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

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**FY - 2020**

**July 2021**

## Contents

Management summary .....	2
Section 1: Total throughput and non-compliances .....	3
Section 2: Analysis of non-compliance by location .....	3
Section 3: Slaughterhouse only analysis .....	5
Section 4: Analysis of slaughterhouse livestock units .....	10
Section 5: Covid-19 impact on animal welfare .....	12

## Management summary

1. *Over 99.99% of animals are slaughtered in compliance with welfare regulations.*
2. *Slaughterhouse non-compliances have decreased by 30% in the Financial Year 2020-21 (referred to here as FY-2020), mainly due to significant decreases in Annex II and CCTV non-compliances.*
3. *Together Annex II non-compliances and CCTV cases decreased by 82 cases (98 to 16) in FY 2020 compared with FY 2019.*
4. *Lairage had the highest number of non-compliance cases (116) 34% of total cases. Movement and unloading were the only two locations to record increases over their FY 2019 levels.*
5. *Lairage (34%), stunning (20%) and movement (21%) were the top 3 locations for non-compliances, accounting for almost three quarters of all cases.*
6. *Poultry related breaches account for more than a third of all cases (35%, change +3ppts), sheep (29%, unchanged), cattle (22%, change -4ppts) and pigs at 10% (+2ppts).*
7. *Analysis of throughput data by livestock unit (LU) shows an average decrease of 1ppt in FY 2020, with poultry recording a 2.3% decrease in livestock units compared with FY 2019.*
8. *Non-compliance per plant size improved for large plants in comparison with medium and small plants. Large plants recorded on average 2.0 breaches per plant in FY 2020 compared with 2.9 per plant in FY 2019.*
9. *The proportion of plants, irrespective of size with zero non-compliances improved in FY 2020 in comparison with FY 2019.*
10. *Both Transport and On-farm have recorded lower levels of level 3 & 4 non-compliances in FY 2020 in comparison with FY 2019, with transport (-28ppts) and on-farm (-15ppts).*
11. *The impact of Covid-19 if any is difficult to ascertain at this stage by comparing FY 2019 and FY 2020 data.*

## 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-2020. 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, at a small fraction of 1% of all animals.

<b>Level 3 and 4 slaughterhouse animal welfare non-compliances</b>						
	<b>2016/2017</b>	<b>2017/2018</b>	<b>2018/2019</b>	<b>2019/2020</b>	<b>2020/21</b>	<b>2020/21 revised</b>
Total number of animals processed (throughput)	955,879,236	999,303,970	1,045,801,000	1,055,611,000	1,038,234,124	1,038,234,124
Animals processed in compliance with welfare	955,879,236	999,287,248	1,045,790,000	1,055,592,000	1,038,194,198	1,038,213,551
Animals processed not in compliance with welfare	N/A *	16,722	11,000	19,000*	39,926	19,353**
<b>Percentage of animals processed compliantly</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>99.99833%</b>	<b>99.99895%</b>	<b>99.99820%</b>	<b>99.99615%</b>	<b>99.99802%</b>
<b>Percentage of animals involved in noncompliance</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>0.00167%</b>	<b>0.00105%</b>	<b>0.00180%</b>	<b>0.00384%</b>	<b>0.00198%</b>

\* 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.

\*\* During 2020/21 there were three instances involving a total of 20,573 birds, this is due to mechanical breakdown in plant that delayed processing. There was no evidence that the birds experienced any suffering or distress; this column reflects the data had these incidents not occurred.

## Section 2: Analysis of non-compliance 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: 2017 to 2020 (throughout this report FY-2020 refers to the year from April 2020 to March 2021). Transport related non-compliances have declined by 28ppts in FY 2020 while On-farm and Slaughterhouse non-compliances have also decreased, by 15ppts and 30ppts respectively. Despite the overall decline in on-farm non-compliances in FY 2020, the last quarter (Jan to Mar 2021) recorded a 53% increase over the same period in FY 2019. This coincides with an amendment to the data recording system that more accurately aligns some bird trappings to on-farm rather than transport.

Figure 1.

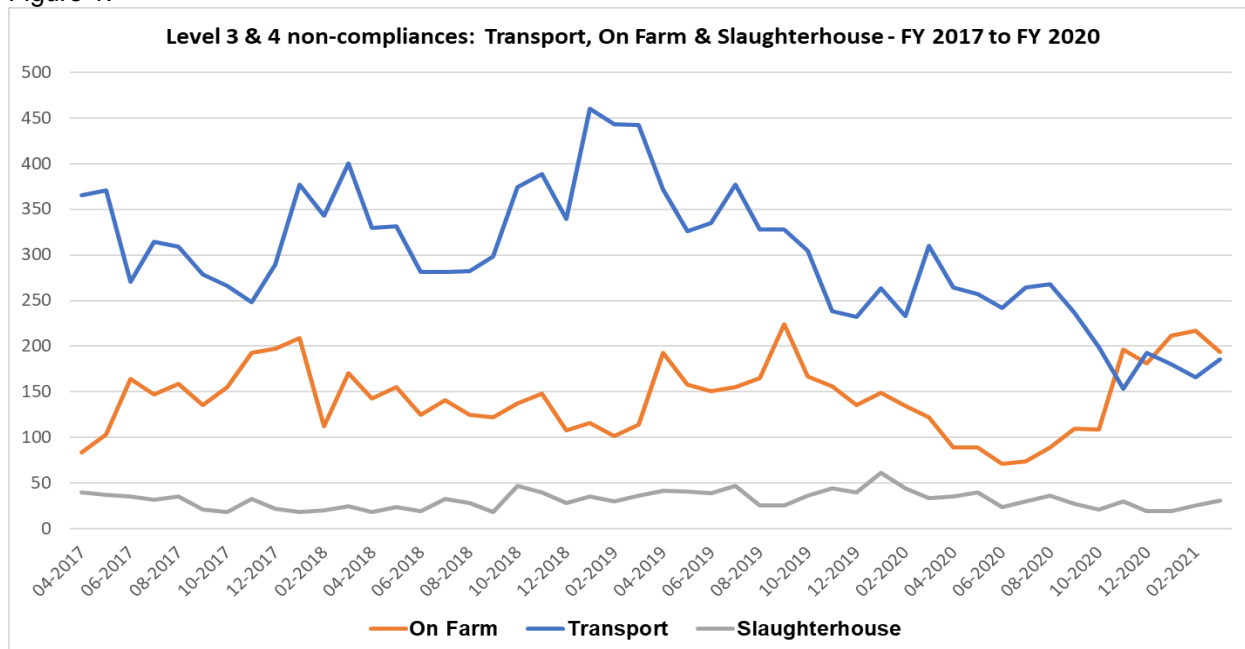
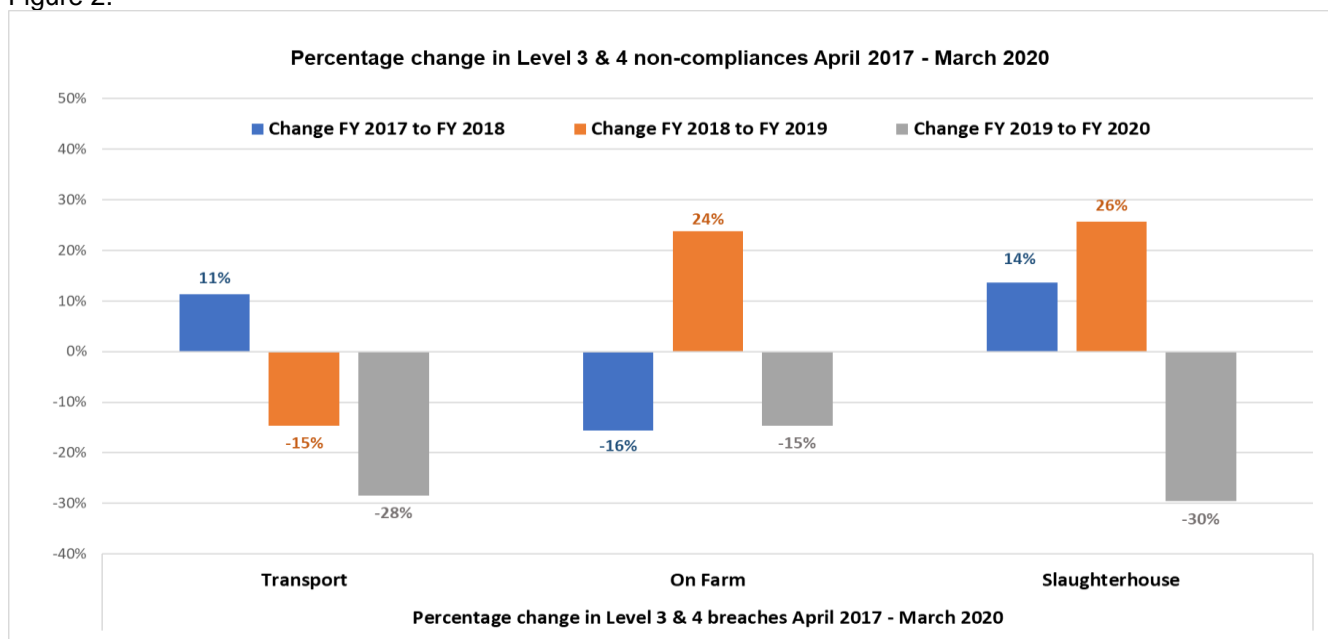


Figure 2 below illustrates the comparative change in non-compliance levels for the respective locations from FY 2017 to FY 2020. Slaughterhouse levels had the biggest increase from FY 2018 to FY 2019 of 26ppts mainly due to regulatory changes (Annex II and CCTV), which seems to have stabilised in FY 2020 showing a decrease of 30ppts, with the majority of the decrease being management related non-compliances i.e. Annex II, SOP and CCTV.

Figure 2.



Overall, there has been a decrease in non-compliances across all locations in FY 2020. Further analysis in this report will highlight where the decreases have occurred in the respective locations.

Figure 3 below is a table summarising the non-compliances by severity (level 3 and 4) and location (transport, on-farm, and slaughterhouse) for the last 3 financial years (FY-2018 to FY-2019).

Figure 3.

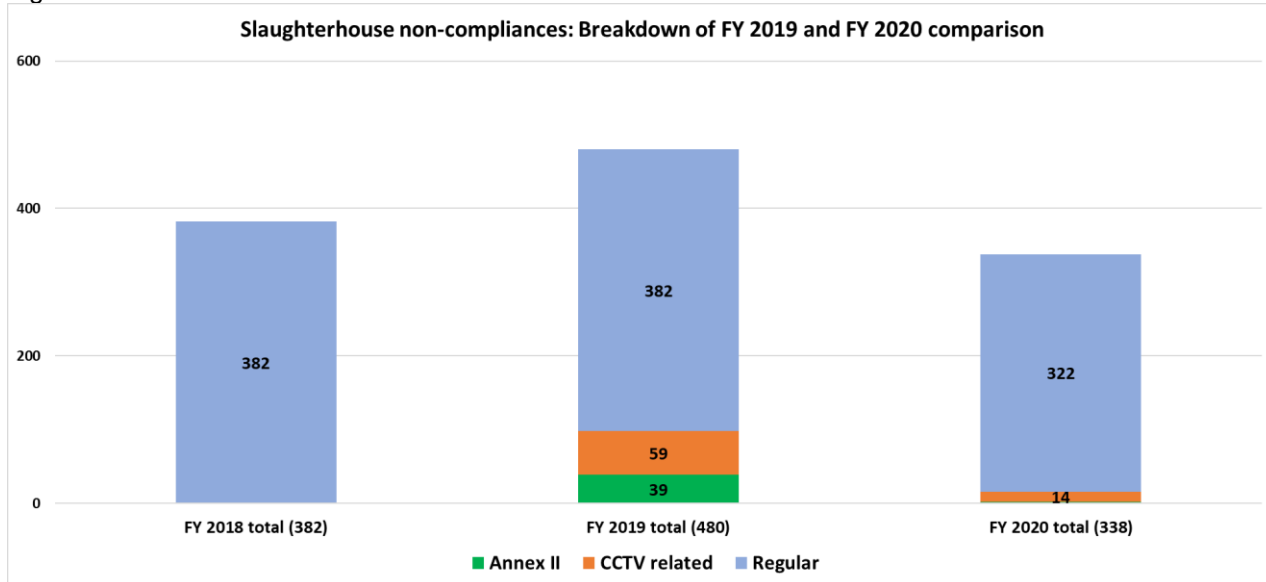
<b>Table showing the number of non-compliances by financial years</b>				
		<b>All animal welfare breaches : April 2018 - Mar 2019</b>		
<b>FY 18</b>	<b>Severity</b>	<b>Transport</b>	<b>On-Farm</b>	<b>Slaughterhouse</b>
<b>Major</b>	<b>Level 3</b>	493	404	186
<b>Critical</b>	<b>Level 4</b>	3757	1132	170
		<b>4250</b>	<b>1536</b>	<b>382*</b>
		<b>All animal welfare breaches : April 2019 - Mar 2020</b>		
<b>FY 19</b>	<b>Severity</b>	<b>Transport</b>	<b>On-Farm</b>	<b>Slaughterhouse</b>
<b>Major</b>	<b>Level 3</b>	33	73	271
<b>Critical</b>	<b>Level 4</b>	3612	1837	209
		<b>3645</b>	<b>1910</b>	<b>480*</b>
		<b>All animal welfare breaches : April 2020 - Mar 2021</b>		
<b>FY 20</b>	<b>Severity</b>	<b>Transport</b>	<b>On-Farm</b>	<b>Slaughterhouse</b>
<b>Major</b>	<b>Level 3</b>	26	17	176
<b>Critical</b>	<b>Level 4</b>	2583	1614	162
		<b>2609</b>	<b>1631</b>	<b>338</b>

\*The total non-compliances for FY-2018 (382) contains 26 cases for closed plants. FY-2019 slaughterhouse total includes a total of 98 non-compliances from Annex II and CCTV breaches both introduced in financial year 2019.

### Section 3: Slaughterhouse only analysis

Figure 4 illustrates the composition of total non-compliances in FY-2018 to FY-2020 by the different categories of identified non-compliances i.e. Annex II, CCTV and regular cases. It is important to highlight that Annex II and CCTV regulations were introduced in FY-2019 and as a result total non-compliance increased by 26% compared with FY 2018 levels.

Figure 4.

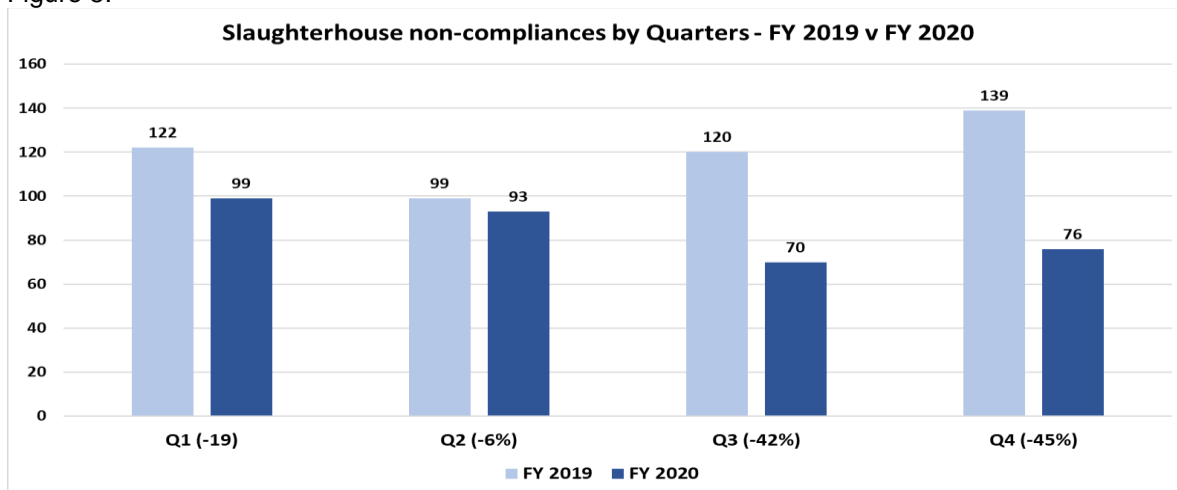


FY 2020 total contains 2 Annex II cases not labelled on the chart.

As illustrated in the chart, regular non-compliance levels have decreased from 382 in FYs 2018 and 2019 to 322 in FY 2020 and the significant decrease in Annex II and CCTV breaches from 98 cases to 16 has resulted in an overall decrease of 30ppts in non-compliances for FY 2020.

Figure 5 highlights the total non-compliance comparison between FY 2019 and FY 2020 by financial quarter. This chart highlights a gradual increase from Q3 of FY 2019 which coincides with the coming into force of Annex II regulations in November 2019, followed by gradual decreases from Q1 of FY 2020 as slaughterhouses became compliant. Consequently there are significant decreases in Q3 (-42ppts) and Q4 (-45ppts) of FY 2020 compared with the same period in FY 2019. Management related cases, the category used to record Annex II deficiencies, decreased on average 75% in Q3 and Q4 of FY 2020 compared with the same period in FY 2019.

Figure 5.



Figures in brackets indicates the proportional change in non-compliance levels for the quarter.

Figure 6 illustrates non-compliances by locations within the slaughterhouse. Sheep related lairage issues account for 15% of all slaughterhouse non-compliances (an increase of 1ppt) followed by movement of poultry which forms 12% of the total breaches in FY-2020 (an increase of 6ppts from FY-2019). Management related breaches accounted for almost a quarter of all cases in FY-2019, has decreased by 13ppts to 9% of total non-compliance cases in FY 2020.

Overall lairage forms 34% of cases a decrease of 3ppts, followed by movement and stunning with 21% and 20% of total cases respectively.

Movement has seen the biggest increases over FY 2019 with 8ppts and unloading has more than doubled in numbers, but is relatively small in cases.

Figure 6.

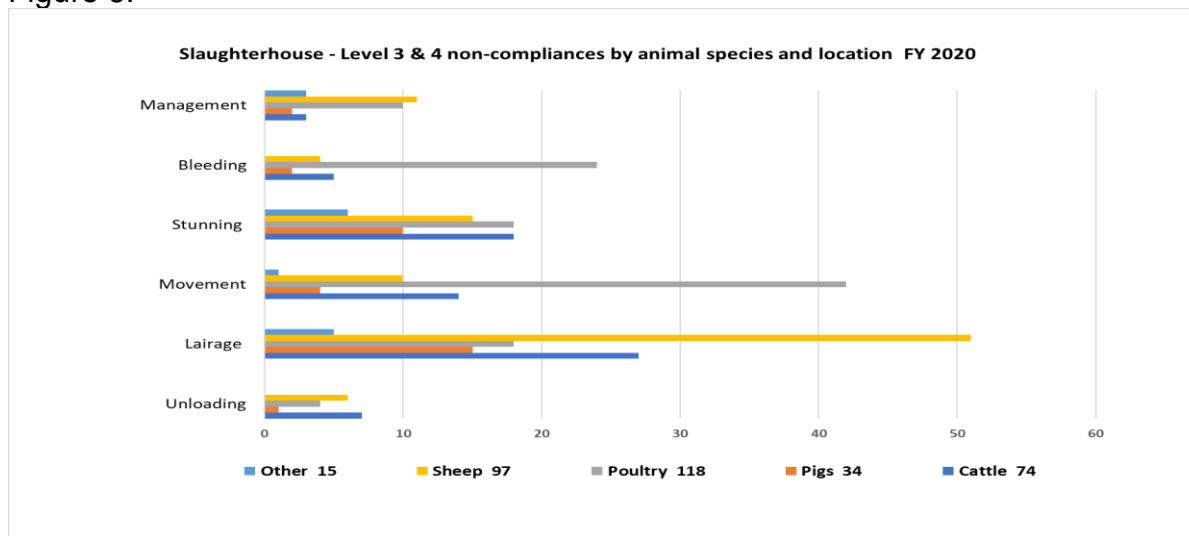


Figure 7 illustrates the comparative change in the non-compliance numbers for FY 2019 and FY 2020 by process types per animal species in slaughterhouses. It captures the significant reduction in management related cases across all process locations in the slaughterhouse for all animal species. Except for cattle, movement has seen increases in FY 2020 over FY 2019.

Figure 7.

### Slaughterhouse non-compliance by animal species - FY-2019 to FY-2020

Fin\_Year ● 2,019 ● 2,020

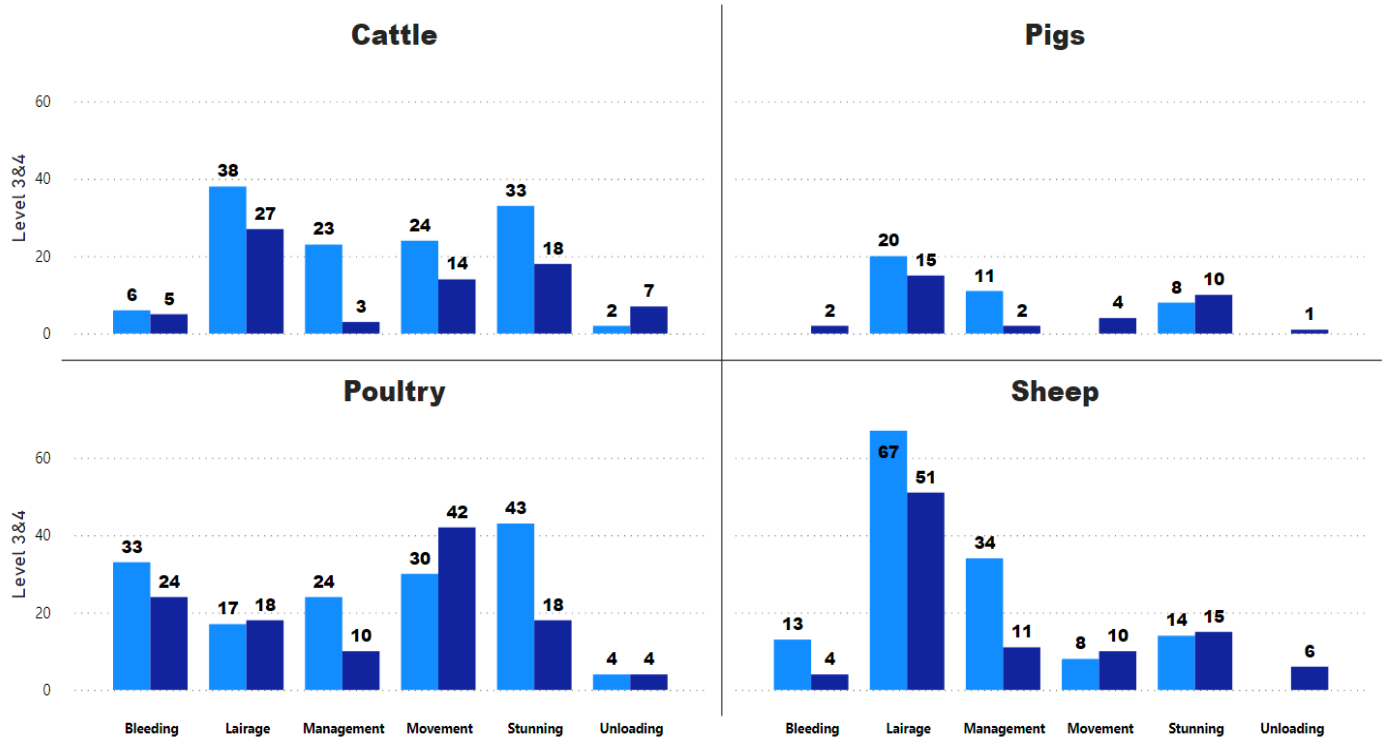
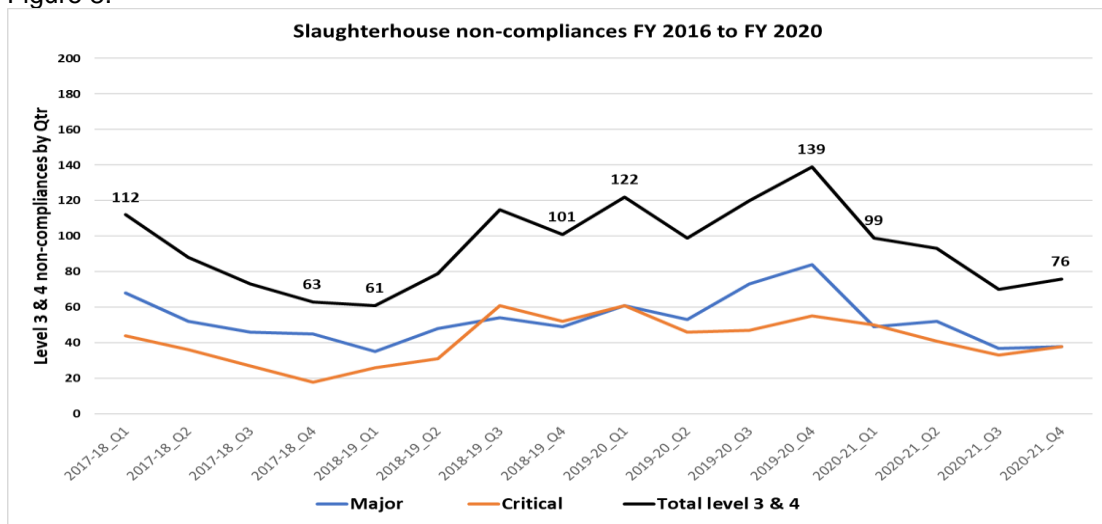


Figure 8 shows slaughterhouse breaches split by severity over the past four years. The chart highlights the increase in non-compliances in FY 2019 due to CCTV and Annex II regulations. The chart shows that levels of non-compliance in FY 2020 are broadly comparable with those in FY 2017 and FY 2018 (FY 2019 being an outlier due to CCTV and Annex II regulations). This indicates that the impact on overall numbers due the Covid-19 pandemic was negligible.

Figure 8.



#### Levels of Non-Compliance severity:

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

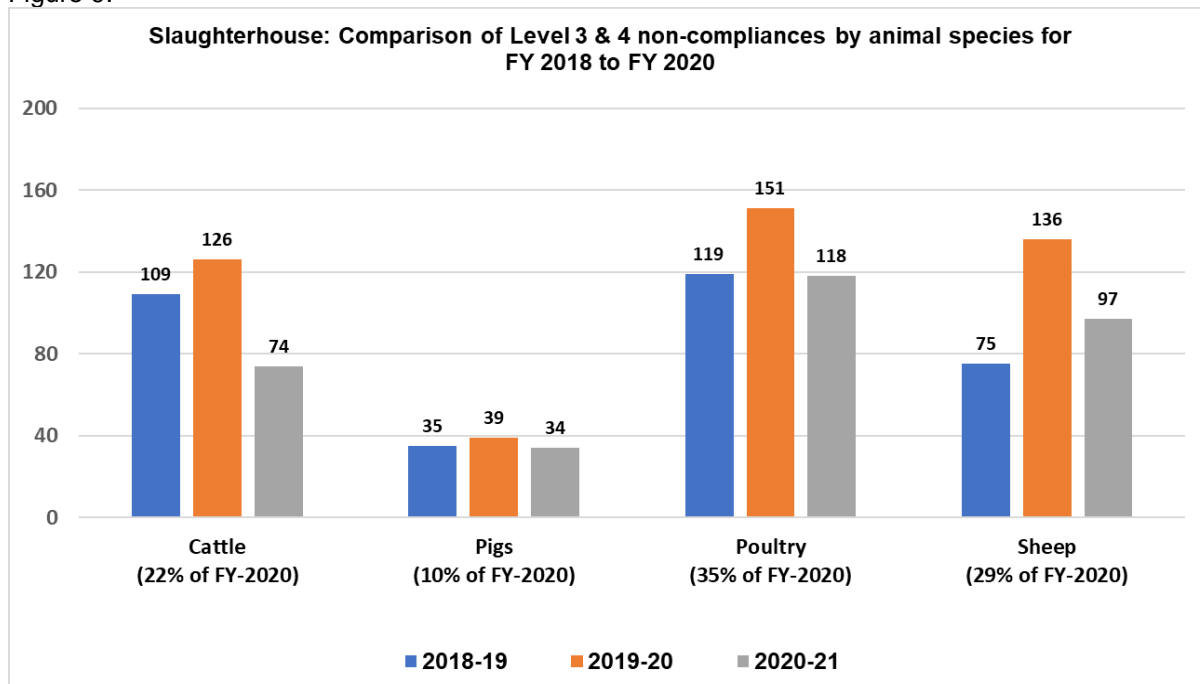
**Level 4 (CRITICAL non-compliance)** – Poses a serious and imminent risk to animal welfare.

Figure 9 illustrates the decrease in numbers of non-compliances across all animal species in FY 2020 in comparison with FY 2019. However, poultry related breaches had an increase of 3ppts of



total non-compliances from the previous year, pigs related breaches 2ppts increase, cattle 4ppts decrease of the total and sheep remained unchanged at 29% of the total.

Figure 9.



*\*Other species make up the remaining 4% of the total*

Figure 10. shows the split by severity of cases for each of the slaughterhouse locations. Lairage has the highest levels of both major and critical cases. Movement (21%) and stunning (20%) have similar proportions of the total non-compliances in FY 2020, but movement has higher levels of critical cases compared with stunning.

Figure 10.

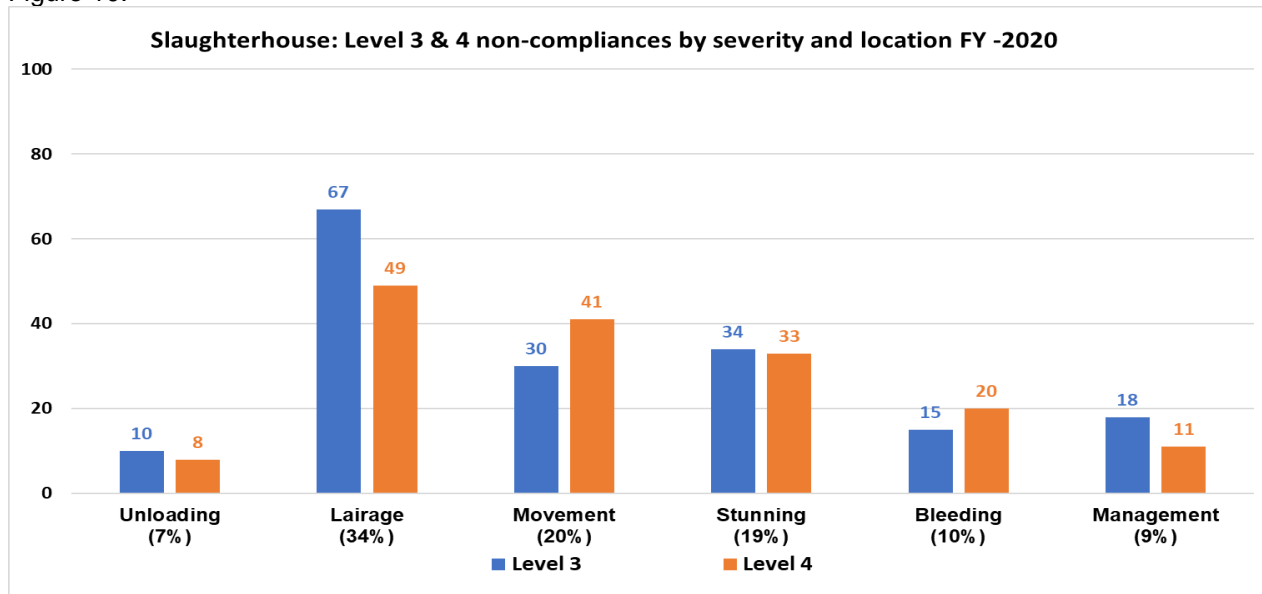
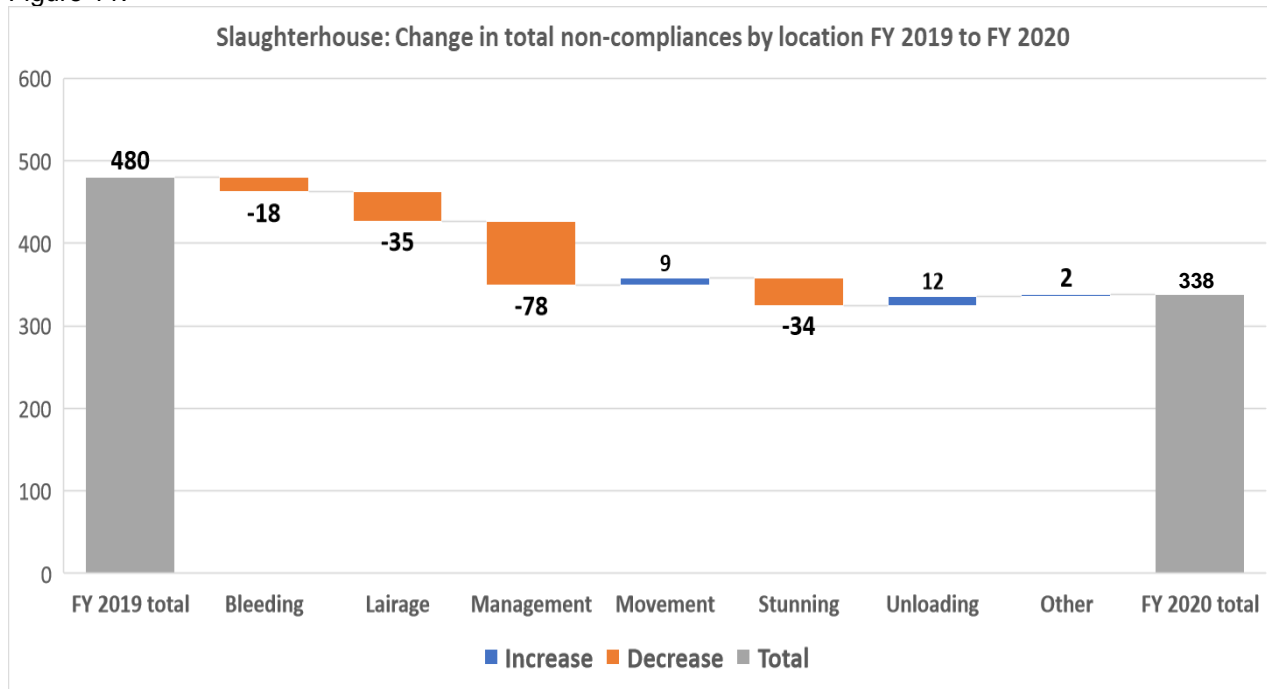


Figure 11 illustrates the changes in non-compliances between FY-2019 and FY-2020. Except for movement and unloading, all other locations have recorded decreases in the levels of non-compliances, with the highest decrease in management related cases by 78 cases.

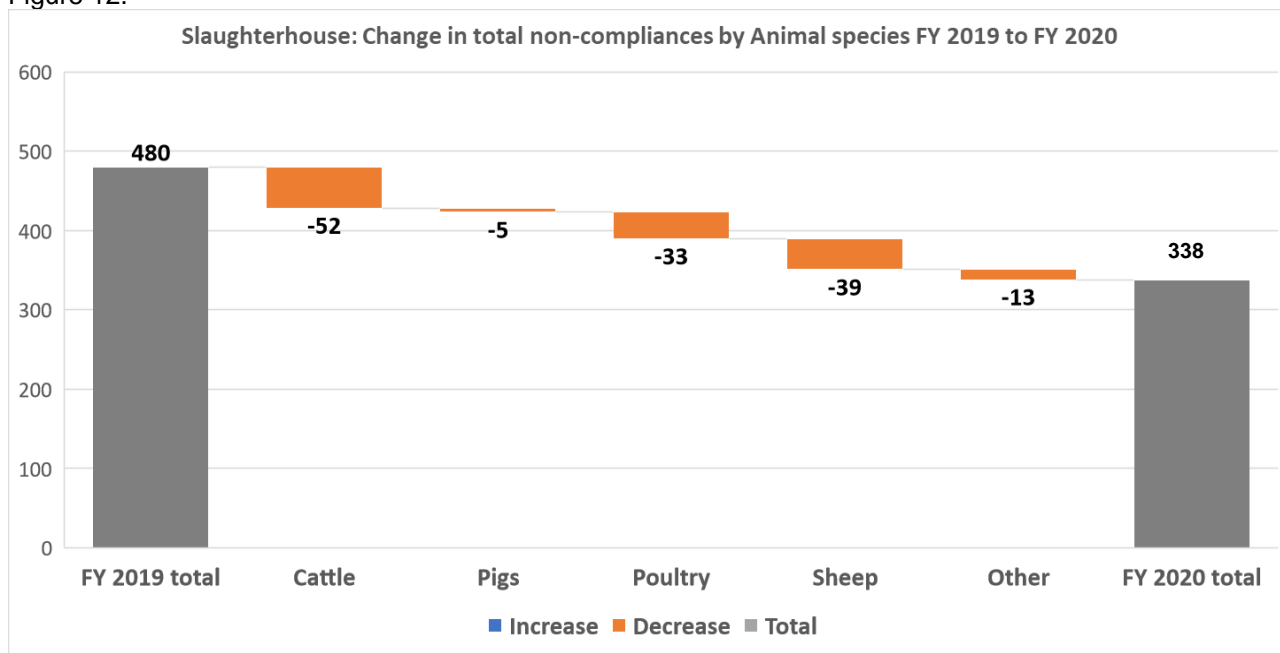
Figure 11.



\*Other includes some non-compliances that are recorded in multi-species plants for deficiencies that affect all other animal species that the FBO processes for example structural deficiencies or deficiencies in the CCTV system.

Figure 12 also highlights the decreases in non-compliances across all animal species in FY 2020, with cattle experiencing the highest number of decrease (52) in the level of non-compliances in FY 2019. Most of these are management related non-compliances such as Annex II which have generally reduced significantly between FY 2019 and FY 2020.

Figure 12.



## Section 4: Analysis of slaughterhouse livestock units

This section analyses the comparative level of throughput (size and livestock unit<sup>1</sup> - LU) in slaughterhouses for FY 2019 and FY 2020. This is to ascertain whether differences in the livestock units for the respective years had any impact on the level of non-compliance levels in slaughterhouses.

Figure 13. **Livestock unit and non-compliances by size of site – FY 2019**

FY-2019					
Plant size	Number	Total No. of NCs	NCs per Plant	Total Livestock unit (LU)	LU per Plant
Large	125	357	2.9	6,407,456	51,260
Medium	53	56	1.1	126,566	2,388
Small	110	67	0.6	32,220	293
<b>Total</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>480</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>6,566,242</b>	

Figure 14. **Livestock unit and non-compliances by size of site – FY 2020**

FY-2020					
Plant size	Number	Total No. of NCs	NCs per Plant	Total Livestock unit (LU)	LU per Plant
Large	123	248	2.0	6,328,821	51,454
Medium	50	40	0.8	123,465	2,469
Small	95	50	0.5	29,843	314
<b>Total</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>6,482,129</b>	

Figures 13 and 14 compares the non-compliance levels per slaughterhouse categories based on the level of livestock units. Depending on the level of livestock unit, slaughterhouses are categorised into sizes i.e. Large, medium, or small.

Non-compliance levels across all sizes reduced in FY 2020 compared with FY 2019 (2.9 to 2.0 – large, 1.1 to 0.8 – medium, and 0.6 to 0.5 – small). Overall average levels of non-compliance per site reduced from 1.7 in FY 2019 to 1.3 per plant in FY 2020.

Livestock units decreased by 1ppt in FY 2020 due to fewer operating establishment (20 less than previously). Consequently livestock unit per site size increased slightly in FY 2020, but notably with fewer non-compliances across all sites.

In figure 15 below, the proportion of sites with no reported non-compliance cases increased for all categories of slaughterhouses, with as much as 80% of all small plants reporting no breaches. Only 5% of large sites recorded more than 10 non-compliances in FY 2020, a decrease of 3ppts. No medium or small plants recorded more than 10 non-compliances in both FY 2019 and FY 2020.

Figure 15. **Number of non-compliances per slaughterhouse sizes for FY 2019 and FY 2020**

Number of NCs	Large	Medium	Small
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<sup>1</sup> Livestock units are calculated as: 1 cattle = 1 LU (1 LU = 1 cattle), 1 calve = 0.5 LU (1 LU = 2 calves), 1 pig = 0.2 LU (1 LU = 5 pigs), 1 sheep/goat = 0.1 LU (1 LU = 10 sheep/goats), 1 poultry = 0.003 LU (1 LU = 333 poultry), 1 turkey = 0.006 LU (1 LU = 167 turkeys). Size thresholds are calculated as: Small: <1000 LU / year, Medium: 1000-5000 LU / year, Large: >5,000 LU / year

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2019	FY 2020
<b>None</b>	37%	41%	57%	64%	69%	80%
<b>Less than 10</b>	58%	56%	43%	36%	31%	20%
<b>10 to 20</b>	3%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%
<b>More than 20</b>	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

Figure 16 compares changes in livestock unit for animal species with the changes in the level of non-compliance. Overall, livestock unit decreased by 1% in FY 2020 and the total of levels 3 & 4 non-compliances by 30%. Except for an increase in the livestock units of pigs by 1.7%, all other species recorded a decrease in livestock units, and a greater reduction in non-compliances for all species.

Figure 16. **Livestock unit and non-compliances by Animal species – FY 2019 and FY 2020**

Livestock unit				Level 3 & 4 non-compliances		
Species	2019	2020	Change	2019	2020	Change
<b>Cattle</b>	1,874,081	1,847,682	-1.4%	126	74	-41%
<b>Other</b>	14,901	8,504	-42.9%	28	15	-46%
<b>Pigs</b>	1,284,544	1,306,191	1.7%	39	34	-13%
<b>Poultry</b>	2,394,018	2,338,835	-2.3%	151	118	-22%
<b>Sheep</b>	998,697	980,917	-1.8%	136	97	-29%
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,566,241.55</b>	<b>6,482,129.02</b>	<b>-1%</b>	<b>480</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>-30%</b>

## Section 5: Covid-19 impact on animal welfare

The Covid-19 pandemic came to prominence in the UK in March of 2020. For the purposes of this analysis we have assumed the entirety of FY 2020 to be Covid-19 impacted. However, the impact may have varied throughout FY 2020 as a result of different stages of the pandemic and different measures imposed, such as national lockdowns.

Overall analysis show that major and critical non-compliance levels have decreased in FY 2020 when compared with FY 2019 across all locations by 30ppts in slaughterhouses, 15ppts in on-farm and as much as 28% in transport.

Analysis at figure 8 indicates that slaughterhouse non-compliances in FY 2020 (during the Covid-19 pandemic) are commensurate with those in FY 2018 (prior to the pandemic). Using figure 8 it is difficult to draw direct comparisons between FY 2020 and FY 2019 as there were increased non-compliances in FY 2019 due to CCTV and Annex II regulations.

Analysis of the underlying data, summarised at figure 7, shows non-compliances in most processing areas have decreased during the pandemic when compared with FY 2019. This is further summarised at figure 11, which shows the only areas to have increased are Movement and Unloading. Management related non-compliances show the largest decrease due to increased compliance with Annex II regulations.

When removing Annex II and CCTV non-compliances from the data overall numbers of slaughterhouse non-compliances (figure 4) have remained broadly similar in FY 2018 (382), FY 2019 (382) and FY 2020 (322).

The decreases in non-compliances observed in FY 2020 is likely to be due to a range of factors, some not linked to Covid-19 such as improved standards and new guidance and initiatives introduced through the Animal Welfare Action Plan. Other factors which may have resulted from Covid-19 are fewer establishments operating, and a reduction in overall throughput. Factors which have resulted from Covid-19 are the temporary cessation of Welfare Assurance Team visits, the temporary cessation of assurance functions, reduced attendance, and remote working (audits/visits).

The impact of Covid will become clearer with a larger dataset from subsequent years.