

Annex 1

The Animal Welfare Steering Group monitors outstanding actions and identifies new activities on an ongoing basis as part of its governance and oversight role.

1. ANIMAL WELFARE ACTION PLAN – COMPLETED 31/8/17 to 31/8/18

Strengthening verification and compliance

Action	Description
Establish a programme of themed audits and communicate the results	2018 Welfare Themed Audit and analysis of the results completed July 2018. Recommendations will be shared with the Partnership Working Group in the autumn.
Use of CCTV for animal welfare monitoring	Restricted viewing survey completed and corrective action taken in the affected premises.
	FSA Workshop held to consider Defra CCTV consultation and detailed FSA response to consultation provided in September 2017. Following drafting of the legislation hosted Workshop with Defra and industry in April 2018 to understand requirements of the draft legislation. Produced Q&As to clarify points in the Defra Guidance which supports the legislation.
Bovine Restraint Boxes	Finalised the review of all premises with Bovine Restraint Boxes to verify that they are working in compliance with the legislation. Following the review FSA wrote to all business operators with Bovine Restraint Boxes not currently in use reminding them they require re-assessment before use.
Establish dedicated location for external facing guidance	In May 2018 the dedicated FSA Animal Welfare web page on food.gov went live and can be found at the following link: https://www.food.gov.uk/business-guidance/animal-welfare

Clarifying accountability and improving collaboration

Action	Description
Improved working with Business Operators on animal welfare	Joint working with Defra, DAERA and Poultry Industry to review accuracy and consistency of welfare reporting data (first meeting 7 September)
	Finalised a guidance for authorised officers and the poultry industry on catching and transport related welfare incidents. The FSA worked closely with representatives from the poultry industry in production of the guide. The guide identifies common issues seen during catching and transportation and clarifies good practice in recording and reporting animal welfare non-compliances relating to these issues. The guidance was published in June 2018.

	Using the Welfare Assurance Team, completed the planned annual programme of targeted visits and ad hoc projects including assistance on the animal welfare survey.
Animal Welfare SLA	Successfully negotiated an uplift of £120k from Defra and Welsh Government for animal welfare controls. The uplift will provide funding for CCTV set up costs and enforcement (Defra only), the annual themed audit, the cost of recording and referring non compliances and welfare enforcement.

Improving education and instruction

Action	Description
Analysis of known animal welfare problems to enable targeting of specific issues	Post-implementation exercise to identify improvements following poultry crate guidance publication is part of the 2018 Welfare Themed Audit results, to be shared in the autumn.
Use of CCTV for animal welfare monitoring	Publication of Q&As to sit alongside the Defra Guidance on the legislation.
Improved working with Business Operators on animal welfare	Publication of catching and transport guidance for the poultry industry, together with update of the Manual for Official Controls.
	Worked with poultry industry to trial catching processes and assess impact on animal welfare relating to broken legs. Industry conducted the trial, the report found negligible difference in different processes, in a sample of over 500,000 birds.

Better analysis and reporting

Action	Description
Strengthening of monitoring and reporting on animal welfare standards	The animal welfare and enforcement monitoring system (Chronos) has now been operating for over 12 months and any refinements to the system are part of business as usual. We have published one year's animal welfare data from Chronos covering the period 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018 and this can be found at the following link: https://www.food.gov.uk/business-guidance/animal-welfare#reports-of-our-checks
	In February 2018 we conducted an animal welfare survey in all operating slaughterhouses in England and Wales. This survey was done on behalf of Defra and Welsh Government and the final report was submitted to them in August 2018. The survey ran for a one week period and gathered information on where animals are sourced from, how they are slaughtered and where the meat is sent to, including exports. We also asked which third party assurance schemes business operators are members of. We achieved a 100% response rate. Defra intend to publish the results in the autumn.

	<p>Using data from Chronos and APHA we have been able to analyse a year's worth of data and separate out welfare incidents by slaughterhouse, on farm and in transit.</p>
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2. ANIMAL WELFARE ACTION PLAN – 01/09/18 ONWARDS

Strengthening verification and compliance

Action	Description
Establish a programme of themed audits and communicate the results	Produce final report form 2018 Welfare Themed Audit and present to interested parties and stakeholders. Carry out 2019 Animal Welfare Themed Audit .
Use of CCTV for animal welfare monitoring	Finalise guidance for enforcement approach to non-compliant businesses in time for implementation date of 5 November. From September, the Welfare Assurance Team will provide regular compliance reports for FSA field operations and Defra during transition period.

Clarifying accountability and improving collaboration

Action	Description
Support across departmental policy and implementation	Continue to contribute to working groups and discussions around traceability of meat and, in particular, methods of slaughter information.
	Present at the October Public Policy Exchange on animal welfare and initiate discussion on reversible stun and its acceptability for religious non stun slaughter, sharing information on practices in New Zealand and other countries which accept reversible stun.
	Develop and enhance the reporting systems to underpin the service standards for quality and frequency of referral feedback from APHA and Trading Standards on animal welfare incidents on farm and in transit.
Animal Welfare SLA	Continue to negotiate with Defra and Welsh Government for additional funding to cover welfare costs. In particular post CCTV implementation we will review post set-up costs and enforcement and legal team costs.
Improved working with Business Operators on animal welfare	Continue to work with the poultry industry to improve catching and transportation welfare issues
	New annual programme of targeted visits and ad hoc projects for the Welfare Assurance Team including CCTV compliance

Improving education and instruction

Action	Description
Analysis of known animal welfare problems to enable targeting of specific issues	Following results of the Animal Welfare Themed Audit 2018 we will refresh the poultry crate guidance and do a follow up review of its use in 2019.
Use of CCTV for animal welfare monitoring	Once all guidance for CCTV is complete, update the Manual for Official Controls
Improved working with Business Operators on animal welfare	Following conclusion of the catching assessment, we will conduct assessments to see if leg fractures in poultry are caused by handling or hanging operations and whether fracture levels at premises using different stun methods affect numbers of leg fractures.

Better analysis and reporting

Action	Description
Strengthening of monitoring and reporting on animal welfare standards	Publication of the Defra/Welsh Government animal welfare survey expected Autumn 2018
	Continue to publish quarterly animal welfare statistics on food.gov
	Provide data and analysis for Business Committee Report in May 2019