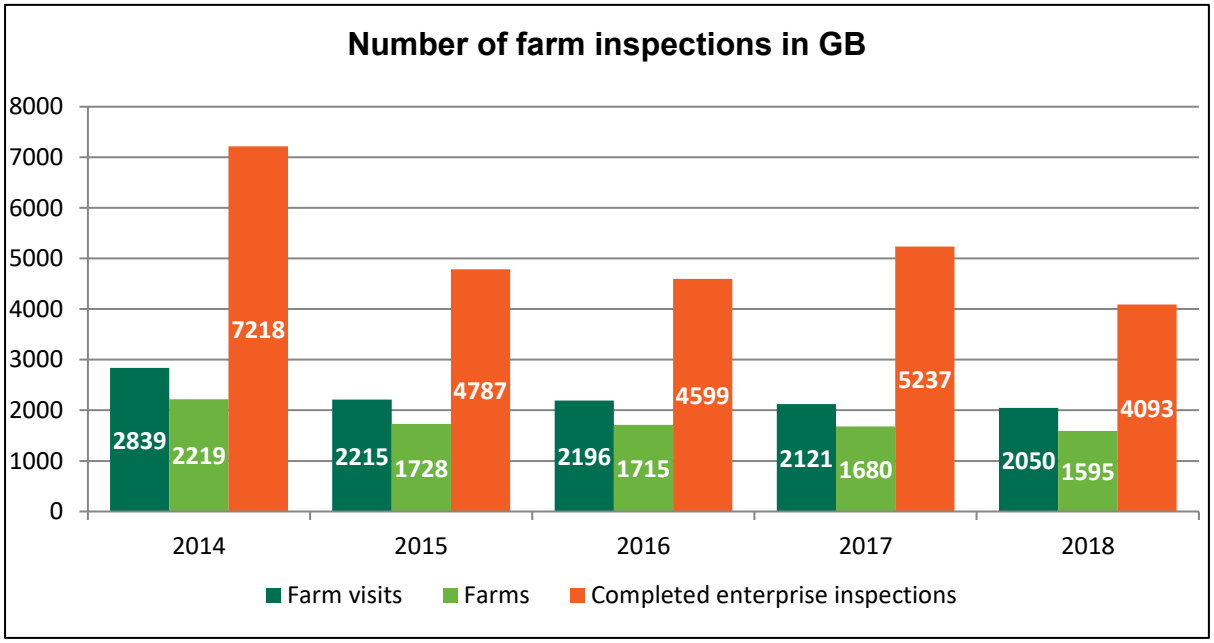
2.272 The number of non-compliances decreased significantly in 2018. Warning letters for non-compliances on record keeping and fish movements, were issued to operators.

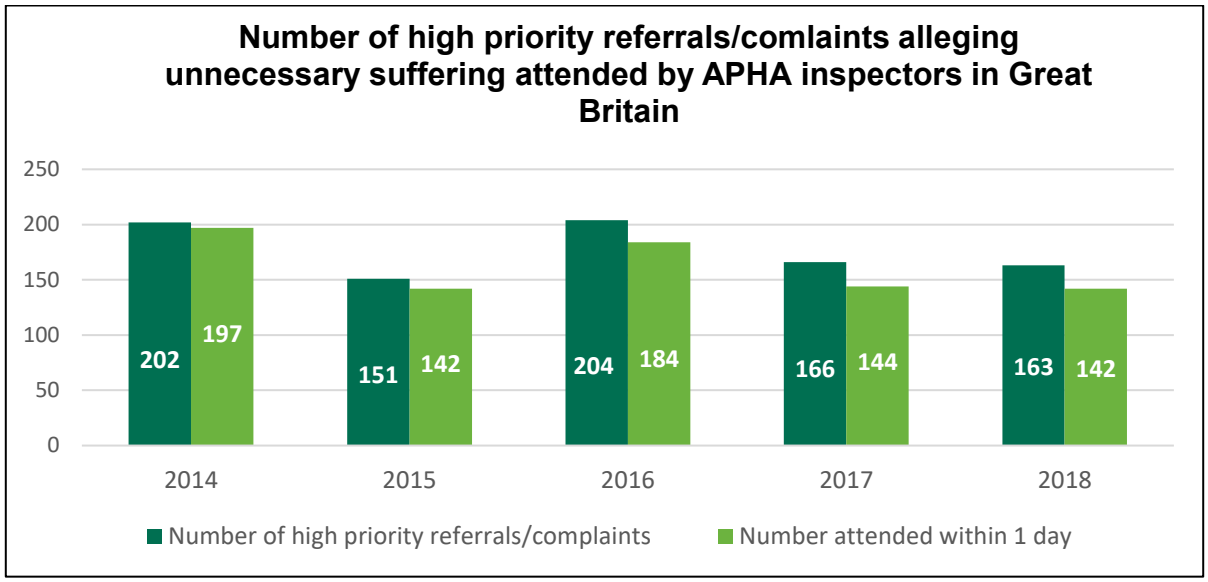
Official controls in animal welfare sector

2.273 The centralised FSA referrals process for England and Wales for all non-urgent welfare issues (where animal welfare was not immediately at risk) completed its first full year of reporting to APHA. This was in addition to referral to the relevant local authority 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 / investigation by both APHA and local authorities was guided at central level by a dedicated central vet team. A similar process was introduced half way through 2018 for FSS and Scotland. A pilot audit process was introduced in 2018, which led to the revision of a number of APHA inspection forms to ensure clarity and consistency in the detail of reporting.

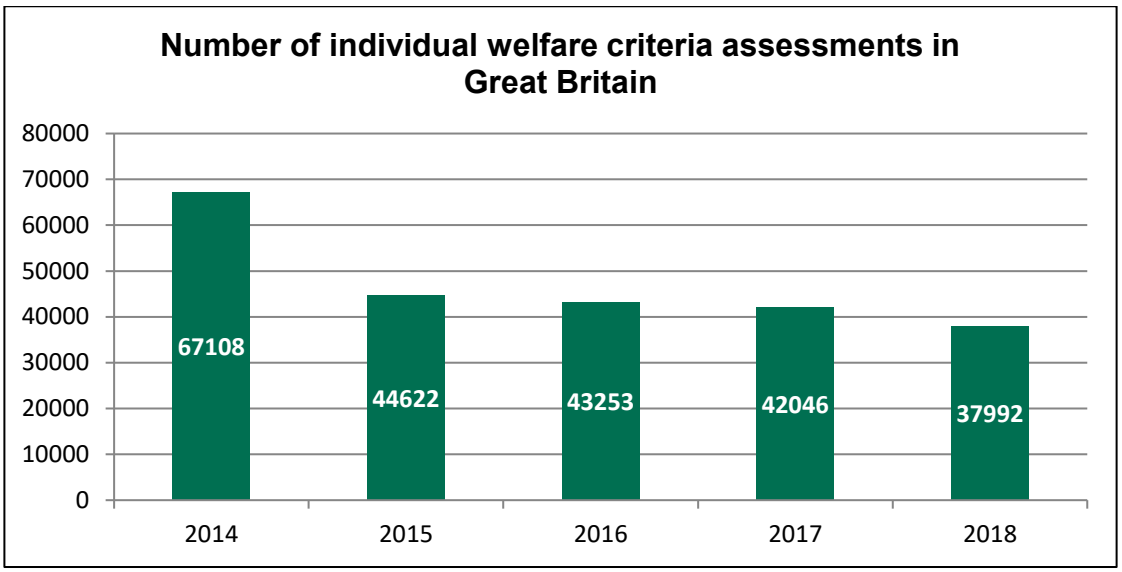
On-farm animal welfare

2.274 In 2018 the total number of farm visits, individual farms and enterprises, dropped slightly compared to 2017 and 2016. The number of enterprise types inspected at each visit dropped from 2.5 in 2017 to 2.0 enterprises per visit in 2018. The number of repeat visits in 2018, to farms inspected the same year, comprised 22% of all visits; a slight increase compared with 2017.





2.275 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. In 2018, 163 of the total number of referrals and complaints were assessed as high priority. 87% were visited within 24 hours of receipt of the complaint.



2.276 The number of individual welfare criteria assessments dropped again in 2018, which reflected a slight reduction in farm inspections and enterprise assessments overall. In 2018, the level of compliance on farms in Great Britain was similar to that recorded in previous years and overall, 95.3% of category assessments showed compliance. 19% of enterprises however, had at least one non-compliance and 212 advisory letters were issued to farmers in 2018.

Welfare non-compliance only (C score) in Great Britain

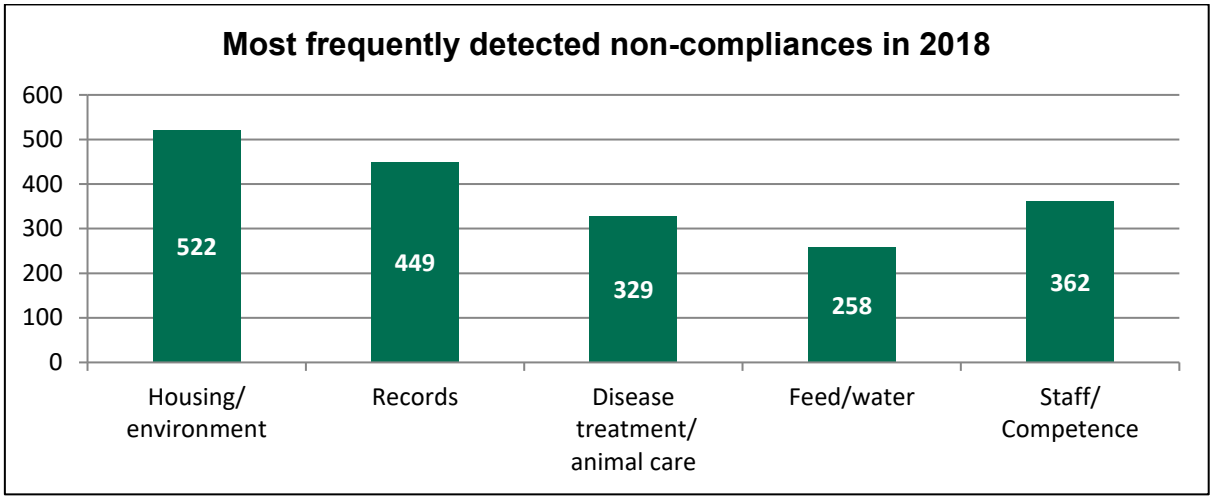
Year	Number of non-compliances per 1K assessments	Number of enterprises (% of total inspected) with overall C score	Advisory letters issued
2014	36	1,062 (15%)	237
2015	37	732 (15%)	205
2016	43	798 (17%)	194
2017	48	899 (20%)	189
2018	47	796 (19%)	212

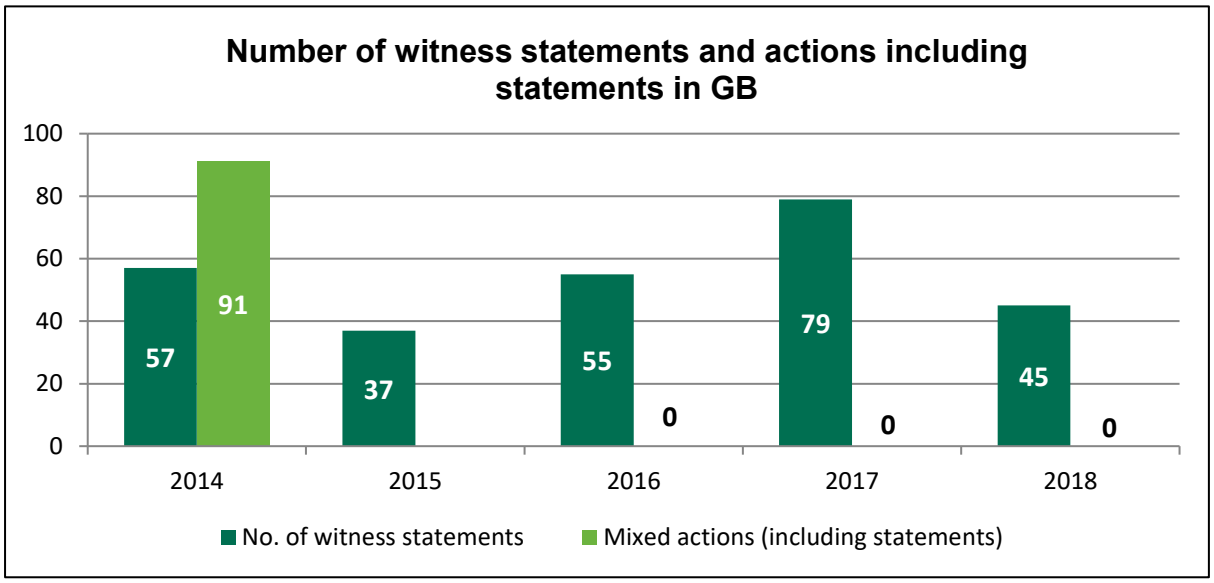
Welfare non-compliance with unnecessary suffering (D score) in Great Britain

Year	Unnecessary suffering found per 1K assessments	Number of enterprises (% of total inspected) with overall D score	Average number of days to clear D Score
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
2018	8	177 (4.3%)	N/A

2.277 The results of inspection visits are classified into four score categories - A to D. The overall level of non-compliance, a C score, for 2018 was slightly lower than 2017. However, the number of enterprises receiving a D score, where unnecessary suffering had taken place, increased slightly.

2.278 As in previous years, the welfare criteria with the most non-compliances related to housing and environment, record keeping, staffing, competence, disease treatment including failure to provide appropriate care, and provision of feed, water and other substances.



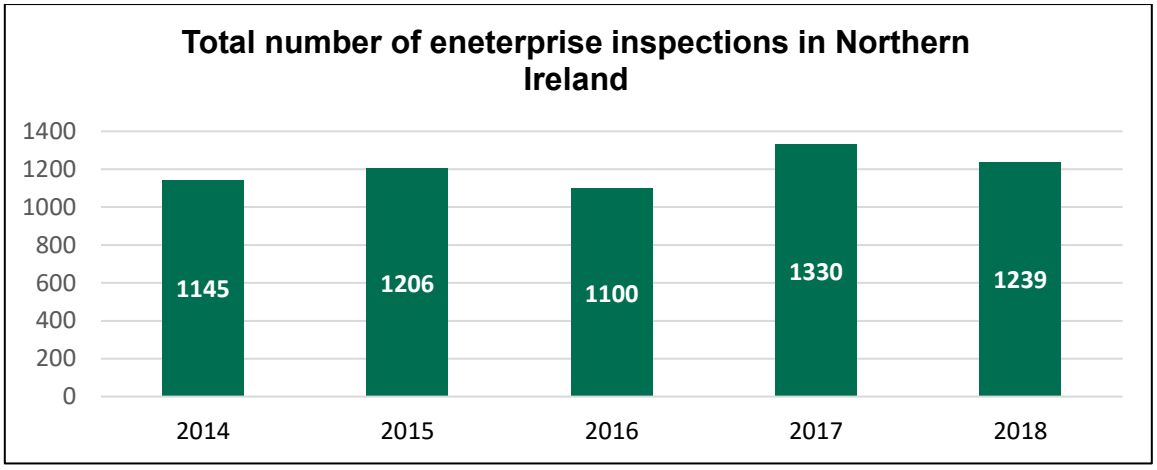


2.279 During 2018, APHA provided witness statements for 139 farms to enforcement bodies in support of legal action. Additional statements provided for some farms, either for the same offences or additional offences, during the same inspection year were not included. This was an increase on 2017 by 75%, suggesting increased formal enforcement action.

2.280 In 2018, DAERA completed 1,239 production site inspections with an overall compliance rate of 95%. Of the 220 non-compliances reported on 63 sites detected by DAERA, 28% of these non-compliances were category C breaches as described by Commission Decision 2006/778/EC. The most common failures related to inspection, staffing, provision of feed and water, and buildings and accommodation hazards. In Northern Ireland, any farm animal non-compliances found are referred to the Area Based Schemes Payment Agency and an inspection notice or cover letter served.

Production site inspections

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 non-compliance
2014	95	3	70	30.8
2015	91	-	112	56.2
2016	90	-	105	23
2017	94	-	74	14
2018	95	-	63	16



Meat Chicken Directive

2.281 APHA, FSA and FSS deliver a system for all eligible flocks resulting in all trigger reports generated being assessed for further action. All farmers receive their trigger report results from the FSA and FSS and requested to take action.

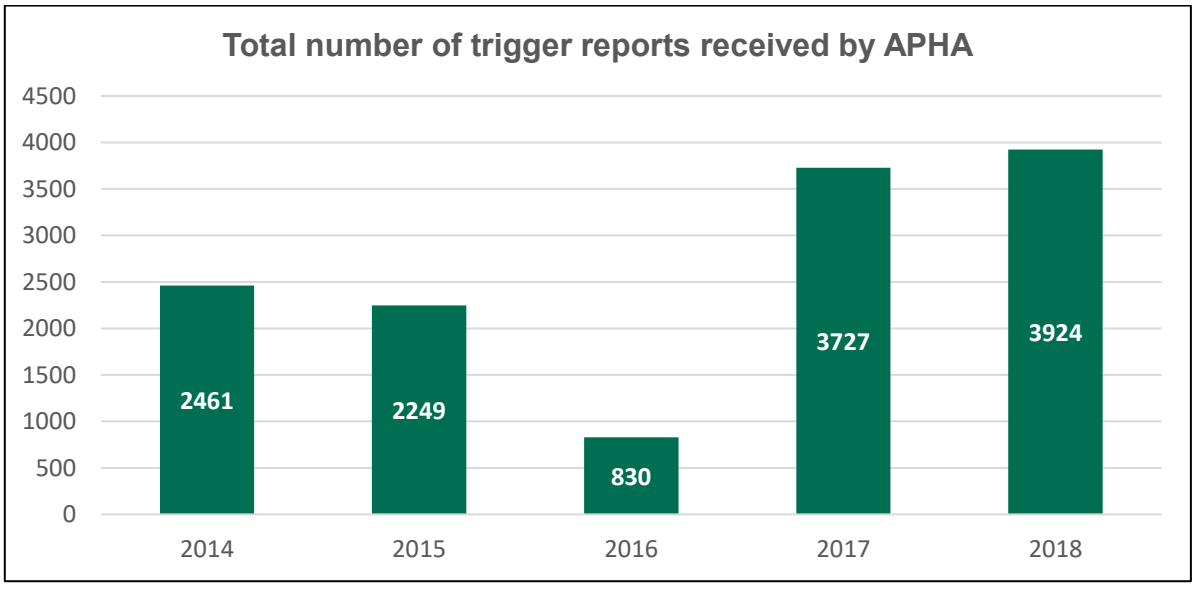
2.282 In Great Britain, trigger report data collected from 2017 was used to target farm inspections in 2018. This was done using a ranking process from a combination of all-flock cumulative daily mortality rates and total rejections, excluding those on mechanical processes. The top 55 ranked farms were investigated and evaluated. 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 also carried out on selected farms from the ranked list after an evaluation of 2017 and 2018 data just before visits being carried out.

2.283 All trigger reports continued to be sent to Great Britain producers from the FSA and FSS at the time they are generated. These are accompanied by a standard letter outlining the expected action by the producer, promoting them to investigate and take appropriate action to improve welfare on their farm. In addition to those meat chicken farms selected under the trigger report ranking process, FSA and FSS also use referrals and complaints to inform further inspections of meat chicken farms.

2.284 In March 2018 the new code for meat chickens and breeding chickens was published for England. This contained updated guidance on meeting the animal welfare needs of meat chickens, including compliance with the minimum legislation for meat chickens as defined by the meat chicken directive.

2.285 100% of meat chicken farm inspection paperwork from 2018 that had been completed and submitted was fully audited. This was the first welfare work area where reported inspection outcomes have been revised through audit findings.

2.186 In 2018 1,095,902,667 chickens were inspected, which was a 4% increase on the 2017. A total of 3,924 trigger reports, batch level for DAERA and flock level for Great Britain, were generated in the UK and communicated to the producers. This was a 5% increase from 2017, and reflects the overall increase in inspections for 2018.



Actions taken in Great Britain on meat chicken welfare during 2018

Action by CA on meat chicken welfare	2016 Number (%)	2017 Number (%)	2018 Number (%)
Farmer notified in writing and requested to take action	2,946 (100)	3,763 (100)	3924 (100)
Telephone discussion	296 (10)	25 (0.6)	47 (1.2)
Action plan received	41 (1.4)	11 (0.3)	42 (1.1)
Inspection based on historical data to target highest risk farms (from previous year)	5 (0.2)	15 (0.4)	29 (0.7)
Inspections associated with complaints, referrals or other inspections (for example cross compliance, exception report or trigger reports from slaughterhouse)	20 (0.7)	20 (0.5)	31 (0.8)
Total inspections checked for compliance with 2007/43/EC	25 (0.8)	35 (0.9)	60 (1.5)
Farms sent warning letters/prosecutions/other further enforcement measures in respect to non-compliances detected at inspection	4 (0.1)	2 (0.05)	9 (0.2)

2.287 The table below details outcomes from the inspections of 60 meat chicken farms carried out under 2007/43/EC in 2018.

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

Meat chicken inspections	2016 Total (%)	2017 Total (%)	2018 Total (%)
Number inspected	25	35	60
Compliance with code and legislation	9 (36)	29 (83)	20 (37)
Compliance legislation, but not code	12 (48)	4 (11)	22 (27)
Non-compliance with legislation, unnecessary suffering not detected	13 (12)	1 (3)	16 (27)
Non-compliance with legislation, unnecessary suffering detected	1 (4)	1 (3)	2 (3)

2.288 Higher levels of non-compliance were reported for 2018, when compared with previous years. The code non-compliances may be a result of farmers not being fully aware of all the changes made to the code part way through 2018.

2.289 It should be noted that the inspection results for 2018 are audited inspection outcomes rather than those reported by the inspector. The new audit process disclosed that some inspectors were incorrectly applying scores, specifically on code compliance and areas of technical non-compliance, where animal welfare did not appear to be obviously compromised. Training for inspectors at a local level have been put in place to rectify this.

2.290 Common non-compliance findings at farm inspections included failure to have notified the APHA of intention to stock at over 33kg/m^2 and overstocking at more than 39kg/m^2. Poor litter quality and lighting was also frequently a problem. Ammonia and carbon dioxide above the maximum limit were also detected. This issue has not been observed previously in meat chicken houses.

2.291 Whilst the poultry industry was one of the first to stop routine antibiotic use, some meat chicken units stopped the routine use of coccidostats in 2018. These suffered higher disease and mortality issues as they adjusted to treating and managing clinical disease rather than relying on routine prophylaxis.

2.292 Footpad dermatitis was commonly detected at on-farm inspections. Complaints about routinely high levels of ascites continued to be reported from farm visits, particularly in the male 'roasters' that had been sexed and grown separately. Poor leg health with failure to cull promptly was also detected on one farm. Failure to calculate cumulative daily mortality rate (CDMR) properly was also reported.

2.293 As with other areas of on farm welfare inspection work, 'complaints' led to the inspection of the two incidents of unnecessary suffering.

2.294 Actions taken by primary producers, after APHA's advice and engagement with private vets and parent companies resulted in positive changes.

2.295 Advice received led to numerous management decisions. These included; a change in bird strain, a reduction in stocking density from 38kg/m2 to 30kg/m2, the use of pre-heated houses, changing chick paper, increased chick feed on the paper at house entry, improved litter management, slowing growth in the first week of life to reduce ascites risk later in production, producing slower growing birds kept in higher welfare conditions, changing the lighting pattern, changing ventilation rates, stopping thinning, a change from separate sex rearing to 'as hatched'. The latter was a very common change in 2018 to try and resolve issues with 'roaster' ascites. In the case emergencies, for example flooding, measures were implemented to avoid subsequent welfare risks to birds during transport.

2.296 Actions taken by parent and producer companies in 2018 included terminating contracts with producers with persistently high trigger reports, changing contracts with producers to try different birds or rearing methods, such as higher where, trigger levels could not be otherwise reduced in certain buildings or on certain sites. This also included a stop on thinning and reducing stocking density on a number of sites.

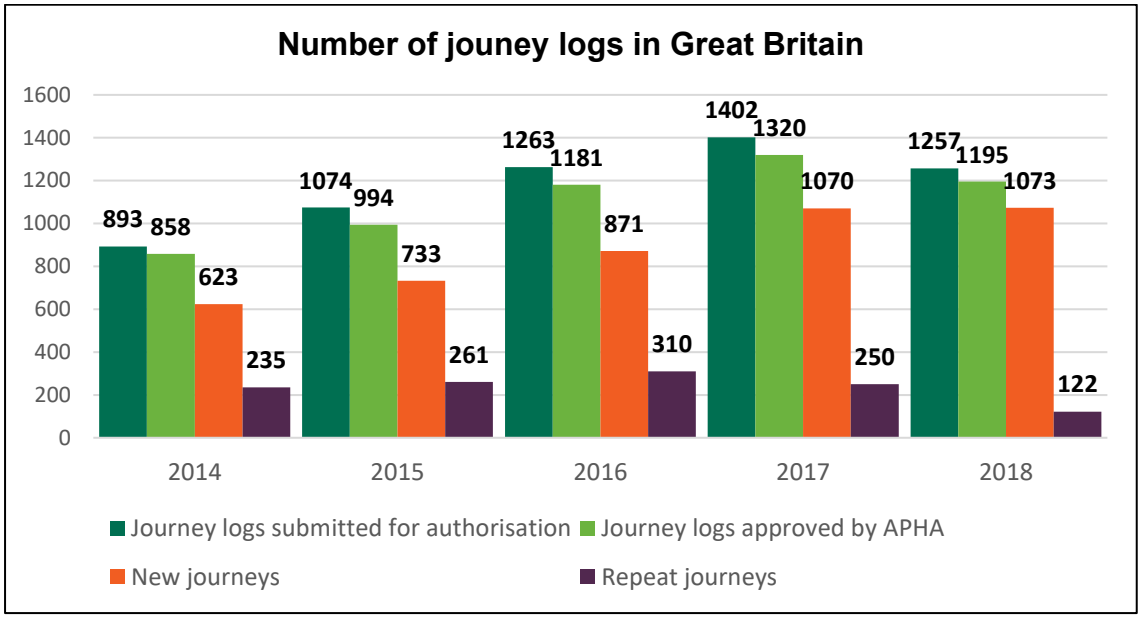
Animal welfare during transport

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

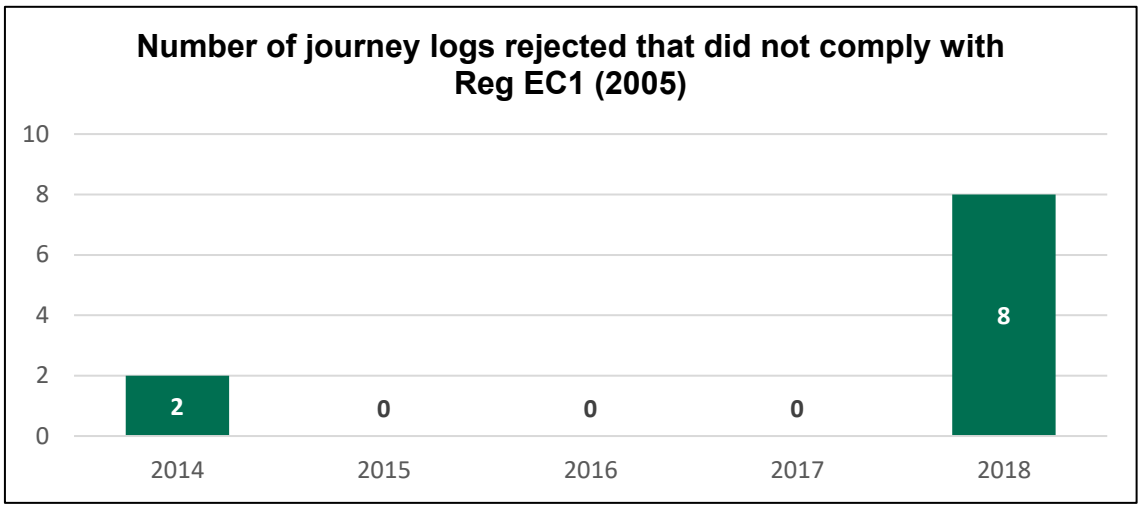
Number of transporter authorisations in Great Britain

Year	New applications	New authorised	Refused	Applications for re-authorisations
2014	668	665	3	872
2015	844	680	0	55
2016	883	684	0	149
2017	817	865	8	7,988
2018	168	564	4	930

2.298 In Northern Ireland, DAERA issued 89 transporter authorisations in 2018 (this compares with 109 transporter authorisations in 2017 and 85 in 2016).



2.299 In Great Britain, 1,257 journey logs were submitted for validation in 2018. 1,195 were approved, which represents a 1% increase on 2017 figures. In Northern Ireland, DAERA approved 201 journey logs in 2018, compared to 220 in 2017.



2.300 No journey logs were rejected by APHA. 79 applications did not proceed to approval and would be deemed cancelled by the exporter. This was because 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	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Vehicles inspected (including documentary checks)	118,881	135,568	93,093	98,668	95,787
Non-compliances (excluding documentary non- compliances)	1,073	700	722	796	533
Documentary only checks (vehicles inspected)	3,783	2,100	3,718	2,625	2,180
Non-compliances documentary checks only	166	66	10	197	258
APHA checks of vehicles transporting livestock and horses at ports through UK	131	157	384	451	357
APHA supervised loading inspections	147	67	149	71	21

2.301 The bulk of routine checks of animals and means of transport were carried out by local authority inspectors in conjunction with APHA in Great Britain and by DAERA inspectors in Northern Ireland. Supervised loadings have been undertaken for all consignments of live slaughter export through Ramsgate and Dover. Figures remained stable compared to previous years.

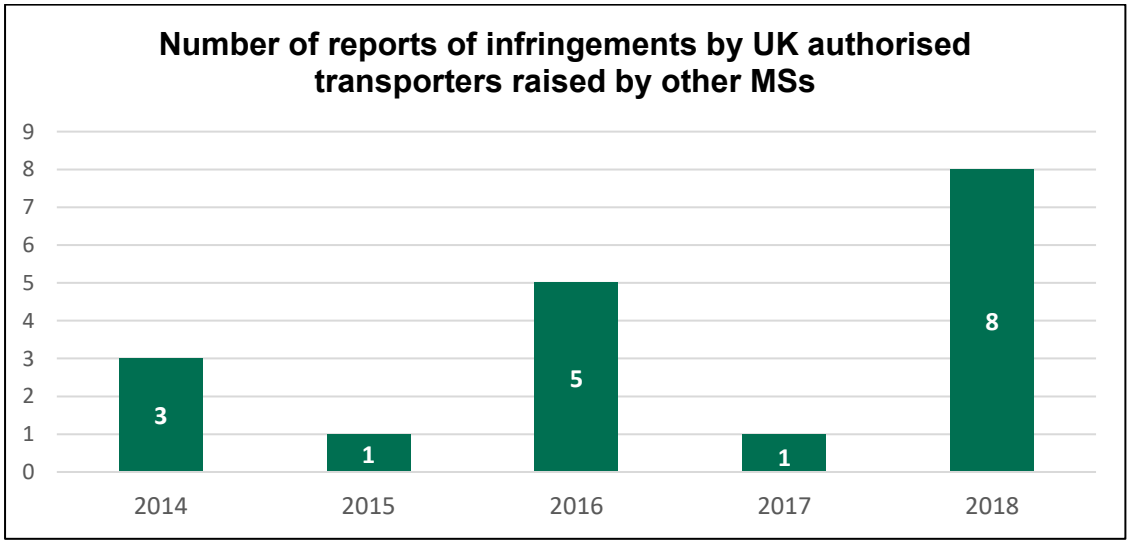
Number of checks of animals and means of transport in Northern Ireland

Checks and non-compliances	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Vehicles inspected (including documentary checks)	26,514	6,676	7,459	7,220	7,310
% compliance	100	99	99	99	99
% infringement detection across departure, destination and market	1	<1	1	1	1

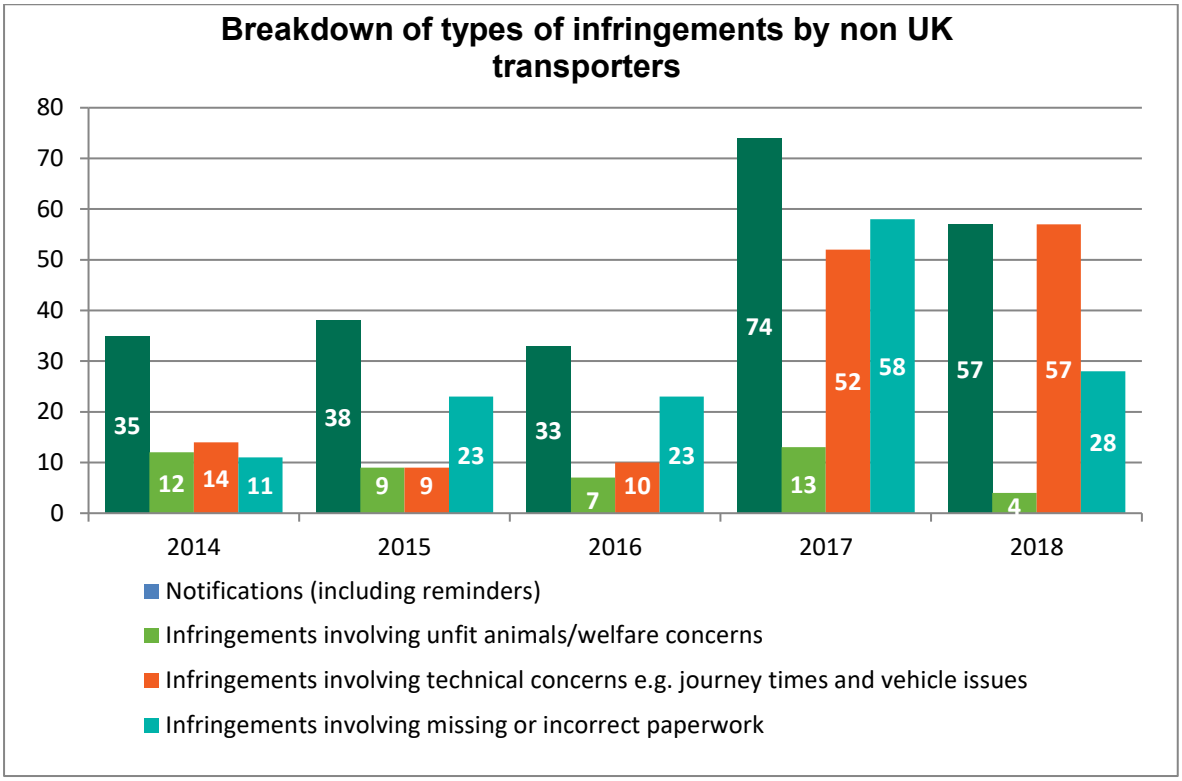
2.302 DAERA inspected 7,310 vehicles in Northern Ireland. 44 non-compliances were identified in 2018. The compliance rate for 2018 was 99%, and remains in line with previous years. This calculation does not include poultry transport vehicles at slaughter.

2.303 The Great Britain inspections resulted in a variety of enforcement action ranging from oral warning to prosecutions. The annual report to the Commission explained the action plan that was in place to address any major levels of non-compliance.

2.304 UK authorities continued to communicate and work with member states on potential contraventions of Regulation EC 1/2005 and information exchange under Article 26. The UK received eight notifications from other member states on potential contraventions. Six related to journey log paper work, one was non-welfare related on the clothing and footwear of the transporter and one was on a pair of horses in a single pen. There were no notifications related to unfit animals being consigned from the UK.



2.305 38 of the 57 notifications to other member states were interceptions of dogs and puppies consigned to Great Britain for commercial purposes. These were due to transporter and technical issues.



FSA and FSS referrals – Transport on-farm

2.306 The table below is the total number of non-urgent referrals received by APHA from the FSA and FSS for 2018. Data from FSS from covers July to December.

2.307 The most frequently reported non-urgent referrals for England and Wales (FSA) related to poultry catching issues. This was followed by animals found dead on arrival and animals past 90% gestation, which are classed as not fit for transport.

2.308 Poultry catching issues were referred to local authorities for monitoring and action as appropriate, including joint actions with APHA. The welfare in transport team issues letters to transporters on late gestation and animals found dead on arrival.

Referral type	2018 * (*only 6 m FSS)
Total Number received	5,372
Poultry catching	2,756
Dead on arrival	1,372
Late gestation (>90% pregnancy)	384

2.309 The table below shows how the remaining referrals were triaged. Those cases with a welfare in transport issue were logged with APHA's transport team and allocated to the appropriate home local authority for action and to APHA's WIT team for monitoring and ongoing action.

2.310 Those with a welfare on farm referral for transport and on farm issues were subject to further triage to determine if lead action would be taken by the local authority and APHA. It would also be determined if an on farm inspection was needed. Those designated 'triage not required' included referrals where the action taken by the OV was considered sufficient or where further investigation revealed this welfare non-compliance was not avoidable, for example injury caused by an emergency stop.

Referral type	2018 (*only 6 m FSS)
Welfare in Transport (WIT)	298
Welfare on farm (WOF)	210
Welfare in transport and a Welfare on farm origin / cause (WIT/WOF)	271
Triage not required	81

Farm Inspections and non-compliances	2018
Total farm inspections following referral	200
Non-compliant findings	30 (15%)
Non- compliant findings without unnecessary suffering	17 (8.5%)
Non-compliant findings with unnecessary suffering detected	13 (6.5%)

2.311 200 farm inspections were carried out as a result of FSA and FSS triage. 85% were found to be compliant at the time of inspection. 8.5% inspections resulted in a 'C' score, which shows non-compliance without unnecessary suffering.

2.312 Only 6.5% of inspections detected unnecessary suffering on farm. This demonstrates official controls at the slaughterhouse are effective in detecting and targeting on farm animal welfare issues. Ante-mortem and post-mortem findings should therefore be considered a key indicator of animal welfare on farm.

2.313 Whilst civil (cross compliance) penalties are usually applied by inspectors for on-farm findings, certain slaughterhouse findings were deemed sufficiently to link the issue back to the farm. These instances were reported as a breach to the relevant paying agency for any farmer that was a claimant. These included animals with chronic untreated disease conditions, animals in very poor condition and ingrowing horns.

Animal welfare at slaughter or killing

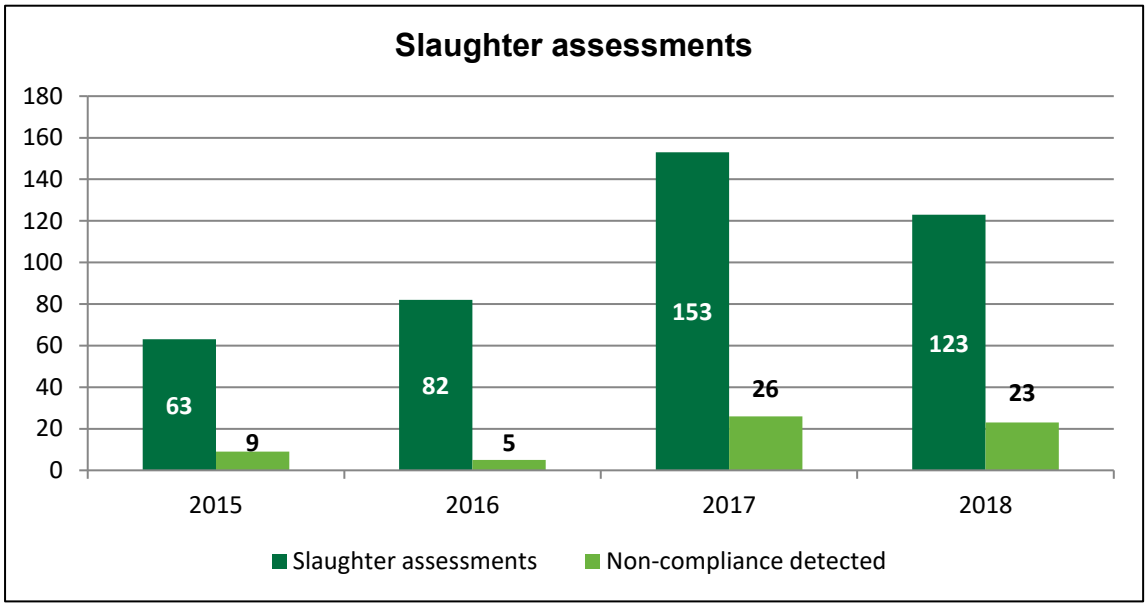
2.314 Council Regulation (EC) No. 1099/2009 was enforced through the Welfare of Animals at Time of Killing (England) Regulation[48] with similar legislation in the devolved administrations of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. In 2018, APHA followed up reports and allegations about poor animal welfare during slaughter or killing operations. This also applied to locations outside of approved slaughterhouses in Great Britain, as such APHA also assessed slaughter operations during the licensing of slaughtermen in locations outside

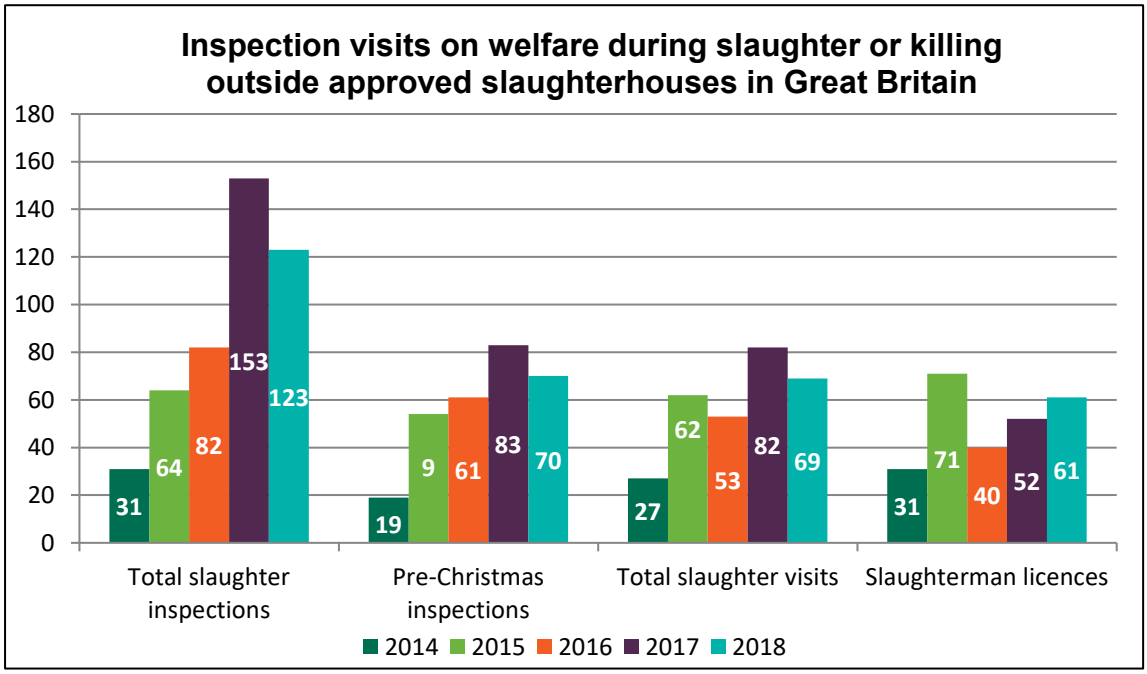
[48] WATOK

of slaughterhouses. Where appropriate, APHA provided support to local authorities for prosecution.

2.315 In 2018, on farm welfare at the time of killing was given a higher risk rating and therefore a higher priority than the past two years. There was proactive engagement with seasonal slaughterers, a process that was centralised in England and Wales to ensure consistency across all areas. Inspections had reduced on the previous year but continued to be well above the 2014 to 2016 figures.

2.316 APHA field staff and local authorities continued to raise concerns about the lack of intelligence on where and when licensed slaughtering occurred. These businesses are under no obligation to inform the APHA and local authorities when and where this occurs.





2.317 In Great Britain, 69 of the 123 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 70 welfare at killing assessments just before the Christmas peak period. 23 slaughter assessments (19%) were found non-compliant. 10 of those found non-compliant were associated with seasonal slaughter, all of which were also required assessment for a slaughter licence.

2.318 The other 13 were disclosed throughout the year. Three were associated with slaughter licence assessments and the remaining 10 were targeted for a particular reason. These included, follow-up inspections due to disclosure of previous non-compliances, third party referrals or other intelligence for example illegal slaughter. Five welfare enforcement notices were served and one statement was produced for the local authority.

2.319 The inspection assessment form for killing was revised in 2018 in order to make it easier to audit and to ensure sufficient detail was captured by the inspector. The table below describes the areas where non-compliances were disclosed. No assessments revealed unnecessary suffering at the time of assessment.

Assessment finding	Licensing	Construction, equipment, maintenance	Animals awaiting killing	Handling and restraint	Stunning and killing	Bleeding or pithing
Number of non-compliances	17	11	0	3	11	4

2.320 The most common technical non-compliances, those not associated with the licensing / paperwork process, continued to be the failure to have a voltmeter and/or ammeter or a visual or audible device during application of stunner (4 assessments). One of these slaughter assessments also failed because the applicant did not know the requirements or limitations for the use of the stunning equipment being used.

2.321 Licence issued included the killing of species for which the licence holder had not been assessed and approved, or had no license at all. There were some concerns about bird management before slaughter, including the length of time that poultry was kept before slaughter without feed or water. This was a potential non-compliance that could not be verified. There was also one incident of sharp metal edges in pens used for birds awaiting slaughter.

2.322 A number of non-compliances were identified around the stunning and killing process. These included:

- killing by manual neck dislocation (above 5kg) and without a licence
- failure to apply stunning equipment for sufficient time to ensure an effective stun
- using stunning equipment for which a stop notice had been previously issued

- head to body electric stunning with one electrode placed inside the mouth, therefore failing to span the brain with both electrodes.
- bleeding done by internal cut through the mouth (per os), a procedure that cannot guarantee severance of both carotids after simple stunning.

2.323 It should be noted that one licensee was visited and re-assessed five times in 2018 after the disclosure of non-compliances in 2017 and continued visits following the disclosure of further failures, mostly with equipment use.

2.324 Issues continued with the use of head to body electric stunners. APHA took the position from 2017 to insist on a minimum of 400mA, rather than 240mA following advice from independent experts. This has not been challenged in the field. However, human health and safety issues associated with achieving this current resulted in the Health and Safety Executive issuing a stop notice on the use of one head to body stunner.

2.325 In other assessments of equipment, fixing equipment failures revealed further health and safety issues with high current readings when the stunner was not in use. This also occurred in newly purchased equipment that was returned to the manufacturer to but was returned and remained faulty. APHA continue to have significant concerns about the lack of published evidence on efficacy and safe use of equipment for commercial purposes, when it may be both ineffective and unsafe to use.

2.326 73 slaughterman's licenses were issued under Welfare of Animals at Time of Killing (WATOK) in 2018 by the FSA, in England and Wales. All seasonal slaughterers trained in Scotland are included in figures for overall certificates of competence (CoC) issued to all slaughtermen. This applies to both in slaughterhouses and outside in England and Wales where seasonal slaughterers opted to apply for a CoC rather than a WATOK licence. In 2018, the FSA had issued 972 CoCs, and 1452 Temporary CoCs.

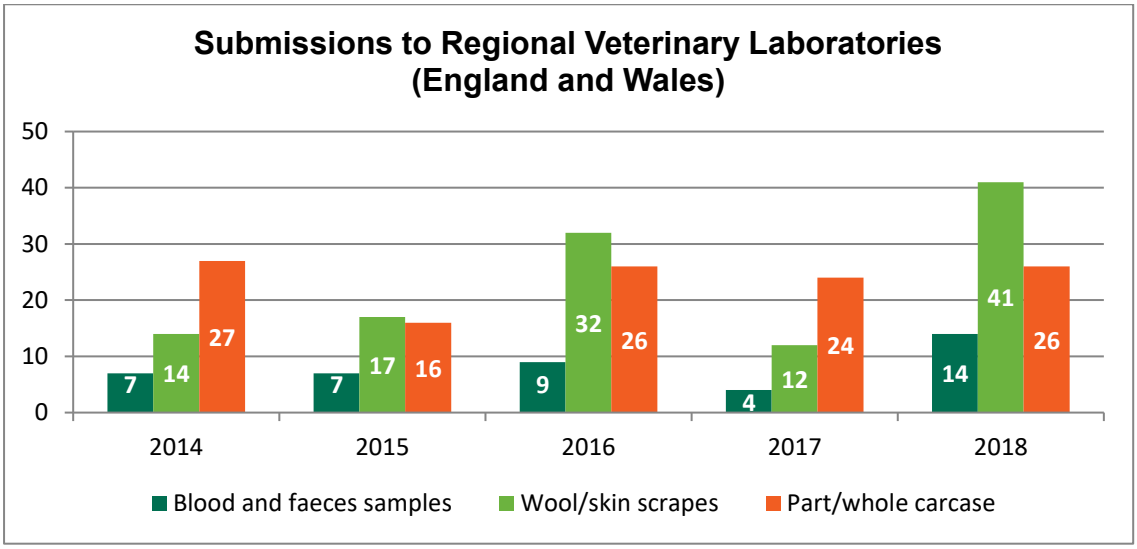
2.327 In Scotland, 80 CoCs were issued for operatives in slaughterhouses, farms and knacker companies under the Welfare of Animals at Time of Killing (Scotland) Regulations 2012 between January and December 2017. 30 existing CoCs were amended to include new activities.

2.328 In Northern Ireland, DAERA continued to monitor compliance on farm with welfare during slaughter or killing legislation. No significant non-compliance was found. During 2018, 109 full CoCs and 127 temporary CoCs were issued under the Welfare of Animals at the Time of Killing Regulations (NI) 2014.

2.329 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 Northern Ireland, DAERA has sole responsibility for animal welfare policy.

2.330 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.

Welfare forensic pathology and advice



2.331 in 2018 APHA's Regional Laboratories (RLs) received 81 welfare forensic submissions. 26 (32%) were whole/part carcases. This comprised 14 cattle submissions of eight carcases, four limbs and two heads. There were 11 sheep submissions, which was comprised of 10 carcases, multiple feet and one single duck carcass.

2.332 The remainder of the samples were wool or skin samples on suspect sheep scab cases, as well as and blood and/or faeces samples. The 41 sheep scab submissions came from 36 premises. 40 submissions originated in Wales. These numbers are higher than in the last five years.

2.333 Some visits carried out by the veterinary investigation officers (VIOSs) revealed welfare concerns. These were referred to the APHA's field service. Examples included a recently established organic dairy herd that lost 77 out of 200 animals over the course of the summer. Severe respiratory disease and marked variation in body condition scores were found in the remaining animals.

2.334 Two farms with diagnosed joint ill in lambs. Both farms were visited and were given advice on disease prevention and general care and welfare. For chronic cases, nursing and pain relief were also discussed. On a visit to a farm with high incidence of mastitis, issues with poor ewe management towards the end of pregnancy had resulted in sub optimal milk yield during lactation.

2.335 RLs worked with APHA and local authorities to provide four witness statements for serious non-compliances (prosecutions pending). Three simple cautions were issued by local authorities using PME evidence alone. There were three court cases in 2018 involving evidence supplied by veterinary investigation officers from RLs. Guilty verdicts were found in all cases. Twi disqualification orders were served. One for cattle and pigs for five years and another for keeping any animals for 12 months. In addition financial penalties and community orders were issued. RLs produced summary welfare surveillance reports for communication, covering mostly on farm welfare related cases dealt with in 2018.

Official controls in the plant health sector

England and Wales

Controls on imported plants, plant products and plant material

2.336 In 2018/19, 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. 100% of required mandatory inspections were completed. The majority of import inspection targets were met. Inspections of other low risk controlled material were partially achieved, delivering 59% of the required 65% inspection target.

2.337 There was a 7% increase in the number of consignments declared requiring control compared to 2017; 107,015 consignments in 2018/19 compared to 100,020 in 2017/18. This was reported in arrears.

2.338 For the 53 trades subject to reduced import checks, the required levels of inspection were achieved for all 53 trades.

2.339 In 2018, 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. FC continued to receive additional resources to increase its inspections of wood packaging material associated with known high risk commodities. 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
- commence a new inspection regime in November 2018 for wood packaging material associated with 52 commodities from both China and Belarus to comply with the requirements of the EU's Commission Implementing Decision 2018/1137.

Surveillance and outbreak management

2.340 In 2018, surveillance continued within the Paddock Wood area of Kent after the 2012 outbreak of *Anoplophora glabripennis* (Asian long-horn beetle). There were no further findings. The surveillance programme will be completed in 2019, corresponding with two complete life cycles of the beetle, and details of the programme's completion will be published.

2.341 The control programme for *Phytophthora ramorum* and *Phytophthora kernoviae* continues with an objective to protect the environmental, social and economic values of host plants by slowing the spread and minimising the impact of these diseases. The risk of spread of the pathogens via the trade in plants has been reduced by continued regular inspections and eradication action whenever the pathogens are diagnosed.

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

2.343 In 2018 *Dryocosmus kuriphilus* (Oriental chestnut gall wasp) had been identified on approximately 80 sites around London. A surveillance plan is in place, and work continues to support management including research on the potential for biological control of the pest.

2.344 *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 is working closely with landowners and local authorities to manage the impacts of ash dieback.

2.345 In 2017 there were several outbreaks of *Cryphonectria parasitica (*Sweet Chestnut blight) in South West England and East London, with one further infected tree found in 2018 (in close proximity to an existing outbreak site). Action was taken to limit the spread of the disease and determine distribution, to support plans for eradication. 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 after increased understanding of the disease and its behaviour.

2.346 Thaumetopoea processionea (Oak Processionary moth) outbreaks continue to be detected in the South East of England, an annual management programme is in place to actively manage this pest.

2.347 *Ips typographus* (Spruce bark beetle) was found for the first time in the wider environment in 2018. The outbreak site is under management combining tree felling with trapping and ground surveys, to support action to eradicate the pest. There is also monitoring of host trees being conducted in the surrounding areas.

2.348 In 2018 Olea Europa was added to the tree notification scheme to increase surveillance for *Xylella fastidiosa*. In 2018, the target inspection rates for consignments in active growth within six months of arrival were 75% minimum of notified and selected consignments all genera

2.349 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.

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

Disease/ Pest	Host	Action 2018/19	Action 2017/18
Ceratocystis platani	*Platanus* (Plane)	92% (112 consignments from 122 selected) of *Platanus* from other member states were inspected in active growth within six months of arrival, against a target of 75% (92 consignments). 122 consignments were notified.	84% of intra-EU *Platanus* were inspected against a target of 75%.
Cryphonectria parasitica	*Castanea* (Sweet Chestnut)	Target met to inspect 75% (4 consignments from the 50 selected) of *Castanea* from other member states in active growth within six months of arrival.	Target to inspect 75% (8 consignments from 10 selected) of *Castanea* from other member states in active growth within six months of arrival, was exceeded. 10 consignments were inspected.
Phytoplasma ulmi	*Ulmus* (Elm)	57% (120 consignments from 209 selected) of *Ulmus* from other member states inspected in active growth within six months of arrival against a target of 75%. 209 consignments were notified.	91% of intra-EU *Ulmus* was inspected against a target of 75%.
Thaumetopoea processionea	*Quercus* (Oak)	78% (675 from 860 selected) of *Quercus* from other member states inspected in active growth within six months of arrival against a minimum target of 75% 644 consignments. 2,866 consignments were notified	86% (704 from 818 selected), 2531 consignments were notified intra-EU *Quercus (Oak)* consignments were inspected against a minimum target of 414 notified consignments.
Dothistroma pini and Dothistroma septosporum; Thaumetopoea pityocampa	*Pinus* (Pine)	79% (763 selected from 963 consignments) of *Pinus* (Pine) moved from other EU member states was inspected in active growth within six months of arrival against a target of 75% (722 consignments). 2,866 consignments were notified	84% (223 selected from 264 consignments of EU *Pinus (Pine)* consignments were inspected against a minimum target of 50%

Disease/ Pest	Host	Action 2018/19	Action 2017/18
Xanthomanus arboricola pv. Pruni / other pests and diseases	*Prunus*	78% (3,484 consignments from 4,477 selected) of Prunus moved from other EU member states and selected for inspection were inspected on arrival or in active growth within six months of arrival, against a minimum target of 75% (3,358 consignments). 16,981 consignments were notified	The target to inspect 25% of the 1,848 consignments identified for inspection (out of 14,014 consignments in total) was exceeded. It was possible that some consignments received more than one inspection and/ or that some inspections were carried out on non-notified consignments
Xylella fastidiosa	*Olea europa*	77% (328 consignments from 427 selected) of *Olea europa* moved from other EU member states and selected for inspection were inspected on arrival or in active growth within six months of arrival, against a minimum target of 75% (320 consignments). 476 consignments were notified.	
Epitrix spp	*Solanum tuberosum*	The target was to inspect 50% of all Spanish and Portuguese notified ware consignments. 314 consignments were notified and 145 (46%) were inspected. This was a slight shortfall from the agreed target	The target was to inspect 50% of all Spanish and Portuguese notified ware consignments. 320 consignments were notified and 251 (72%) were inspected

Surveillance surveys[49] carried out during 2018/19

Disease/Pest	Surveillance			
	2018/19	2017/18	2016/17	2015/16
Ralstonia solanacearum (Brown rot) tuber survey and *Clavibacter michiganensis* (Ring rot) tuber survey	819 inspections of seed stocks from the Seed Potato Classification Scheme from an estimated 669 seed stocks	875 inspections in 2017	877 inspections in 2016	N/A
	60 (50%) consignments in England and Wales were from EU seed and EU ware inspected against a target of 120	87 consignments	98 consignments	N/A
	246 inspections carried out on consignments of EU seed entering the SCPS scheme	832 consignments (90%) inspected		
	952 (87%) consignments of EU seed inspected from 1,100 selected for inspection. 2,377 consignments were notified			

[49] Required under EU legislation.

Disease/Pest	Surveillance			
	2018/19	2017/18	2016/17	2015/16
Brown rot river survey of treated/scheduled water courses completed	Survey completed during September, involving approximately 200 samples from 24 water courses and 48 sampling points. No positive results in 2018 Delimiting surveys continued in drainage water courses in Cambridgeshire. Very limited extensions to regulated watercourses were made	No positive diagnoses	Positive diagnosis (in six samples over two sampling points) at Sixteen Foot Drain, close to March, Cambridgeshire. 23 sample sites were negative	Survey sampled 25 water courses and 50 sampling points. One positive diagnosis at the River Loddon, near Reading, Berkshire
EU minimum: *Phytophthora ramorum and Phytophthora kernoviae survey of parks, gardens and commercial establishments*	1,830 retail outlets and nurseries visited against a target of 1,000. 249 wider environment sites inspected against a target of 300 247 clients authorised to issue plant passports for *Phytophthora ramorum* hosts received an additional inspection visit (67%) against a target of 95% of 369 clients The total number of visits was 3,320	1,736 retail outlets and nurseries visited against a target of 1,000. 228 wider environment sites 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 could receive plant passports The total number of visits was 2,384	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	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

Disease/Pest	Surveillance			
	2018/19	2017/18	2016/17	2015/16
PCN survey	The EU requires 0.5% of the area used to produce ware potatoes to be sampled. For England and Wales, this amounts to 426 hectares (ha) – growers are randomly selected for inspection. In 2018, 442 ha were sampled and 57% were found to be infested. Area of fields with G *pallida* only 229 Area of fields with *G rostochiens* only = 0 ha Area of fields with combined population = 17.5 ha Total infested area = 226.61 ha	258 ha were found to be infested from a sample area of 456 ha	151.6 ha (31%) were found to be infested from a sample area of 482.9 ha	N/A
Epitrix surveillance	In England and Wales a target was set to inspect 200 consignments of ware potatoes grown from UK seed. 120 consignments (60%) were inspected	In England and Wales a target was set to inspect 200 consignments of ware potatoes grown from UK seed. 179 consignments (90%) were inspected.	In England and Wales a target was set to inspect 200 consignments of ware potatoes grown from UK seed. 166 consignments (83%) were inspected.	N/A

Disease/Pest	Surveillance			
	2018/19	2017/18	2016/17	2015/16
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 *and Bemisia tabaci* survey. All are ongoing as EU reporting periods vary and are not synchronised with business plan.	No set targets per pest. Plant hosts were inspected as part of Quarantine Surveillance inspections Quarantine Surveillance inspection frequency is determined by a Plant Health and Seed Inspectorate (PHSI) established risk matrix	N/A	N/A	N/A

Disease/Pest	Surveillance			
	2018/19	2017/18	2016/17	2015/16
Ralstonia solanacearum (Brown rot) tuber survey and *Clavibacter michiganensis* (Ring rot) tuber survey	819 inspections of seed stocks from the Seed Potato Classification Scheme. All England and Wales seed stocks excluding Pre-basic not marketed, from an estimated 669 seed stocks	875 inspections	877 inspections	N/A
	60 (50%) consignments of England and Wales were from EU seed and EU ware inspected against a target of 120	87 consignments	98 consignments	N/A
	246 inspections were carried out on consignments of EU seed entering the SCPS scheme	832 consignments (90%) that were inspected in 2017	N/A	N/A
	952 (87%) consignments of EU seed inspected from 1,100 selected for inspection. 2,377 consignments were notified			

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

General quarantine surveillance

Client plant health risk rating*	Minimum and maximum achievement	Achievement
Very high risk (10 to12 visits per year)	170 visits (100% of required visits)	147 - 86%
High risk (4 to 6 visits per year)	1,176 visits (100% of required visits)	1,091 - 93%
Medium risk (2 visits per year)	Min-50% of required visits = 2,037 visits Max-3,056 visits (100%)	2,717 - 89%
Low risk (once every two years)	Min- 50% of required visits = 899 Max-1,334 visits (100%)	1,313 - 98%

*A client's business is reviewed throughout the year and could result in target changes between quarters.

2.351 For Brown rot (*Ralstonia solanacearum*), as a result of the 2018 surveillance programme, 3 further watercourses in the Middle Level of the Cambridgeshire Fens were confirmed as contaminated and had irrigation restrictions put in place. Having thoroughly evaluated and reviewed the information gathered from the very extensive surveys carried out in 2017 and 2018, there will be one more final survey in 2019. This will be on a much reduced scale and focused on drains that are considered to be possibly at risk due to their proximity to those that have already been identified as contaminated.

2.352 In Scotland for 2018, the number of import consignments, 99, from third countries decreased on previous years. Operational targets were all met.

2.353 Seed potato exports increased from 65,923 tonnes in 2017 to 74,755 tonnes in 2018. Ware potatoes also saw an increase from 9,115 tonnes in 2017 to 11,021 tonnes in 2018. Other exports included Brussels sprouts, including a new trade to Canada, as well as regular shipments to USA of brewing products, cherry fruit to South Africa, and feed to accompany a Rhinoceros destined for Indonesia from Edinburgh Zoo.

2.354 Potato quarantine testing carried out by the UK Potato Quarantine Unit (UKPQU) consisted of 13 lines from outside the EU.

Number of potato quarantine tests carried out

Type of diagnosis	2018	2017	2016	2015
Viroids	1,922	1,142	2,268	2,268
Virology	89	89	89	89
Bacteriology (incl. brown rot/ring rot)	3,253	3,180	2,942	2,953
Mycology	357	392	383	395
Nematology/Entomology	15,351	17,574	18,574	15,778
Total	**20,972**	**22,377**	**23,778**	**21,483**

2.355 In addition, as part of a continuing project to ensure that true potato seed from the Commonwealth Potato Collection (CPC), James Hutton Institute, Dundee, meets the testing requirements of Commission Directive 2008/61/EC, 499 plants representing 29 true seed accessions were quarantine tested. Test results were negative.

Enforcement activities for Single Market and EU surveillance activities in 2018/19

Disease/ Pest	Surveillance
Dothistroma Needle Blight of Pine (DNB)	Joint growing season inspections to forestry nurseries undertaken with Forest Research, no DNB was not found
Erwinia amylovora Fireblight	Four nurseries requested fireblight buffer zone status and had host plants tested for latent symptoms. All samples from nurseries and the surrounding buffer zone were negative
Phytophthora – Nursery Trade	Registered nurseries producing susceptible material for *P. ramorum* and *P. kernoviae* continue to receive two site inspections plus one based on risk. *P. ramorum* identified at three registered nurseries, one with infected *Virburnum* and the others with infected *Camellia* and *Rhodendron* hybrids, which consisted of their own stock but also imported material from the Netherlands and Belgium. Infected stock has been destroyed. *P.austrocedri* and *P. lateralis* were identified at a Scottish garden centre that was supplied by an English supplier. *P.austrocedri* was found on *Juniperus* and *P.lateralis* was *Chamaecyparis.* Infected stock has been destroyed.
Phytophthora – Gardens/Landscaped sites	There were 61 active outbreak sites across Scotland consisting of 44 with *P. ramorum*, 8 with *P. kernoviae* and 9 with both pathogens. There were also 41 gardens that had 'non-active' status where controls had been lifted and continued to be monitored as part of general surveillance activity. The 2018 garden survey covered 25 sites across Scotland and consisted primarily of 'non-active' sites and prominent public gardens. 4 new outbreaks sites have been identified, which will be dealt with under Notice. This was compared to 57 active outbreak areas for *P. Ramorum* and *P. Kernoviae* in 2017.

Northern Ireland[50]

2.356 In 2018/19, 6,990 inspections were carried out on horticultural plants and plants in the wider environment and forests. A further 1,499 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.

2.357 Imports checks on ware potato imports continued with special emphasis on inspecting all Spanish ware potato imports due to increased risks from *Epitrix spp.* Only seven lots of Spanish potatoes were imported and all were checked.

2.358 Inspections 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 11 new sites. The significance of this pathogen and the involvement of other factors in its pathology are still unclear.

2.359 The 2018 survey of ash for Ash Dieback (*Hymenoschyphus fraxineus*) included perimeter buffer surveys of previously infected planted sites and focused on the wider environment to assess the spread to native ash. Infection was confirmed in a further 126 10km grid squares. This represented a total of 84.9% of the grid squares, which fully or partially cover Northern Ireland, and showed that ash dieback was now very widespread in the country's native ash population. The wider environment survey also included inspection for Emerald Ash Borer and inspections of oak and birch for Oak Wilt and Bronze Birch Borer.

2.360 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.

2.361 DAERA carried out an annual survey of growing potato crops and harvested tubers, after the findings of Potato Spindle Tuber Viroid (PSTVd), at the AFBI potato breeding collection in August 2016. A total of 39 tuber samples and 36 leaf samples were submitted for laboratory test with no positive findings.

Summary of new disease outbreaks at the end of 2018 (Northern Ireland)

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

Disease	Outbreak sites
Erwinia amylovora	2 (findings in nursery buffer)
Potato Cyst Nematode (PCN)	8 fields restricted, 14 fields cleared

Surveillance pests surveys carried out during 2018 (Northern Ireland)

Disease	Surveillance
Bemisia tabaci	582 inspections, no findings
Liriomyza bryoniae	575 inspections, no findings
Leptinotarsa decemlineata	62 (hort) inspections, no findings
Erwinia amylovora	294 inspections*, 0 positive sites
Anoplophora spp	357 inspections, no findings
Phytophthora ramorum	467 inspections, four findings in trade
Clavibacter michiganensis and Ralstonia solanacearum .	258 samples of seed and ware potatoes tested for Ring Rot and Brown Rot. 12 water samples from rivers and processors and 9 Woody Night Shade plants sampled were tested. No findings
Diabrotica virgifera	Six fields trapped as part of all Ireland strategy. No findings
Rhizomania	11 fields inspected and five beet samples tested. No findings
PSTVd	75 samples taken, no findings

* Reduced inspection figure reflects rescinding of *Erwinia amylovora* PZ status in Northern Ireland, April 2018

Summary of intensity and type of plant controls in the UK

2.362 In the UK, during 2018, overall compliance in the official controls improved. Import inspection targets were largely met for England and Wales.

2.363 Notifications on harmful organisms declined in 2018 in England and Wales to 478 findings, compared to 493 findings in 2017 on both controlled and non-controlled material. This could be due to a more systematic response by the EU on repeated interceptions. Also, the EU has publicised entries on the EU alert list and sought action plans from countries to address non-compliances. This has made third countries more proactive in addressing issues.

2.364 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.

2.365 In 2018, the six countries with the greatest number of pest notifications were: Dominican Republic, Uganda, India, Nigeria, Ghana South Africa, with these

notifications accounting for approximately 51% of pest interceptions. The five most commonly intercepted pests were: *Bemisia tabaci (*tobacco whitefly*), Thaumatotibia leucotreta (False Codling Moth). Thrips* sp., *Tephritidae* (fruit fly) and *Liriomyza sp.* (leaf miners) - these accounted for 78% of all pest interceptions.

2.366 Other reasons for non-compliance related to 7, 296 for documentation infringements. This was due to the increased activity at Langley postal depot where numerous issues were identified particularly on the import of seeds from the USA. 242 interceptions were for seeds without documents, 410 other document infringements and 77 interceptions for prohibited soil.

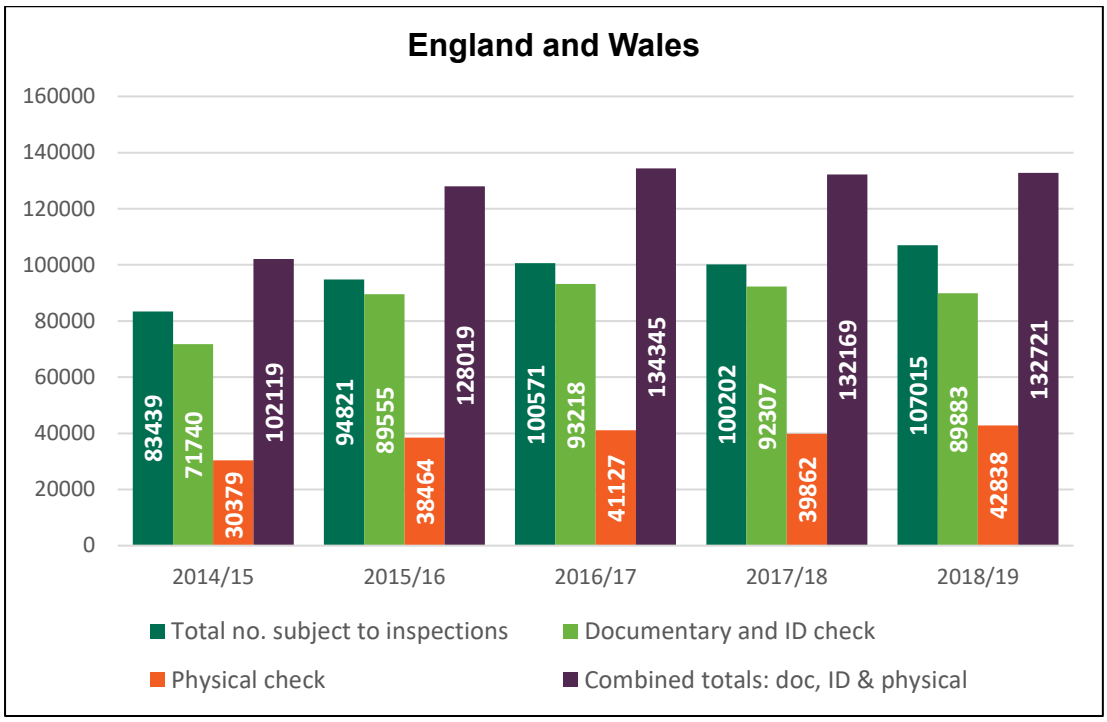
2.367 When harmful organisms or outbreaks were found at ports or inland, the vast majority of businesses co-operated with APHA PHSI and other inspectors in destroying affected stock. Most businesses entered imports correctly into the advance notification system (PEACH) and produced records for plant passport inspections.

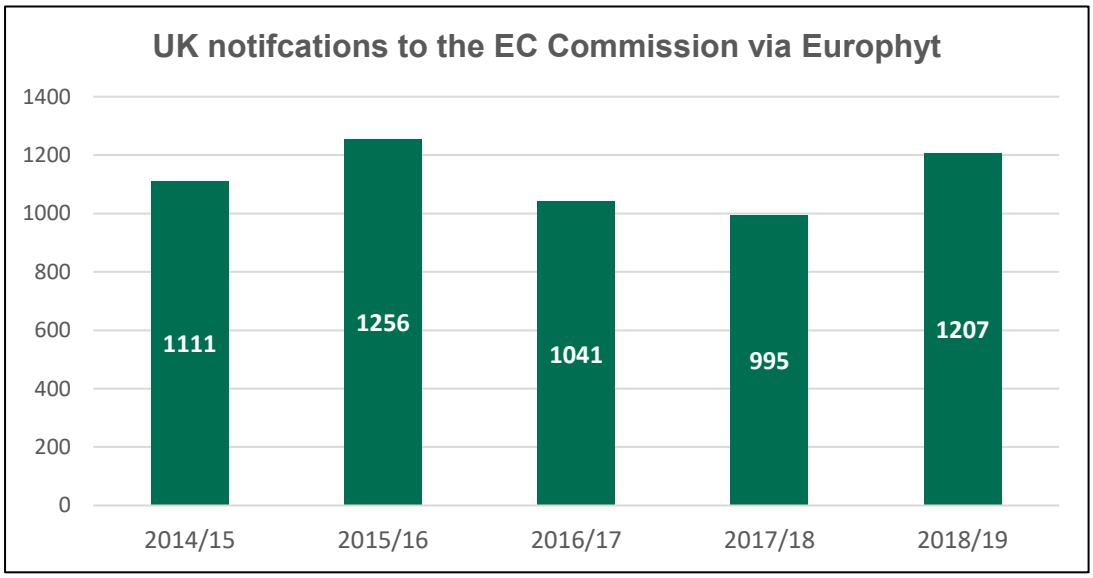
2.368 Pests present in imported consignments pose a risk to crops, plants in commercial production and in the wider environment in the EU. The root causes were lack of awareness or understanding of the EU import requirements and a disregard for the risks presented by sending plants and plant products 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[51]

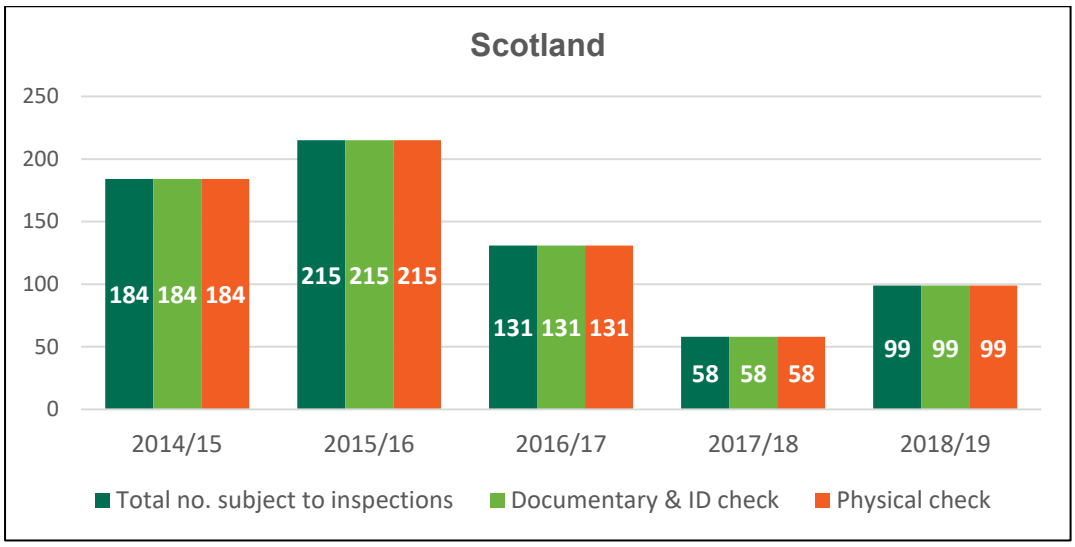
2.369 In 2018/19 in England and Wales, the number of consignments subject to inspection (declared and requiring controls) was 107,015, an increase of 7% from 2017/18 (100,202). The increase in 2018/19 continues the general yearly upward trend in the number of consignments subject to inspection since 2014/15, bar a very small decrease in 2017/18 of 0.55%.

[51] The total for physical plant health inspections was less that than total imports because some 'safer' trades are subject to reduced rates under EU legislation. Some trades for example cut flowers require rates as low as 5%.

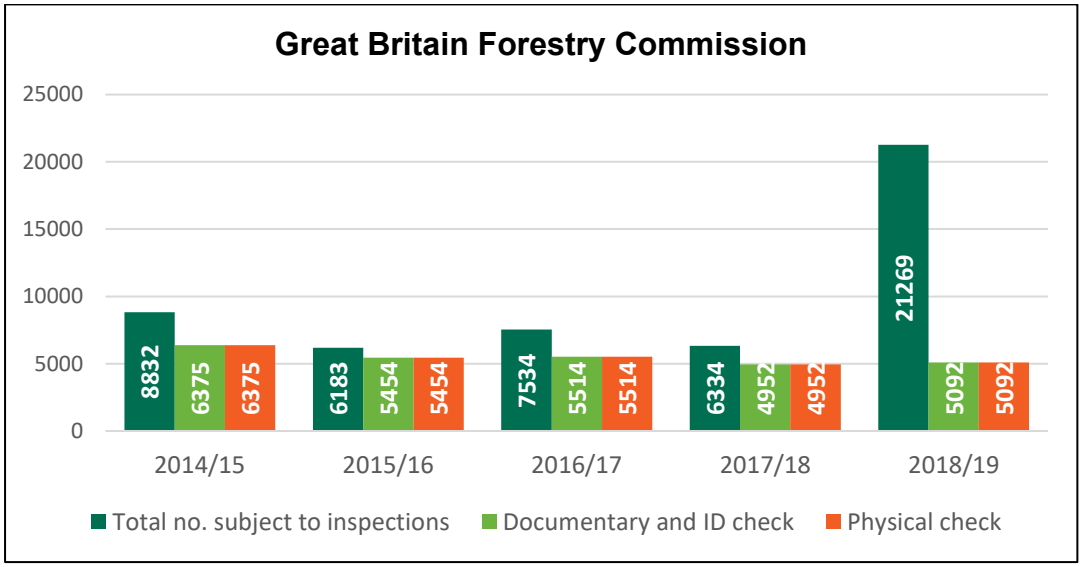




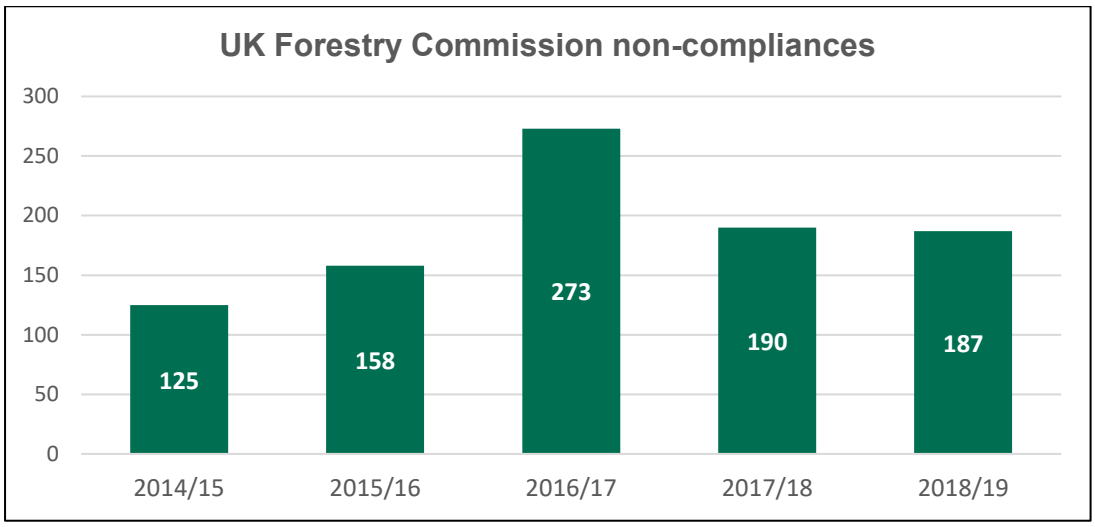
2.370 The number of non-compliances and notifications to the European Commission for England and Wales increased to 1,207 in 2018.



2.371 An instance of non-compliance of third country imports into Scotland was a container of Bonsai plants which was received from Japan through Grangemouth docks. The container had sacks of Japanese 'peat' which were found to be mineral rich soil consisting of a mixture of clay with moderate amounts of organic matter and non-clay minerals. The material was prohibited and was disposed of under notice. Additional soil samples were also taken from this and from around the bonsai plants to check for quarantine nematodes. None were found apart from some saprophytic, non-quarantine species.



2.372 The higher inspection figures for the year 2018/19 relates to the higher number of commodities that needed to be inspected as part of the Commission Implementing Decision 2018/1137. Although the total number of inspection figures have increased, under the above Decision only 1% of the commodity codes listed require an inspection at point of import.



2.373 Under the Forestry Commission's (FC) jurisdiction, the number of non-compliances in 2018/19 was broadly consistent with findings since 2014/15, which saw a gradual yearly rise. In comparison, the findings in 2016/17 were relatively high. This spike could be due to a specific review in 2016/17 of the compliance of wood packaging material which had cleared customs control, but was still awaiting final delivery.

2.374 The majority of non-compliances involved wood packaging material not being compliant with the international standard ISPM15 (absence of marks or illegible marks). The material was subjected to remedial action, this accounted for over 60% of the non-compliances, other areas of non-compliance were on dunnage (23%) sawn timber (13%) and other (4%).

2.375 During 2018/19 a total of 9 samples were sent on wood packaging and dunnage. There was one interception of *Anoplophora chinensis* that appeared to have recently died and was stuck to a pallet by some form of adhesive.

2.376 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:

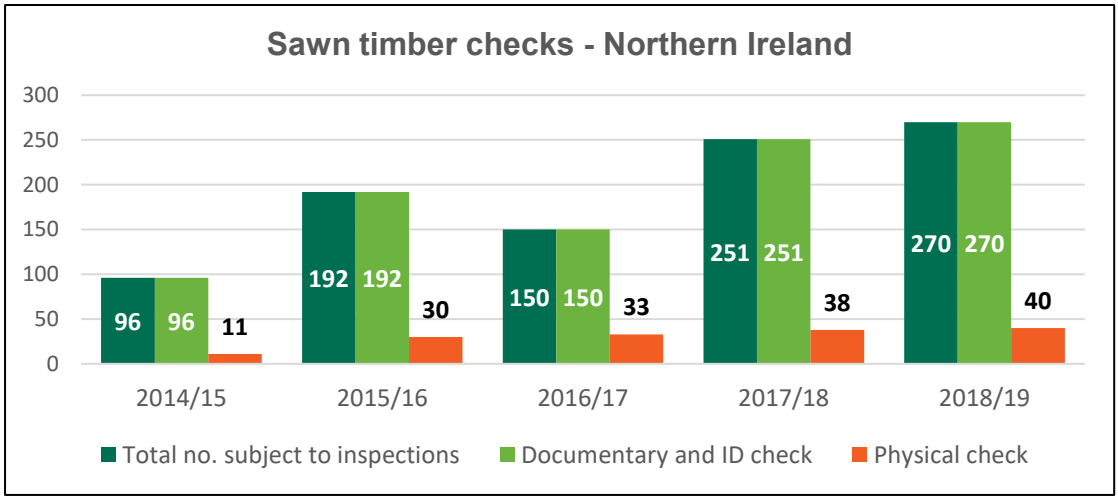
- clearly marked with a traceable ISPM15 mark
- within the bark tolerance level permitted
- free from pests and signs of live pests.

2.377 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 was poor compliance with ISPM15 marking requirements or wood packaging material that has not been subjected to ISPM15 approved measures and maybe fraudulently marked.

2.378 In 2018, there remained a focus on inspections of wood packaging material associated with stone and iron materials from China and Belarus due to the introduction of Commission Implementing Decision 2018/1137.

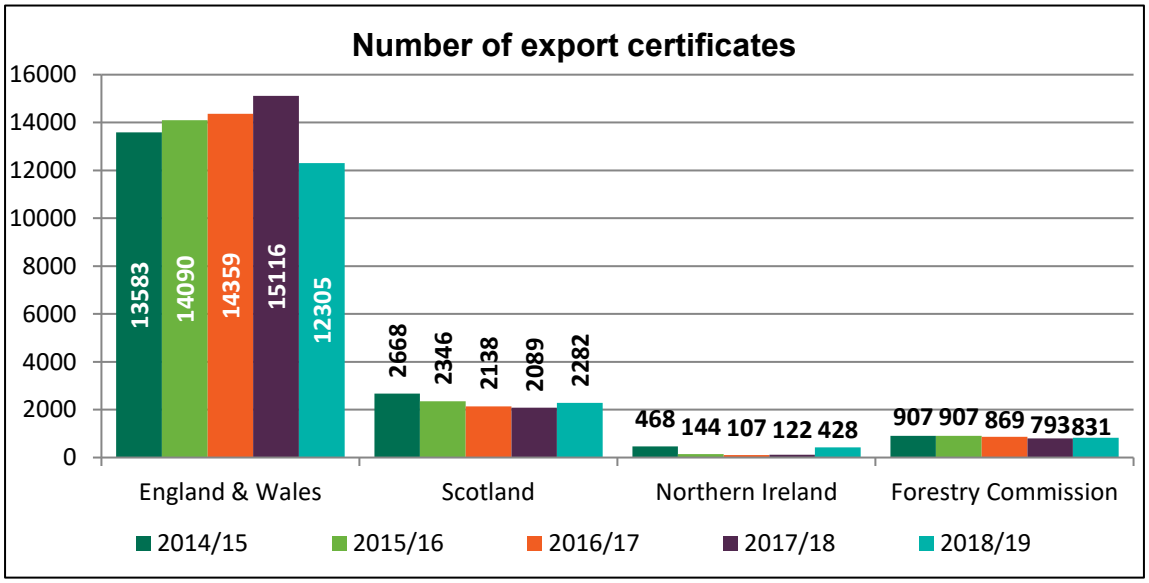
2.379 Since January 2018 the FC has increased the number of controlled species of wood being imported from countries where the Round Headed Apple Tree borer beetle (*Saperda candida*) was known to be present. This has not resulted in a significant increase in timber inspections as the species of wood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

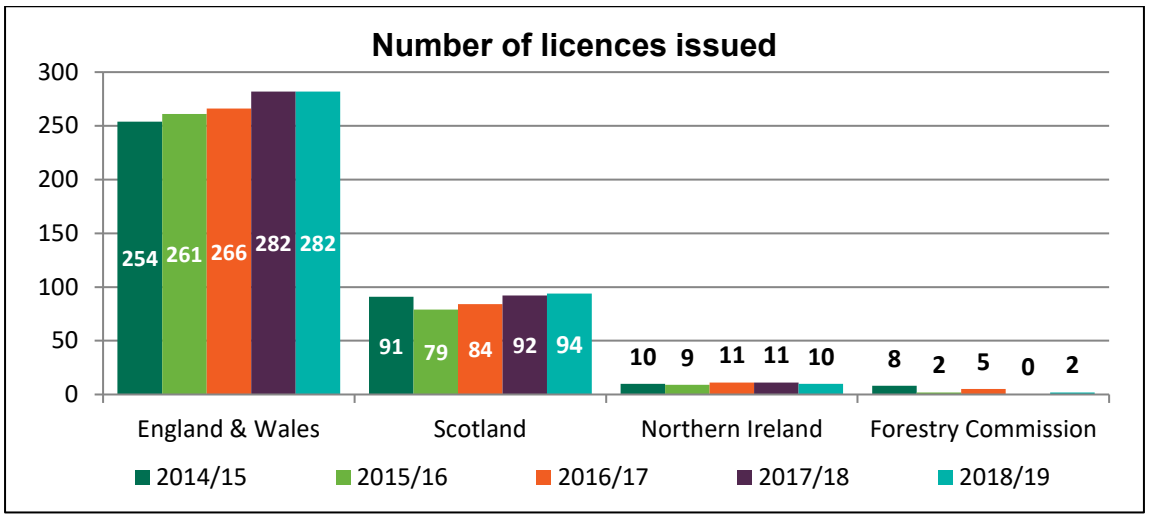
2.380 The intensity and type of controls for sawn timber in 2018/19 were consistent with the previous two years in terms of performing 100% documentary, identity and physical plant health checks for imports of controlled timber. The exception to this check was for wood of maple from Canada where physical inspection checks are performed on a reduced frequency basis.



2.381 In Northern Ireland no interceptions of harmful organisms were made on any imported consignments of regulated plant material from third countries.

2.382 In Northern Ireland in 2018 there were 106 import pre-notifications for consignments of specified CN code commodities on wood packing material, 100% had documentary and ID checks and 13 physical checks. No cases of non-compliance were identified.





2.383 The number of phytosanitary certificates for export issued by the FC during 201 increased slightly. The number of businesses registered to issue plant passports during 2018 increased by one. The number of scientific licences issued in 2017 by the FC was two.

2.384 In England and Wales in 2018, 282 licences were issued to allow for the import or to hold prohibited plants and plant pests. In Scotland, there was a slight increase in the number of scientific licences issued compared to 2017. In Northern Ireland there were 428 phytosanitary certificates issued which included 80 phytosanitary certificates issued for the export of wood and bark products.

Enforcement trends: actions taken in cases of non-compliance

2.385 For APHA PHSI, enforcement of import controls was mainly by action on non-compliant consignments (re-export or destruction at the importer's expense).

2.386 During 2018/19 in England and Wales, the number of non-compliant actions increased from 995 to 1,207 in 2018/19, an increase of 17%. The increase could be due to the increased monitoring of postal and courier packages at Langley's postal depot. The number of actions was still lower in comparison to the period 2011 to 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

Audit of local and port health authorities

3.1 In England there were no new local authority audits during the first half of 2018/19, due to re-structuring and separation of the FSA's local authority audit and performance management functions. However, a review of outstanding open audits was undertaken and appropriate risk-based follow-up of audit action plans continued throughout the year. One focussed audit programme on 'infectious diseases and complaints management' was completed during the second half of 2018/19. Ten local authorities were audited for this programme and no significant issues were identified.

3.2 In Wales, between 2014 and 2018, all 22 local authorities were 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 is underway. In 2018/19, follow-up audits were undertaken at four local authorities to assess progress against agreed full audit action plans. A focused audit programme to assess the extent to which all 22 local authorities in Wales were meeting the requirements of the statutory FHRS was also completed.

3.3 In Northern Ireland, a number of audit programmes were undertaken in 2018/19. In June 2018, an audit of mince-meat and meat preparations was carried out, which included visits to two approved establishments. Between August and December 2018, three local authorities were audited in the three year Local Authority Organisation and Management audit programme. In March 2019 a desktop audit of Northern Ireland's approvals systems was carried out.

Main recommendations

3.4 In England, no significant issues were identified in the audits on 'Infectious Diseases and Complaints Management' at the 10 local authorities in the programme. Most common issues identified related to service planning, officer authorisation and internal monitoring, these were subsequently reported to the individual authorities. The local authorities audited accepted the recommendations and corrective action plans were put in place. Ongoing follow-up audit verification checks, including on-site visits where necessary, were carried out to ensure actions were prioritised and remedial action taken within acceptable timescales.

3.5 In Wales, the overall findings of the full audit programme were that food hygiene official controls were largely being delivered in accordance with the FSA's Framework Agreement on Official Feed and Food controls. Local authorities continued to adopt a risk-based approach to interventions and worked with businesses to support them in achieving compliance. On food standards official controls, the findings were variable. Planned interventions were not being carried out at the prescribed frequencies in the Food Law Code of Practice, but local authorities have adopted a risk-based approach.

Records of planned interventions were not sufficiently detailed to verify the extent to which business compliance had been assessed. Delivery of reactive food standards interventions was generally undertaken in accordance with the FSA's requirements.

3.6 In Northern Ireland, during the three focussed organisation and management audits, eight recommendations for improvement were made. These covered internal monitoring, control procedures, approved establishments, intervention programme and food complaints. All recommendations were accepted by the authorities audited and corrective action plans were agreed. Follow-up verification checks were carried out to ensure the agreed actions were taken within the agreed timescale. All recommendations were implemented satisfactorily and the audits are now closed.

3.7 In Scotland, a focussed audit programme on capacity and capability continued into 2018/2019. A further five local authorities were selected for audit. A report was produced and published for all of the local authorities audited and an action plan put in place to address the recommendations made. The assurance category assigned after audit was either substantial assurance (one), reasonable assurance (one), limited assurance (one) or insufficient assurance (two).

Summary of audits on local authorities and port health authorities

Programme	Dates	No. of authorities/DAERA	No. of establishment 'reality checks'	Reporting	No. of recommendations
England					
Focussed audits on local authority management of infectious disease and complaints controls	Oct 2018 to March 2019	10	0	Final reports	50
Wales					
Follow-up audits (food hygiene and food standards) to assess local authority progress in implementing agreed full audit action plans	April 2018 to March 2019	4	0	Updated LA action plans	-
FHRS focused audit programme	April 2018 to March 2019	22	0	Final reports	13
Scotland					
Local authority capacity and capability audits	April 2018 to March 2019	5	10	Final reports	16
Northern Ireland					
Local authority organisation and management audit programme	August to December 2018	3	0	Three reports and summary report agreed and issued, but not yet published.	12 Local authority 1 FSA
DAERA mince-meat and meat preparations audit programme in conjunction with AAT	June 2018	1	2	Findings included in FSA Audit and Assurance Report	-
FSA NI Approvals System Desktop Audit	March 2019	1	0	Report issued	3 FSA

Audit of FSA and FSS delivery of official controls

3.8 The FSA and FSS act as competent authorities for the delivery of official controls for feed and food. However, the FSA also undertakes risk-based audits of operational systems, processes and procedures in their capacity as Central Competent Authority for the UK on food and feed. 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.

3.9 The audit plans for the 2017/18 and 2018/19 financial years included operational areas which were lower or medium risk, with follow-up audits to monitor implementation of corrective actions from previous audits. The main objective of the programmes conducted during 2018/19 was to provide assurance to FSA and FSS management and the respective boards that official control delivery and enforcement was effective, consistent, risk-based and proportionate.

3.10 The four grades of audit opinions or equivalent used during the period covered by the report were 'substantial'[52], 'moderate'[53], 'limited'[54] and 'unsatisfactory'[55]. The following audits were completed and reports issued between January and December 2018.

Policy area audited	Audit opinion	Recommendations
Approved game handling establishments (FSA)	Limited	12
Minced meat, meat preparation, meat products and ready to eat (FSA)	Moderate	10
Slaughterhouse hygiene verification system (FSA)	Moderate	7
Approved game handling establishments (FSS)	Moderate	6
HACCP based controls (FSS)	Moderate	5
Egg hygiene (FSA)	Moderate	2

3.11 The majority of the corrective and preventative actions agreed with the CA's 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.

[52] 'Substantial' means the framework of governance, risk management and control is adequate and effective.

[53] 'Moderate' means some improvements are required to enhance the adequacy and effectiveness of the framework of governance, risk management and control.

[54] '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.

[55] '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

3.12 In 2018/19, an audit on animal traceability of official feed and food controls was carried out by Government Internal Audit Agency (GIAA) for the RPA. This included the transfer of inspection activities for sheep and goats traceability, from the RPA inspectorate to APHA and their third party contractors, Hallmark. The audit testing conducted during this review provided a 'moderate' level of assurance.

3.13 The findings from this review required three remedial actions (two medium and one low priority). These related to clarifying the roles and responsibilities for the accurate and timely delivery of inspections, updating guidance and learning lessons for future projects. The target dates for completing these actions have yet to be reached. Progress on the delivery of the actions is being tracked by GIAA.

APHA

3.14 APHA conducted three audits during 2018/19 (reporting in 2019): compliance with operations manual - animal welfare visits; compliance with operations manual – exotic diseases; and county parish holding projects audit. The results will be reported in 2019. APHA's Internal Audit track management actions but none were due in 2018.

Veterinary Residues Surveillance

3.15 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. Both laboratories were given a very good reports, with very few recommendations, which have been implemented.

Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance

3.16 Auditing of antimicrobial resistance surveillance and policy was carried out by external providers in accordance with the UK Five Year AMR Strategy 2013 to 2018. Results of surveillance of antibiotic sales were published online. Taken overall, the resistance levels of many veterinary bacteria have not changed greatly over the period covered by this report (2015–2017). The number of isolates that are resistant to four or more antibiotics remained unchanged for many organisms over this period. The 2018 report is yet to be published.

Official feed and food control internal audits carried out during 2018

Audit Programme	Conclusions/recommendations
England	
Defra	
Review of response to notifiable diseases	• Draft report issued: 31 March 2018 • Assurance level: moderate • Recommendations: 4 medium, 1 low Defra has a high level of preparedness for disease outbreaks, but there are opportunities for further improvement.
High risk welfare inspections under Animal Welfare Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009	• Final report issued:1 December 2018 • Assurance: moderate • Recommendations: 4 medium Some improvements are required to enhance the adequacy and effectiveness of the framework of governance, risk management and control for policy towards on-farm killing
Bee health	• Final report issued: May 2018 • Assurance: moderate • Recommendations: 3 low risk Good controls over management and oversight and significant improvements made
Export health certification	• Final report issued: 8 May 2018 • Assurance: moderate • Recommendations: 3 medium, 1 low The recommendations made have been completed
Pet travel and quarantine premises (exotic animal disease)	• Final report issued: 29 June 2018 • Assurance: substantial • Recommendations: None
Holding premises	• Final report issued: June 2018 • Assurance: moderate • Recommendations: 1 medium, 1 low Review of policies required and monitoring delivery by APHA
Scotland	
Bee health	• Assurance: limited • Recommendations: 5 high, 4 medium
ABP	• Assurance: limited • Recommendations: 4 high, 2 medium
Beef labelling	Review taken to fieldwork stage. This has been paused and will be re-commenced in 2019.

Audit Programme	Conclusions/recommendations
Follow up report on 2017/18 OFFC Audits. These covered three main reviews: • Pesticides • GM Crops • Exotic disease Outstanding recommendations will be revisited in 2019	Pesticides: out of 3 recommendations, 2 were fully implemented and 1 high recommendation had not been implemented.
	GM Crops: out of 3 recommendations, 2 were fully implemented and 1 medium recommendation partly implemented
	Exotic Diseases: out of 2 recommendations 1 had been implemented in full and 1 partly implemented
Wales	
No audits were undertaken during 2018 – see section on Wales below for further information	
DAERA Northern Ireland	
Plant health	• Final report issued 21/02/2018 • Audit opinion: limited* • Recommendation: priority two * Internal Audit raised concerns on the setting of fees and charges for the NI Seed Potato Certification Scheme. Concerns on rebating of Tuber Inspection fees were also highlighted as the rationale for applying rebates was not clearly documented. A follow-up review was completed in May 2019 and concluded that the control framework had improved sufficiently to justify upgrading the audit opinion to 'satisfactory' from the 'limited' opinion previously given.
Trade, certification and training	• Final Report Issued 23/05/2018 • Audit opinion: limited* • Recommendations: 11 priority two; 4 priority three * Internal Audit raised concerns in regard to export certification of dairy and meat products and the appointment and oversight of Authorised Veterinary Inspectors (AVI's).
OFFC enforcement	• Final Report Issued: 16/08/2018 • Audit opinion: Satisfactory • Recommendations: 6 priority two; 4 priority three
Animal welfare	• Final report issued: 28/09/2018 • Audit opinion: satisfactory • Recommendations: 3 priority two
Portal controls	• Final report issued: 09/07/2018 • Audit opinion: satisfactory • Recommendations:1 priority three

Audit Programme	Conclusions/recommendations
ABP and TSE follow-up	• Final report issued: 12/06/2018 • Audit opinion: satisfactory • Recommendation: carried forward from previous report implemented
Exercise Blackthorn	• Final Report Issued: 09/11/2018 • Audit opinion: not provided as special exercise • Recommendations: 2 priority two; 3 priority three
Fish Health Inspectorate	• Final report issued: 17/12/2018 • Audit opinion: Satisfactory • Recommendations: 6 priority two; 3 priority three

Wales

3.17 Most official control responsibilities are delegated to either APHA, FSA or local authorities. European Funds Audit Team (EFAT) is responsible for undertaking audit work focusing on the few areas where Welsh Government has responsibility as well as audit work looking at the arrangements in place for oversight of delegated functions.

3.18 During 2018, EFAT has been working with Welsh Government colleagues to develop a revised five year OFFC audit plan. The development of this plan takes into account the UK wide review of OFFC assurance systems. Audits will focus on the effectiveness of controls in place, compliance with requirements and the identification of good practice.

3.19 During the latter part of 2018, initial planning commenced for the audit of cross compliance inspections, which included the communication to Welsh Government of results from inspections undertaken by APHA or VMD. The fieldwork for this audit was undertaken and completed in 2019.

3.20 Wales Audit Office are reviewing documentation sent to APHA to confirm 2018/19 funding awarded by Welsh Government to the National Bee Unit. There has been some discussion about how the grant award was agreed and then communicated to APHA.

Audit of control bodies

Audits and inspections of control bodies on animal health controls

Control tasks	Progress
APHA (1 January to 31 December 2018)	
Scrapie genotyping service under contract to Defra in support of the Great Britain Voluntary Scrapie Flocks Scheme and the CSFS	The Central Sequencing Unit (CSU), had the after audits, inspections, proficiency tests (EQA) and quality assurance: • NRL inspection on 22 Jan 2018. Eight recommendations were raised for the CSU. The inspectors found the CSU laboratory facilities continued to be maintained according to the NRL requirements. • APHA System Audit QMW18003 was carried out on CSU tests. 9 actions were raised in total with five on scrapie genotyping tests. Procedures and processes were seen to be fit for purpose and meeting the requirements for UKAS ISO 17025. • 3 vertical audits were completed. There were 9 actions raised for scrapie genotyping tests. Procedures and processes were seen to be fit for purpose and meeting the requirements for UKAS ISO 17025 and ISO9001. • 3 test audits were carried out in CSU on CSU scrapie genotyping tests SOPs in 2018. The SOPs were found to be fit for purpose and compiled with ISO17025. • Internal quality assurances were undertaken twice successfully in the year in March and October 2018. • Two VETQAs proficiency testing schemes were successfully completed: - Scrapie blood genotyping (EURL), Distribution 13247/SE PT0093 Feb 18 - Scrapie Tissue genotyping (NRL), Distribution 13368/SE PT0100 May 18 Two other EQA –previously done alongside Cellmark, were successfully completed in June 2018 and Jan 19 (part of 2018 plan).
Commercial transport carrier companies approved by Defra and audited by APHA to bring dogs, cats or ferrets to Great Britain 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)	33,646 cats, dogs and ferrets were moved into Great Britain on approved routes under the EU Pet travel Scheme[1]. 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 was carried out randomly at entry points. Where 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. Any non-compliances discovered during audit were addressed directly with the carrier concerned and additional training provided by APHA.

[1] gov.uk/take-pet-abroad/overview

Directorate F audits and missions

3.21 A general follow-up audit was undertaken by Directorate F between September and October 2018 – Progress made in the implementation of audit recommendations. Three of the four recommendations are now closed.

Chapter 4 – Resources

Number of control staff in the UK

4.1 The table below shows the total number of FTE staff involved in controls on food safety, animal and plant health and animal welfare in the UK as at 31 March 2019.

Authority	Full time equivalents (FTE)
FSA	1,643
FSS	255.2[56]
Local authorities	1,793
Defra	249.6
Welsh Government	118.25
Scottish Government	330.5
APHA	2,296.5
VMD	31
DAERA	303.28
HSE	5
RPA	264
Forestry Commission	26
Fera Science Ltd	72.2
Bee Health	81
Pirbright Institute	29
Cefas	56
MSS	34
Total	**7,588**

[56] This data excludes staff on maternity, paternity, adoption leave and does not include the contractor staff working for operations. This data includes contingent staff – agency workers, fixed term appointment, secondment and inward loan.

Chapter 5 – Actions taken to improve performance of competent authorities

Actions in the feed and food sectors

Local authority performance

5.1 In 2018, the FSA started to update and improve the way it obtains assurance of local authority delivery of official controls. This is underpinned by a separation of the audit and performance management functions. This will enable more targeted and flexible action to be carried out to address performance issues. It also means that the audit programme can be focused on providing assurance on the systems and processes in place across the whole of the food chain and whether these are appropriate for achieving the intended outcomes of the legislative requirements rather than on performance of individual local authorities.

5.2 In the second half of 2018/19, the new Performance Management Team carried out an assessment of the Local Authority Enforcement Management System (LAEMS) data. The data was assessed against a set of performance indicators for food hygiene, as part of a trial approach to track and address local authority performance. This approach, along with wider intelligence received throughout the year, identified concerns with the performance of 32 local authorities in England. These authorities were subject to more detailed assessment and follow up, including the monitoring and oversight of time bound action plans to address key performance issues.

UK review of cutting plant and cold stores

5.3 In 2018, the FSA and FFS undertook a joint review of cutting plants and cold stores after non-compliance issues were identified at several cutting plants during 2017 and early 2018. The review focussed on improving public confidence in the safety and authenticity of meat processed in the UK, and identifying improvements in the way this sector operates and is regulated. The review findings confirmed that the legislative and regulatory framework was largely fit for purpose, but identified ways to make the system more effective by encouraging industry to take more responsibility for food safety. Work is now underway on implementing the recommendations made.

Incidents and resilience

5.4 In 2018, as part of the Efficacy of Recalls and Withdrawals Project to review and improve food safety recalls and withdrawals in the UK, FSA and FSS published new Guidance on Food Traceability, Withdrawals and Recalls in the UK.

Revision of the Feed and Food Law Codes of Practice and associated Practice Guidance

5.5 A revised Feed Law Code of Practice (England) was issued in April 2018.The key changes were:

- a simplified animal feed law risk-rating scheme
- greater use of intelligence to inform the type and frequency of official controls to target resources more effectively
- reduced burdens on business by giving greater recognition to lower risk establishments that demonstrate satisfactory or broad levels of current compliance with feed law through:
  - the introduction of a National Targeted Strategy for low risk livestock and arable farms, implemented through the National Enforcement Priorities (NEPS)
  - changes to the frequency of official controls at feed businesses who are members of a recognised FSA approved assurance scheme
  - the removal of the two tier approach to Alternative Enforcement Strategies replaced with an official control intervention, every 10 years at certain establishments.

5.6 A review of the Feed Law Enforcement Guidance (Northern Ireland) and a review of the feed controls in Wales are planned for 2019/20, to align with the feed Code for England. In Scotland, a feed manual is being developed based on the feed Code as the rest of the UK, and this should be finalised for implementation of the new feed delivery model during 2019.

5.7 In 2018, a consultation on the Food Law Codes of Practice took place in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, and the following areas are being progressed for inclusion in a revised Code in 2019:

- changing to the new online service for the registration of new food businesses
- streamlining the Code, updating references to legislation, terminology and links
- additional guidance on communication of incidents and advice on food criminality
- updating qualification and competency requirements
- enhancing consistency of approach by authorised officers in delivering official controls.

5.8 A consultation was held in 2018 on proposed changes to the Food Law Code of Practice (Scotland). A revised version will be published in 2019.

Delivery of official feed law controls in England

5.9 In April 2018, the FSA shared its four-year animal feed official control delivery strategy for England with local authorities. This was informed by the findings of focussed audits, an internal review and the findings and recommendations of the UK Animal Feed Threat Assessment 2017. The overarching aim of the

strategy being to safeguard public and animal health by driving up sustained improvements in business compliance, through intelligence led enforcement.

Imported food

5.10 In 2018/19, additional controls on imported food were implemented. The FSA issued guidance on the application of the controls to authorised practitioners at points of entry for new and amended measures. It introduced, extension of the controls on betel leaves from Bangladesh under Commission Decision 2014/88/EU, and additional controls on pitahaya (dragon fruit) from Vietnam, curry leaves from India and vine leaves from Turkey for pesticide residues under Regulation (EU) 2018/1660.

Third country exports

5.11 During 2018, the FSA established a UK Local Authority Exports Working Group, comprising representatives from all UK competent authorities and stakeholders involved in the local authority export health certification process.

Food fraud and food crime

5.12 In May 2018, funding was secured to expand the size and remit of the FSA's National Food Crime Unit (NFCU). The aim is to increase its staffing from 22 full time equivalent to 82 by 1 April 2020. This will improve criminal intelligence capabilities and also provide a 4P response (Pursue, Prepare, Protect and Prevent) to the threats posed by food crime.

5.13 The NFCU continued to play a key leadership role internationally in the development of a response to food crime both within the EU and beyond. The Unit had an influential role in EU counter-fraud initiatives and in October 2018 established the Global Alliance on Food Crime to build capability and understanding in third countries.

5.14 NFCU's achievements in 2018/19 were:

- effective and ongoing discharge of the first criminal fraud investigation as part of the FSA's broader response to serious concerns identified at a small number of meat processing plants
- dissemination to other law enforcement agencies and local authority partners of more than 550 intelligence logs
- receipt and evaluation of more than 5,000 individual pieces of information through its public and industry reporting mechanisms
- successful delivery, with colleagues from FSS and in liaison with local and port health authorities, of the UK's contribution to the Annual International Initiative Operation OPSON
- series of meaningful interventions and outcomes to reduce the threat to consumers from DNP including the removal of online sales routes, engagement with overseas partners and two successful local authority prosecutions

- enhancement of the Unit's position internationally as a thought leader through the establishment and chairmanship of the Global Alliance on Food Crime (GAFC).

5.15 In 2018/19, the Unit's operational intelligence output continued to be dominated by efforts to address the illegal sale of the so call 'fat burning' drug 2,4 dinitrophenol (DNP) for human consumption.

5.16 The Scottish Food Crime and Incidents Unit (SFCIU) had been established for over three years. It had been created to provide leadership in the prevention, investigation, disruption and enforcement of food crime and in the management of food safety incidents nationally for Scotland.

5.17 SFCIU works with key partners to develop intelligence aimed at identifying serious threats faced in Scotland due to food crime and combatting those threats. These partners include local authorities, Police Scotland, HMRC, FSA and the Food Industry Intelligence Network (FIIN). Work continues to expand the SFCIU information sharing landscape.

5.18 Along with the FSA and FSA Northern Ireland, SFCIU was involved in developing a code of practice on whistleblowing for the Heads of European Food Safety Agencies (HOA).

5.19 FSS is also an active member of the Global Alliance on Food Crime that is intended to utilise law enforcement techniques, tactics and strategies in countering serious dishonesty in food supply chains.

Incident management protocols

5.20 During 2018/19, the FSA carried out over 30 incident related activities including exercises, drilling and training opportunities. These activities inform future exercise objectives and contributes to building surge capacity, improve incident response, resilience, preparedness and capability.

5.21 The FSS 2018/19 exercise programme included seven exercise events designed to provide opportunities to rehearse and interrogate current incident management arrangements after a non-routine incident, at strategic, tactical and operational levels.

5.22 FSS's new Incident Management Framework outlining incident management processes after feed and food incidents, was agreed in August 2018. Incidents are now classified as Levels, based on the impact of an incident that determines the resulting management structures to be established. These are: Level 1 (Routine), Level 2 (Serious), Level 3 (Severe) or Level 4 (Major).

5.23 During 2018/19, the FSA and FSS continued to jointly review and develop Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to support crisis management processes, 13 have been published. These are subject to regular reviews and supported by training and drilling to raise awareness and build surge capacity.

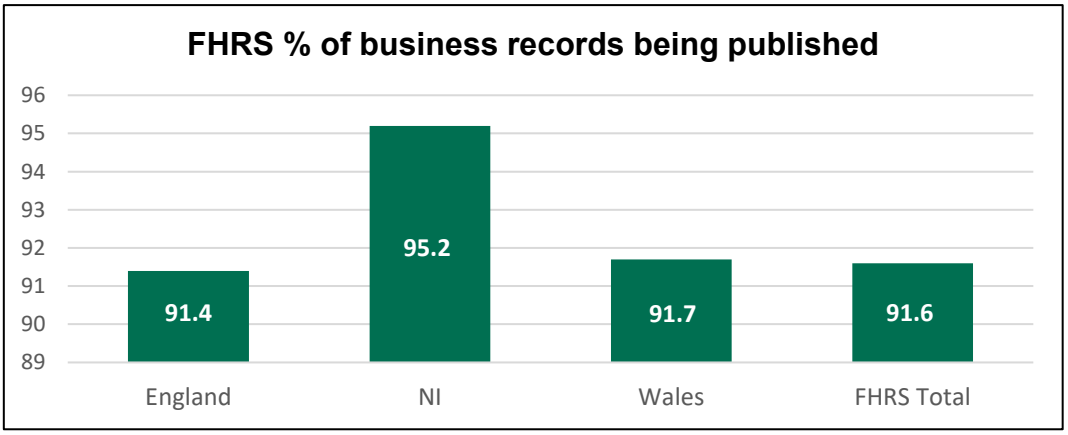
Central communication platform

5.24 In 2018/19, further developments were made to the FSA's Smarter Communications Platform This provides standardised and co-ordinated communications for local authorities in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, to promote FSA priorities and objectives.

Food Hygiene Rating / Food Hygiene Information Schemes

5.25 The FSA and FSS continue to work with local authorities to deliver the schemes. The Food Hygiene Rating Scheme (FHRS) is operated by all local authorities in England and is statutory in Wales and Northern Ireland. All local authorities in Scotland operate the Food Hygiene Information Scheme (FHIS).

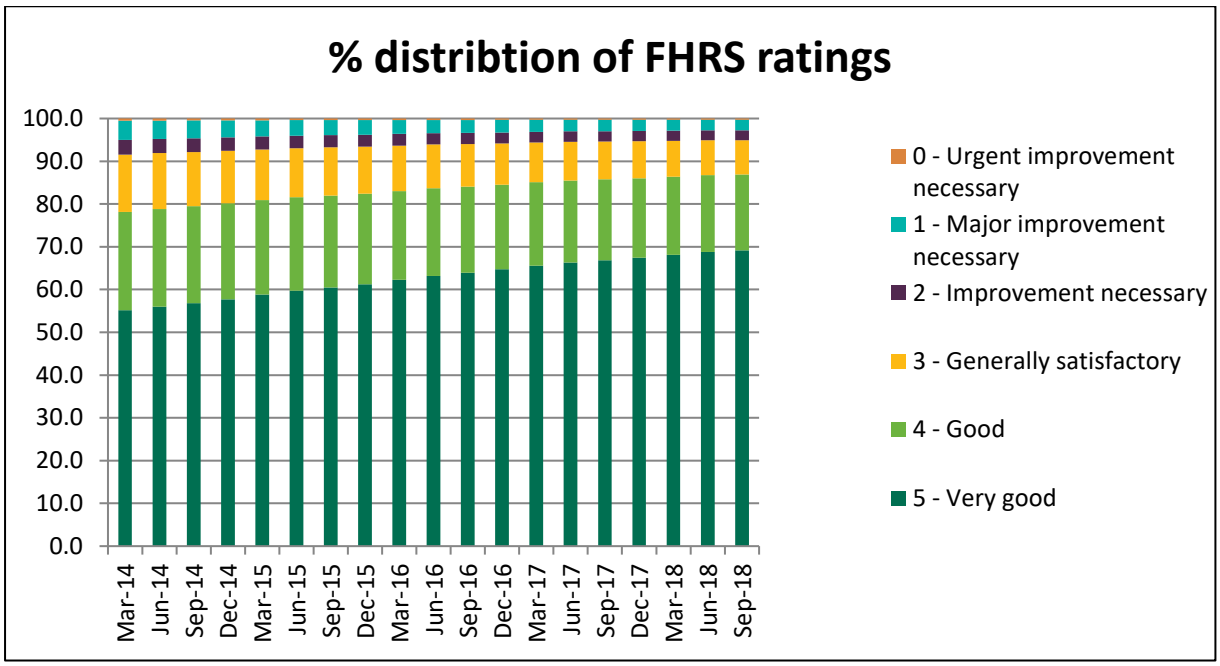
5.26 In 2018/19, FHRS information was available for approximately 479,000 food businesses. FHIS information was available for approximately 49,000 food businesses. An estimated 92% of businesses in England, Wales and Northern Ireland were within scope of the FHRS , compared to 91% in 2017/18. The chart below shows the percentage of business records published on food.gov.uk of those businesses within scope of the schemes as of December 2018.

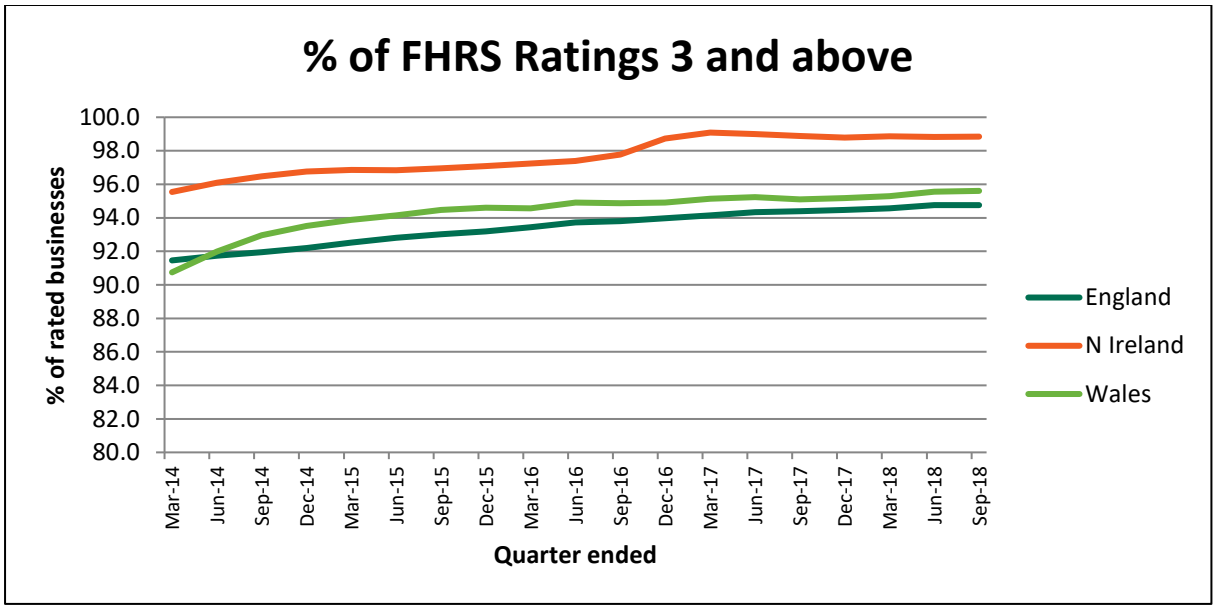


5.27 In Wales, a report on the review of the operation of the FHRS was published in February 2018. The report concluded that the scheme continued to be effective in raising consumer awareness of food hygiene standards. This provided an incentive for food businesses to improve compliance with food safety law, helping to reduce the risks to consumers from foodborne illness.

5.28 As part of the FSA's ongoing efforts to promote consistency in the application of the FHRS, a fourth national consistency exercise was run in 2018 for local authorities across England, Wales and Northern Ireland, in which more than 99% of local authorities participated.

5.29 The charts below show an increasing trend in businesses achieving an FHRS rating of three and above in England, Wales and Northern Ireland since March 2014:





5.30 FSA analysis reported in 2018 linked higher FHRS ratings to lower levels of microbes found in food businesses, ultimately lowering the risk to consumers of foodborne illness when eating food from higher rated premises.

Actions in the animal health and welfare and plant health and aquatic sectors

The Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD)

5.31 The VMD's Inspection Management System (IMS) database continued to improve and allows inspectors to log more detailed information on deficiencies.

Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance

5.32 The VMD in partnership with DHSC is responsible for the delivery of the UK 5-year Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Strategy 2013-2018, which has now been superseded by the five year National Action Plan to implement the 20-year Vision on containing and controlling AMR.

5.33 The VMD is the secretariat for the Defra Antimicrobial Resistance Co-ordination (DARC) group, a cross-government group that meets quarterly to discuss recent trends in antibiotic resistance in bacteria of importance to human and animal health. Four DARC meetings took place in 2018; summary minutes of which are available on the GOV.UK website.

5.34 The VMD funds the antibiotic susceptibility testing of bacteria of clinical relevance obtained from diagnostic samples from APHA's scanning surveillance programme in England and Wales. Also *Salmonella* spp. isolates obtained through the National Control Programmes and under the UK Zoonoses Order. Findings from the clinical surveillance in England and Wales are also published annually in the UK VARSS report.

Veterinary Residues Surveillance

5.35 The planning meeting for the 2019 National Residue Control Plan, was held in September 2018 attended by representatives of the NRLs, major contractors, FSA, APHA and two independent experts.

National Pesticide Residues Monitoring Programme

5.36 The Expert Committee on Pesticide Residues in Food (PRiF) made up of independent experts, met four times in 2018. Officials from HSE, Defra, FSA, Northern Ireland Executive and the Scottish Government attended these meetings. PRiF discussed and advised on plans for the 2019 National Pesticide Residues Monitoring Programme before being commissioned by HSE. In addition, they reviewed results from the 2107 and 2018 programme before these were published. The committee also held an open event where people could listen to presentations about the work of the committee and ask questions about pesticide residues in food. Attendees included members of the public, people from the food industry and farmers and growers.

Defra - Chief Veterinary Officers (CVOs) meetings

5.37 The CVOs from the four administrations met monthly in 2018 and were joined by senior veterinary officials from the APHA and the FSA. CVO's from the Isle Man, Guernsey and Jersey also attended the meetings on a six-monthly basis. These meetings focused on the technical and veterinary aspects of animal health and welfare policy and delivery, global threats to animal and public health, international trade and a formal report and assessment of risks to animal health and welfare. If risks identified were not considered to be sufficiently mitigated, they were escalated to the highest levels of the administrations for further action.

5.38 The group considered specific issues in greater depth as needed, including a continued overview of antimicrobial resistance, tracing of sheep in an outbreak and the new Livestock Identification Programme. It 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 CVOs and policy colleagues in the regular TB liaison group meetings.

The Veterinary Risk Group (VRG)

5.39 In 2018/19, 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.

5.40 During 2018/19, nine threats and vulnerabilities were raised and discussed. Six of these threats were of domestic concern, including feed ingredients and packaging as risk pathways for introduction of novel exotic and notifiable disease viruses to the UK and potential livestock health, welfare and production issues due to forage shortages in parts of the UK. Three threats of international concern were discussed, including two different threats to amphibians.

FSA – Animal Welfare

5.41 In September 2018, the FSA presented a board paper updating progress on its 'deter, prevent, detect, enforce' animal welfare action plan. The paper reiterated its commitment to zero tolerance on animal welfare breaches and outlined welfare activities in the four key areas of:

- strengthened verification of compliance
- improved accountability and collaboration
- improved education and awareness
- improved analysis and reporting.

5.42 The paper outlined the progress made against the FSA's Animal Welfare Action Plan. Key achievements in 2018/19 were:

- completion of a welfare themed audit
- joint work with Defra and industry in preparation for mandatory CCTV in slaughterhouses in England, including the development of guidance and a Q&A support document
- implementation of mandatory CCTV domestic legislation requirements in England on the 4 May with enforcement powers coming into force on the 5 November
- establishing a dedicated web page on food.gov for external facing welfare data and guidance with quarterly publication of non-compliance statistics
- joint work with industry on a guidance on catching and transport for the poultry industry
- completion of a survey on slaughter methods in England and Wales for Defra and Welsh Government.

Animal Health and Welfare Board for England

5.43 The Board is the principal source of departmental advice to Defra ministers on all strategic health and welfare matters, on all kept animals in England. Key responsibilities during 2018 included:

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

5.44 In 2018 the board met four times, and all meeting notes are published.

Animal Health and Welfare Frameworks

5.45 The Wales Framework sets out the long term plan for continuing improvements in standards of animal health and welfare for kept animals, and helping to protect public health and contributing to the economy and the environment.

5.46 The English Framework was updated in 2018 and provided local authorities with a set of practical principles to help them deliver their obligations under animal health and welfare legislation, in a way that:

- is responsive and accountable to local communities
- focuses on high risk activities to make best use of limited resources
- recognises why national consistency is important for businesses, the public and to protect against animal disease
- delivers controls that supports European and international trade agreements
- promotes collaborative working with other local authorities, delivery partners and industry.

5.47 The Frameworks set out the need to consider national priorities whilst retaining the flexibility of a risk-based approach and that could be adapted easily to suit the priorities of local communities. The national priorities are regularly discussed with the National Animal Health and Welfare Panel (NAHWP), and updated after consideration of available intelligence.

Working with local authorities

5.48 Defra and APHA continued to work with the local authorities' NAHWP to exchange and disseminate information and to identify and address common issues. The panel met quarterly, led by local authorities 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.

5.49 Local authorities direct their enforcement activity based on risk-assessments and intelligence. Local intelligence is logged on national databases where it can be analysed to identify local, regional or national trends. Details of intelligence and enforcement activity are routinely shared between local authorities, APHA and other agencies (where appropriate), which supports effective multi-agency targeting of enforcement activity.

5.50 In Wales, the Welsh Government established a collaborative structure, working in partnership with the Welsh Heads of Trading Standards to delivery animal health, welfare and animal establishment licensing legislation. The Partnership Delivery Plan delivers outcomes over and above the local authorities 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

5.51 Defra assesses risks to animal and plant health including aquaculture, bees and risks to the environment from non-native species. These risks constantly evolve as risk pathways change, 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 pre-border, at the border and within the UK. Monthly biosecurity meetings were held throughout 2018 to enable timely escalation of new and changing biosecurity risks. These meetings are held with senior officials and Ministers and provide strategic oversight and direction.

Risk assessment – understanding the risk

5.52 APHA continued to monitor the international disease situation and conducted and produced 24 preliminary outbreak assessments on a range of global outbreaks, including, African Swine fever (ASF),-*Bluetongue (BTV)*, Classical Swine Fever (CSF), *Avian Influenza), Newcastle disease (ND), Peste de Petits Ruminants (PPR) and West Nile Virus (WNV)*. Information on new outbreaks were communicated to the BIPs and BF to ensure that regulatory and anti-smuggling controls at the border were responsive to new or changing animal health risks and to focus on high risk routes and goods. Further information on monitoring for major, notifiable or new emerging animal disease outbreaks internationally and in the UK can be found on the website.

Bee health

5.53 In England and Wales, Defra and APHA continued to work in partnership with beekeeping stakeholders to deliver the objectives of the Healthy Bees Plan. Bee stakeholders, officials from Defra, APHA, Fera Science Ltd, the Welsh Government, and the Scottish Government met four times at the Bee Health Advisory Forum.[57] Topics included the Healthy Bees Plan review, stakeholder bee health training programmes and the future for food, farming and the environment, queen replacement strategies, bee research and contingency planning for exotic pests.

5.54 In Scotland, the Honey Bee Health Strategy, brings together all sectors of the beekeeping sector from frontline beekeepers, Scottish Government Bee Inspectors, scientists at SASA and policy makers. Implementation of the strategy involved representatives from the Scottish Beekeepers Association, Bee Farmers Association, Scotland's Rural College 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.

5.55 The Northern Ireland strategy for the sustainability of the Honey Bee is being reviewed. A new approach through a Honey Bee Health and Pollinater Strategy for Northern Ireland would be considered. During 2018 DAERA Plant Health Policy Branch continued to engage with the Ulster Beekeepers Association and the Institute of Northern Ireland Beekeepers in implementing the strategy.

Aquatic animal health

5.56 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.

5.57 In England and Wales, following the award of the Cabinet Office's Customer Service Excellence 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.

5.58 The FHI uses a monthly survey called 'customer thermometer' to assess stakeholders views of the quality of service provided. A total of 2490 customers were invited to respond to the survey with a 66% response rate. Of the responses received 87% rated the FHI service as excellent and 12% as good.

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

5.59 In Scotland, communication between Marine Scotland and internal and external organisations ensured appropriate co-operation and co-ordination for relevant cases throughout the year. During 2018, 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.

5.60 In Northern Ireland, the excellent lines of communication that exist between the DAERA FHI and the FHI at Cefas and Marine Scotland were again evident throughout 2018. The sharing of good practice and technical expertise had proved beneficial in the ongoing maintenance of a high fish health status.

5.61 Co-operation between DAERA and the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) in Ireland, in the areas of aquatic animal health and aquaculture, is regular and extensive. The various working and steering groups continued to meet in 2018.

5.62 Engagement between DAERA and the Marine Institute, the CA for fish health in Ireland, took place to discuss common aquatic health issues, such as fish movements and contingency planning.

5.63 The All Island Bottom Grown Mussel Consultative Forum that was established in 2009 to facilitate the management of the Seed Mussel Fishery on an all-island basis, met in May 2018. The Forum that is composed of officials from government departments, North and South, Scientists, Enforcers, the Irish Fisheries Board and the Aquaculture industry from all areas around the coast, makes recommendations on various aspects on the management of the Seed Mussel Fishery and provides a point of contact for the industry on emerging issues.

5.64 The North South Fisheries Liaison Group, DAERA and the Loughs Agency co-operates on a range of operational issues on inland fisheries management, policy, legislation and protection. The North South Standing Scientific Committee for Inland Fisheries supports this Group through the co-ordination and use of scientific resources for data collection and research projects.

5.65 DAERA, along with Bord Iascaigh Mhara (the Irish Fisheries Board), also co-funds the cross-border Aquaculture Initiative. This Group acts as the conduit between the aquaculture sector and government departments and agencies on a range of issues of interest to the sector, including aquatic health. Quarterly meetings between DAERA FHI and this Group were held throughout 2018.

5.66 DAERA co-sponsors the Loughs Agency, which is responsible for the inland 6fisheries of the Foyle and Carlingford Areas. This allows close cooperation and effective working in a wide range of areas, including aquatic animal health. A number of meetings between DAERA FHI and the Loughs Agency on aquatic health and aquaculture issues took place in 2018.

Plant health

5.67 Biannual meetings of the UK co-ordination group, including all UK territories, the Channel Isles and Isle of Man continued in 2018. These meetings discussed a range of topics, including Action Oak. This campaign's aim was to protect oak trees. UK governments and various organisations aimed to raise £15 million for research and monitoring to help safeguard the 121 million oaks in UK woodland.

5.68 In England and Wales, Plant Health and Seeds Inspectorate continued to co-ordinate their inspections with the RPA Inspectorate through the use of the PEACH notification system, which allocates inspections to each inspectorate thus reducing the risk of 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, so automating the release of goods when permitted by an inspector.

5.69 PHSI exchanges information with Port Health teams, the FC and UK Border Force when items of potential interest are found that may be of interest to other agencies. 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.

5.70 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.

5.71 Representatives from Defra, APHA PHSI, the devolved administrations, the FC Plant Health team, and FC Forest Research attended Defra Plant Health Risk group meetings in 2018. 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.

5.72 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 agreement and approval of the new label system by all parties, from April 2018 tamper proof security labels were supplied to all UK parties to be added to all issued phytosanitary certificates.

5.73 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. Where there are *Phytophthora* finding in the wider environment, clients are advised on biosecurity and appropriate measures to prevent spread.

5.74 Excellent co-operation 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.*

5.75 Co-ordination continued between APHA PHSI and Northern Ireland on domestic movement of plants. This co-operation also continues to include work on the bacterial disease *Xylella fastidiosa.*

5.76 In Northern Ireland, 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 being considered in conjunction with DAFM and stakeholders to determine the future control policy.

5.77 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.

5.78 Cefas FHI continued to use electronic collection of data during compliance and surveillance inspections of fish and shellfish farms across England and Wales using tablet technology. This technology removed the need for paperwork in the field, improved the validation of data collected and facilitated the real-time submission of data to the Starfish database.

5.79 To help improve engagement with stakeholders the FHI launched a Facebook page in 2015. Engagement with stakeholders increased since launch with over 3,900 followers. In 2018 the total number of views on the FHI page was 38,524, the Facebook page engaged on other newsfeeds 14,516 times and the FHI enforcement video viewed 98,970 times.

Training delivered by Competent Authorities

5.80 In 2018/19, the following training programmes, courses and exercises were organised and held across the different CAs.

CA	Course provider	Delivery method	Staff trained	Purpose of training
APHA	Epidemiology investigator	face-to- face	10	Field investigation for veterinary staff
APHA	Veterinary and science induction	face-to- face	54	General introduction
APHA	Tuberculosis induction	face-to- face	34	General introduction to tuberculosis
APHA	ABP induction	face-to-face	31	General introduction to ABP
APHA	Veterinary medicine induction	face-to-face	24	General introduction to veterinary medicine
APHA	Contingency planning induction	face-to-face	27	General Introduction to contingency
APHA	Veterinary public health induction	face-to-face	26	General Introduction to public health
APHA	Enforcement support training	face-to-face	12	Creating witness statements and delivering statements in a courtroom
APHA	Witness statement (WS) training	face-to-face	16	Improve quality of WS tailored to APHA requirements
APHA	Enforcement support	eLearning	7	Refresher
APHA	Core animal welfare	eLearning	24	Training on animal welfare and legislation
APHA	Cross compliance	eLearning	51	Inspect welfare of livestock and report findings
APHA	Welfare of gamebirds	face-to-face	22	Background on industry, disease and welfare assessments
APHA	Pigs and poultry post-mortem	face-to-face	66	Sampling, anatomy, post mortem, H&S, aetiology and pathogenesis of swine fevers, avian influenza and Newcastle disease
APHA	Pigs and poultry post-mortem	eLearning	85	Refresher for above
APHA	H&S for laboratory and animal facility workers	face-to-face	86	Understanding of safe laboratory practices
APHA	Cattle handling	face-to-face	22	Behaviours of and safe handling of cattle

CA	Course provider	Delivery method	Staff trained	Purpose of training
APHA	Contingency planning for disease outbreak	face-to-face	100	Poultry culling, case officer training, field operations manager training and forward operating base manager training.
APHA	Pilot for outbreak of disease	face-to-face	9	Familiarisation on completion of disease inquiry and control tasks.
APHA	Livestock industry awareness	face-to-face	10	Working knowledge of UK livestock industry and ensuring effective interaction with farmers and industry.
APHA	Plant health imports refresher	face-to-face	25	Enforcing import controls on plant material entering the UK from third countries.
APHA	Train the trainer (outbreaks)	face-to-face	9	Build staff experience supporting the technical field outbreak training team in developing or delivering training.
APHA	Equine handling	face-to-face	26	Border Patrol to safely and confidently handle equines and also methods of safe handling, restraint techniques and equipment.
APHA PHSI	Technical training courses provided for Inspectors by APHA PHSI	face-to-face	Multiple	Skills including identifying quarantine pests and diseases, processing imports, exports and plant passports.
Cefas FHI	In-house refresher training for FHI	face-to-face	21	Continued compliance with international quality standards ISO/IEC 17025 and ISO 9001
DAERA Aquatic Health	Introduction to arc GIS mapping and contingency planning	face-to-face	5	Building familiarity with GIS mapping and contingency planning
Defra APHA	Eradication of the Ips typographus	face-to-face	Multiple	For inspectors and operatives involved with the eradication of the Ips typographus outbreak in Kent
Defra NBU	Bee health – New inspector training	face-to-face	5	Field based training with competent Inspectors and supervised working

CA	Course provider	Delivery method	Staff trained	Purpose of training
Defra NBU	City and Guilds Level 2 award in bee health management and safe use of veterinary medicines	face-to-face	Multiple	Qualification in bee health and associated Veterinary Medicines
Defra NBU	Field-based contingency exercises for potential exotic threats to apiculture	face-to-face	60	Field based training to assess exotic pests
Defra NBU	NBU annual technical workshop	face-to-face	60	Wide ranging update on topics on bee health
FSA	Application of feed and food law	eLearning & face-to-face	Multiple	To support officers in consistent and accurate application of feed and food law
FSA	Better training for Safer Food (BTSF)	eLearning & face-to-face	191	Improved understanding of feed and food law, animal health and welfare and plant health
Marine Scotland (FHI)	Post Graduate Certificate in Aquatic Animal Health	face-to-face	5	Course in aquatic health at University of Stirling
Marine Scotland (FHI)	Gyrodactylus salaris contingency planning and working group	face-to-face	34	Building familiarity with Salmon fluke contingency planning for Scotland

Working across the EU

Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF)

5.81 In 2018, the UK issued a total of 353 RASFF notifications, comprising 74 rapid alerts, 193 border rejection notifications and 86 information notices.

Emergency and contingency planning

Animal health

5.82 There were no exotic animal disease outbreaks in the 2018. However, post import screening detected several non-compliant consignments of animals originating from the EU, with some of them testing positive for Bluetongue virus. Affected animals were rapidly culled and bio-securely disposed of and surveillance carried out in line with the Great Britain Disease Control Strategy for Bluetongue virus.

5.83 In September 2018, two cases of Monkey Pox Virus (MPXV) were detected in humans arriving from Africa. This was the first time the disease had been detected in Western Europe. Human quarantine measures were applied. One of the infected parties owned a dog that had been potentially exposed to the infection. APHA worked closely with other operational partners to assess potential risks of the dog being infected. After a period of surveillance under home quarantine, the dog was released.

5.84 In October 2018, APHA confirmed a case of classical BSE in Aberdeenshire, Scotland. This case was identified through the UK active surveillance system, as required by the domestic and European law. It was the first case of classical BSE since 2015 to be confirmed in the UK. Restrictions were served and an epidemiological investigation undertaken. The epidemiological report was published in April 2019. Detailed investigations have not revealed a plausible source of infection for this Born After the Reinforced Feed Ban (BARB) case, nor any evidence or other cause for concern that statutory official BSE/Feed controls have been breached at any point on the Feed BARB case or its herd of origin.

5.85 The responses demonstrated that the contingency plans and control strategies were effective in responding to and controlling the disease. They also demonstrate the close working partnerships across the various operational partners involved.

5.86 APHA has a well-developed, centrally co-ordinated exercise programme, where local offices carry out or participate in at least one local exercise each year. In 2017/18, local exercises were used to feed into the national exercise: Exercise Blackthorn.

5.87 Exercise Blackthorn was to test the four UK governments' contingency plans for a UK-wide, medium to large outbreak of FMD. It tested the new APHA outbreak model, response structures, disease confirmation and control processes, internal communications, cross-government collaboration, engagement with stakeholders, and outbreak recovery. It consisted of three strategic level national table tops and a two-day real-time simulation. The internal Emergency Readiness Management Assurance Scheme mechanism and the exercise programme allowed staff to complete simulated tests of outbreak governance, processes, decision making and the mobilisation of services. An evaluation and lessons identified report was released in November 2018. Work is now underway to implement lessons learnt.

5.88 In England, Defra's contingency plan for Exotic Notifiable Diseases of Animals was reviewed as required by the Animal Health Act 2002 and published in November 2018.

5.89 In 2018 the Welsh Government participated in the UK Foot and Mouth Disease Exercise Blackthorn. The Welsh Government Contingency Plan for Exotic Animal Diseases was reviewed and updated in 2018 to reflect the lessons learned from previous outbreaks, the national exercise, and in light of changes to APHA's outbreak model. Disease response capability assessments were undertaken with local authorities and operational partners and a report was submitted to the Outbreak Readiness Board.

5.90 In 2018, the Scottish Government participated in the UK Foot and Mouth Disease Exercise Blackthorn, as well as the Scottish Avian Influenza Exercise Juniper. It supported the West of Scotland Regional Resilience Partnership with the content and planning of a local authority led Foot and Mouth Diseases training event. The content will be shared with other local authorities and Resilience Partnerships to support local authorities contingency planning for exotic animal disease outbreaks.

5.91 Disease response capability assessments are being undertaken with local authorities and operational partners and a report will be submitted to the Outbreak Readiness Board. All contingency plans and associated frameworks[58], continue to be reviewed in light of changes to APHA's outbreak model and will be republished in 2019. The Scottish Government is also participating in the planning for a joint government and poultry industry workshop on cleansing and disinfection. Planning is also underway for a further Scottish avian influenza exercise focused on hatcheries (Exercise Hazel), which is scheduled to take place this autumn.

5.92 The Scottish Government is reviewing their guidance on biosecurity and expect to have this published late 2019. Alongside this work, other supporting information for all government funded staff will also be updated, with online training. Template documents for owners/operators of premises with livestock will be updated and made available, allowing them to create and hold their own contingency plan for the outbreak of a notifiable disease.

[58] The Scottish Government's Exotic Diseases of Animals Contingency Framework Plan, the Scottish Regional Resilience Partnerships' Framework for Exotic Notifiable Animal Diseases; and the Scottish Government Exotic Diseases of Animals Communications Strategy.

5.93 In Northern Ireland, during 2018, a 'poultry day' provided field veterinary officers and technical staff with updates on avian influenza and other important notifiable poultry diseases, and roles and responsibilities in an AI outbreak. Locally based cascade training on notifiable diseases of poultry and pigs, were delivered to veterinary, technical and policy teams. DAERA joined the national UK wide foot and mouth exercise, Exercise Blackthorn, which tested DAERA contingency plans and preparedness for dealing with an outbreak.

5.94 Exercise Anser, a desktop exercise involving DAERA and a large broiler producer, tested the contingency arrangements, using a hypothetical AI outbreak scenario. Familiarisation and training of new staff with emergency roles within the Central Epizootic Disease Control Centre.

Bee health

5.95 In England and Wales, after the first confirmed incursions of the Asian Hornet, *Vespa velutina* in England in 2016/17*,* there has been 9 further incursions during 2018. 4 nests were discovered and destroyed. Sustained surveillance in these areas revealed no further nests, surveillance will continue in 2019 to monitor and respond to outbreaks. Lessons from the outbreak response were taken forward to refine contingency planning protocols. Exercises were also used as a key element of practicing contingency response and training new inspectors.

5.96 In Scotland, 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 Scottish Government partners and stakeholders, which will include contingency arrangements for both notifiable diseases and pests.

5.97 In Northern Ireland, the DAERA Bee Health Contingency Plan is reviewed on a regular basis and the department is content that it would meet their needs in an emergency situation. The plan will be reviewed in 2019.

Aquatic animal health

5.98 Contingency plans[59] for the control of exotic disease outbreaks are reviewed annually and the relevant operational manuals updated.

5.99 In England and Wales, a contingency exercise: Exercise Galatea, took place in February 2018, designed to test lines of communication between participants. This was followed by a lessons-learned process, where areas for improvement were identified and actioned, resulting in a comprehensive review of the FHI contingency plans for 2019.

[59] Directive 2006/88/EC requires publication of contingency plans for exotic aquatic animal diseases.

5.100 In Scotland, contingency plans were not required to be implemented in 2018. Took part in the UK contingency exercise: 'Exercise Galatea'. Updates and developments to contingency plans and procedures are an ongoing process, as part of Marine Scotland's readiness and preparation for outbreaks of listed disease.

5.101 In Northern Ireland, DAERA's fish disease contingency plans provide for trans-border arrangements with Ireland. Contingency plans were not required to be activated in 2018. A review of the Plans, which commenced in late 2018, is underway.

Plant Health

5.102 In England and Wales, 21 plant heath contingency plans have been published, 14 by the FC and 7 by Defra. Defra published contingency plans for the bacterial plant pathogen *Xylella fastidiosa* in May 2018. The plan for glasshouse finds of the bacterial plant pathogen *Candidatus Liberibacter solanacearum* was published in June 2018.

5.103 APHA supported the European Plant Protection Organisation by helping to organise an international plant health contingency planning exercise in Serbia, in December 2018. The scenario for the exercise was based around an outbreak of pinewood nematode, *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus.* Representatives from FC England, SASA and Defra took part in the exercise.

5.104 Scotland has its own generic plant health contingency plan and specific contingency plans for *Potato brown rot* and *Potato ring rot*. They are in the process of updating their generic plan to align with the Generic Contingency Plan for Plant and Bee Health in England and other national plans. A contingency planning 'roles and responsibilities' workshop was held in November 2018, to familiarise staff with the terminology/structure that will be used when the plan is published. Defra, FC cross border and Scottish Government produced some pest-specific plans, which have been posted on the UK Plant Health Portal.

5.105 Plant Health Inspection Branch (PHIB) drafted a specific response plan for *Xylella fastidiosa*, following publication of the DAERA generic contingency plan for Northern Ireland plant health in July 2017. Liaison with officials in the Republic of Ireland on trans-boundary emergency responses continued at meetings of North South Plant Health Steering Group. PHIB also undertook monthly internal review of specific response plans, to update team procedures and resourcing as relevant to each risk.

Chapter 6 - Actions taken to improve the performance of business operators

Feed and food sectors

Advice, campaigns and guidance

6.1 **Allergens:** guidance was issued on allergens for food businesses in the retail and catering industry, which includes information on 14 allergens and advice on handling allergens in the kitchen.

6.2 Businesses that supply or produce food on the move: **this guidance** was issued in 2018 and provides advice on transporting food, moveable and temporary premises; food businesses found in domestic premises, along with general hygiene advice.

6.3 **Food brokers**: guidance was updated in 2018 and is to help food brokers understand their obligations under food law, including the need to register as a food business.

6.4 **Safe Summer Food and Season's Eatings**: the FSA continued to build awareness of the 4Cs of food hygiene: cleaning, cooking, chilling and avoiding cross-contamination. Particularly focusing on clearing common misconceptions around barbecuing in the summer and turkey preparation around Christmas. Media reached 24% of all UK adults. A range of organisations shared the messaging including retailers, Mumsnet and universities.

6.5 **National Food Safety Week:** In 2018, the FSA focussed on the work of its staff and thousands of others across the food supply chain working behind-the-scenes, to ensure that food is safe and what it says it is. The aim was to increase trust in the FSA and wider food industry. FSA's social media content had high engagement and media coverage reached 22% of all adults and was 100% positive.

6.6 **Allergens Campaign: Easy to ASK:** in October 2018, the FSA launched a campaign called 'Easy to ASK', to raise awareness of the allergen labelling information, particularly to help young adults be more confident when asking about information when ordering food. The campaign scored well above the set KPIs and also won the UK government Campaign of the month (November 2018). The FSA also ran a seasonal extension of the campaign for Valentine's Day, which reached over 1.2 million people.

6.7 **'Fresh Thinking on Food' (March 2018):** around 200 delegates from around the globe attended FSS's first food conference. There were presentations on the future of food, impact on retailers, emerging trends in consumer attitudes to food, and industry challenges and opportunities. There were also interactive sessions, focussing on food safety and controls. FSS also attended events such as Taste of Grampian, the Royal Highland Show, Freshers' Fairs, and Scottish Learning Festival, to raise awareness of food safety best practice.

6.8 **'Food In Scotland' Consumer Tracking Survey (October 2018):** a rolling survey which measures changes in attitudes and knowledge in Scotland on food, including food safety and healthy eating. This highlighted that healthy eating remains a top concern for people in Scotland and nearly half agreed that affordability is a barrier to healthy eating.

6.9 **Great Turkey Defrost (December 2018):** a week before Christmas, FSS filmed a frozen turkey defrosting in the fridge, live on Facebook. This was a quirky way to show the potential health risks of failing to defrost turkey properly. It achieved high engagement on social media, increased web visits to the turkey cooking page and few hits with Scottish broadcasters.

6.10 **No To Upsizing (launch in June 2018 and re-launch in March 2019):** a marketing campaign to encourage people in Scotland to say 'no to upsizing', after research showed 45% of people in Scotland do not think about the extra calories from upsizing. It highlighted the calorie difference from upsizing and potential weight gain and ran across TV, online, press and social media. Re-launch used a scenario which could lead to 10lb weight gain in one year.

Animal health, animal welfare and plant health sectors

Advice, campaigns and guidance

6.11 In June 2018, the FSA published guidance for officers and the poultry industry on catching and transportation related welfare incidents. It identified common issues seen during catching and transportation and clarified good practice in recording and reporting animal welfare non-compliances on these issues.

6.12 In November 2018, the FSA produced guidance for officers and the meat industry on on-farm slaughter of fractious animals. It clarified the requirements for emergency slaughter, instructions to be followed and documentation to be completed when fractious animals are slaughtered at the place of origin and transported to slaughterhouses for processing for human consumption.

6.13 In October 2018, the FSA produced a Q&A on the implementation of mandatory CCTV in slaughterhouses in England for officers and the meat industry.

6.14 During 2018, DAERA Bee Inspectorate provided input to the UBKA winter workshops, presented the findings of 2017 inspections and emphasising the importance of checking colonies and reporting anything suspicious to DAERA.

6.15 Six workshops were rolled out to experienced beekeepers from UBKA and Institute of Northern Ireland Beekeepers, at identifying brood diseases in honey bee colonies. This was 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.

6.16 During 2018, AFBI processed 87 samples and attended beekeeping meetings to provide information on diseases and non-indigenous pests (especially since foulbrood outbreaks and the finding of the Asian Hornet in Great Britain). AFBI circulated a questionnaire to beekeepers about overwintering losses. The data was provided to the CoLoss project, which produces colony loss maps for Europe

6.17 The UK Plant Health Information Portal continued to be a shared resource providing information on plant pests and diseases, including the government's assessments of pest risk. The data underpinning those assessments is included in the portal.

6.18 The Defra led plant health biosecurity awareness campaign 'Don't risk it' was launched in 2018, aimed at growers, the public and the UK plant nursery trade. Posters promoting the campaign have been installed at UK points of entry and taken up across our nursery network and in our national and gardening press.

6.19 In 2018, a gold medal was awarded to the 'Action Oak' garden at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show. The garden highlighted Action Oak, a major campaign to protect the oak trees from threats including pests and diseases. The campaign was officially launched at the 2018 show.

6.20 VMD encourages responsible antibiotic use and stewardship through various communication campaigns. This included training through the Better Training for Safer Food courses, giving lectures to veterinary undergraduates, providing material for targeted media initiatives (such as for the annual World Antibiotic Awareness Week in November), and hosting workshops on surveillance and drivers behind veterinary prescribing.

6.21 In 2018, the VMD was awarded by the British Poultry Council, in recognition of their leadership in the field of antibiotic stewardship. This included helping the council with their usage data collection activities at species level and working to share best practice and promote responsible antibiotic use.

Abbreviations and acronyms

AAT	Audit Assurance Team
ABP	Animal By-Products
AFB	American Foul Brood
AFBI	Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute
AIC	Agricultural Industries Confederation
AMR	Antimicrobial Resistance
APB	Aquaculture Production Business
APHA	Animal and Plant Health Agency
AQU	Approved Quarantine Unit
ASMS	Atypical Scrapie Monitoring Scheme
ASP	Amnesic Shellfish Poisoning
BARB	Born After the Reinforced Feed Ban
BF	Border Force
BIP	Border Inspection Post
BKD	Bacterial Kidney Disease
BSE	Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathies
bTB	Bovine TB
BTSF	Better Training for Safer Food
CA	Competent Authority
Cefas	Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science
CN	Combined Nomenclature
CSFS	Compulsory Scrapie Flock Scheme
CSU	Central Sequencing Unit
CVO	Chief Veterinary Officer
DAERA	Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (Northern Ireland)
DAFM	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
DARC	Defra Antimicrobial Resistance Co-ordination Group
Defra	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
DHSC	Department of Health and Social Care
DNB	Dothistroma Needle Blight
EBL	Enzootic Bovine Leukosis
EEA	European Economic Area
EFAT	European Funds Audit Team
EFB	European Foulbrood
EFSA	European Food Safety Authority
EU	European Union
EUS	Epizootic Ulcerative Syndrome
FC	Forestry Commission
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
FSA	Food Standards Agency
FSS	Food Standards Scotland
FTE	Full Time Equivalent
GIAA	Government Internal Audit Agency
GM	Genetically Modified
GMO	Genetically Modified Organism
HACCP	Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point

HIN	Hygiene Improvement Notice
HMRC	HM Revenue and Customs
HRA	High Risk Area
HSE	Health and Safety Executive
IRM	Identification, Movement and Registration
KHV	Koi Herpesvirus
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
LA	Local Authority
LAEMS	Local Authority Enforcement Monitoring System
LT	Lipophilic Toxins
MANCP	Multi-Annual National Control Plan
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MPL	Maximum Permitted Level
MRL	Maximum Residue Level
MS	Member State
NAHWP	National Animal Health and Welfare Panel
NBU	National Bee Unit
NCP	National Control Plan
NFCU	National Food Crime Unit
NRL	National Reference Laboratory
NSAID	Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drug
NTS	National Trading Standards
OFFC	Official Feed and Food Controls
OTF	Officially Tuberculosis Free
OTFW	Officially Tuberculosis Free Withdrawn
OV	Official Veterinarian
OVS	Official Veterinary Surgeon
PCB	Polychlorinated Biphenyl
PCN	Potato Cyst Nematode
PCR	Polymerase Chain Reaction
PEACH	Procedure for Electronic Application of Certificates
PFN	Protected Food Name
PHIB	Plant Health Inspection Branch
PHSI	Plant Health and Seeds Inspectorate
PPDS	Pre-packaged for Direct Sale
PPS	Public Prosecution Service
PRiF	Pesticide Residues in Food
PSNI	Police Service of Northern Ireland
PSP	Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning
PSTVd	Potato Spindle Tuber Viroid
PZ	Protection Zone
RAN	Remedial Action Notice
RASFF	Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed
RDM	Raw drinking milk
RLs	Regional Laboratories
RPA	Rural Payments Agency
RTE	Ready-to-eat
SFA	Specified Feed Additive
SFCIU	Scottish Food Crime and Incidents Unit
SG	Scottish Government
SG ARE	Scottish Government Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate
SHBHS	Scottish Advanced Honey Bee Health Standard
SMR	Statutory Management Requirement
SNCP	Salmonella National Control Programme

SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
SPCS	Seed Potato Classification Scheme
SRM	Specified Risk Material
TB	Tuberculosis
TBEP	Tuberculosis Eradication Partnership
TBSPG	Tuberculosis Strategic Partnership Group's (TBSPG)
TSE	Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy
UBKA	Ulster Beekeepers Association
UK	United Kingdom
UKAS	United Kingdom Accreditation Service
VARSS	Veterinary Antimicrobial Resistance and Sales Surveillance
VMD	Veterinary Medicines Directorate
VMP	Veterinary Medicinal Products
VRG	Veterinary Risk Group
VSID	Veterinary Service Investigation Database
WATOK	Welfare of Animals at Time of Killing
WEB	Welfare and Enforcement Branch
WG	Welsh Government
WG EERA	Welsh Government Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs