

Animal Welfare Update Paper Annexes

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 – actions completed 01/08/19 to 01/08/20

Strengthening verification and compliance

Action	Description
Conduct Animal Welfare themed audit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Developed audit framework in liaison with Defra and Welsh Government – Agreed scope and timeline – Conducted audit – Produced final report – Communicated results and recommendations
2020/2021 Animal Welfare Service Level Agreement (SLA) to be finalised	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – SLA agreed with Defra and Welsh Government – Key Performance Indicators developed and agreed
Evaluate the usefulness of mandatory CCTV regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Conducted analysis of the usefulness of live and retrospective CCTV viewing on the identification of non-compliances – Conducted analysis of the use of CCTV footage as evidence for non-compliance and Certificate of Competence (CoC) enforcement – Presented the data to FSA board
Support industry during Covid-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Consulted with industry on issues faced with temporary and learner staff during Covid-19 – Develop 'exceptional circumstances' Temporary CoC application guidance

Clarifying accountability and improving collaboration

Action	Description
Produce guidance on captive-bolt stunning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Consulted with industry and Bristol University – Based on latest scientific research, developed and produced guidance on captive-bolt stunning and signs of unconsciousness in adult bovines
Enhance the animal welfare database	Referrals to competent authorities for enforcement of farm and transport non-compliances are now automated from the database

<p>Joint Working with Industry</p>	<p>Meeting with white/red meat industry sectors on a regular basis. Based on industry feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Conducted a review of the process for referring cases for potential prosecution – Conducted a review of the of the process for revocation of Certificates of Competence <p>Sharing data with industry and NFU regarding downstream non-compliances (farm and transport) identified at slaughterhouses</p>
<p>Implementation of Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009, Annex II Changes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Workshop with industry in October – Q&A issued in October – Enforcements methodology developed, to secure speedy compliance whilst accounting for technical and environmental challenges (electrical stunners, Covid-19)

Improving education and instruction

Action	Description
<p>CoC Suspensions and Revocations</p>	<p>Improved CoC Suspensions and Revocations MOC guidance and developed two new letter templates.</p>
<p>Animal Welfare Verification Protocol</p>	<p>Animal Welfare Verification protocol form was revised and published in February. Includes: Plans and frequency for verifying Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and Business Operator (BO) monitoring records. Methodology of verification activities (equipment, length of time, record). Annex I key parameters for methods of stunning used (and BO procedures)</p>
<p>SOPs – SOP Manual for Official Controls (MOC) guidance to be expanded</p>	<p>MOC guidance was expanded to include a summary of main aspects to be included within SOPs. Aide memoire annex to the MOC was also produced</p>
<p>Guidance on the restraint of cattle for slaughter</p>	<p>Issued Tec Files guidance on the restraint of cattle for slaughter in December</p>
<p>Guidance on BO responsibility to provide water</p>	<p>Issued Tec Files guidance on the provision of water for animals in the lairage in August</p>

Better analysis and reporting

Action	Description
Strengthening of monitoring and reporting on animal welfare standards.	Published quarterly animal welfare statistics from the Chronos database on the following link. https://www.food.gov.uk/business-guidance/animal-welfare
	Began reporting of Welfare Assurance Team (WAT) activities, including themes and trends resulting from slaughterhouse visits. WAT activities temporarily on hold during Covid-19.

2. Animal Welfare Action Plan – 01/08/20 ONWARDS

Strengthening verification and compliance

Action	Description
Evaluate the impact of Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009, Annex II	Post implementation review to evaluate the effectiveness of guidance, compliance rates, impact on industry, proportionality of the impact
Animal Welfare SLA	Discuss and agree 2021/22 Animal Welfare funding with Defra and Welsh Government. Negotiations to begin in November 2020 based on quantified and expected activity
Animal Welfare Themed Audit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Develop audit framework in liaison with Defra and Welsh Government – Agree scope and timeline – Conduct audit – Produce final report – Communicate results and recommendations

Clarifying accountability and improving collaboration

Action	Description
Enhance the animal welfare database	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Create a central repository for digital evidence that can be securely shared with APHA or other enforcement authorities – Provide external user access to allow APHA to directly record feedback
Joint working with Industry and other regulators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Strengthening of data sharing which could support welfare improvements throughout the supply chain with industry and other regulators – The expansion of joint working forums to identify key areas of welfare non-compliances and work collaboratively towards education/improvement.

BO Data Sharing	Develop methodology for sharing non-compliance data to the BO (or group or BOs) to support and elicit improvements in farm and transport animal welfare compliance
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Improving education and instruction

Action	Description
Evidence gathering	Develop training module for gathering and securing evidence, both physical and digital, to support referrals to enforcement authorities for farm and transport non-compliances
Analysis of known animal welfare problems to enable targeting of specific issues	Conduct a data driven review of most prevalent and serious issues and develop new guidance in consultation with industry

Better analysis and reporting

Action	Description
Strengthening of monitoring and reporting on animal welfare standards.	Enhance the reporting of Welfare Assurance Team (WAT) activities, including themes and trends resulting from slaughterhouse visits
	Develop process of reporting conditions identified at post-mortem that may be indicative of historic animal suffering
	Publish non-compliance data in an open format
	Continue to publish quarterly animal welfare statistics on food.gov
	2021 Animal Welfare board paper
	Provide data and analysis for Business Committee Report in May 2021

Annex 2

Analysis of welfare trends for major and critical non-compliances in England and Wales.

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Management summary

- 1. The level of major and critical non-compliances continues to remain very low below 2 in 100,000 of total annual slaughterhouse throughput.*
- 2. Slaughterhouse non-compliances have increased by 33% in the Financial Year 2019-20 (referred to here as FY-2019), mainly due to regulatory changes (Annex II) and retrospective CCTV processing.*
- 3. Together Annex II non-compliances (new regulation) (46) and CCTV (65) cases account for 22% of total breaches in FY-2019.*
- 4. Management category had the largest number of combined Annex II and CCTV related breaches (45) making up almost 40% of its total.*
- 5. Lairage and management related breaches are the major locations for recording non-compliances in FY-2019, together they account for more than half of the total breaches.*
- 6. Sheep and poultry related non-compliances account for two-thirds of all slaughterhouse breaches in FY-2019.*
- 7. There was a total of 65 CCTV related non-compliances with most cases processed retrospectively (47 cases) in FY-2019. There was only one CCTV recorded case for Wales.*
- 8. Analysis of the data shows no unusual trend in the level of slaughterhouse non-compliances over the lockdown months due to Covid-19.*

Section 1: Total throughput and non-compliances

This section of the paper analyses the proportion of total annual throughput that constitutes major and critical non-compliances in slaughterhouses. Table 1 below summarises the figures for FY-2016 to FY-2019. It shows that since 2017 when the system began recording the number of animals involved in incidents, the proportion of animals involved in major and critical incidents has remained very low.

Table 1

Level 3 and 4 slaughterhouse animal welfare non-compliances

	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2019/2020 revised
Total number of animals processed (throughput)	955,879,236	999,303,970	1,045,801,000	1,055,611,000	1,055,611,000
Animals processed in compliance with welfare	955,879,236	999,287,248	1,045,790,000	1,055,592,000	1,055,602,000
Animals processed not in compliance with welfare	N/A *	16,722	11,000	19,000	9,000
Percentage of animals processed compliantly	N/A	99.99833%	99.99895%	99.99820%	99.99915%
Percentage of animals involved in noncompliance	N/A	0.00167%	0.00105%	0.00180%	0.00085%

data rounded from 2018 onwards

** At the time, the system did not record the number of animals involved in incidents*

In Q4 2019/2020 there was a single incident involving 10,000 birds "Gas stunning equipment not optimised" scored as level 3 for potential to cause animal suffering. The last column reflects the data had this incident not occurred.

Section 2: Analysis of non-compliances by location

Figure 1 illustrates the total levels 3 and 4 (major and critical) non-compliance trends for all animal welfare locations over the last 4 financial years: 2016 to 2019 (throughout this report FY-2019 refers to the year from April 2019 to March 2020). Transport related non-compliances have declined by 15% in FY- 2019 while on-farm and slaughterhouse non-compliances have increased by 24% and 33% respectively.

Together Annex II non-compliances (new regulation-46) and CCTV (65) cases account for 22% of total breaches in FY-2019.

Figure 1.

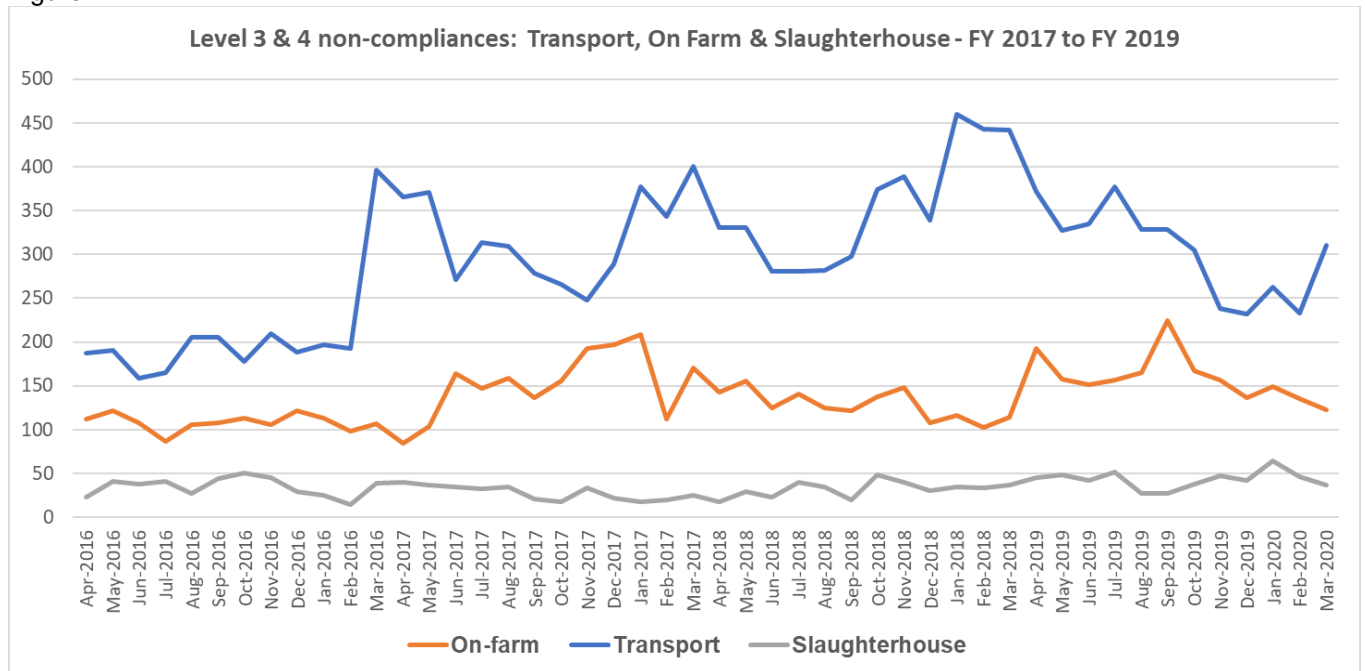


Figure 2 illustrates the composition of total non-compliances in FY-2018 and FY-2019 by Annex II and CCTV cases. It is important to highlight these two categories of slaughterhouse breaches as a result of new regulations introduced in FY-2019, in order to make a like-for-like comparison with FY-2018.

Figure 2.

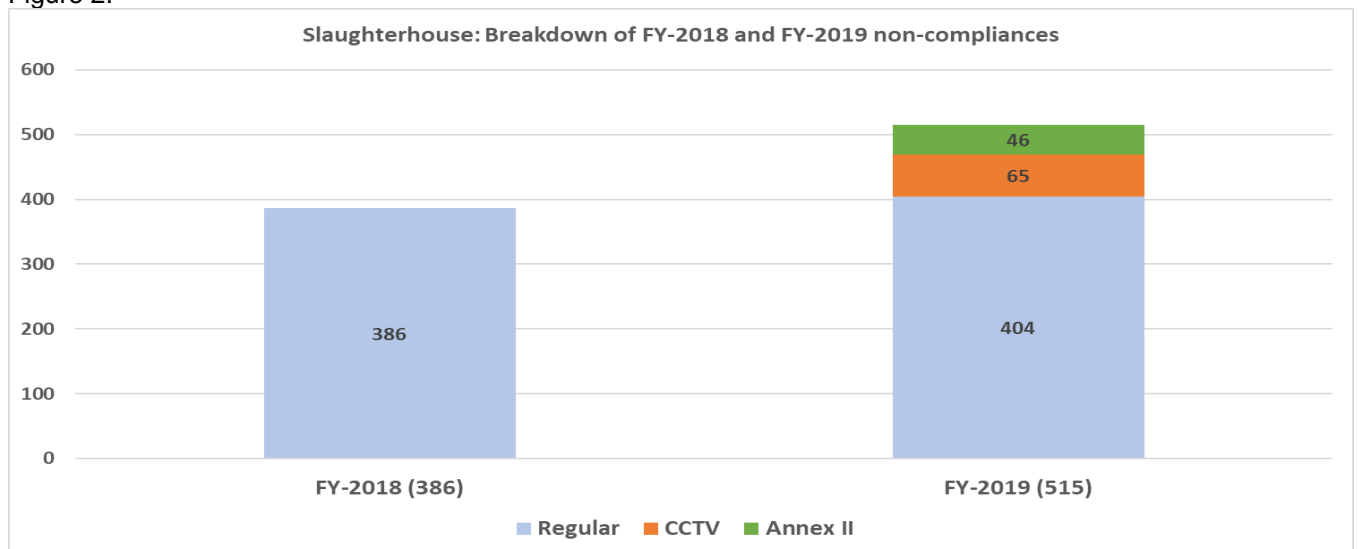


Figure 3 below illustrates the distribution of the Annex II and CCTV breaches in FY-2019 across the different slaughterhouse locations in comparison with FY-2018. Management had 45 combined cases in total, lairage – 31, stunning and movement both with 13 and bleeding – 9. The annex II and CCTV non-compliances in FY-2019 had the most impact on management as it resulted in more non-compliance compared with FY-2018.

Figure 3.

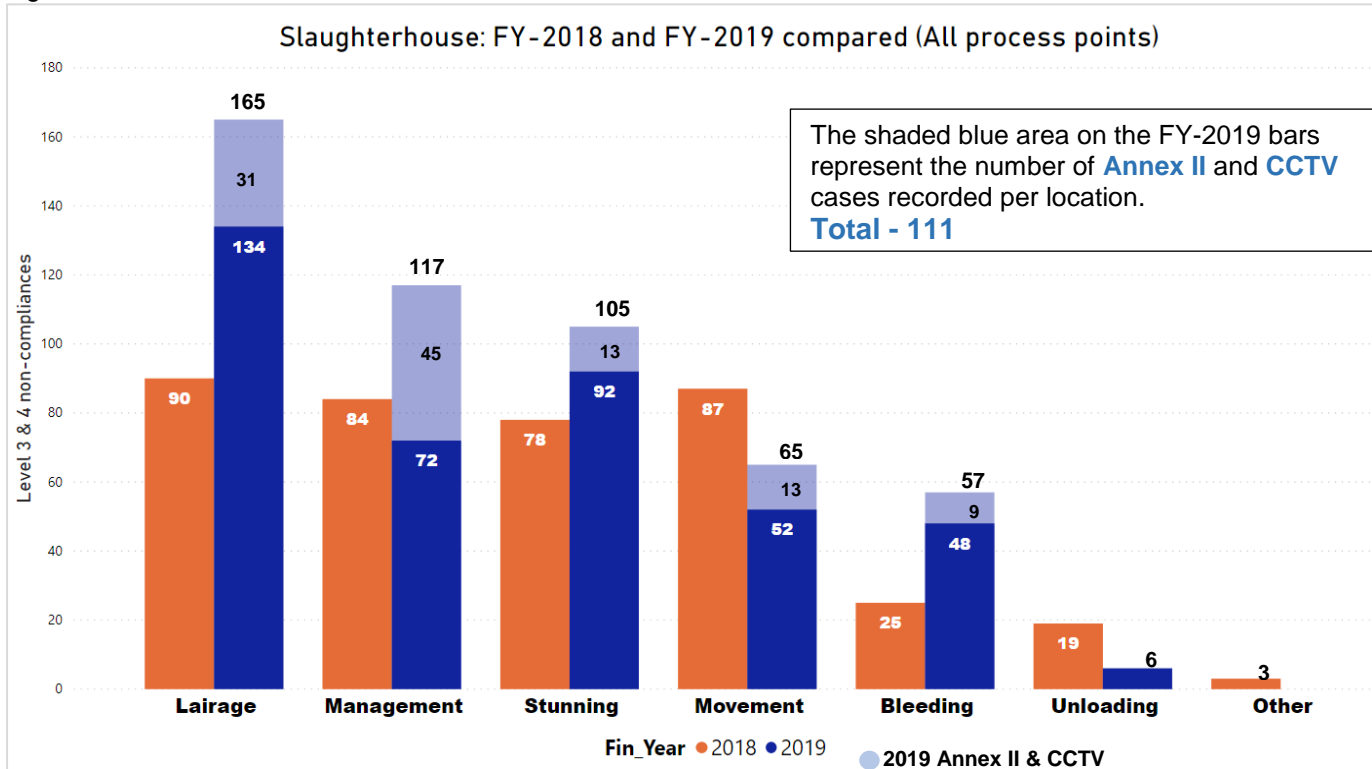
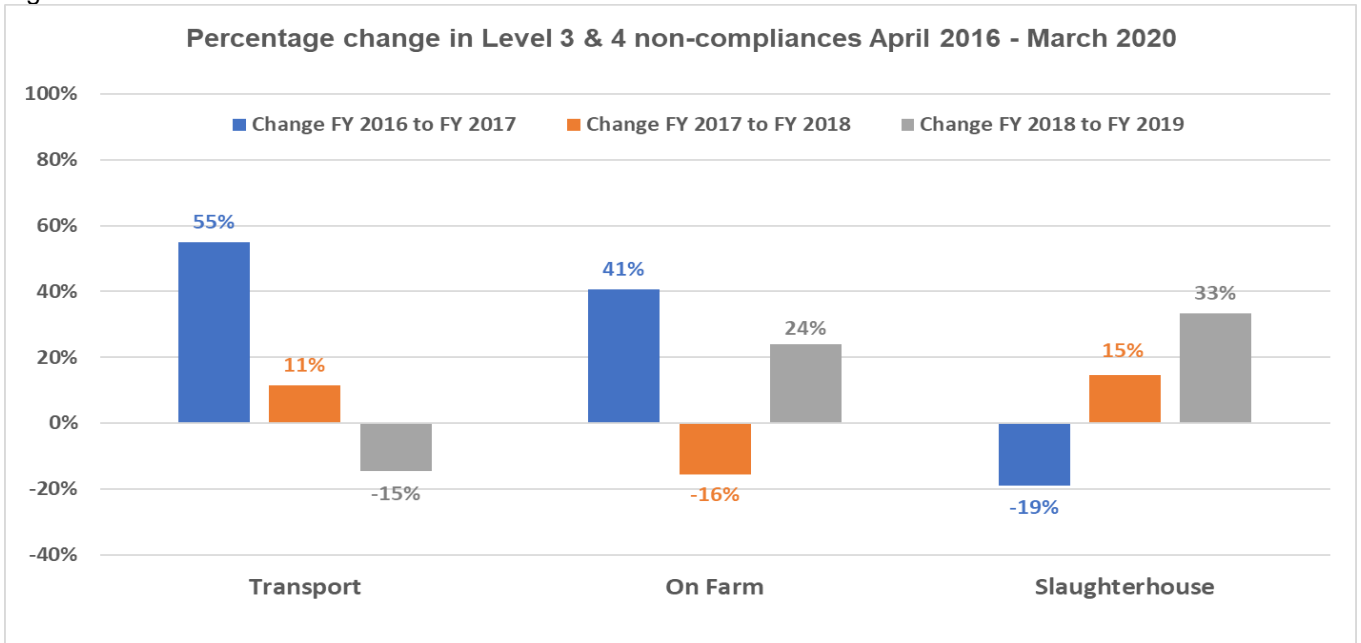


Figure 4 highlights the percentage change from one financial year to the next for each location. The levels of recorded non-compliances for transport decreased 15% in FY-2019 after an increase of 11% for FY-2018.

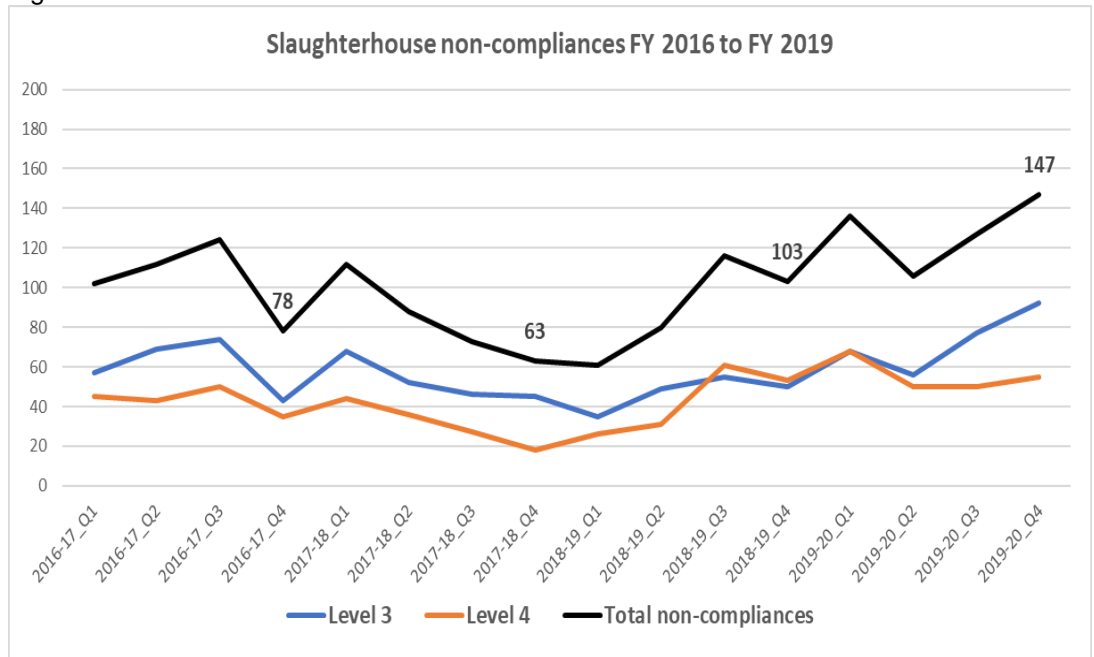
Figure 4.



Section 3: Slaughterhouse only analysis

Figure 5 shows slaughterhouse breaches split by severity over the past four years. There has been an increase in recorded slaughterhouse non-compliances of 33% in FY- 2019. A high proportion of these were recorded in the fourth quarter (specifically January and February of 2020) in relation to **lairage and management breaches** as a result of changes in the regulations. Compared with Qtr4 of FY-2018, there was a 43% increase in recorded breaches for the same period in FY-2019 shown in Figure 6 below.

Figure 5.



Levels of Non-Compliance severity:

Level 3 (MAJOR non-compliance) – Potential risk to welfare.

Level 4 (CRITICAL non-compliance) – Poses a serious and imminent risk to animal welfare.

Figure 6.

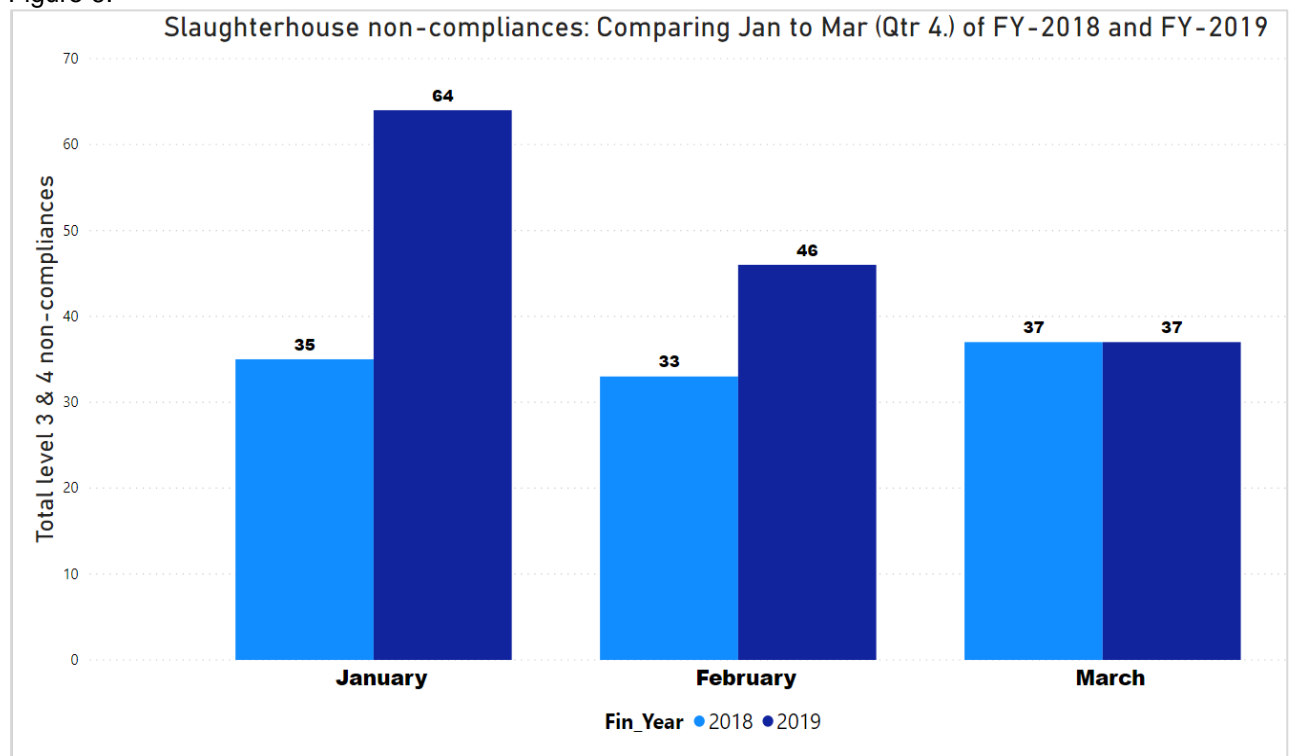


Figure 7 below is a table summarising the non-compliances by severity (level 3 and 4) and location (transport, on-farm and slaughterhouse) for the last 4 financial years (FY-2016 to FY-2019).

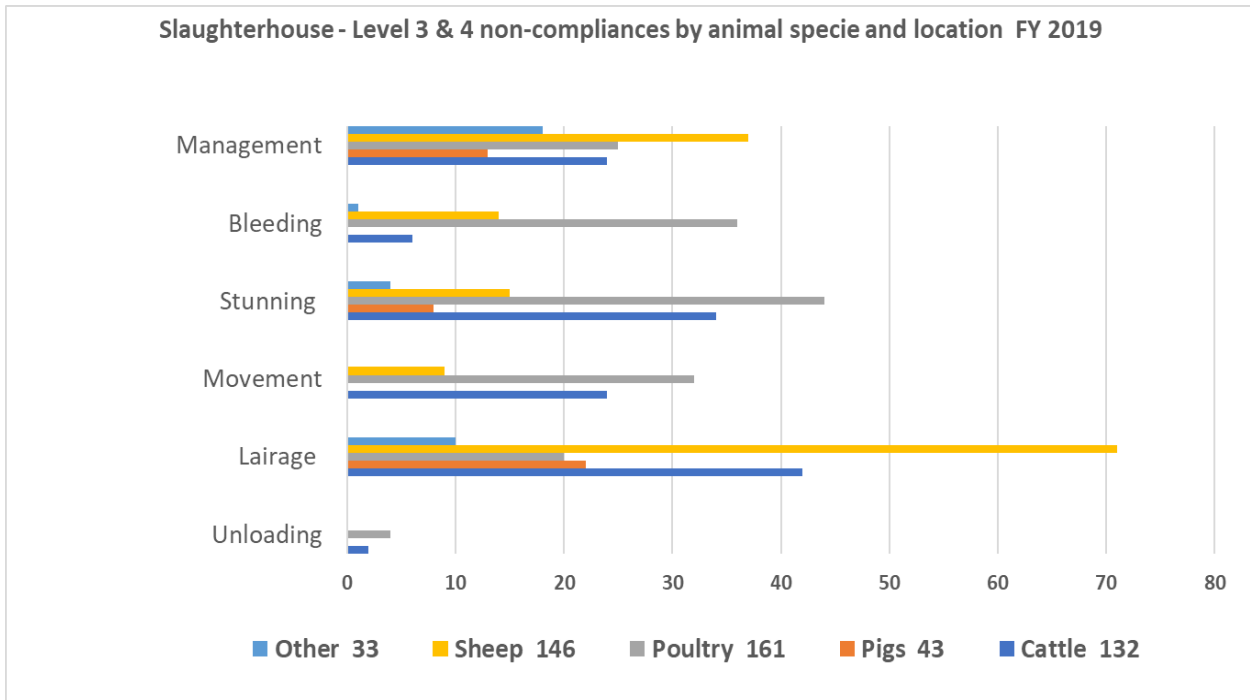
Figure 7.

Table showing the number of non-compliances by financial years			
Severity	All animal welfare breaches April 2016 - Mar 2017		
	Transport	On Farm	Slaughterhouse
Level 3	597	75	243
Level 4	1876	1225	173
	2473	1300	416
All animal welfare breaches April 2017 - Mar 2018			
Severity	Transport	On Farm	Slaughterhouse
	Level 3	497	367
Level 4	3335	1462	125
	3832	1829	336
All animal welfare breaches April 2018 - Mar 2019			
Severity	Transport	On Farm	Slaughterhouse
	Level 3	493	404
Level 4	3758	1132	171
	4269	1543	386
All animal welfare breaches April 2019 - Mar 2020			
Severity	Transport	On Farm	Slaughterhouse
	Level 3	33	73
Level 4	3613	1839	222
	3646	1912	*515

*FY-2019 slaughterhouse total includes a total of 111 non-compliances from Annex II and CCTV breaches both introduced in financial year 2019.

Figure 8 illustrates non-compliances by locations within the slaughterhouse. Sheep related lairage issues account for 13% of all slaughterhouse non-compliances (an increase of 4ppts) followed by stunning of poultry which forms 8% of the total breaches in FY-2019 (an increase of 3ppts from FY-2018). Management related breaches account for a quarter of all cases in FY-2019, an increase of 5ppts from FY-2018, and lairage about a third of all non-compliances.

Figure 8.



There has been an increase in non-compliances in FY-2019 across all animal species with the highest increase for sheep. The number of sheep related cases has increased by 69 to 146 cases in FY-2019, accounting for 30% of all slaughterhouse non-compliances, second to poultry with 33% of the total.

Figure 9.

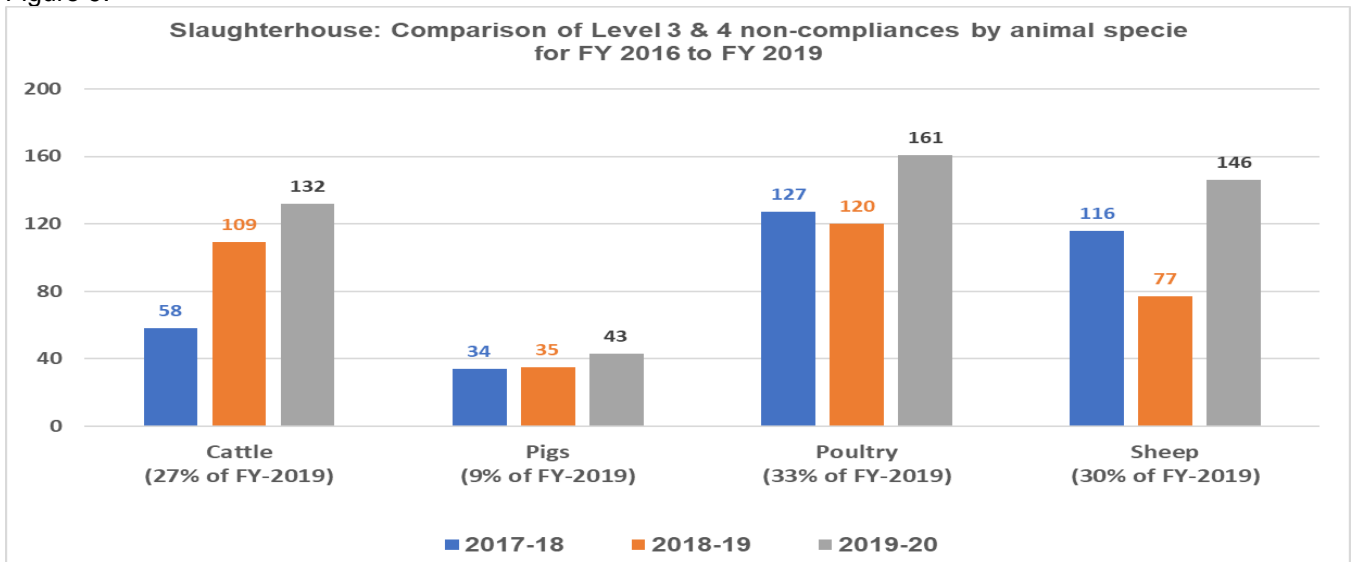


Figure 10. shows the split by severity of cases for each of the slaughterhouse locations. Lairage and management have high levels of major cases compared with critical non-compliances. Movement and stunning have similar proportions of levels 3 and 4 cases but bleeding has a higher rate of critical non-compliances across the locations.

Figure 10.

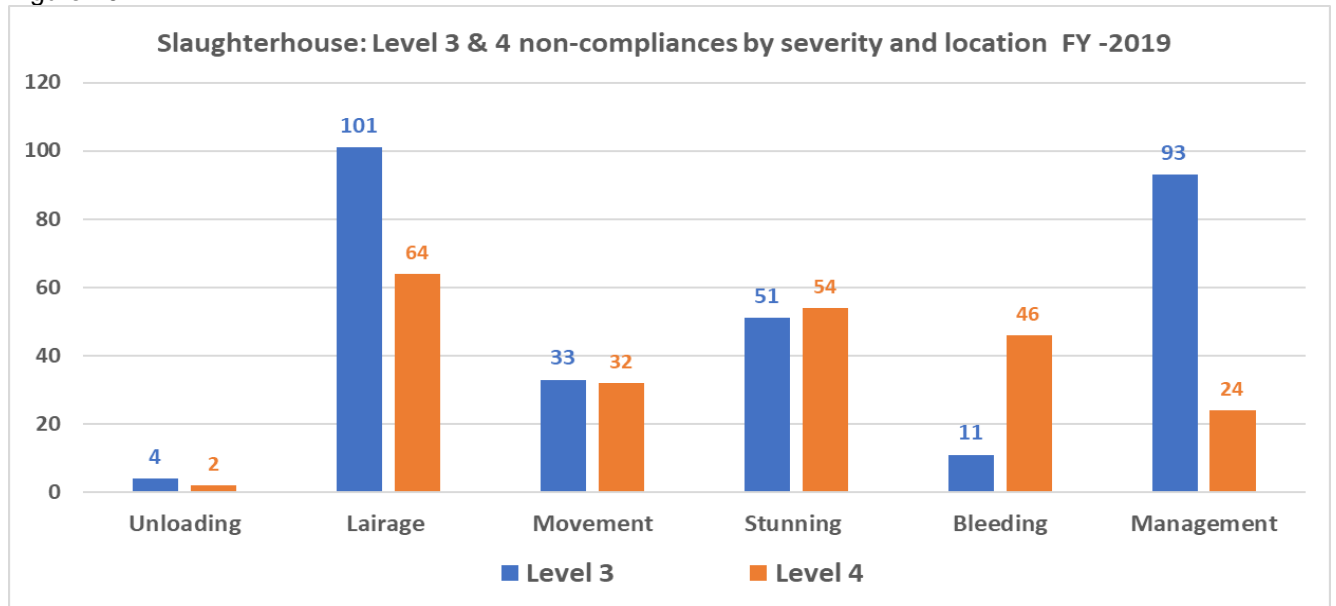


Figure 11 illustrates the changes in non-compliances between FY-2018 and FY-2019. Except for movement and unloading, all other locations have had increases in the levels of non-compliances, with the highest increase in lairage with 75 cases. Figure 11.

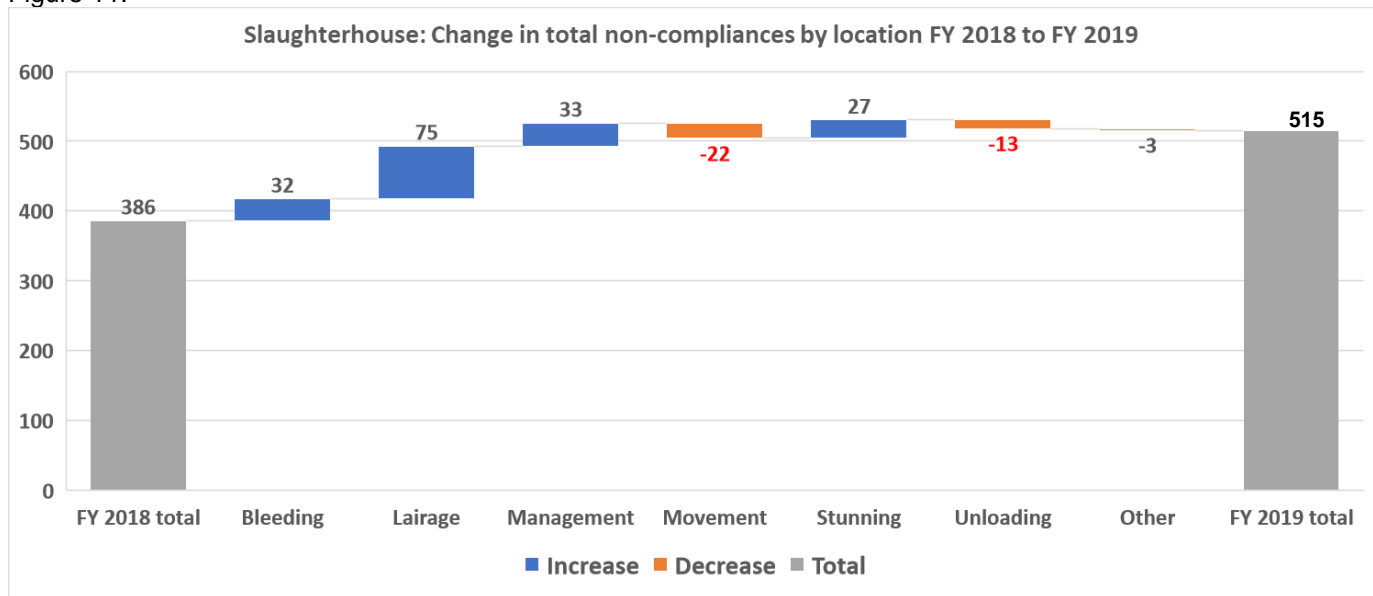
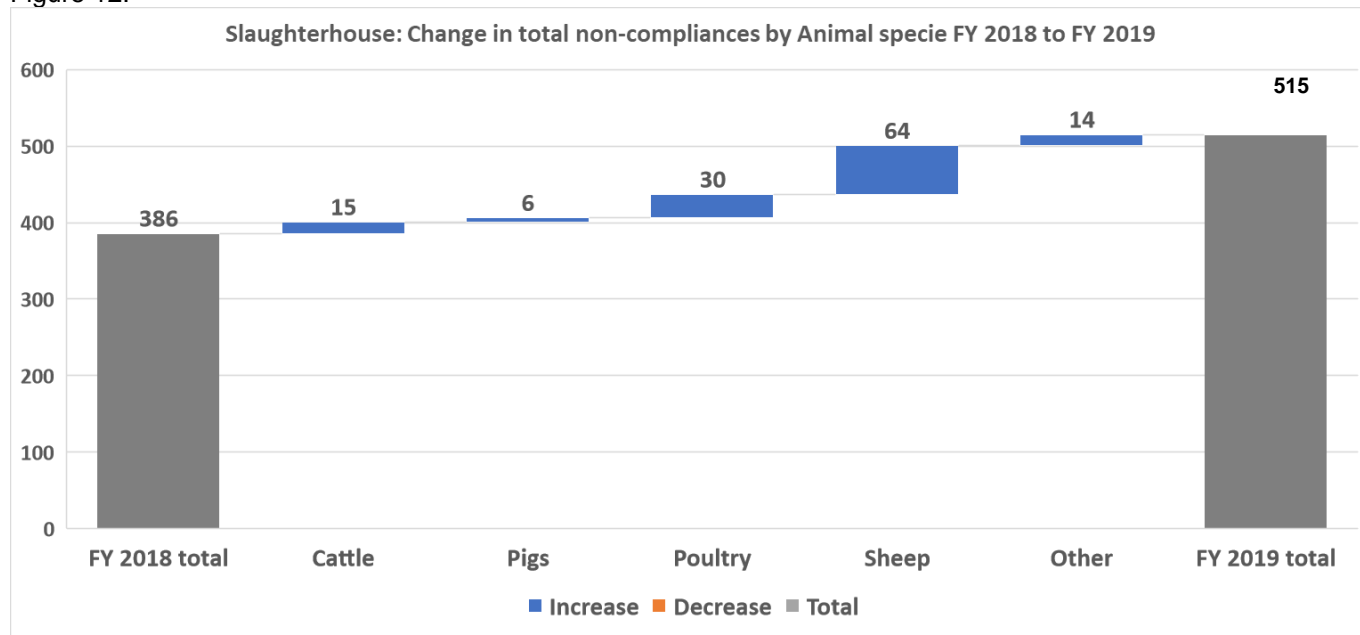


Figure 12 also highlights the prominence of poultry (+30) and sheep (+64) non-compliances in FY-2019. As discussed earlier, most of these are located within management and lairage in relation to new regulations in recording non-compliances that were introduced in Qtr. 4 of FY-2018. Included in the total non-compliance figures for FY-2019 are 46 Annex II¹ cases as a result of new regulations that were introduced and are included in all the animal categories in the chart below.

¹ Annex II refers to cases recorded in compliance with the regulation that was introduced in FY-2019.

Figure 12.



*Other includes some non-compliances that are recorded in multi-species plants for deficiencies that affect all species that the BO processes for example structural deficiencies or deficiencies in the CCTV system. There were 19 cases in FY-2018 and 33 in FY-2019.

Section 4: CCTV analysis

The mandatory use of CCTV in slaughterhouses (England only) by law commenced in November of 2018 (Qtr. 3 of FY-2018). This section looks at the impact on slaughterhouse non-compliance levels for the first full financial year since the introduction of CCTV. Other breaches not related to CCTV are included for comparison. ‘CCTV regulation’ relates to breaches with the CCTV regulations. CCTV live and retro relate to other types of breaches that were identified using CCTV either at the time (live) or at a later time (retro).

Figure 13.

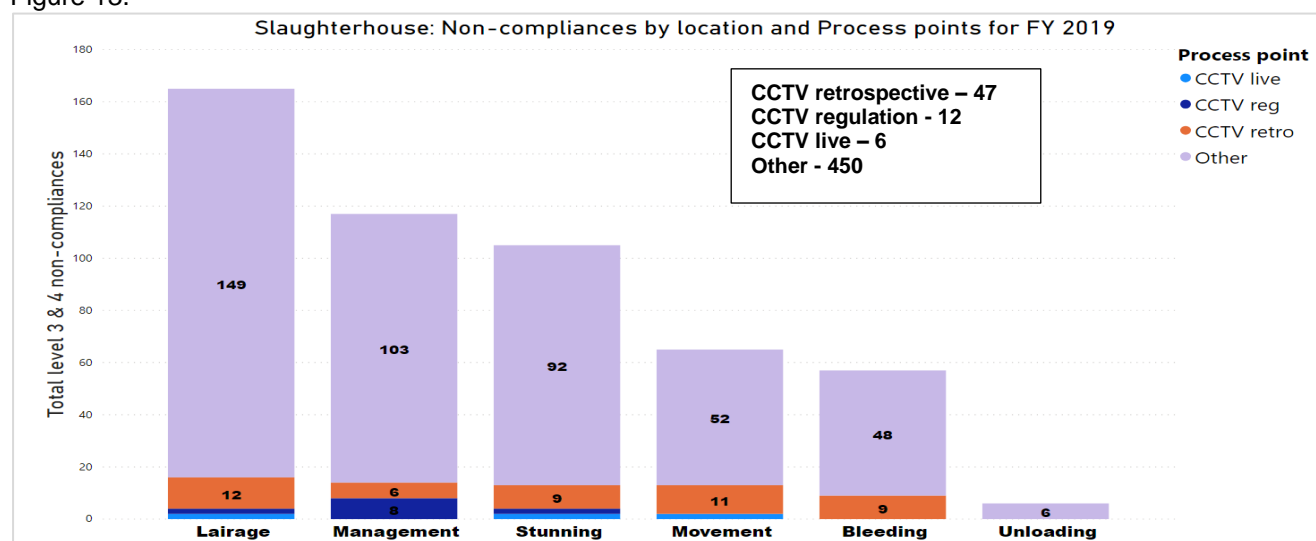


Figure 13 above highlights the number of CCTV related breaches recorded for FY-2019 per slaughterhouse location for the three categories identified. There was a total of 65 CCTV cases, with most cases being other breaches identified via CCTV

retrospectively (47 cases). Bleeding had the highest proportion of total cases identified by CCTV, about 20% of all bleeding cases were identified retrospectively by CCTV. Lairage had the highest number CCTV records with a total of 16 cases followed by management with 14 cases.

Figure 14.

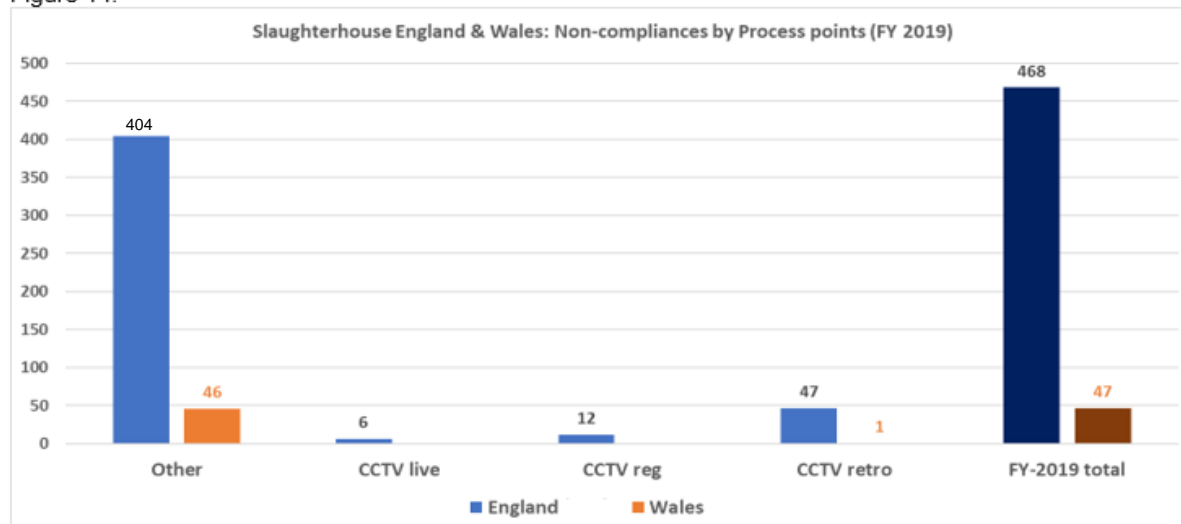


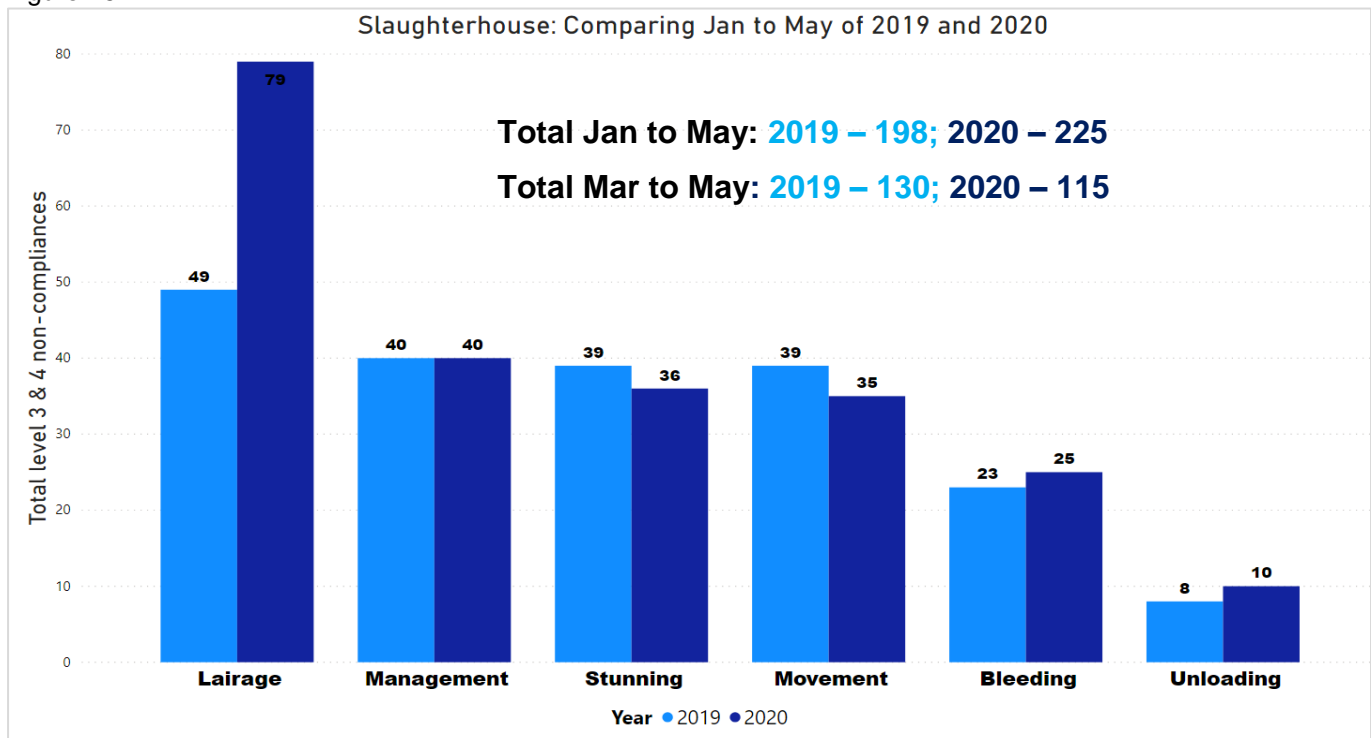
Figure 14 compares the breaches in England and Wales for FY-2019 and breaks down by CCTV related process point and other. Installation of CCTV in slaughterhouses is mandatory in England but not in Wales, and this shows as there was one CCTV breach in Wales compared with 65 in England for FY-2019.

Section 5: Covid-19 impact on animal welfare

This section is a comparative analysis of the data with respect to January, February, March, April and May of 2020 and the same months in 2019 to ascertain whether there have been any unusual trends in non-compliances as a result of the Covid-19 lockdown. This is the only part of this paper using data for some of the 2020-21 financial year.

Analysis of Figure 15 below shows that over the lockdown period from March, fewer non-compliances have been recorded compared with the same period last year. Higher numbers of breaches were recorded in January and February of 2020 before the lockdown compared with 2019. Figure 16 below shows the location of non-compliances from March to May, and it shows

Figure 15.



the lower number of cases for the period compared with 2019 is due to a relatively lower level of management related non-compliances in 2020 (11) to 2019 (32).

Figure 16.

