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Annual report for 2019 on progress towards implementation of the UK Multi-Annual National Control Plan

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Contact point

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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 2019, 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 2019/20, in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, the percentage of food establishments achieving broad compliance or higher for food hygiene was 90.4% compared with 90.7% in the previous year. The percentage that were rated as having an unsatisfactory level of compliance, where improvements were necessary, was 3.9% compared with 4.5% in the previous year. The remaining 5.7% were yet to be risk rated compared with 4.6% the previous year.

FSS plans to publish the official data on food establishments where official controls were undertaken by LAs for Scotland in early 2021.

Meat establishments hygiene

In 2019/20, in the UK, there was a 3.9% decrease in enforcement actions in meat establishments. Where formal enforcement was required, it was in relation to a proportionally low number of establishments. There was a focus on export standards in 2019/20, with an increase in the number of establishments approved to export to Third Countries. The impact of this focus may have also resulted in a reduction in enforcement actions for these establishments.

A systems based enforcement approach was implemented in Scotland at the beginning of the reporting period. This was a contributing factor in significantly lowering the need for formal enforcement.

The service of Remedial Action Notices (RANs) has typically increased year-on-year, however in 2019/20, there was an overall reduction in the service of RANs. The service of Hygiene Improvement Notices (HINs) has also decreased year on year since 2017/18. This was also the case in 2019/20. More RANs were served than HINs during 2019/20, which indicates that non-compliances prompting enforcement action were mainly isolated issues rather than systemic problems relating to Food Business Operator's (FBO) Food Safety Management Systems. Overall, this trend shows increased compliance across the sector.

Milk production hygiene

In the UK, 72% of visits required follow-up checks compared with 65% in 2018/19. 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 decreased slightly in 2019 compared to the previous year, dropping from 85% to 75%. This was due to the poor weather conditions during the winter months. There was an increase in the issue of warning letters due to the nature of the non-compliances found. These were directed at egg producers where hygiene offences had been found at inspections and it was deemed more appropriate to issue a warning letter in the first instance rather than a guidance letter.

In Scotland, compliance was 99%, compared to 97% in the previous year. The use of guidance and warning letters was broadly in line with 2018.

In Northern Ireland, compliance was 97% compared to 98% in the previous year. There was a rise in the number of guidance letters issued.

Shellfish hygiene

In the UK, a total of 12,415 samples were analysed in 2019. Sampling levels were consistent with the previous year. Samples tested included routine biotoxin testing, amnesic shellfish poisoning (ASP), paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP) and lipophilic toxins (LTs). Enforcement action was taken where sample results exceeded the maximum permitted levels, resulting in the closure of production areas.

For England and Wales, compared to 2018, there was a reduction in detection of lipophilic toxins (LTs) and paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP) toxins and a slight increase in the detection of amnesic shellfish poisoning (ASP) toxins.

In Northern Ireland, the results remained consistent with 2018 levels.

In Scotland, compared to 2018, there was an increase in the detection of ASP and LTs, but also a parallel increase in the number of samples analysed. There was a reduction in PSP.

Organic operators

In 2019/20, a total of 663 unannounced visits to organic operators were conducted in the UK. This was a slight increase on the 546 visits in 2017/18. There were 6,503 announced visits to operators in 2019/20, compared to 6,351 in 2017/18. Non-compliances and irregularities of a significant nature were all satisfactorily closed or flagged for further investigation. Compliance levels remain consistent with expectations.

Feed establishments

During 2018¹ there was a 25% decrease in the number of hygiene inspections undertaken in the UK. The number of re-visits dropped by 11% and sampling visits dropped by 6%. The number of feed business operators given advice fell by 41%. This trend aligned with the introduction of full earned recognition for the feed sector.

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

Approval and scheduled inspections carried out by the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) in 2019 found that 18.7% of commercial feed mills were fully compliant, compared to 10% in 2018.

A total of 43.4% of on-farm manufacturers were fully compliant, compared to 22.2% in 2018 and 29.5% of distributors were fully compliant, compared to 33.3% in 2018.

Import controls

In 2019, in the UK, 2,937 imported consignments were tested under EU safeguard measures, compared to 2,473 in 2018. A total of 60 non-compliances were identified compared to 46 in 2018. There was an increase in the number of consignments tested under Regulation (EC) No. 669/2009.

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.

In 2019/20, documentary checks were conducted for 1,425 consignments of imported food into the UK, of which 18% were also subject to identity and physical checks. This represents a marginal increase on 2018, where 1,371 consignments were checked. In both cases, 100% of consignments were inspected. A total of 21 consignments were rejected compared to 12 in 2018/19.

Fish inspections

In 2019, the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) carried out 1,665 inspections in the UK, where first sale fish was handled, compared with 655 in the previous year. MMO undertook 709 inspections of transportation of first sale fish, compared with 271 in the previous year. Checks were made to ensure compliance with the traceability requirements of the Fisheries Control Regulation.

Infringements increased from 24 in 2018 to 165 in 2019. This large increase in inspections and infringements found was due to the recruitment of an additional 35 marine officers who were taken on to ensure that the MMO was adequately resourced to deal with issues arising from EU Exit.

Animal health, animal welfare, aquatic and plant health sectors

Animal health

Exotic disease

In 2019, the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) investigated 113 reports of suspected exotic diseases in the UK. There was one confirmed outbreak of Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza (LPAI) H5N3 in poultry in Suffolk. Additionally, there were four confirmed cases of European Bat Lyssavirus (EBLV) and five cases of Equine Viral Arteritis (EVA). All incidents were successfully resolved.

Zoonoses

In 2019, the levels of regulated *Salmonella* serovars in chickens remained below EU designated targets.

In 2019, 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 3,553 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 has been maintained.

Animal welfare

On-farm welfare

In 2019, the total number of farm visits to individual farms and enterprises in the UK dropped slightly from 2018. The number of enterprises inspected at each visit remained the same as 2018. Repeat visits to the same farm in the same year, slightly decreased in 2019 to 21% of all visits. All complaints relating to poor welfare on farm were treated as high priority and visits were carried out as a matter of urgency; 88% of cases were visited within 24 hours of receipt of the complaint.

An updated code of practice for the welfare of pigs for England was published in March 2020.

Meat chicken directive

In 2019, 966,947,875 chickens were inspected in the UK. This is a 12% decrease on 2018 levels. A total of 3,236 trigger reports, batch level for Northern Ireland and flock level for Great Britain, were generated in the UK and sent to producers. This is a 17.5% decrease from 2018 levels. Inspection visits following trigger reports increased to 67 visits from 60 visits the previous year. Non-compliance with legislation decreased from 18 farms in 2018 to 13 farms in 2019. This shows an overall improvement in compliance.

Animal welfare during transport

In Great Britain, in 2019, 1,296 journey logs were submitted for validation and 1,200 were approved. This is a small increase in journey logs, compared to 1,257 in 2018.

In Northern Ireland, DAERA approved 201 journey logs in 2018 compared to 220 in 2018. No journey logs were rejected by APHA. Compliance levels remained broadly in line with 2018.

Bee health

A total of 33,191 unique colonies in 5,274 apiaries were inspected in England and Wales in 2019/20. This was in line with inspections undertaken in previous years.

In Scotland, there was an increase in inspections from 3,767 colonies inspected in 2018 to 4,117 colonies inspected in 2019, The number of apiaries remained similar to previous years at 208.

In Northern Ireland, inspection numbers were down slightly. American foulbrood (AFB) levels remained consistent, European foulbrood (EFB) findings were sharply down compared to 2018.

Aquatic animal health

Compliance at aquaculture production businesses remained consistent with previous years, showing the continued effectiveness of inspection programmes and prompt action taken on non-compliance.

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 import inspection targets were met, with low risk controlled material achieved 66% against the target of 65%. All required mandatory inspections were completed. There was a 17% increase in the number of consignments declared and requiring control over the previous year, reflecting the inclusion of new commodities subject to inspection. For the 123 trades subject to reduced import checks, the required levels of inspection were achieved for 122 trades.

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.

There was a notable increase in non-compliance in the area of first fish sale. The increase in infringements found, from 24 in 2018 to 165 in 2019 was due to the recruitment of an additional 35 marine officers and increased inspections.

In all other sectors the intensity and types of controls remained largely 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, during 2019/20, there was a 1.3% reduction in formal hygiene enforcement action taken against food businesses compared to 2018/19.

Meat establishment hygiene

In 2019/20, in the UK there was a decrease in formal enforcement actions in meat establishments.

In England and Wales, where formal enforcement was required, only a minority of premises demonstrated a pattern requiring repeated or further action. The majority of premises did not require further action following resolution of initial enforcement notices. Only 29% of all formal notices were breached and referred for further investigation. This indicates that overall, 71% of the formal notices have been effective in achieving compliance.

In Northern Ireland during 2019/20, escalation to formal enforcement action or referral for investigation was not required in any of the 52 approved establishments in Northern Ireland. Increased verification activity by officials using the slaughter hygiene verification system has been a contributing factor leading to increased compliance.

In Scotland, the level of formal enforcement was significantly lower than previous years. This is highly likely to be a consequence of the Systems Based Enforcement approach implemented at the beginning of the reporting period.

Milk production hygiene

There was 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. Compliance levels have remained consistent compared to previous years.

Specified Risk Material Controls (SRM)

The number of SRM cases referred for investigation in the UK in 2019/20 remained broadly consistent with previous years. Over the past five years, there has been a gradual decrease in cases referred for investigation.

Fish inspection

For establishments where first sale fish was handled, 165 written and verbal re-briefs were served, compared to 24 in 2018. No official written warnings were served, compared to one in 2018. Three establishments were served with a Financial Administrative Penalty, and there is one prosecution waiting to go to court. These were all related to breaches of Fisheries Control Regulations.

Feed establishments

The number of formal actions to address serious breaches of feed requirements decreased by 46.4%. There were five instances where feed was either seized, detained or surrendered. This resulted in one simple caution. This shows an overall improvement in compliance for UK feed businesses compared to 2017/18.

4. National audit systems

FSA and FSS audit of local authorities

In England, in 2019/20, all local authorities (LAs) audited had developed and were following their Service Plans. They were found to be delivering in accordance with the Food Law Code of Practice and the Framework Agreement for controls on food and food establishments, complaints and food infectious diseases.

In England, the main issues identified through audit were LA failure to update policies and procedures on a regular basis. Officers did not always adhere to these documented procedures. Auditors also reported that whilst LAs appeared to have sufficient resources to carry out the investigation of food complaints and food infectious diseases, not all LAs were able to demonstrate that resources had been reviewed and allocated appropriately as part of service planning.

In Wales, between 2013 and 2017, all 22 LAs 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 of the full audit programme was completed and a programme of follow up audits took place in 2019 to assess progress in implementing the agreed full audit action plans.

The findings of the full audit programme were that LA food hygiene official controls were being delivered in accordance with the FSA's Framework Agreement and Food Law Code of Practice.

In respect of food standards official controls, planned interventions were not being carried out at the prescribed frequencies in the Food Law Code of Practice as LAs had adopted a risk-based approach. Records of planned interventions were not sufficiently detailed to verify the extent to which business compliance has been assessed. LA delivery of reactive food standards interventions was in line with the code and framework agreement.

Follow-up audits were undertaken at services covering the responsibilities of six LAs. LA services assessed on follow up audits showed gradual improvement.

In addition, a focused audit programme was run to assess the extent to which the six regional feed services in Wales were meeting requirements. This commenced with four services covering the responsibilities of 16 LAs and the services of nine of those LAs receiving an audit visit. A summary report is due to be published in 2021.

In Northern Ireland, in 2019/20, three LAs were audited and two recommendations were made. The recommendations covered internal monitoring and document control. All three LAs had a comprehensive system of policies and procedures in place, including the required aspects of the Food Hygiene Rating Scheme (FHRS).

In Scotland, an audit was commissioned to assess the consistency of sampling policies across LAs, and their alignment with the requirements of the Food Law Code of Practice and supporting guidance in this area. The findings will contribute to the evidence needed by FSS to develop a future sampling strategy which will ensure there is adequate capacity and capability for official controls and surveillance of the Scottish food chain in 2021.

The audit also provided the opportunity to review how different LAs commission and use their laboratory and Public Analyst Services. This will therefore support FSS in understanding how these arrangements have impacted on the resilience of these services.

Internal audits conducted by competent authorities on feed, food and control bodies

In England, official controls delivery was found to be satisfactory in all the activities audited, with no significant control issues being identified. There was also evidence of improvement in official controls outcomes as a result of actions taken following a previous audit in relation to Raw Drinking Milk and Animal By Products. A common finding was that officials had tended to rely on enforcement to tackle individual operator non-compliances (corrective action) rather than acting on root causes (prevention).

Welsh Government's Internal Audit Services (IAS) also carried out a review of asset management within the Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer (OCVO). Four 'Merits Attention' recommendations were raised as a result of this review.

In Scotland an animal by-products audit was undertaken by Scottish Government. Exposure to the weaknesses were identified as moderate and are being mitigated.

APHA - UK

Plant Health reviews are now part of the remit, plans and reporting for the UK Internal Audit programmes. APHA audit work completed during 2019 has shown an increase in issues arising from testing. In some of the main operational areas of APHA, there has been a slight reduction in the effectiveness of controls. Seventy percent of audit opinions were moderate or above in 2018, but had reduced to 62% in 2019.

Delivery of welfare inspections within APHA were found to be of a high standard, identifying non-compliances with the Meat Chicken Directive and issuing improvement advice to farmers.

A review of third country imports under the Balai Directive was also conducted. One instance of non-compliance with this import requirement was identified.

Overall, there has been an increase in the proportion and number of positive audit opinions (Substantial, Moderate, Reasonable) in the UK.

5. Resources

An additional 35 marine officers were taken on by the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) to ensure sufficient resource following the end of the transition period.

There were no other significant changes in any sector.

6. Actions taken to improve performance of control activities and business compliance

The UK continued its efforts to improve the quality and delivery of official controls. A number of initiatives were undertaken in 2019/20, such as:

- enhanced training programmes including webinars, eLearning, face to face workshops and seminars
- ongoing review and revision of the Food and Feed Law Codes of Practice to simplify and align the codes across the UK
- increased information sharing and access to food industry intelligence data to bolster the work of the National Food Crime Unit and its Scottish equivalent in preventing food crime
- incident management related activities including exercises, drills and training, as well as the development of UK standard operating procedures
- ongoing engagement with UK wide working groups to foster closer links, and sharing of best practice on official control delivery

In addition to ongoing support, the following measures were taken to help improve the performance of business operators in 2019/20:

- ongoing operation of the FHRS to encourage businesses to improve and maintain hygiene standards
- development of guides and factsheets to improve compliance, this included guidance on animal welfare; milking of dairy cows, Regulation (EC) 1099/2009 Annex II, provision of drinking water, and the restraint of cattle for slaughter
- new rules around allergens which will require full ingredient labelling for Pre-Packed for Direct Sale (PPDS) foods in England and to pursue a UK wide approach to protect consumers
- The FSA and FSS published [a package to help businesses understand the theory and practice of root cause analysis \(RCA\)](#), explaining how it aids in reducing the number of recurring food safety incidents
- Cefas FHI rolled out a mobile friendly website to fish farmers in England and Wales. This website aims to assist authorised Aquaculture Production Businesses (APBs) with compliance and statutory record keeping

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. This document is the UK's annual report for 2019 on implementation of the MANCP.

1.2 The MANCP and the associated annual reports are produced by the Food Standards Agency (FSA) with contributions provided by:

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

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	The allocation of resources delivering official controls
Chapter 5	Actions taken to improve performance of competent authorities and food business operators

1.4 [The 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 2019/20 compared with 2018/19.

Official controls in the feed and food sectors

2.2 The Food Standards Agency (FSA) produced quarterly resource and performance reports for 2019/20. These were 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 2019/20.

2.3 Food Standards Scotland (FSS) has developed a performance reporting system for updating the FSS Board on a six-monthly basis in May and November. [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 LAs in England Wales, and Northern Ireland using an FSA web-based system: the Local Authority Enforcement Monitoring System (LAEMS). [The 2019/20 report](#) was published in November 2020.

2.5 From January 2020, there was an emergency response as a result of flooding within some LAs, particularly in Wales. This had an impact on food delivery work. By March 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic had started to create challenges for LAs in delivering their statutory functions in relation to food alongside the much broader work they must undertake to protect their communities and control the spread of coronavirus. This was noted by some LA's in the Supporting Information on LAEMS.

2.6 In general terms, delivery in 2019/20 has remained consistent with 2018/19, particularly in England and Wales. In Northern Ireland, there were some improvements, including increases in the proportion of due interventions undertaken for food hygiene and for food standards. A summary of key findings for 2019/20 follows.

Broad compliance

2.7 The percentage of food establishments across the three countries achieving broad compliance or higher was 90.4% compared with 90.7% in the previous year.

- In England there was a decrease from 90.4% to 90%
- In Wales there was a decrease from 93.1% to 92.7%
- In Northern Ireland there was an increase from 94.1% to 95.4%
- 3.9% of all food establishments were rated as having an unsatisfactory level of compliance, where improvements were necessary, compared with 4.6% in the previous year
- The remaining 5.7% of premises were yet to be risk rated compared with 4.8% the previous year

Interventions achieved

- 2.8 **Food hygiene:** The total percentage of due interventions achieved across the three countries has decreased from 86.4% in 2018/19 to 85.7% in 2019/20.
- in England there was a decrease from 86.0% to 85.3%
 - in Wales there was a decrease from 91.5% to 89.1%
 - in Northern Ireland there was an increase from 85.1% to 89.0%
- 2.9 **Food standards:** The total percentage of due interventions achieved across the three countries decreased from 40.8% in 2018/19 to 39.7% in 2019/20.
- in England there was a decrease from 36.8% to 35.7%
 - in Wales there was a decrease from 66.7% to 61.1%
 - in Northern Ireland there was an increase from 83.5% to 84.4%

Enforcement actions

- 2.10 **Food hygiene:** The total number of establishments across the three countries subject to at least one type of enforcement action decreased by 1.3% from 158,128 in 2018/19 to 156,066 in 2019/20.
- in England there was a decrease of 10.8% in formal enforcement actions from 4,796 in 2018/19 to 4,278 in 2019/20 and a 2.5% decrease in written warnings from 135,408 in 2018/19 to 132,081 in 2019/20
 - in Wales there was a decrease of 3.3% in formal enforcement actions from 457 in 2018/19 to 442 in 2019/20 and a 1.1% increase in written warnings from 12,322 in 2018/19 to 12,454 in 2019/20
 - in Northern Ireland there was an increase of 10.3% in formal enforcement actions from 58 in 2018/19 to 64 and a 32.6% increase in written warnings from 5,087 in 2018/19 to 6,747 in 2019/20
- 2.11 **Food standards:** The number of establishments across the three countries subject to at least one type of enforcement action increased by 5.8% from 24,164 in 2018/19 to 25,553 in 2019/20
- in England there was an increase of 44.7% in formal enforcement actions from 273 in 2018/19 to 395 in 2019/20 and a 7.7% increase in written warnings from 18,749 in 2018/19 to 20,186 in 2019/20
 - in Wales there was an increase of 47.4% in formal enforcement actions from 38 in 2018/19 to 56 in 2019/20. There was a 11.8% decrease in written warnings from 3,050 in 2018/19 to 2,689 in 2019/20
 - In Northern Ireland, there was an increase of 40% in formal enforcement actions from 5 in 2018/19 to 7 in 2019/20, and an increase of 8.3% in written warnings from 2,049 in 2018/19 to 2,220 in 2019/20.
- 2.12 [The Scottish Food Enforcement Annual Return](#) is published by FSS. The official data will be published in early 2021

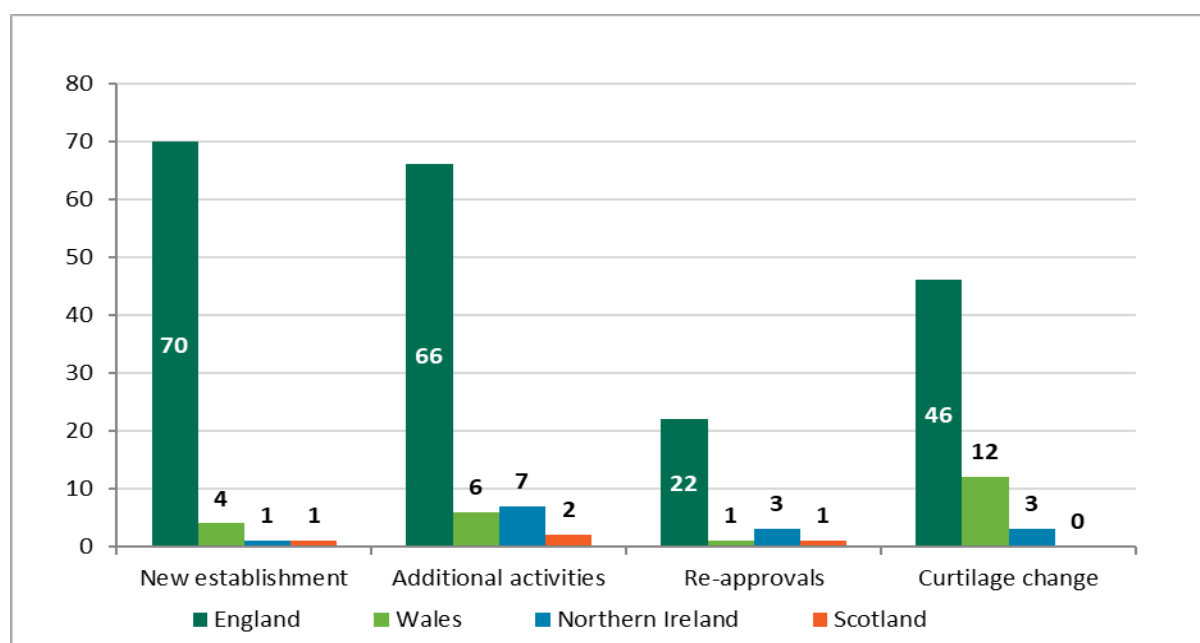
Meat hygiene

- 2.13 In 2019/20, the FSA delivered official controls in 899² approved meat establishments in England and Wales. This included 251 slaughterhouses, 50 game handling establishments and 800 cutting plants (including market stalls).
- 2.14 DAERA³ delivered official controls in Northern Ireland. This included 18 slaughterhouses, 2 game handling establishments and 50 cutting plants, of which 34 were standalone and 16 were co-located with slaughterhouses.
- 2.15 In 2019/20, FSS delivered official controls in 90⁴ approved meat establishments in Scotland. This included 26 slaughterhouses, 15 game handling establishments and 49 cutting plants including market stalls.

Approval of new meat establishments

- 2.16 In 2019/20, the UK received 245 applications for approval or approval related activities, compared to 246 in 2018/19. The chart below shows a breakdown of approval applications received by type and region.

Figure 1 - Chart showing number of approval applications received in the UK in 2019/20



² An establishment may be approved for more than one activity.

³ 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.

⁴ Approved establishments may carry out more than one function.

Refusals

- 2.17 In April 2019, the FSA introduced charging for advisory visits in England and Wales. Advisory visits aim to help FBOs identify the welfare and hygiene requirements which may apply to their proposed activity. The expectation is that FBOs solicit advice to meet the required standards before applying for approval. The new system aims to reduce the need for multiple approval re-visits by the FSA, and allows for more efficient use of resources. [Full details of charging](#) can be found online.
- 2.18 Twenty-three advisory visits took place during the 2019/20 financial year. Those FBOs who had not paid for an advisory visit and were found to be below standard, were refused approval. Eighteen establishments in England and Wales were refused approval. Three of the 18 were subsequently approved after improvements were made.
- 2.19 In England and Wales, 18 FBOs were refused approval in 2019/20 compared to nine in 2018/19. This is likely due to a more stringent enforcement of standards upon the initial approval visit, placing the onus on the FBO to achieve the required standard without multiple re-visits.
- 2.20 No establishment was refused approval in Northern Ireland in 2019/20.
- 2.21 In Scotland, no establishment was refused approval, no further applications for approval were made.

Food business operator audits in meat establishments

- 2.22 During 2019/20, the UK conducted routine audits of approved meat establishments. A programme of focused audits was undertaken in slaughterhouses in England and Wales on cleansing and disinfecting, microbiological sampling, approved game handling establishments and welfare. Key findings and recommendations were agreed with industry and are currently being implemented.
- 2.23 The charts below provide a breakdown of the proportion of UK businesses for each audit outcome, based on full FBO audits. A separate breakdown is also provided for FSS as they operate a slightly different scheme.

Figure 2 - Chart showing audit outcomes in the United Kingdom for 2019/20 by percentage for slaughterhouses with or without co-located cutting plants

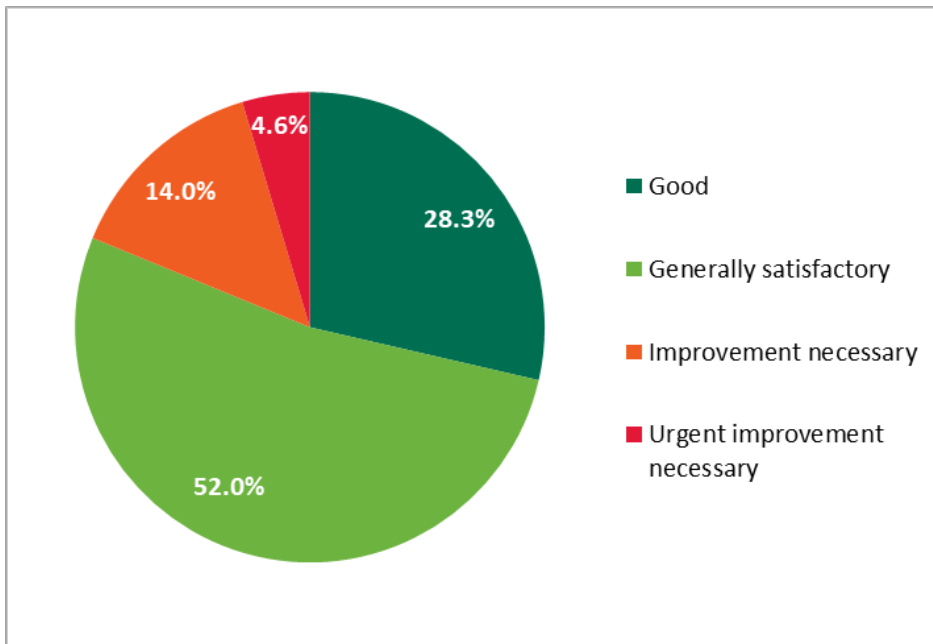


Figure 3 - Chart showing audit outcomes in the United Kingdom for 2019/20 by percentage for standalone cutting plants (including market stalls)

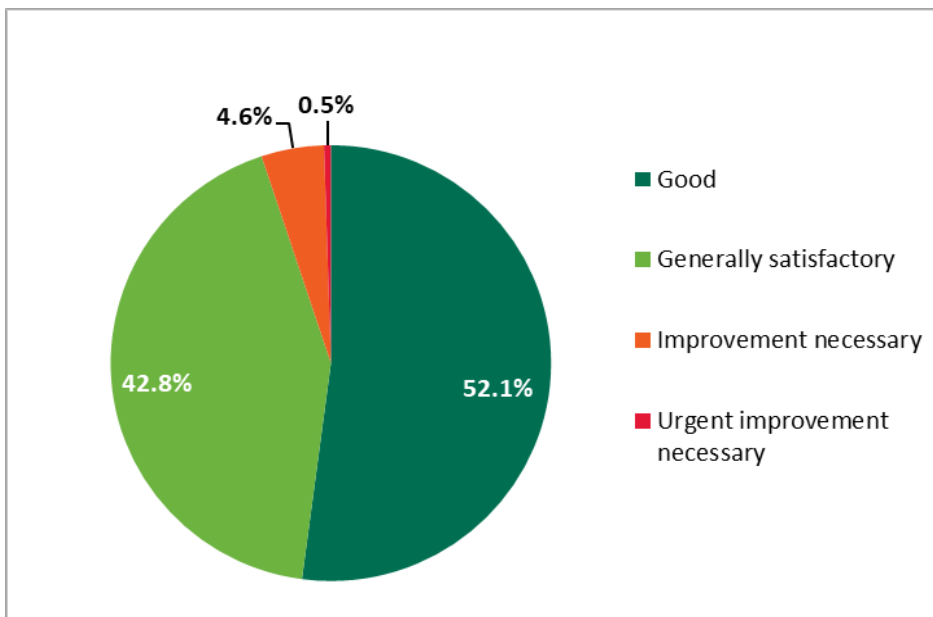


Figure 4 - Chart showing audit outcomes in Scotland for 2019/20 by percentage for standalone cutting plants (including market stalls)

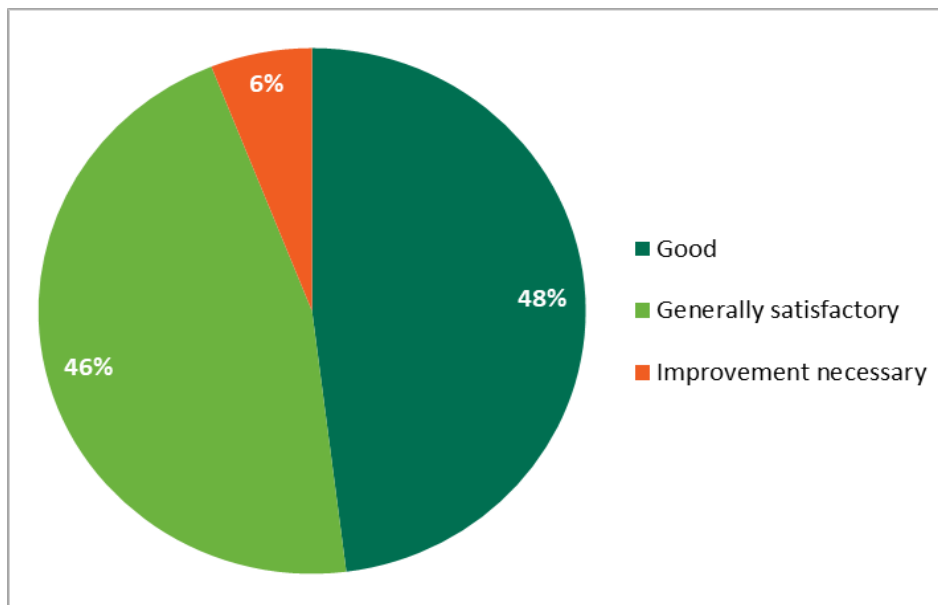


Figure 5 - Chart showing audit outcomes in Scotland for 2019/20 by percentage for Slaughterhouses with or without co-located cutting plants

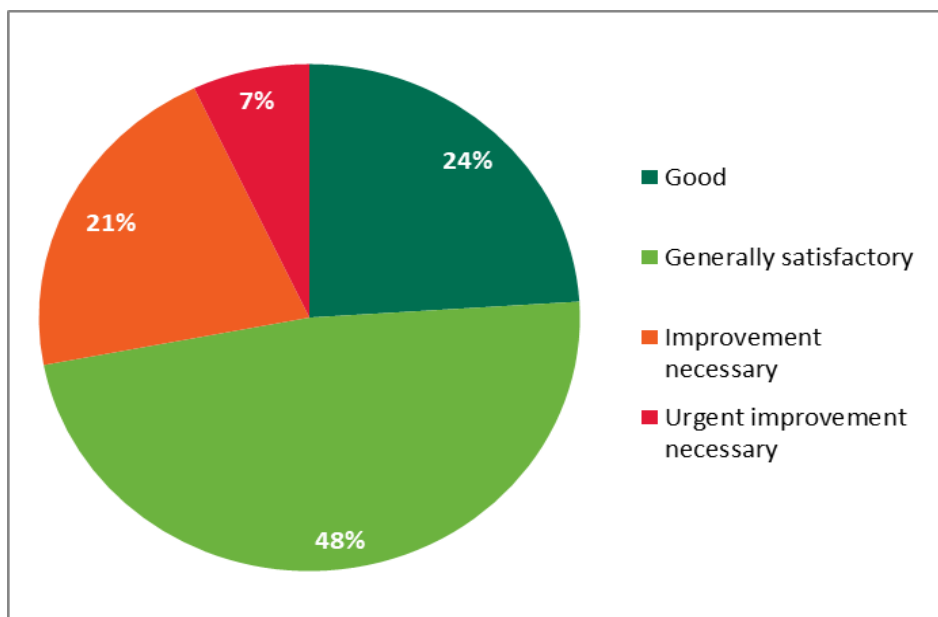


Figure 6 - Chart showing the number of audits completed the United Kingdom, by audit outcome during 2019/20

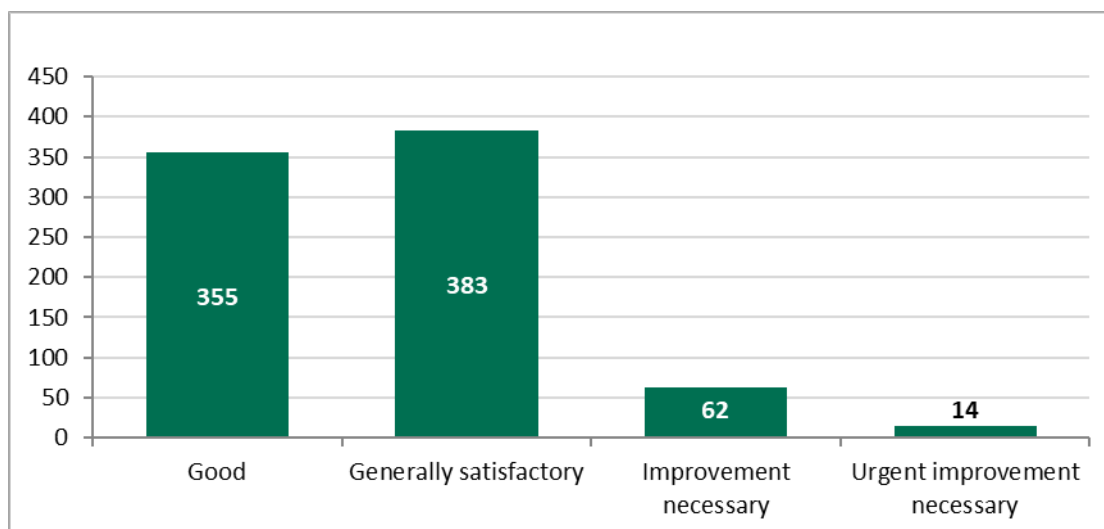
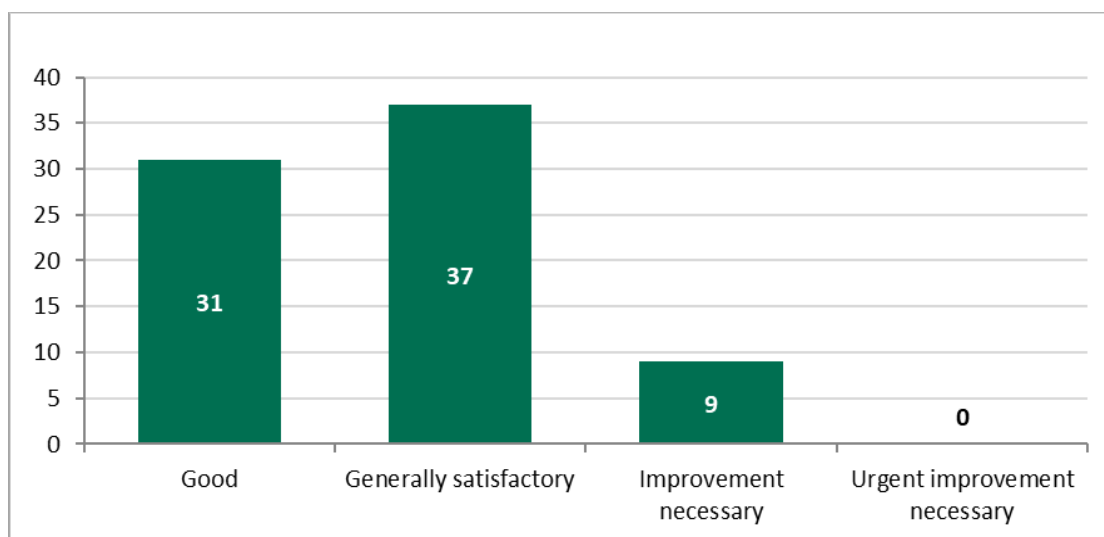


Figure 7 - Chart showing the number of audits completed in Scotland, by audit outcome during 2019/20



- 2.24 A total of 736 full audits were completed in England, Wales and Northern Ireland in 2019/20. The findings indicated that 91% of slaughterhouses (with or without co-located cutting plants) and standalone cutting plants had generally satisfactory or good level of compliance. This is broadly consistent with the figures for 2018/19
- 2.25 In Scotland, 79 full audits were undertaken in 2019/20. The findings indicated that 72% of slaughterhouses, with or without co-located cutting plants and 94% of standalone cutting plants had a generally satisfactory level of compliance. This represents a 9% decrease in compliance compared to 2018/19 for slaughterhouses and a 12% increase for standalone cutting plants
- 2.26 The data should be considered in the context that any establishments conditionally approved would not have been subject to audit until full approval was granted. Also, slaughterhouses with or without a co-located cutting plants that had received a 'good' rating in 2018/19 following two previous 'good' audit outcomes, may not be subject to another audit for 18 months. This differs in Scotland where the maximum frequency is 12 months.

Urgent improvement necessary

- 2.27 Audit outcomes are based on an assessment across all areas providing a reliable indicator on standards of hygiene, food safety, animal welfare and animal health. The [FSA](#) and [FSS](#) publish audit outcomes for all approved meat establishments.
- 2.28 In 2019/20, in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, nine slaughterhouses with or without co-located cutting plants and three standalone cutting plants received an audit outcome of 'urgent improvement necessary'. The [intervention protocol](#) seeks improvements through education, advice and enforcement action for premises requiring urgent improvement.
- 2.29 In 2019/20, in Scotland, two slaughterhouses with or without co-located cutting plants, and no standalone cutting plants received an audit outcome of 'urgent improvement necessary'. As at 31 March 2020 the non-compliances at those premises had been satisfactorily resolved, leaving no plants in Scotland with 'urgent improvement necessary'.

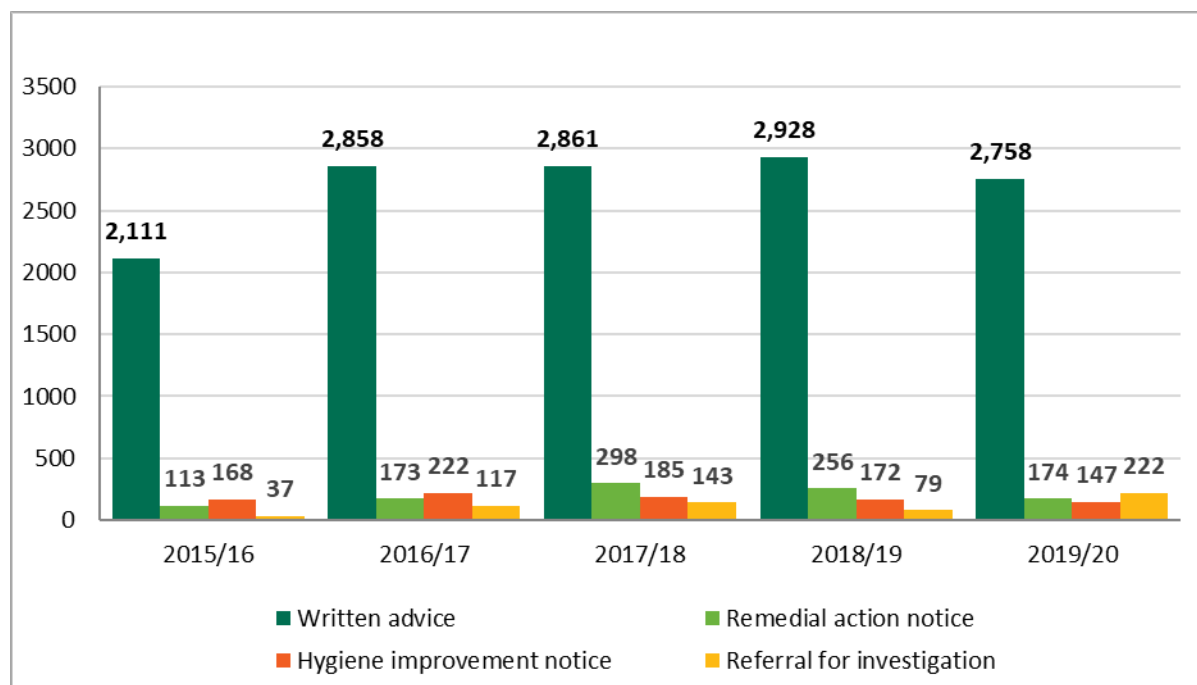
Unannounced inspections in cutting plants

- 2.30 During 2019/20, 907 unannounced inspections were completed in England and Wales and 38 unannounced inspections were carried out in Northern Ireland. FSS completed 86 unannounced inspections in Scotland.

Enforcement in meat establishments

- 2.31 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.

Figure 8 - Chart showing number of enforcement actions in UK meat establishments from 2015/16 - 2019/20



- 2.32 In 2019/20, in England and Wales, 13.3% of all approved establishments were subject to formal enforcement action. This accounts for all RANs and HINs issued and those referrals for investigation. Eight establishments were responsible for 50% of the 169 RANs served. Twelve premises were responsible for 50% of the 144 HINs served. Approximately 50% of the 91 referrals for prosecution related to only six premises.

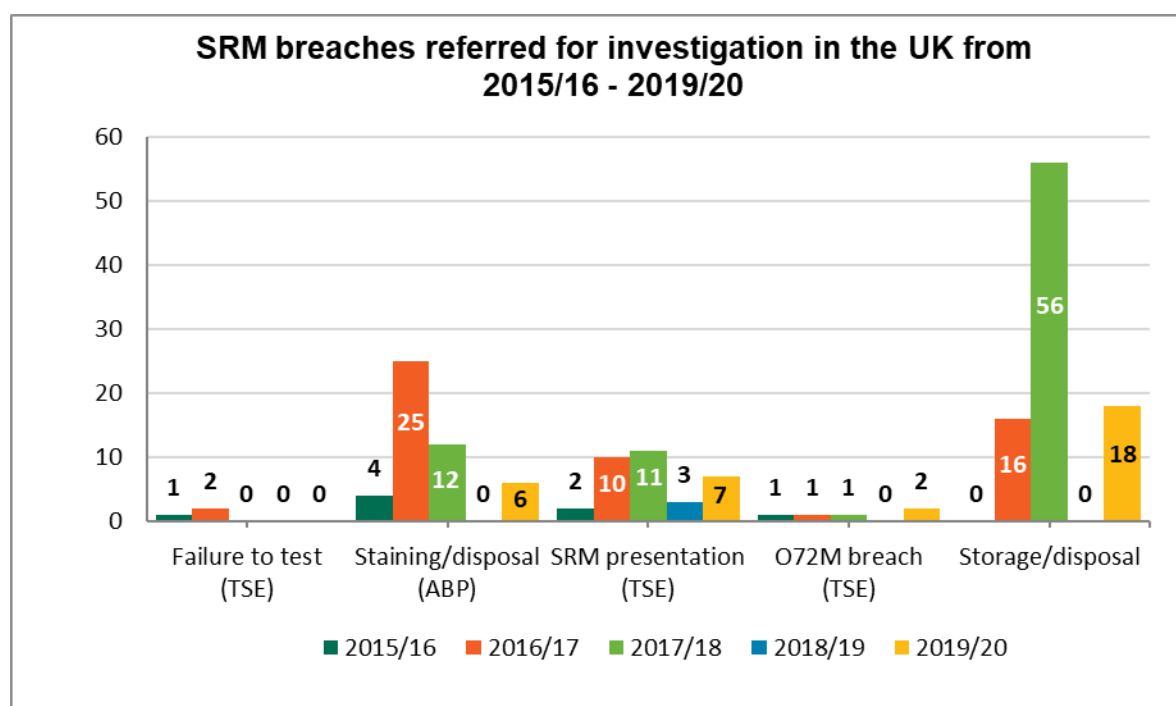
- 2.33 Where formal enforcement was required, only a minority of establishments demonstrated a pattern requiring repeated or further action. The majority of premises did not require further action following resolution of initial enforcement notices. Only 29% of all formal notices, equating to 313 RANs and HINs, were breached and referred for further investigation. This indicates that overall, 71% of the formal notices have been effective in achieving compliance.
- 2.34 In 2019/20, there was a 2.7% decrease in the number of approved premises operating compared to 2018/19. There was also a 20.3% decrease in formal enforcement actions taken compared to 2018/19. The disproportionate decrease in formal enforcement actions could indicate that informal enforcement such as verbal and written guidance was effective at prompting or maintaining compliance. It may also be the case that the poorly performing approved establishments closed in 2018/19, which would further reduce the amount of formal enforcement noted in 2019/20.
- 2.35 In Northern Ireland during 2019/20, informal written enforcement action was required in 23% of the 52 approved establishments, compared with 28% during 2018/19. This shows an increase in compliance year-on-year for the past five years.
- 2.36 Increased verification activity by officials using the slaughter hygiene verification system has been a contributing factor leading to increased compliance. Unannounced inspection visits have proved an effective means of detecting non-compliance, leading to 75% of the written enforcement actions.
- 2.37 Escalation to formal enforcement action or referral for investigation was not required in any of the 52 approved establishments in Northern Ireland.
- 2.38 In Scotland, the level of formal enforcement was significantly lower than in previous years. This is highly likely to be a consequence of the Systems Based Enforcement approach implemented at the beginning of the reporting period.
- 2.39 Overall, 2019/20 has seen a decrease in enforcement actions in meat establishments. Where formal enforcement has been required, it has been in relation to a proportionally low number of establishments. Multiple different factors may have caused this decrease, such as, informal intervention like verbal and written advice, which has helped improve or maintain overall compliance levels.
- 2.40 The service of RANs has typically increased year-on-year, however in 2019/20 there has been an overall reduction. The service of HINs has decreased year on year since 2017/18. This has also been the case for 2019/20.
- 2.41 Overall, more RANs were served than HINs during 2019/20. This indicates that non-compliances prompting enforcement were mainly isolated issues rather than systemic problems relating to FBO's Food Safety Management Systems. The ongoing validity of a RAN also provides assurance to officers that the original legal breach should not recur during the life of the notice.

Specified Risk Material (SRM) controls

2.42 In 2019/20, 100% of inspections of bovine and ovine carcasses for SRM removal at slaughterhouses were carried out. Verification and audit of FBO processes for removal, storage, staining and disposal of SRM were carried out in authorised slaughterhouses and cutting plants on a risk-based frequency.

2.43 The chart below shows SRM breaches referred for investigation in the UK for the last five years. It shows a gradual decrease in cases.

Figure 9 - Chart showing SRM breaches referred for investigation by year in the United Kingdom from 2015/16 - 2018/19



Milk production hygiene

2.44 The number of UK milk production holdings as at 31 March 2020 is shown in the table below. The table sets out the number of primary and secondary inspections carried out in 2019/20. Approximately 73% of visits in England and Wales resulted in follow-up checks.

2.45 These were conducted via a physical visit by an FSA inspector or remotely using digital evidence to demonstrate compliance. This approach resulted in the majority of non-compliances being resolved within agreed timescales.

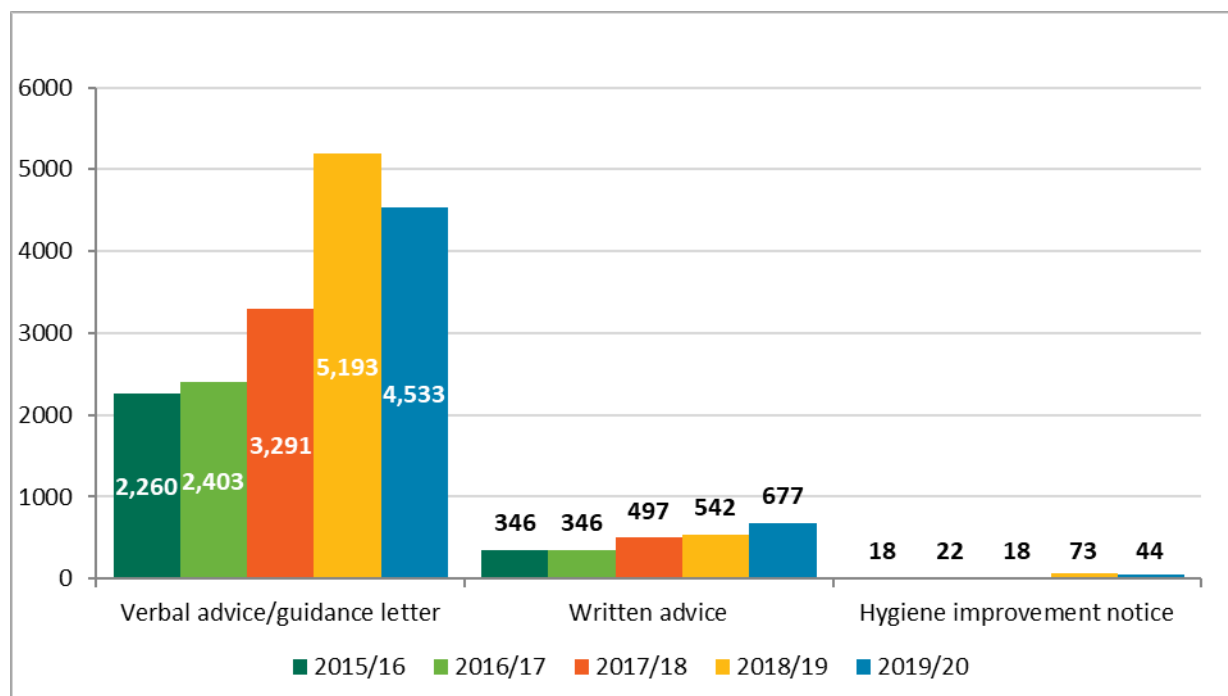
Milk production holdings and inspections 2019/20

Holdings and inspections	England and Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland	UK
Milk production holdings and processing establishments	8,525	870	3,132	12,527
Primary inspections	1,028	126	1,101	2,255
Secondary inspections (non-compliance highlighted from primary inspections)	751	11	881	1,643

2.46 The FSA has direct responsibility for delivery of dairy hygiene inspections in milk production holdings in England and Wales. In 2019/20, there was a 4.4% decrease in the number of dairy farms in England and Wales compared to the previous year. A total of 89.7% of all dairy farms in England and Wales are part of an assurance scheme recognised by the FSA for the purposes of earned recognition and therefore have a 10 year visit frequency. This has increased by 2.3% on the previous year.

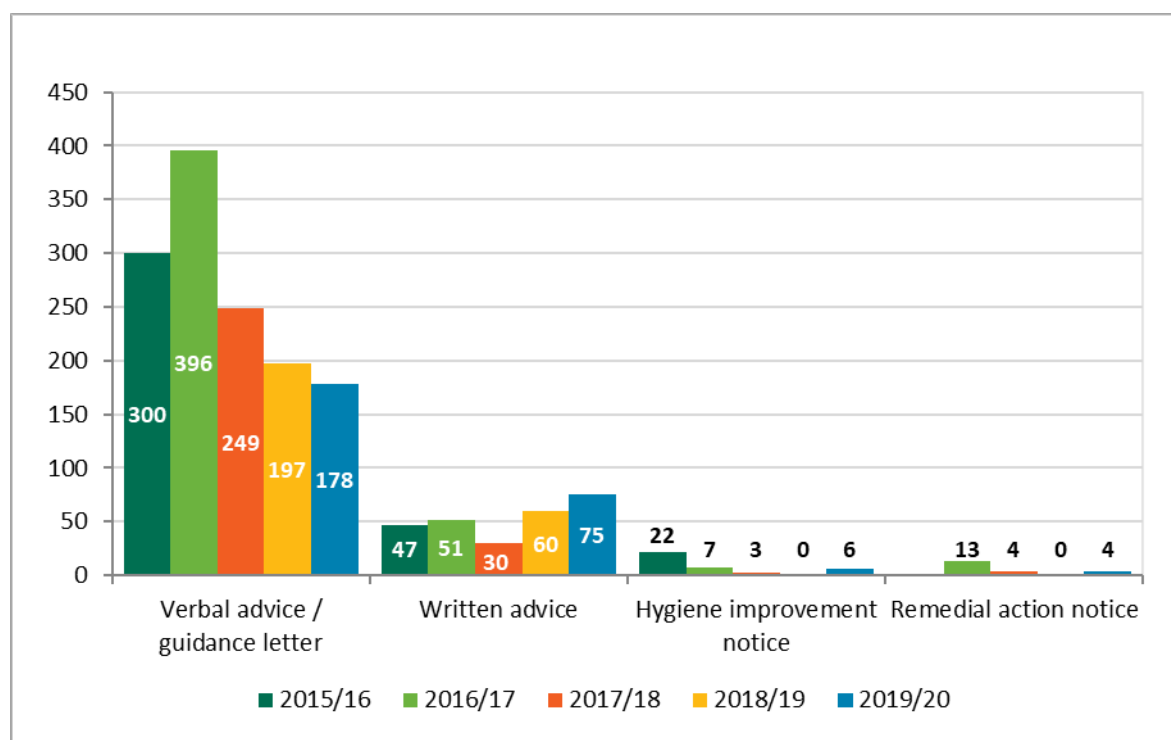
2.47 As shown in the chart below, there has been a slight decrease in the number of enforcement interventions, compared to 2018/19. This is a slight improvement in compliance levels found on farms as part of our primary production inspections.

Figure 10 - Chart showing milk production hygiene enforcement actions in England and Wales from 2015/16 - 2019/20



- 2.48 In Northern Ireland, inspections in milk production holdings and liquid milk processing establishments are carried out by DAERA. There were 3,132 producers of cows, sheep and goats milk as at 1 April 2020. Quality assured farms represent approximately 81% of the total number of farms. As at the 3 of May 2020, there were 2,538 members in the Red Tractor Scheme. This has steadily increased year on year.
- 2.49 The increased number of farms in a scheme with earned recognition continues to have a downward effect on the frequency of statutory inspections⁵ and therefore also a reduction in the number of scheduled inspections. Farms that lose their earned recognition status revert to the standard two year frequency.
- 2.50 There was a total of 1,982 dairy farm inspections during 2019/20. Of the 1,101 inspections, 704 resulted in an outcome of 'no action required', while 342 resulted in a recommendation for a follow-up inspection. The remaining 55 are 'other actions', which primarily comprise announced inspections and registration removal.

Figure 11 - Chart showing milk production hygiene enforcement actions for Northern Ireland, from 2015/16 - 2019/20

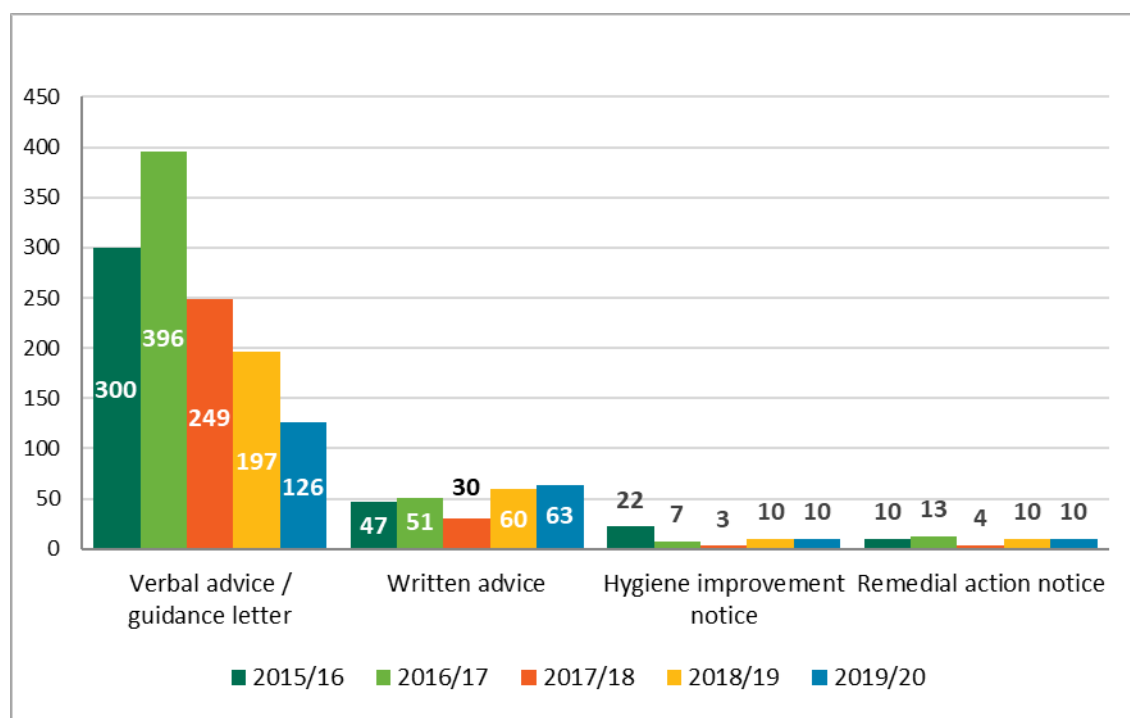


- 2.51 During 2019/20, 178 guidance letters were issued to farmers for non-compliance. Seventy-five cases progressed to an informal written warning stage before being adequately addressed. This comprised 12 informal written warnings and 63 Antibiotic Written Warnings. The successful use of advice demonstrates a high level of compliance within the industry and a willingness to take on board guidance provided by inspectors.

⁵ Those in a scheme are inspected at a 10 year frequency versus 2 years.

- 2.52 Agri-food Inspection Branch (AfiB) milk inspectors continued to work with the farmer to address the two outstanding HIN's. In due course, the farmer will receive a cross compliance penalty of up to 35% of his single farm payment. We estimate this to be several thousand pounds. The case has not been progressed to prosecution as the two outstanding HIN's present a low food safety risk. This position will however be kept under review.
- 2.53 Ten formal enforcement notifications were issued during 2019/20. Six HINs and four RANs were issued to one farm. All RANs and four of the HINs have been complied with. Remedial action on the remaining two HIN's was hampered by the very wet weather in February and the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 2.54 There have been no referrals to DAERA's Central Enforcement Team
- 2.55 In Scotland, inspections in production holdings are carried out by 32 individual LAs. In 2019/20, 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.

Figure 12 - Chart showing milk production hygiene enforcement actions in Scotland from 2015/16 - 2019/20



- 2.56 The number of inspections and the extent to which problems were resolved after secondary inspection showed that overall controls were effective across the UK. There was 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)

- 2.57 In 2019/20, the number of registered RDM producers remained broadly consistent, with 162 registered in England, Wales and Northern Ireland compared with 161 in 2018/19. New controls required producers to have a food safety management system that assesses and addresses the risks associated with their production systems. This includes a microbiological sampling programme. The FSA's verification sampling programme was adjusted to include routine testing for pathogens.

Egg production hygiene

2.58 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.

2.59 The chart below shows the total number of registered egg production sites and inspection visits for 2019/20.

Figure 13 - Chart showing the number of egg productions sites, inspections and non-compliance in the United Kingdom in 2019/20

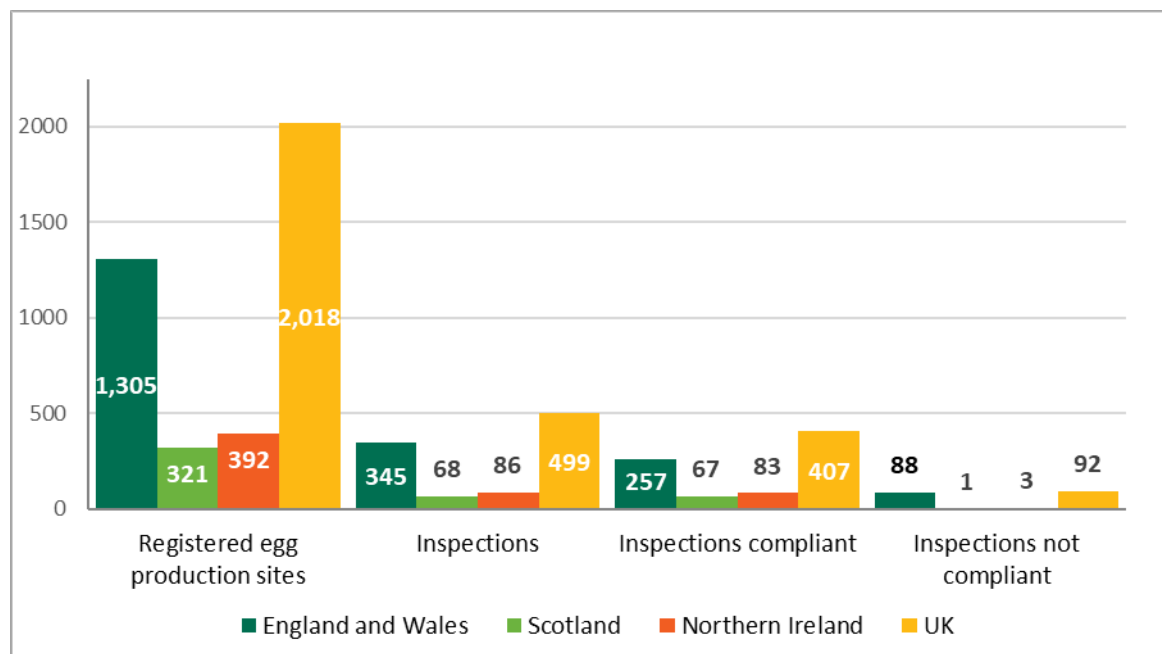


Figure 14 - Chart showing egg production enforcement actions in England and Wales from 2015/16 - 2019/20

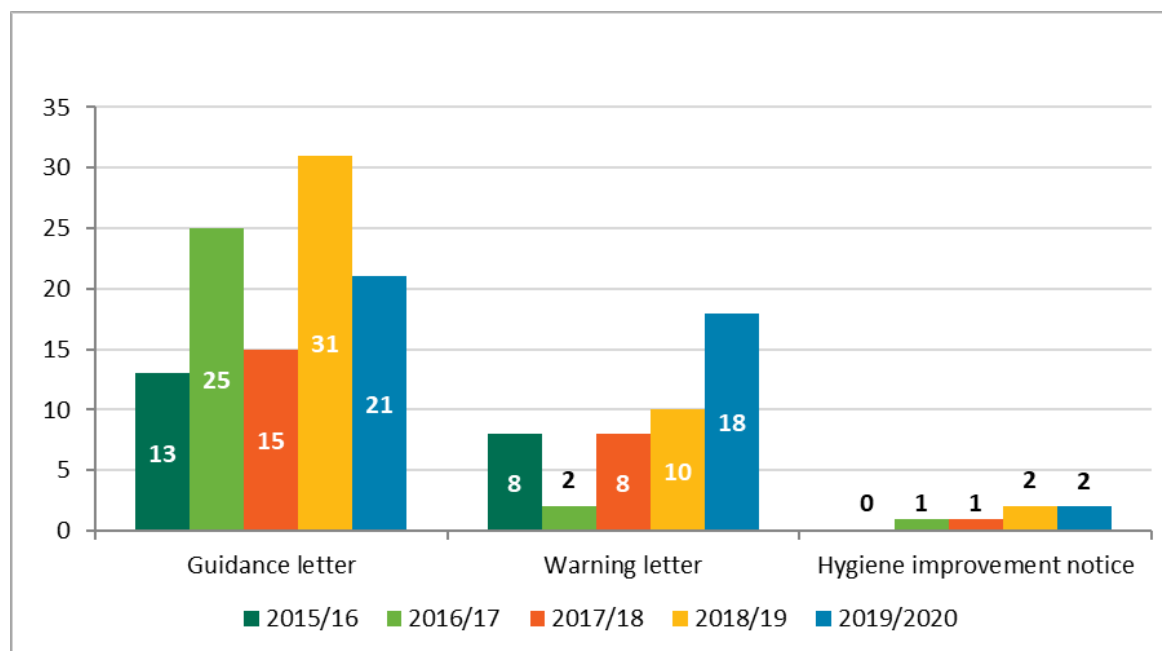


Figure 15 - Chart showing egg production enforcement actions in Northern Ireland from 2015/16 - 2019/20

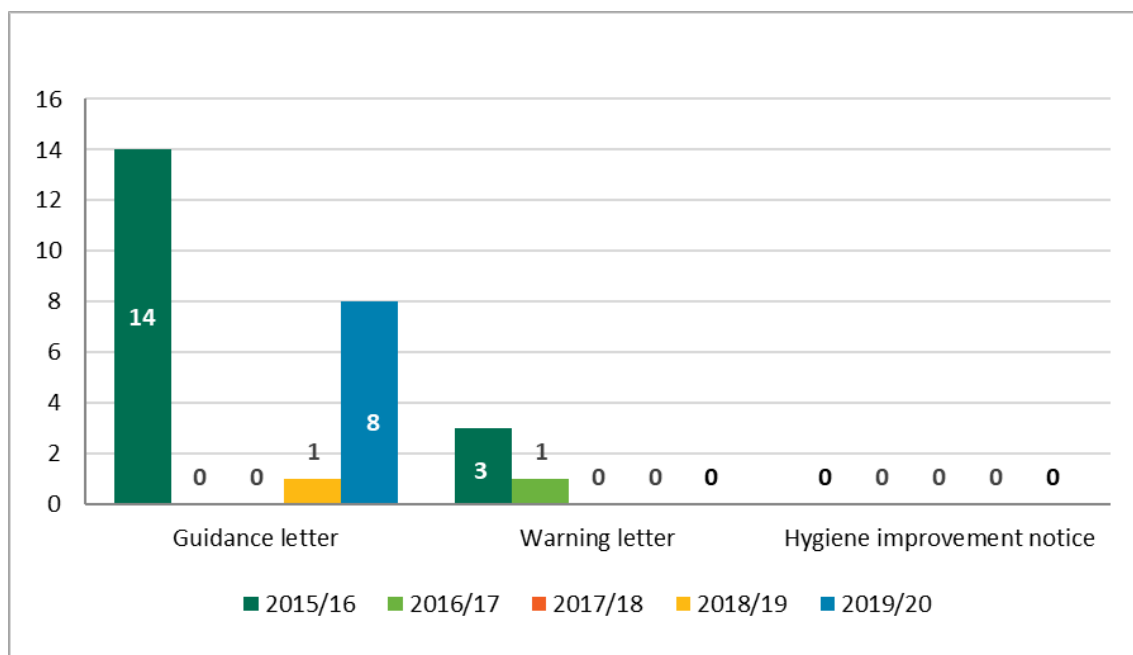
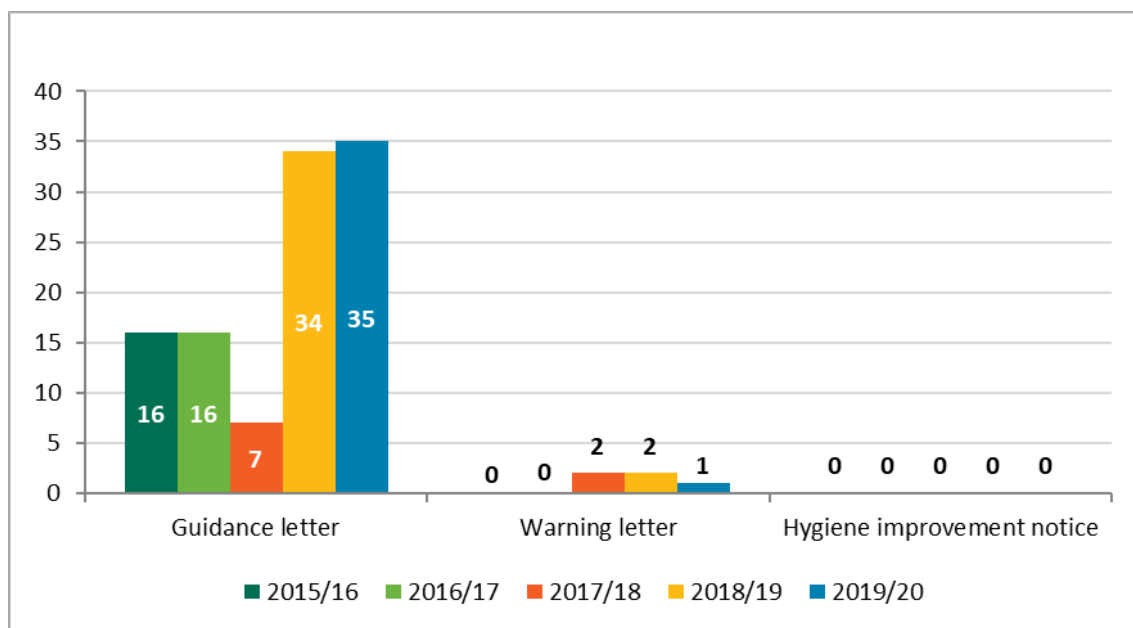


Figure 16 - Chart showing egg production enforcement actions in Scotland from 2015/16 - 2019/20



- 2.60 Egg inspections in England and Wales were prioritised based on risk assessment. Compliant establishments are those where no improvements are needed. In England and Wales, compliance levels decreased slightly overall this year compared to last year from 85% to 75%. This is due to the poor weather conditions through winter months.
- 2.61 There was an increase in the issue of warning letters due to the nature of the non-compliances found. These were directed at egg producers where hygiene offences had been found at inspections in previous years and it was deemed more appropriate to issue a warning letter in the first instance rather than a guidance letter.

- 2.62 In Northern Ireland, there was an increase in registered egg production sites, bringing the total from 371 in 2018/19 to 392 in 2019/20. Inspections declined, from 126 in 2018/19 to 86 in 2019/20. This was due to a number of factors including restricted access to farms relating to avian disease control and restrictions due to COVID-19. These figures include inspections to new establishments.
- 2.63 Compliance at egg production establishments was 97% for 2019/20 with eight guidance letters issued and no warning letters or HIN's issued. This shows a consistently high level of compliance at egg production establishments, as the 2018/19 reporting year also showed a 98% compliance rate.
- 2.64 Inspections in Scotland were carried out in line with a three-year rolling programme, with all farms receiving 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.
- 2.65 During 2019/2020 there was a 3% rise in the number of guidance letters issued, rising from 34 in 2018/19 to 35 in 2019/2020. Overall, compliance levels remained stable.

Shellfish hygiene

- 2.66 Shellfish sampling was carried out between 1 January and 31 December 2019 as part of the routine biotoxin monitoring programme. The results of sampling activities are summarised in the tables below.

Biotoxin sampling in 2019 - England and Wales

Biotoxin sampling type	Total samples analysed	Number of toxins detected	Number of samples that exceeded maximum permitted level
Amnesic Shellfish Poisoning (ASP)	707	48	0
Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning (PSP)	778	44	3
Lipophilic toxins (LTs)	730	60	5 (3 production areas closed)
Phytoplankton (Seawater)	907	n/a	n/a (only trigger levels)

Biotoxin sampling in 2019 - Northern Ireland

Biotoxin sampling type	Total samples analysed	Number of samples that exceeded maximum permitted level
Amnesic Shellfish Poisoning (ASP)	445	0
Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning (PSP)	444	0
Lipophilic toxins (LTs)	459	4
Phytoplankton (seawater)	626	n/a (only trigger levels)
Heavy Metals and PAH	7	0
Microbiological	255	1

Biotoxin sampling in 2019 - Scotland

Biotoxin sampling type	Total samples analysed	Number of toxins detected	Number of samples that exceeded maximum permitted level
Amnesic Shellfish Poisoning (ASP)	921	96	0
Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning (PSP)	1273	217	1 (1 production area closed)
Lipophilic toxins (LTs)	1964	556	68 (27 production areas closed)
Phytoplankton (seawater)	1312	0	0

2.67 For England and Wales, compared to 2018, there was a reduction in detection of LTs and PSP toxins. There was a slight increase in the detection of amnesic shellfish poisoning (ASP) toxins. In Northern Ireland and Scotland, sampling results remained consistent with 2018 levels.

First fish sale

2.68 In 2019, the MMO carried out 1,665 inspections of establishments where first sale fish was handled. It also conducted 709 inspections of transportation of first sale fish. Checks were made to ensure compliance with the traceability requirements of the Fisheries Control Regulation.

2.69 For establishments where first sale fish was handled, 165 written/verbal re-briefs and three Financial Administrative Penalties were issued for breaches of Fisheries Control Regulations. A further case put forward for prosecution is waiting to go to court.

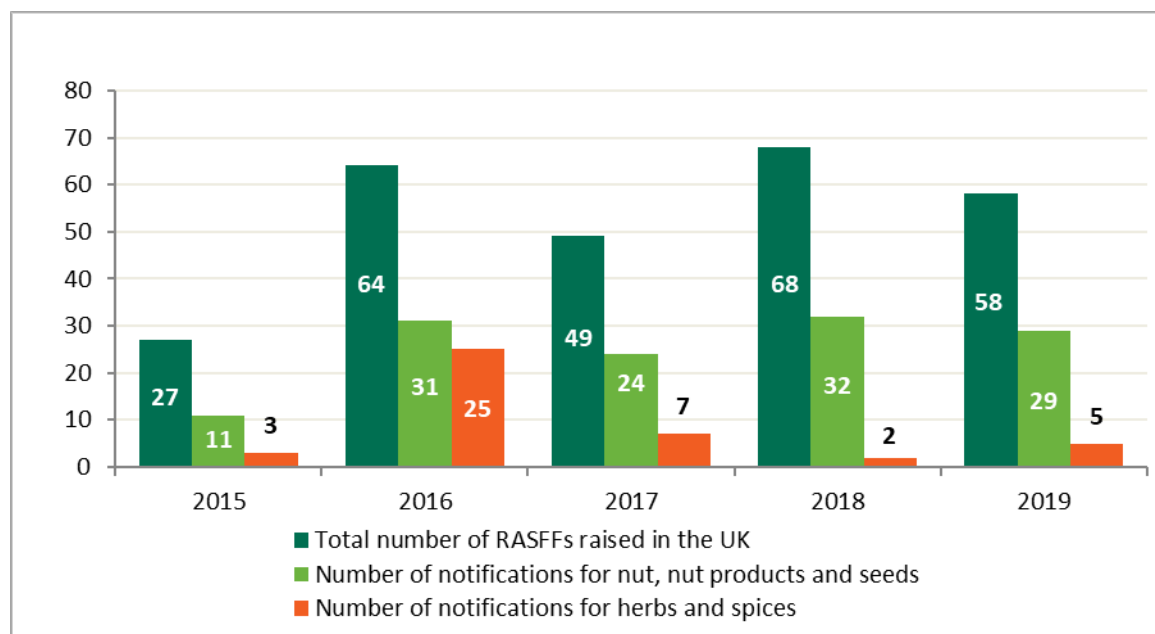
2.70 The large increase in infringements found, from 24 in 2018 to 165 in 2019 was due to the recruitment of an additional 35 marine officers who were taken on to ensure that the MMO was adequately resourced to deal with issues arising from EU Exit.

Mycotoxins in food and RASFF notifications

2.71 The UK raised a total of 58 RASFF notifications for mycotoxins in 2019. A decrease compared to the previous year, but within the usual range seen over the past five years. The number of notifications on herbs, spices and nuts, demonstrated some variation from the previous year, whilst remaining in a similar range. The small changes were reflective of the annual variability for these incidents. On herbs, spices, nuts, nut products and seeds no trend has been detected for the number of RASFFs, over the past five years.

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

Figure 17 - Chart showing the number of RASFF notifications for mycotoxins in food (nuts, herbs and spices) in the UK from 2015 - 2019

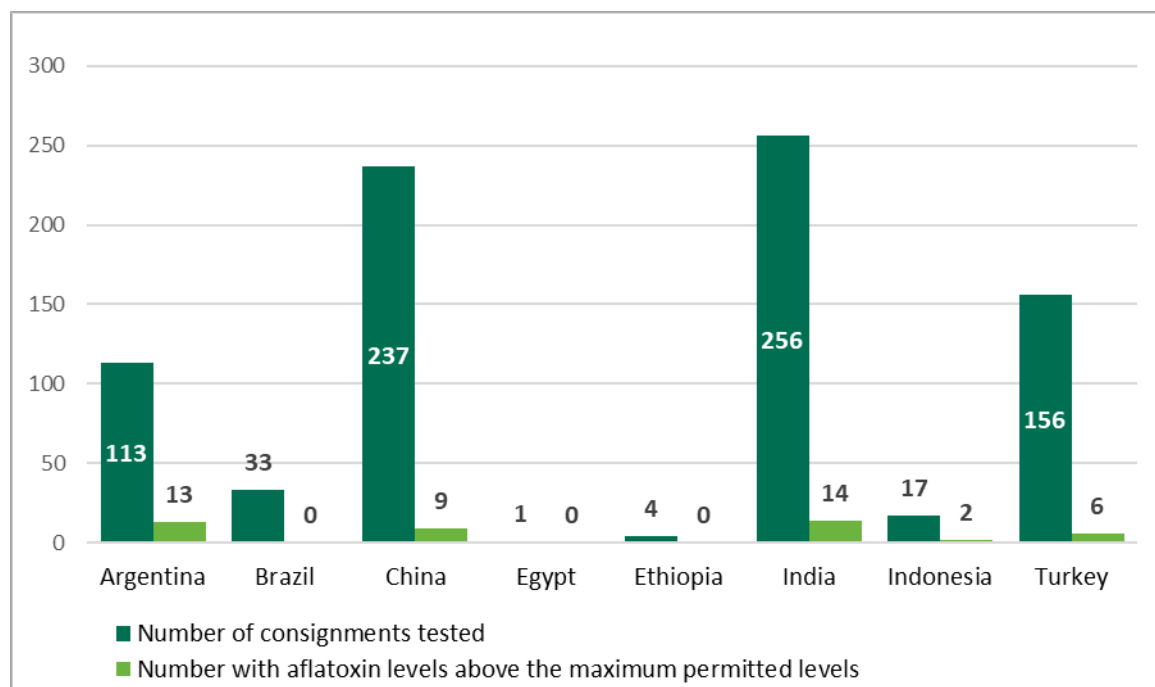


Routine sampling of imported foods

2.73 The majority of samples tested for mycotoxins were found to be compliant. Where non-compliant samples were found, the product was withdrawn or recalled based on a risk assessment. Where appropriate, a RASFF was issued.

2.74 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 2018, the proportion of non-compliances was only marginally higher than in the previous year, with 11 additional non-compliances in 2019.

Figure 18 - Chart showing number of UK consignments of imported food from non-EU countries tested for aflatoxins in 2019



Import controls

- 2.75 During 2019, 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.
- 2.76 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 3,040 consignments were tested in 2019.

Official controls on food imported from third countries

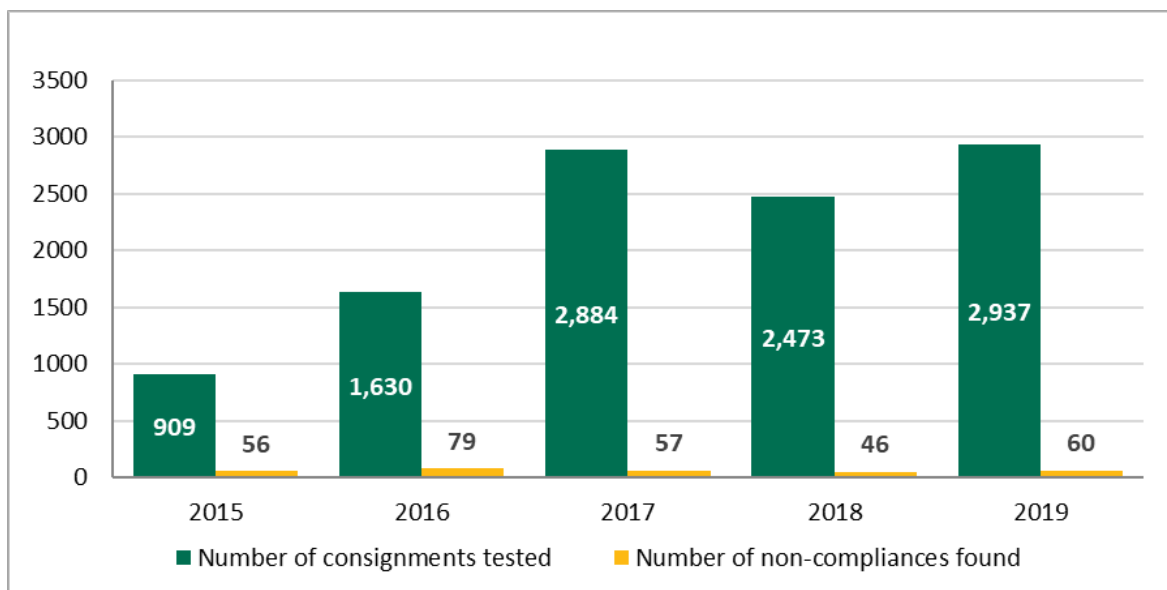
Decision / Regulation	Country	Product	Hazard	Consignments tested	Unsatisfactory tests
(EU) No. 2011/884	China	Rice products	Unauthorised GMOs	175	8
(EU) No. 284/2011	China and Hong Kong	Melamine and polyamide plastic kitchenware	Formaldehyde and primary aromatic amines	258	4
(EU) No. 2016/1774	India	Aquaculture fishery products	Certain pharmaceutically active substances	1,539	2
(EU) No. 2015/175	India	Guar gum	Pentachlorophenol and dioxins	19	0
(EU) No. 2017/186	India	Betel leaves and sesame seeds	Salmonella	72	2
(EU) No. 885/2014	India	Okra and curry leaves	Pesticide residues	0	0
(EU) No. 2018/1660	Vietnam India Turkey	Pitahaya (dragon fruit), curry leaves, vine leaves	Pesticide residues	8	0

Decision / Regulation	Country	Product	Hazard	Consignments tested	Unsatisfactory tests
(EU) No. 2016/6	Japan	Food & feed	Caesium-134, caesium-137	49	0
(EU) No. 2016/2106	Various countries	Various products including: groundnuts, hazelnuts, pistachios, nutmeg, dried fruits, dried spices, egusi seeds	Aflatoxins	817	44
(EU) No. 2019/1793*	Various countries	Various products	Aflatoxins, Pesticide residues Salmonella, Sudan dyes Rhodamine B, Norovirus Sulphites, Ochratoxin A Cyanide, Pentachlorophenol and dioxins	103	4
Total				3,040	64

*Regulation 669/2009 was repealed on 14th December 2019. A new, consolidated piece of legislation, Regulation 2019/1793, then took effect. A list of 'temporary controls' is now contained in Annex I to the new Regulation.

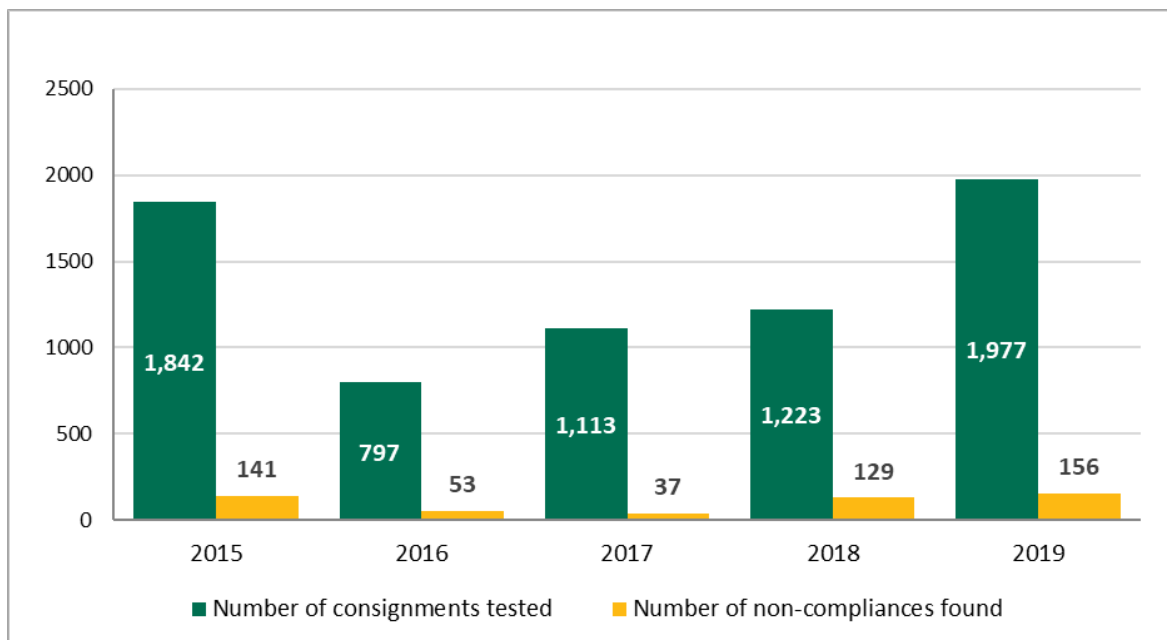
2.77 The chart below shows the number of consignments tested and non-compliances in the UK for the past five years against EU safeguard measures. Compliance levels remained consistent when compared to 2019.

Figure 19 - Chart showing number of UK consignments tested and non-compliances under EU safeguard measures from 2015 - 2019



2.78 A total of 1,977 consignments were tested for compliance under Regulation (EC) No. 669/2009. There has been an increase in the number of consignments tested compared to 2019. The chart below shows the numbers of consignments tested and the number of non-compliances over the past five years.

Figure 20 - Chart showing number of consignments tested in the UK and non-compliances under Regulation EC No. 669/2009 from 2015 - 2019



Novel foods

2.79 In 2019, the FSA assessed 35 dossiers for traditional food notifications, required under Regulation (EU) 2015/2283.

Food contact materials

- 2.80 Controls were carried out by First Points of Introduction (FPIs), which are specific ports through which melamine and polyamide kitchenware from China and Hong Kong is permitted to enter into the European Union. In 2019/20, 100% of 1,425 consignments underwent documentary checks. Approximately 18% were subject to identity and physical checks, compared to 11% of consignments in 2018/19.
- 2.81 In total, 21 consignments were rejected in 2019/20, compared to 12 in 2018/19. Of these, four were rejected due to a failure identified during physical checks, representing 1.5% of the total 262 consignments that were physically checked. The remaining 17 were rejected on the basis of unsatisfactory identity and documentary checks.
- 2.82 More consignments were rejected in 2019/20 compared to 2018/19, 1.5% compared to 0.9% in 2018/19. However, there has been a decrease in the rate of non-compliance for consignments that underwent physical checks. In 2019, 1.5% were found to be non-compliant compared to 2.6% in 2018.
- 2.83 In 2019/20, the UK issued seven RASFF notifications on food contact materials compared to three in 2018/19.

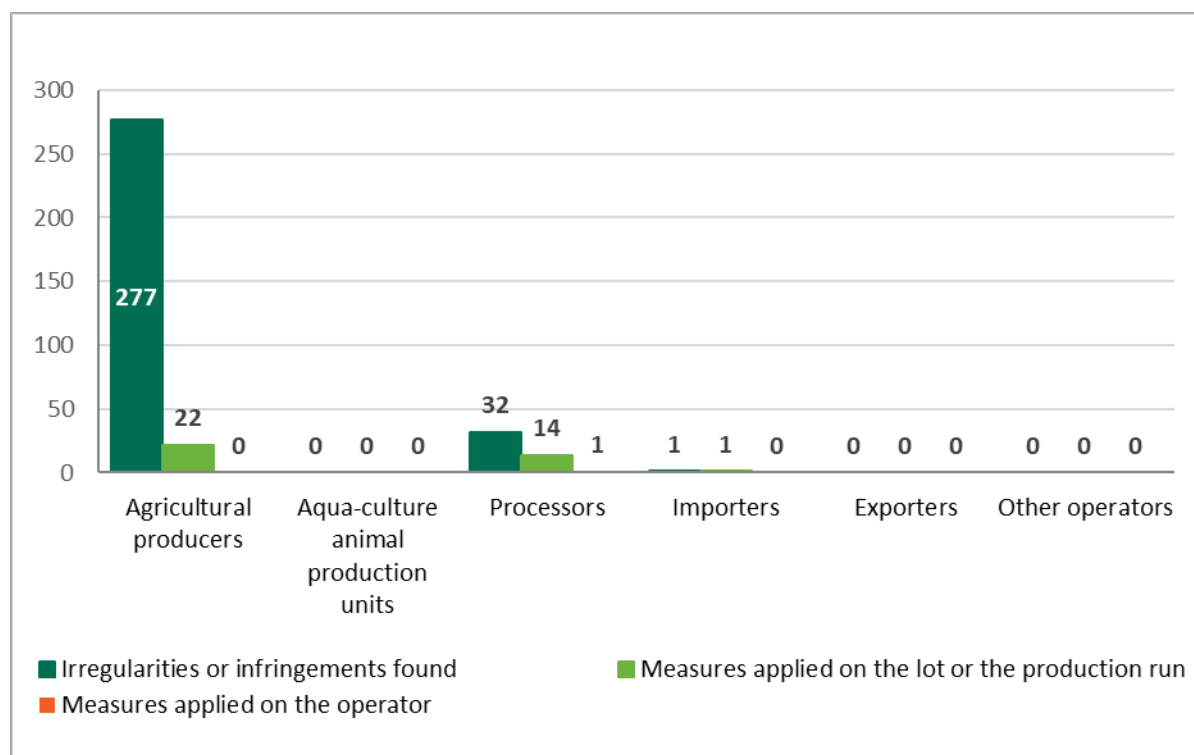
Organic products

- 2.84 All UK operators due for an inspection in 2019/20 were inspected at least once during the annual cycle. Additional visits were announced or unannounced depending on the circumstances.
- 2.85 In 2019/20, there were 6,544 registered organic operators in the UK. A total of 6,503 announced and 663 unannounced inspections and visits were undertaken. These figures have remained stable compared to previous years.
- 2.86 The chart below shows additional risk-based inspections carried out in 2019/20. The number of visits undertaken was similar to 2018/19, but with a 21% increase in unannounced visits due to an increase in the number of operators. The organic regulation demands a minimum of 10% additional risk based unannounced visits.

Number of additional risk based inspections of organic operators in the UK from 2019/20

Organic operators	GB-02	GB-04	GB-05	GB-06	GB-07	GB-09	GB-13	GB-17
Agricultural Products	89	10	216	11	2	0	34	27
Aqua-culture animal production units	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
Processors	22	22	257	17	3	1	0	1
Importers	4	12	1	0	0	0	0	0
Exporters	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Operators	3	12	6	0	0	0	0	0

Figure 21 - Chart showing organic operator infringements and control measure in the UK from 2019/20

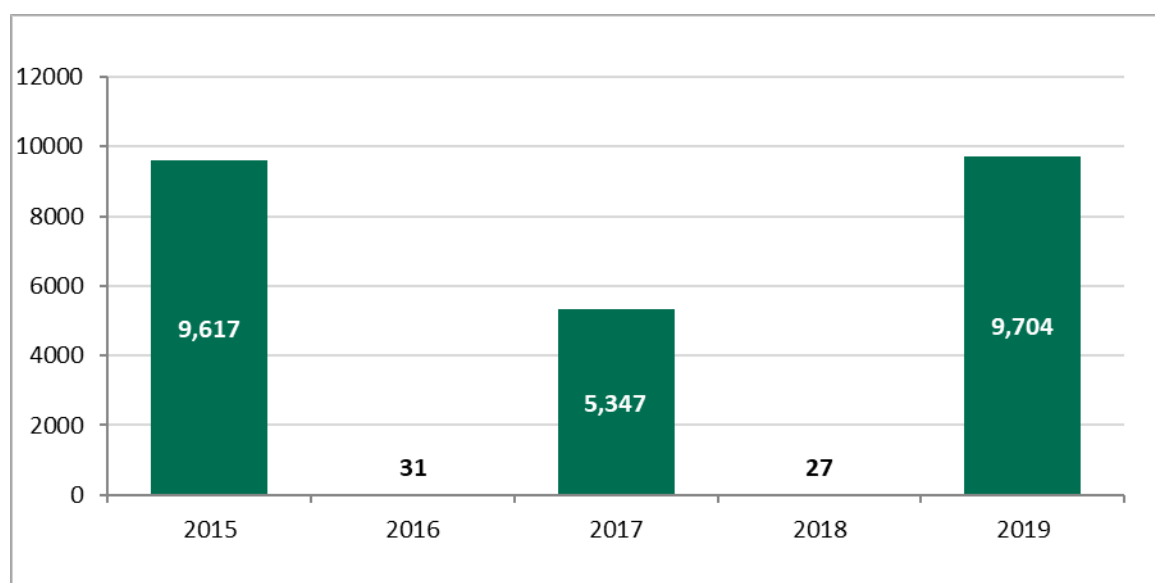


2.87 Infringements in 2019 related primarily to agricultural producers. The majority of these infringements were due to poor or inaccurate record keeping where inputs used on farm or medicinal applications were not properly recorded. Some producers purchased non-organic stock or seed without control body or Defra prior approval. In some cases, unauthorised substances in produce were found and led to a formal investigation. Any deliberate use of herbicide or fungicide resulted in a loss of the producer’s organic status.

Protected food names (PFN)

- 2.88 The control bodies responsible for inspecting larger producer groups are participating in a verification and accreditation pilot to ensure control bodies meet the scope for PFN inspections.
- 2.89 The cyclical nature of verification, means that there has been a higher number of reported inspection results for 2019. 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.
- 2.90 The data in the chart below covers the 2019 calendar year.

Figure 22 - Chart showing the number of UK Protected Food Name (PFN) inspections in the UK from 2015 - 2019



Natural mineral waters

- 2.91 In 2019, no non EEA recognitions were conducted in England, Scotland, Northern Ireland or Wales during 2019. A [current list of recognised natural mineral waters in and by the UK](#) is available online.

Beef labelling

- 2.92 In England and Wales, the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) operates a risk based and random inspection regime that focuses on those establishments with a history of non-compliance. RPA completed 347 initial inspections for 2019/20. 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 347 initial inspections, 135 were found to be non-compliant.
- 2.93 In England and Wales, the overall level of non-compliance against initial beef labelling inspections is set out below.

Percentage of beef labelling non-compliance for establishments in England and Wales in 2019

Year	2015*	2016	2017	2018	2019
% non-compliant	54.7%	32.1%	38.9%	42.9%	38.9%

* (introduction of risk/random inspection regime)

2.94 In 2019/20, a total of 525 inspections were completed, initial and follow-ups, giving an overall non-compliance rate of 37.1%. There were 22 enforcement notices issued in the 2019 scheme year, compared with 35 in 2018.

2.95 The Scottish Government achieved its planned official controls for 2019, completing a total of 47 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 47 initial inspections, two 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 2019.

Percentage of beef labelling non-compliance for establishments in Scotland in 2019

Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
% non-compliant	28%	19%	5%	13%	20%

Summary of beef labelling enforcement actions taken for Scottish establishments in 2019

Year	Verbal warning	Follow-up inspection	Warning letter	Enforcement notices
2015	5	1	0	0
2016	5	5	0	0
2017	0	2	0	0
2018	2	6	0	0
2019	7	3	0	0

2.96 In Northern Ireland DAERA achieved their planned official controls for 2019, completing a total of 142 inspections. Unscheduled follow-up inspections were undertaken where non-compliance was found. Non-compliances related to labels with information omitted, inaccurate information and inaccurate and incomplete company records.

2.97 The number of inspections, percentage of compliance and actions taken over the past five years are set out below:

Percentage of beef labelling non-compliance for establishments in Northern Ireland in 2019

Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
% non-compliant	8	16	17	25	13

Summary of beef labelling enforcement actions taken for Northern Ireland based establishments in 2019

Year	Verbal warning	Follow-up inspection	Warning letter	Enforcement notices
2015	4	2	0	0
2016	9	2	1	1
2017	9	5	1	0
2018	11	8	2	0
2019	7	5	0	0

2.98 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

2.99 Compliance was observed in 99.7% of all samples analysed under the National Surveillance Programme in 2019. Of the 36,861 samples analysed under the National Surveillance Programme, 115 residues above the maximum residue level (MRL) or other action limit were detected in 112 samples. This high level of compliance is in line with levels seen in recent years.

2.100 Non-compliances can be categorised into three groups:

- unauthorised substances: certain substances (hormonal, thyrostatic action and beta-agonists) having a growth promoting effect, and substances contained in table 2 of Commission Regulation 37/2010
- authorised veterinary medicines (substance detected above the maximum residue limit): 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

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

2.102 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 cattle, milk, calves and pigs. Anthelmintic residues were confirmed in samples from cattle, sheep and pigs. Avermectin residues were confirmed in sheep. Coccidiostat residues were confirmed in sheep, game and poultry. NSAID residues were confirmed in cattle, milk and horses.

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

Summary of results of non-complaint residues in 2019

Animals tested	Residue tested for	Number of inspections or samples	Number of non-compliant residues found
Calves	Anti-microbials	332	7
Pigs	Anti-microbials	1,394	1
Cattle	Anti-microbials	260	1
Milk	Anti-microbials	141	1
Cattle	Anthelmintics	722	1
Sheep	Anthelmintics	1,532	5
Pig	Anthelmintics	333	1
Sheep	Avermectins	475	2
Cattle	NSAIDS	347	2
Milk	NSAIDS	172	1
Horse	NSAIDS	44	1
Sheep	Coccidiostats	335	1
Poultry	Coccidiostats	1,469	2
Game	Coccidiostats	8	3

2.104 Non-compliant residues were confirmed for heavy metals in honey, 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

2.105 The HSE carried out a monitoring programme in 2019. 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 in 2019

Year	Number of samples	Types of food	% of samples containing residues	% containing residues above the MRL
2015	3,614	47	42.8%	2.8%
2016	3,448	41	47.8%	3.2%
2017	3,357	39	43.7%	3.3%
2018	3,385	42	42.5%	3.2%
2019	3,302	39	50.5%	2.8%

2.106 [The Expert Committee on Pesticide Residues in Food \(PRiF\) published quarterly reports on the findings](#), along with [detailed information on the samples discussed in each report](#).

2.107 A higher rate of non-compliance continued to be found in certain vegetable products. A previous high rate of non-compliance is a factor taken into account annually for inclusion in the programme. These were generally in samples produced outside the EU, in particular speciality beans okra and curry leaves. These high incidences are generally because EU MRLs do not take account of pesticide uses outside the EU.

2.108 HSE checked all residues detected using a risk assessment screen. In 2019, details of five samples where risk to consumers were identified were passed to the FSA with a draft RASFF notification.

Official controls in the feed sector

2.109 The current MOU with National Trading Standards in England, provided more comprehensive measurements of the impact of feed controls, undertaken through the feed inspection programme.

2.110 In England, in 2018/19⁶, 98.4% of planned feed inspections were delivered. All LAs 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.

⁶ In England, Wales and Northern Ireland, Feed statistics are reported 1 year in arrears.

2.111 In Wales for 2018/19, 99.6% of planned feed inspections were delivered. There were 824 interventions that resulted in the discovery of feed establishments no longer trading, improving the accuracy of animal feed establishment registers.

2.112 Data returns for 2018/19 showed a 1.6% increase in the number of feed businesses in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The table provides a breakdown by business type.

Total number of feed business operators in England, Wales and Northern Ireland as of 31 March 2019

Registered and approved feed businesses by type*	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Primary producers / livestock farms	193,856	174,718	169,832	135,176	139,920
Manufacturers and packers	1,378	1,153	1,974	2,112**	892
Food businesses placing co-products and surplus food into the feed chain	5,218	7,194	6,911	7,567	6,275
Importers	152	134	118	139	86
Distributors and transporters	2,901	4,197	3,549	3,465	3,695
Total	203,505	187,396	182,384	148,459**	150,868

*Only main categories listed

**Figures amended due to an error in the 2018 report

2.113 During 2019/20, FSS continued to develop a centralised model for feed official control delivery for Scotland, with implementation planned for April 2021.

Number of feed businesses in Scotland

Feed businesses by type	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Primary producers	20,242	18,067	15,423	22,819	22,819
Manufacturers	88	103	130	141	141
Food businesses placing co-products into the feed chain	647	760	278	329	329
Food businesses placing surplus product into the feed chain	N/A*	N/A*	764	764	764
Importers	7	6	6	6	6
Distributors	313	296	279	318	318
Stores	86	181	169	233	233
Retailers	1,064	896	187	166	166

*new category added in 2017/18

UK feed controls and enforcement

2.114 Enforcement data for 2018/19 showed a 25% decrease in numbers of inspections undertaken by LAs, compared to a 30.8% decrease in 2017/18. This aligned with the introduction of full earned recognition for the feed sector. The number of revisits decreased by 11% and sampling visits dropped by 6%. The number of feed business operators being given advice is just over half that of 2017/18 levels.

Number of interventions undertaken in the UK

Types of control / intervention	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Number of inspections	12,022	12,391	12,409	8,593	7,375
Number of revisits	352	301	256	303	296
Number of feed business operators given advice	8,359	8,576	7,339	5,990	4047
Number of sampling visits	1,039	642	831	384	453

Reported use of formal enforcement activity in the UK during 2018/19

Enforcement activity	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Written warnings for non-compliance identified for the first time and not an immediate threat to feed safety	862*	1,590	1,679	975	1,165
Improvement notice on issue which required attention or not been actioned after written warnings (not requested from 2013/14)	N/A	1	8	38	8
Other formal actions to address serious feed breaches	40**	15	2	28	15

*Total establishments subject to written warnings

**Total establishments subject to other formal enforcement action

2.115 The use of written warnings increased by 19.5% in 2018/19. The number of formal actions to address serious breaches of feed requirements decreased by 46.4%. There were five instances where feed was either seized, detained or surrendered. This resulted in one simple caution. This shows an overall improvement in compliance for UK feed businesses compared to 2017/18.

LA and DC animal feed sampling in the UK

2.116 LAs reported carrying out 209 samples in England and Wales. Samples were taken of imported feed at point of entry, feed manufactured in England and Wales and feed used on farms. These samples were tested for 3,506 analytes, including heavy metals, dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs, salmonella, mycotoxins, and unauthorised GM events.

2.117 District Councils (DCs) in Northern Ireland reported taking 394 feed samples of imported feed at points of entry. These were tested using a range of analyses including compositional, undesirable substances, GM, carryover and microbiological.

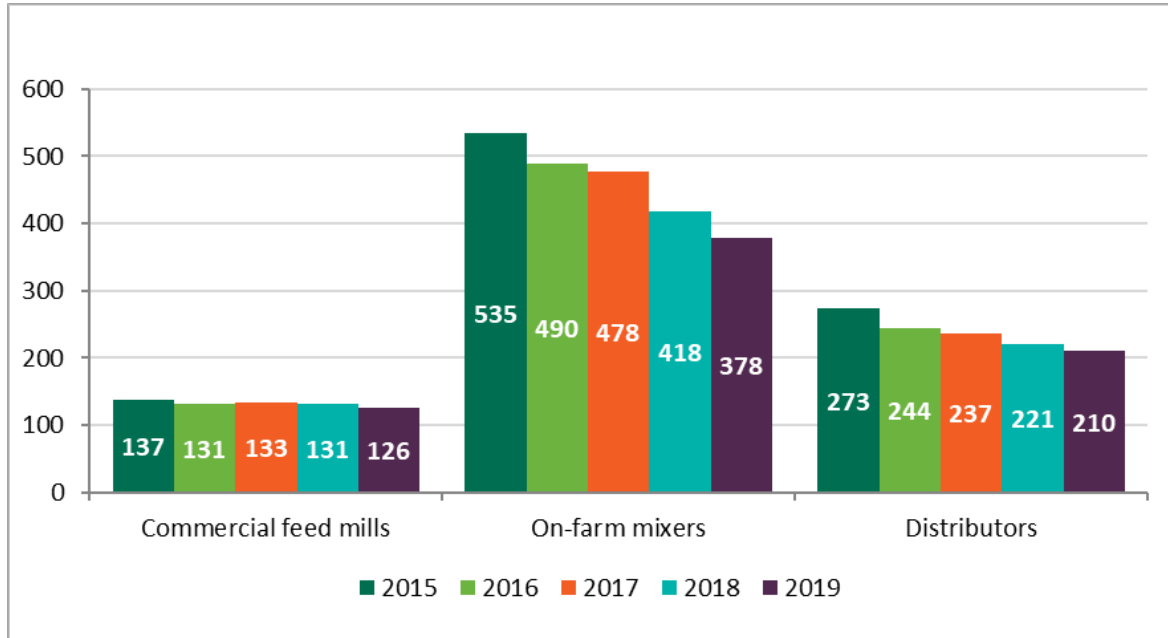
2.118 In England, Wales and Northern Ireland, approximately 4.5% of samples were found to be unsatisfactory. This is about four times higher than last year and primarily in the area of feed constituents. The majority of those samples categorised as unsatisfactory were due to deficiencies in levels of feed additives and undesirable substances, rather than labelling issues, which dominated the reasons for non-compliance in the previous year.

2.119 FSS can only access 33 of the 92 samples as the other 59 are not reported on the SFSD data portal. The reported sample failures in 2018/19 included heavy metals, dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs.

Inspection of feed business operators by VMD

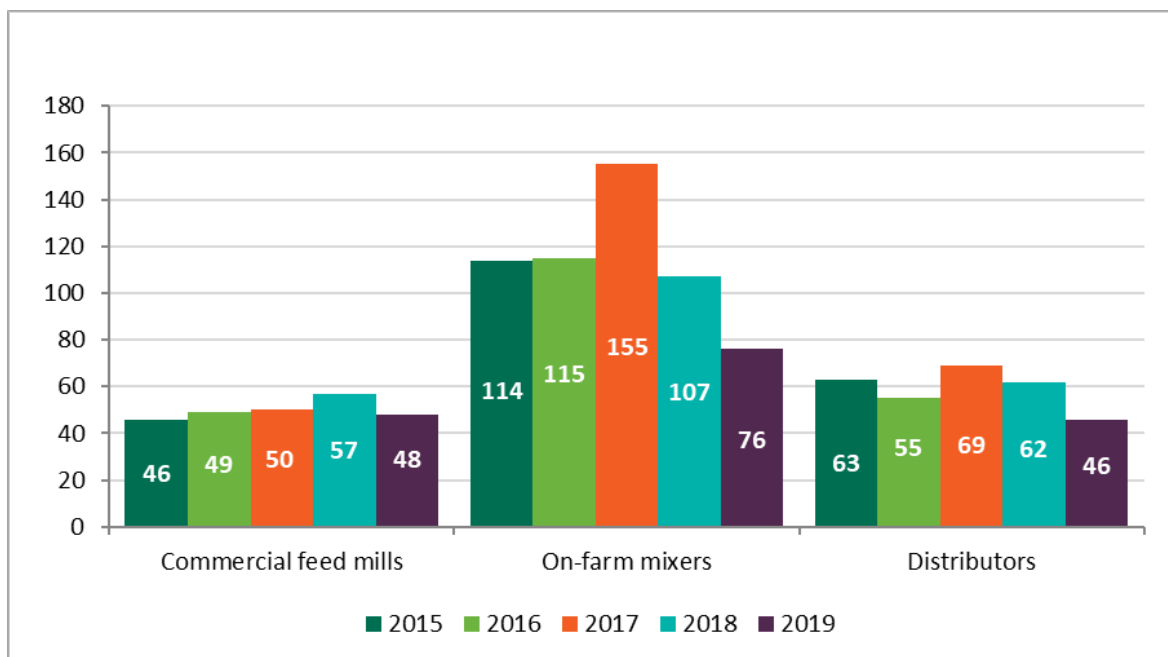
2.120 The number of approved feed establishments for the last five years is shown below.

Figure 23 - Chart showing the number of approved feed establishments in the UK from 2015 - 2019



2.121 '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.

Figure 24 - Chart showing total feed inspections in the UK from 2015 - 2019



2.122 Of the total inspections carried out in 2019, 18.7% of commercial feed mills were fully compliant, compared with 10.0% in 2018. A total of 43.4% of on-farm manufacturers were fully compliant, compared to 22.2% in 2018 and 29.5% of distributors were fully compliant, compared to 33.3% in 2018. This shows an overall improvement in compliance for commercial feed mills.

2.123 A total of eleven 'other' visits were carried out to feed business operators. These were unplanned visits and diverted resources from scheduled inspections. Four of these visits were recorded as 'no inspection carried out'. These were either commercial feed mills or farms where there was no one at the establishments.

UK Sampling results for 2019/20

Sample type	Veterinary medicinal product (VMP)	Number of VMP compliant samples	Specified Feed Additive (SFA)	Number of compliant SFA samples
Premixture or feedingstuff routinely tested for declared active substance	32	28	11	1
Premixture or feedingstuff tested for 'carryover'	1	1	0	0
Premixture or feedingstuff tested as part of residue investigation	0	0	0	0
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

2.124 The introduction of 'earned recognition' in 2015 for commercial feed mills certificated under the Agricultural Industries Confederation's (AIC's) Universal Feed Assurance Scheme resulted in extended inspection interval for mills which achieved a compliance rating of '5' or '4' (i.e. observations only, or up to six minor non-compliances). Earned recognition for assured distributors commenced in 2018.

2.125 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

2.126 Information on inspections and the sampling programme for Great Britain and Northern Ireland in 2019 is set out below:

Number of inspections checks on the presence of processed animal proteins in Great Britain and Northern Ireland in 2019

Stage / inspection point	Great Britain	Northern Ireland
Import of feed materials	33	0
Storage of feed materials	48	19
Feed mills	537	53
Home mixers/mobile mixers ⁷	78	28
Intermediaries of feeding stuffs	10	0
Means of transport	16	0
Farms keeping non-ruminants	32	23
Farms keeping ruminants	955	1
Farms keeping both ruminants and non-ruminants	541	31
Total	2,250	155

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

⁷ 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.

Number of samples tested for processed animal proteins in 2019 - Great Britain

Establishment type	Number of feed materials samples tested	Number of compound feeding stuffs for ruminants samples tested	Number of compound feeding stuffs for non-ruminants samples tested
At import	81	29	0
Feed mills	796	1,116	370
Intermediaries/ storage	91	26	3
Means of transport	0	0	0
Home mixers/ mobile mixers*	29	60	36
On farm	189	1,689	297
Fats and vegetable oils	6	0	0
Total	1,192	2,920	706

Number of samples tested for processed animal proteins in 2019 - Northern Ireland

Establishment type	Number of feed materials samples tested	Number of compound feeding stuffs for ruminants samples tested	Number of compound feeding stuffs for non-ruminants samples tested
At import	0	0	0
Feed mills	18	105	11
Intermediaries/ storage	60	2	0
Means of transport	0	0	0
Home mixers/ mobile mixers	79	13	52
On farm	5	109	52
Fats and vegetable oils	0	0	0
Total	162	229	115

- 2.128 In 2019, 4,818 samples were collected in Great Britain. The inclusion of catering waste to produce livestock feed at a single mill resulted in breaches in four farms. The Source and spread tracings were carried out and the contaminated feed was disposed of through a recall exercise. Livestock were monitored for any clinical signs of disease. After rigorous cleaning and disinfection and a positive release protocol, operations resumed at the mill with a higher number of visits afterwards. There were no non-compliances relating to the presence of processed animal protein, animal protein from terrestrial animals and fishmeal in feed.
- 2.129 In Northern Ireland, 473 samples were taken. No breaches were found indicating an excellent level of compliance.
- 2.130 The national feed audit programme operated from April 2019 to March 2020. In Great Britain, 5,033 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.
- 2.131 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](#).

Number of sampling inspection visits and samples collected in Great Britain from 2015 - 2019

Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Number of inspection visits	2,510	2,549	2,192	2,303	2,250
Number of collected samples	5,934	5,023	4,751	5,250	4,818

Number of sampling inspection visits and samples collected in Northern Ireland from 2015 - 2019

Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Number of inspection visits	222	207	150	211	159
Number of collected samples	815	771	771	612	506

Incidents and outbreaks in the feed sector

APHA

2.132 All 29 incidents in 2019 were related to the feeding of catering waste or prohibited animal by-products to livestock species. In most cases the incident was restricted to one farm only, where epidemiological investigations, disposal of the contaminated feed, cleaning and disinfection and monitoring of livestock health were followed.

FSA

2.133 There were six feed incidents in Wales which related to microbiological failures in raw meat pet food and resulted in recalls from the market.

Official controls in the animal health sector

Exotic diseases

2.134 APHA staff investigated 113 reports of suspected exotic diseases in the UK in 2019. The following diseases were detected:

- four cases of European Bat Lyssavirus were reported in England from May to October, which included three confirmed reports of EBLV1 in Serotine bats for the first time in the UK and one case of EBLV2 in a Daubenton's bat
- one outbreak of (LPAI) H5N3 was confirmed in poultry.
- five confirmed cases of EVA
- in addition there were 774 field investigations of bovine sudden deaths for Anthrax and 1,071 field investigations for bovine Brucellosis abortions were conducted, none of which confirmed disease.

2.135 The following table shows the total number of official investigations for 2019.

Animal health Investigations in the UK in 2019

Disease	Number of investigations
Anthrax	1
Aujeszky's	3
Avian Notifiable (Avian Influenza/ Newcastle Disease)	18
Bat Rabies	4
Bluetongue	21
Bovine Brucellosis	16
Brucellosis (excl. bovine brucellosis)	5
Contagious Equine Metritis	1
Enzootic Bovine Leukosis (EBL)	6
Equine Viral Arteritis	22
Glanders	4
Lumpy Skin Disease	2
Rabies	4
Swine Fevers	4
Vesicular Disease	2
Total	113

- 2.136 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. The 2019 annual report was laid before the Scottish Parliament on 31st March 2020. The report will be published shortly.
- 2.137 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 Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI), this also included training police officers to read ear tags and check animal movement documentation.
- 2.138 A total of 88 case files were opened on the Veterinary Service Investigation Database (VSID). This led to 117 investigations into alleged offences under eleven separate Veterinary Service Animal Health Group work areas. Progress with these investigations is summarised below.

Summary of the veterinary service enforcement investigations in the UK in 2019

Work Programme	Under Investigation	File being prepared	File passed to Public Prosecution Service	Cases closed	Total cases
Animal by-products	2	0	1	6	9
Aujesky's disease	0	0	0	1	1
Biosecurity	0	0	1	0	1
Brucellosis	0	0	0	2	2
Enzootic disease	0	0	0	2	2
Epizootic disease	1	0	0	0	1
Identification, registration & movement	9	8	4	22	43
Trade of animals & animal products	4	1	0	2	7
Tuberculosis	2	0	1	2	5
Veterinary public health & food safety	2	0	0	6	8
Welfare of animals	2	0	8	28	38
Total case files	13	9	11	55	88
Total investigations	22	9	15	71	117

2.139 In 2019, 55 case files were closed, stemming from a total of 71 investigations into alleged offences under nine separate Veterinary Service work areas. Details and outcomes of investigations are summarised in the table below:

Summary of outcomes of the veterinary service enforcement investigations in 2019⁸

Work programme	Under investigation	Interview arranged	File being prepared	File passed to Public Prosecution Service	Case closed	Total	Work programme	Under Investigation
Animal by-products	0	0	0	0	0	5	1	6
Aujesky's disease	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Brucellosis	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
Enzootic disease	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
Identification, registration & movement	12	2	1	1	1	5	0	22
Trade of animals & animal products	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2
Tuberculosis	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
Veterinary public health & food safety	2	0	2	0	0	2	0	6

⁸ Data covers period 01/01/2019 – 31/12/2019

Work programme	Under investigation	Interview arranged	File being prepared	File passed to Public Prosecution Service	Case closed	Total	Work programme	Under Investigation
Welfare of animals	0	0	8	13	0	5	2	28
Case files	14	3	11	14	1	10	2	55
Total investigations	14	4	11	14	1	24	3	71

Progress of Veterinary Service case files passed to the Public Prosecution Service in 2019

Status of case file	Number of case files
Directed for prosecution – case on-going	18
Directed for prosecution and convicted	1
Formal caution delivered	6
Withdrawn in court	3
Total files sent to PPS	28

2.140 In 2019, 10 people were convicted in court, covering 24 investigations. In the reporting year, total fines of £11,950 were imposed. The penalties for serious breaches of animal health and welfare legislation are significant. The results of prosecutions are summarised in the table below.

Veterinary Service prosecutions and outcomes in 2019

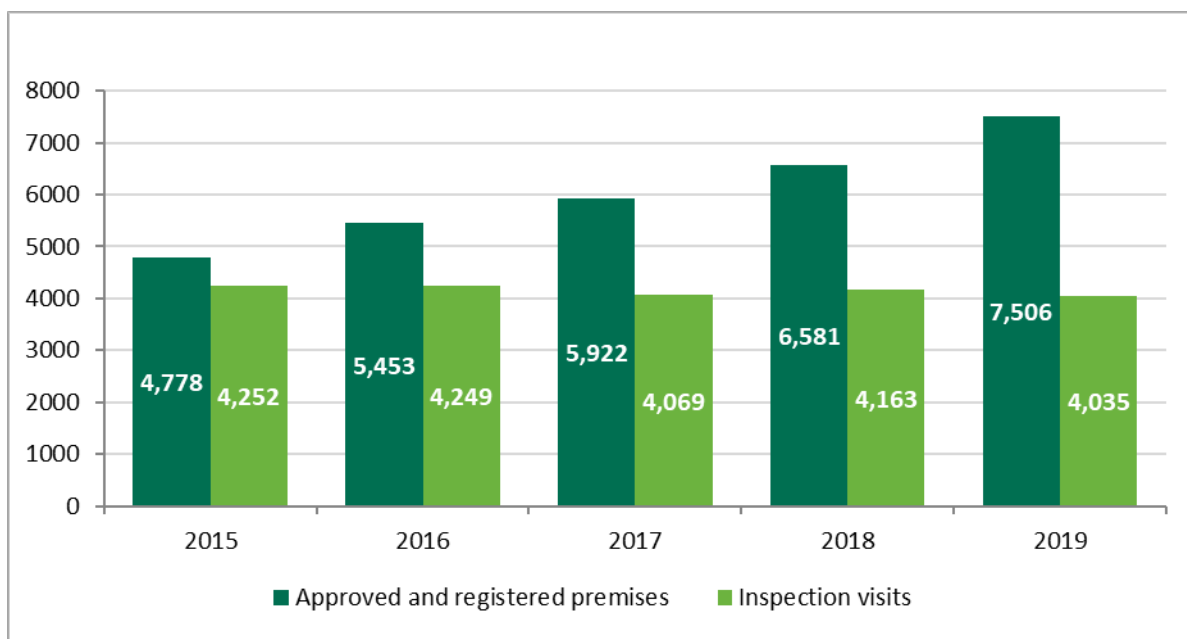
Prosecution result	Summary of outcome
Imprisonment / suspended sentence	<p>One person received four months imprisonment suspended for three years in respect of the seven charges. Two months imprisonment suspended for three years in respect of one charge and received a conditional discharge for three years in respect of eight charges.</p> <p>One person received three months imprisonment suspended for three years in respect of four charges plus two months imprisonment suspended for two years in respect of four charges and was also fined £1,300.</p>
Disqualification and/or imprisonment	<p>One person received a 20 year disqualification from owning animals, keeping animals, participating in keeping animals, being party to an arrangement under which the person is entitled to control or influence the way in which animals are kept, from dealing in animals, from transporting and arranging the transport of animals. The individual also received five month's imprisonment suspended for three years and the Department was granted a seizure order by the Court.</p> <p>One person received a 16 year disqualification from owning animals, keeping animals, participating in keeping animals, being party to an arrangement under which the person is entitled to control or influence the way in which animals are kept, from dealing in animals, from transporting animals and arranging the transport of animals. Also received 6 months imprisonment suspended for two years, a £450 fine plus a £15 offender levy.</p>

Prosecution result	Summary of outcome
Fines imposed	<p>One person received a fine of £5,000</p> <p>Two people received a fine of £1,750</p> <p>One person received a fine of £850</p> <p>One person received a fine of £750</p> <p>One person received a fine of £400</p>

Animal by-Products (ABP)

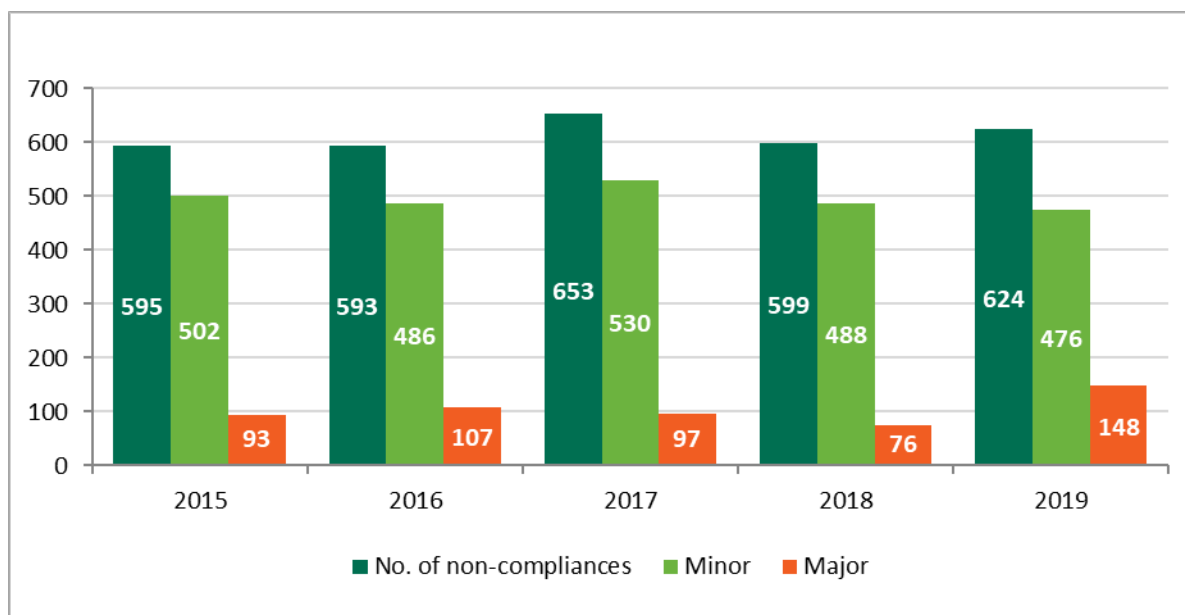
2.141 During 2019, APHA issued 445 new approvals to ABP establishments. The majority of these were in the incineration and pet food sectors. The overall number of risk-based visits to ABP establishments remained relatively constant over the last five years, despite a slight decrease during 2019. The decrease in the number of visits recorded for 2018/19 has continued with a further decrease recorded for 2019/20, which suggests improved compliance.

Figure 25 - Chart showing number of UK approved premises and Animal by Product (ABP) inspection visits from 2015 - 2019



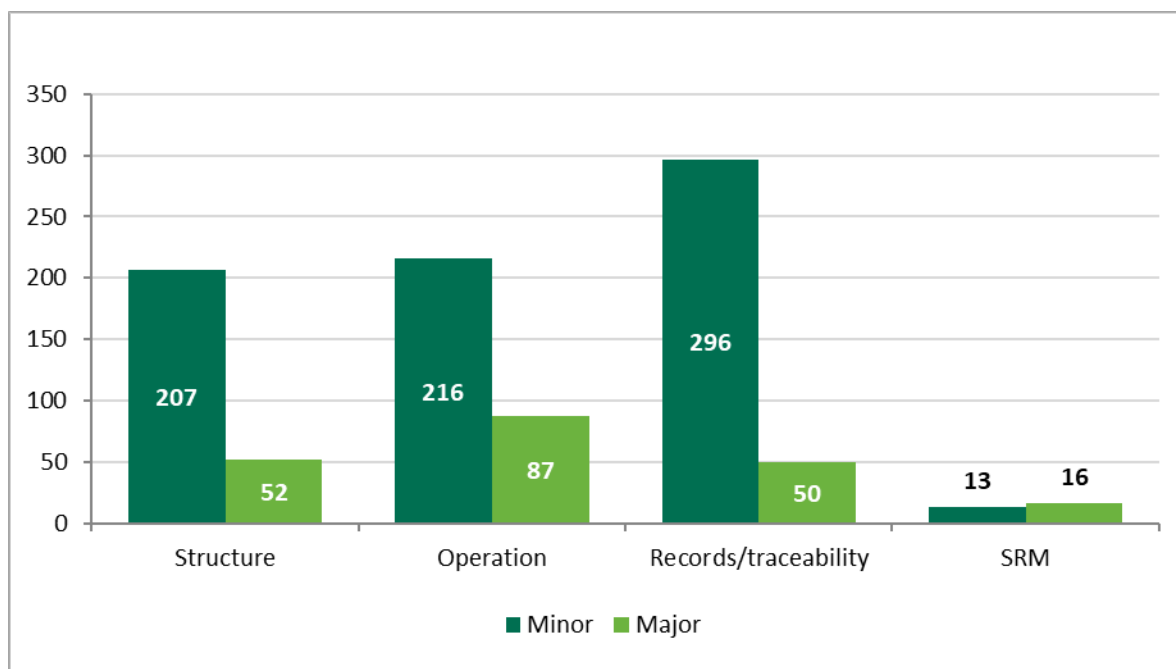
2.142 In 2019, the number of registration requests continued to increase.

Figure 26 - Chart showing overall UK Animal by Product (ABP) non-compliance scores for APHA risk based and follow up visits from 2015 - 2019



2.143 The main cause of non-compliance was record keeping issues. The total number of non-compliances remained fairly stable around 600 per year. However, the number of major non-compliances compared to minor has increased. There was no significant pattern associated with the nature of these non-compliances. In 2019, there were twenty serious major non-compliances identified, with three for structural issues, 10 for operational issues, five for record-keeping and two for SRM.

Figure 27 - Chart showing the number of UK ABP non-compliances disclosed at visits



- 2.144 In Northern Ireland, there were 194 approved ABP establishments and 428 registered establishments/operators. DAERA completed 156 inspections during 2019/20. There were 10 minor non-compliances around structure, operation, tracing and record keeping. These were discussed verbally with the operator at the time of inspection and followed up with a letter.
- 2.145 Scottish Government suspended a category 3 storage approval in 2019, due to numerous repeat non-compliances found at the site, with little action taken by the operator to rectify the issues over the course of a year. The issues mainly related to building maintenance, record keeping, disinfecting and cleaning. Suspension was upheld until APHA were satisfied the site was compliant with the Animal By Product (Enforcement) (Scotland) 2013 regulations.

Bovine Tuberculosis (TB)

- 2.146 In Great Britain, during 2019, as part of its TB inspection work APHA recorded:
- 77,539 herd tests, with 3,995 herds experiencing a new TB incident (positive herds), of which 2,379 contained at least one animal with typical lesions of TB and/or positive culture results (herds with Officially Tuberculosis Free status Withdrawn (OTFW)).
 - 9.9 million TB tests in bovine animals, including about 605,000 statutory tuberculin skin tests arranged and funded by keepers of cattle moved out of herds subjected to annual or six-monthly testing in England and Wales (pre-movement tests)
 - 43,557 cattle slaughtered for TB control purposes. This includes reactors, inconclusive reactors, and direct contacts.
- 2.147 APHA traced bovine animals that had been moved to or from establishments affected by OTFW TB incidents, before the affected herds were placed under TB movement restrictions (i.e. source and spread tracings). A total of 12,358 standalone tracing skin tests were carried out in 2019, in addition to 4,157 tracing skin tests that were undertaken as part of a whole-herd test. The charts below show the annual numbers TB herd tests completed and new OTFW herd incidents detected in Great Britain.

Figure 28 - Chart showing the number of TB tests in Great Britain from 2015 - 2019

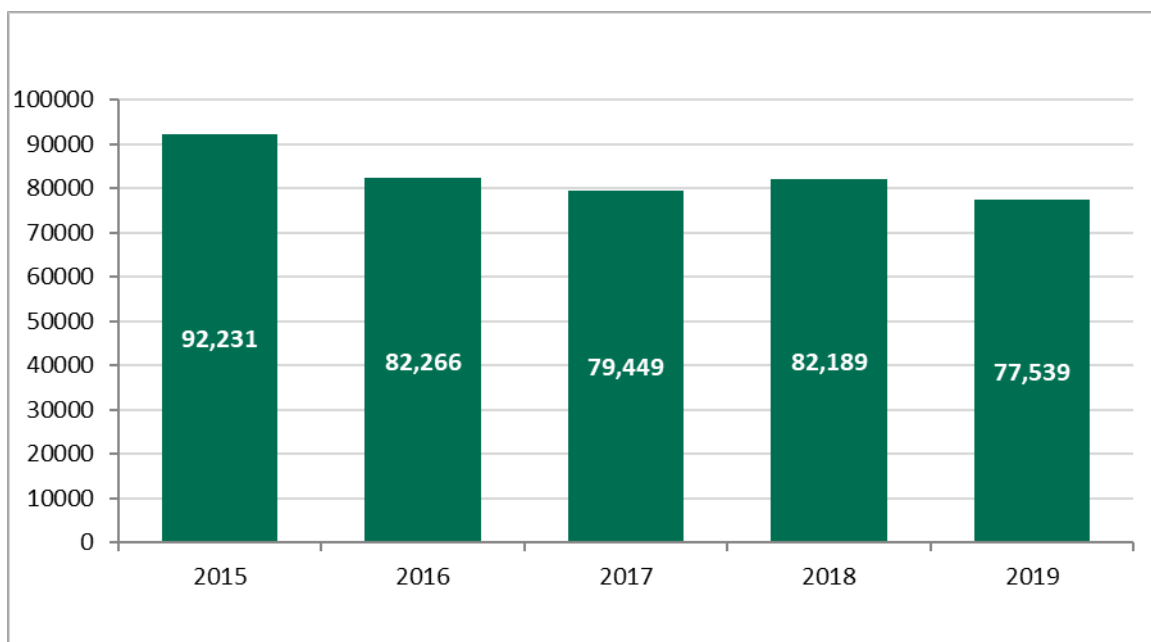
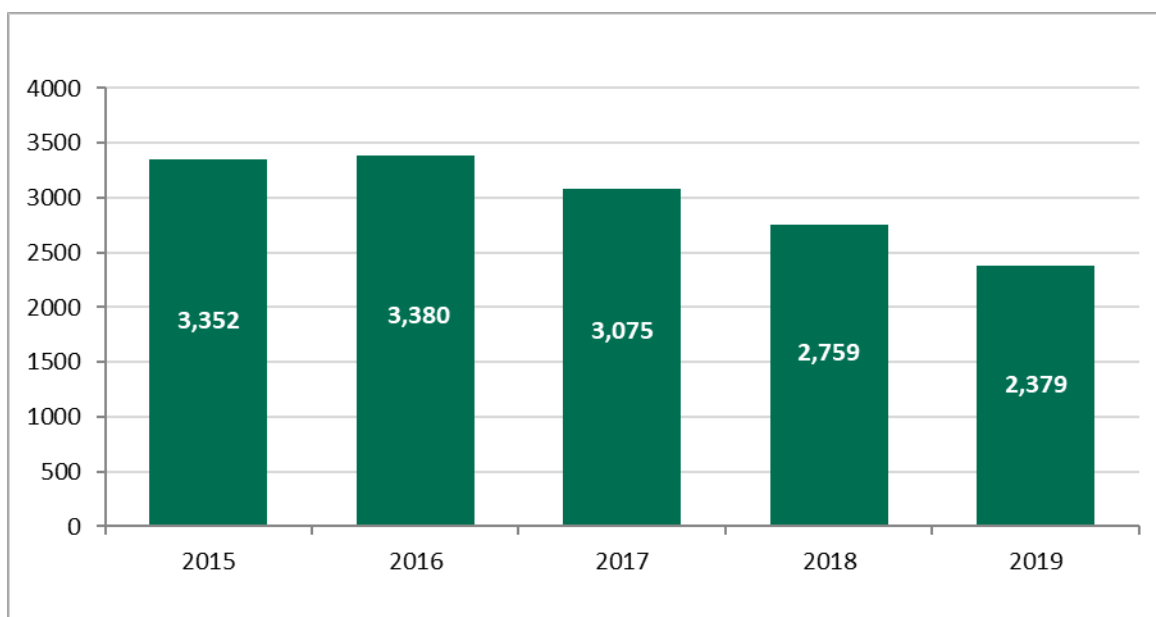


Figure 29 - Chart showing the number of new herd incidents where TB free herd status was withdrawn in GB from 2015 - 2019



England and Wales

2.148 In 2019, England continued to be divided for TB surveillance and control purposes into three risk areas. A High Risk Area (HRA) spanning the South West of England, in which cattle herds are annually tested, a Low Risk Area (LRA) in the North and East of England where the majority of herds were tested every four years, and an Edge Area in between the High Risk Area and Low Risk Area, where herds are tested annually or every six months.

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

- 2.150 In March 2020, the government published its response to the recommendations of Sir Charles Godfray's independent review of the government's bTB eradication strategy for England. The UK's bTB Eradication Programme for 2019, covering England, Northern Ireland and Wales, continued to be approved by and receive financial support from the EU.
- 2.151 Overall, the TB descriptive statistics for 2019 for England point to a stabilisation (and subsequent improvement) of the herd incidence rate and herd prevalence of TB over the last seven years. The tighter TB testing regimes and control measures for cattle herds introduced since 2010 initially resulted in the detection of more positive herds and animals.
- 2.152 This increasing trend peaked between 2011 and 2015 and continued until 2018 in the edge area, but 2019 saw reductions in annual herd incidence, prevalence and a number of new positive herds recorded. In England, 2019 saw the lowest number of new (and OTFW) TB herd incidents recorded since 2009. For the HRA, this was the lowest recorded number since 2006.
- 2.153 It is hoped that the reductions that took place in 2019 will continue in future years with the gradual rollout of new licensed badger control areas across the HRA and in parts of the Edge Area of England.
- 2.154 In 2019, the following programme enhancements were implemented in England:
- Intensive badger culling operations licensed in nine new areas of endemic high TB incidence in the HRA and two in the Edge Area, representing 57% and 4.5% of their respective land areas.
 - Licensed badger culling and enhanced TB controls in cattle continued for a second year in a section of East Cumbria (Northwest of England - LRA) where endemic *M. bovis* infection was identified in badgers for the first time in 2017, associated with a persistent cluster of [TB breakdowns in local cattle herds](#)
 - New round of applications for badger vaccination projects in the Edge Area supported by government under its [Badger Edge Vaccination Scheme](#)
 - Successful completion of a pilot to explore the use of approved (lay) tuberculin testers (ATTs) in private veterinary practices. As a result, [practices in England that wish to do so have been able to start employing ATTs since late 2020, subject to the specified requirements](#)
- 2.155 The government's response to the review of England's TB eradication strategy published in March 2020 envisages that the current intensive badger culling policy will be gradually phased out and replaced by government-supported badger vaccination and surveillance. Badger culling will remain an option where epidemiological assessment considers it necessary. The government will continue to monitor the badger control policy as areas move to badger vaccination.

2.156 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 2019. Key measures implemented in 2019 included:

- continued veterinary 'Keep it Out' visits offered on an 'opt out' basis
- continued testing of contiguous herds in an area of increased disease prevalence (Intermediate TB Area North)
- maintenance and improvement of ibTB mapping system and making information available on cattle herds affected by bovine TB
- continue to remove all inconclusive reactors at standard interpretation of the skin test in persistent herd breakdowns
- change to cattle testing inconclusive at severe interpretation of the skin test now subject to both a gamma interferon blood test and an antibody test (IDEXX)
- continue to undertake badger trap and test operations on a selection of persistent breakdown farms along with a number of industry lead badger vaccination projects
- continue with appropriate enforcement action on farmers who fail to test their cattle on time and those suspected of carrying out illegal activity

Northern Ireland

2.157 In Northern Ireland, 22,398 herds were subject to at least one tuberculin skin test in 2019. Approximately 1.73 million individual cattle tested. A total of 1,757 new breakdown herds and 13,019 reactor animals were identified. Respectively, this represents a 15.9% decrease, and a 15.1% decrease compared to numbers for 2018.

2.158 Of the 13,019 reactors, TB was confirmed in 5,625 reactors, and non-confirmed in 7,394 reactors. A total of 2,096 animals were found with TB-like lesions at routine slaughter in 2019, accounting for 0.5% of all animals slaughtered, excluding direct slaughter imports. This compares with 1,826 animals found with TB-like lesions at routine slaughter in 2018. This is an increase of 12.8% compared to 2018, but is still only 0.4% of all animals slaughtered. Of these, 1,270 cases were confirmed, and 826 were unconfirmed.

2.159 Five hundred and forty skin test negative animals that were positive for interferon-gamma test were removed and 63 of these were confirmed. In addition, 673 negative-in-contacts animals were removed. A total of 3.24 million animal level tests were carried out. This is a slight reduction on the 3.28 million tests carried out in 2018. This reflects DAERA's commitment to disease tracing and local surveillance, despite decreasing herd and animal incidence rates throughout 2019.

2.160 The Northern Ireland TB testing programme has been approved by the European Commission as part of the UK TB Eradication Plan for 2019. DAERA's aim is the progressive reduction in the level of TB with the ultimate long term aim of eradication.

- 2.161 The 2019 herd incidence rate in Northern Ireland was 7.8%, a significant reduction from 9.2% in 2018. The animal incidence rate in 2019 was 0.7%, representing another decline on the 2018 figure of 0.9%. A steady decline in TB incidence rates has been observed since new measures were introduced in 2018, to detect disease at an earlier stage.
- 2.162 DAERA has continued to develop a new TB Eradication Strategy for Northern Ireland. The proposed strategy is based on recommendations made by the TB Strategic Partnership Group (TBSPG). While progress has been made by the introduction of new policies and measures, such as early testing, some key TBSPG recommendations could not be implemented without ministerial approval. The Northern Ireland devolved institutions, the Executive and the Assembly, were not operational from January 2017 to January 2020. In September 2019, TBSPG submitted an advice paper to DAERA which set out its work to date.

Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSE)

- 2.163 APHA delivered on all performance indicators within the agreed criteria for the 2019 period. The table below outlines BSE, TSE and scrapie performance indicators for Great Britain and Northern Ireland in 2019.

BSE, TSE and Scrapie performance indicators for 2019 in Great Britain

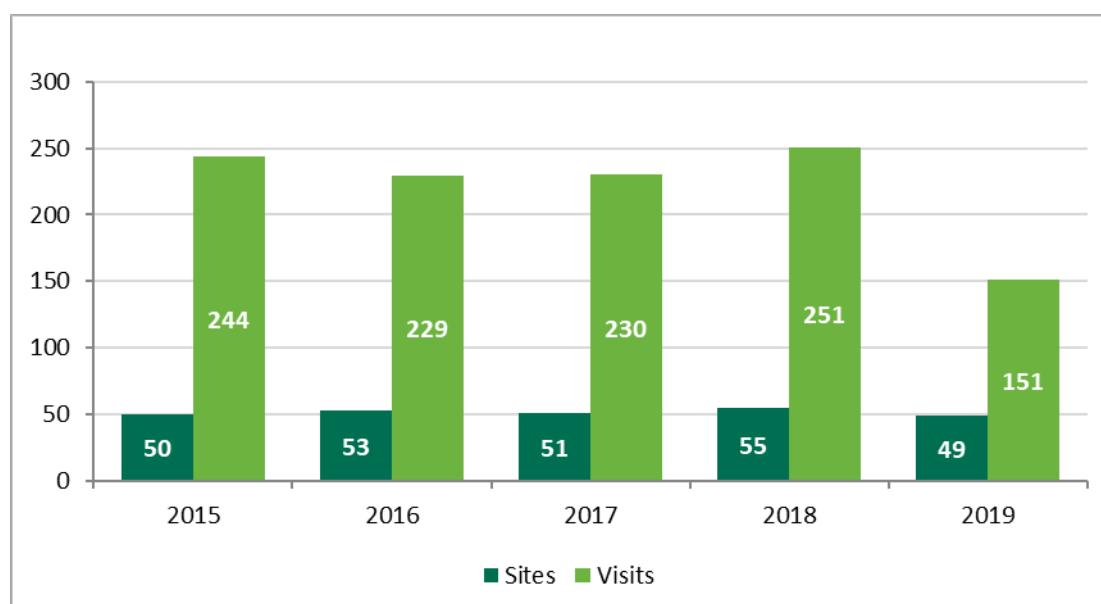
Performance indicator	Number of investigations	% completed within agreed target
Investigation of on-farm suspect BSE reports	0	N/A
Investigation of on-farm suspect Scrapie reports	6	33.3%
Tracing of confirmed classical and atypical Scrapie cases	0	N/A
Risk-based inspection of approved TSE sampling sites and controlled hide stores	TSE:132 Hide: 2	N/A
Restriction of eligible BSE offspring and cohorts	0	N/A

BSE, TSE and Scrapie performance indicators for 2019 in Northern Ireland

Performance indicator	Number of investigations	% completed within agreed target
Investigation of on-farm suspect BSE reports	0	100%
Investigation of on-farm suspect Scrapie reports	0	100%
Tracing of confirmed classical and atypical Scrapie cases	0	100%
Risk-based inspection of approved TSE sampling sites and controlled hide stores	56	100%
Restriction of eligible BSE offspring and cohorts	0	100%

2.164 There were no BSE suspects in 2019. There was only one new case of classical scrapie in 2019. All the on farm investigation Scrapie suspects were restricted immediately and visited according to priorities.

Figure 30 - Chart showing number of TSE approved sampling sites and visits in the UK from 2015 - 2019



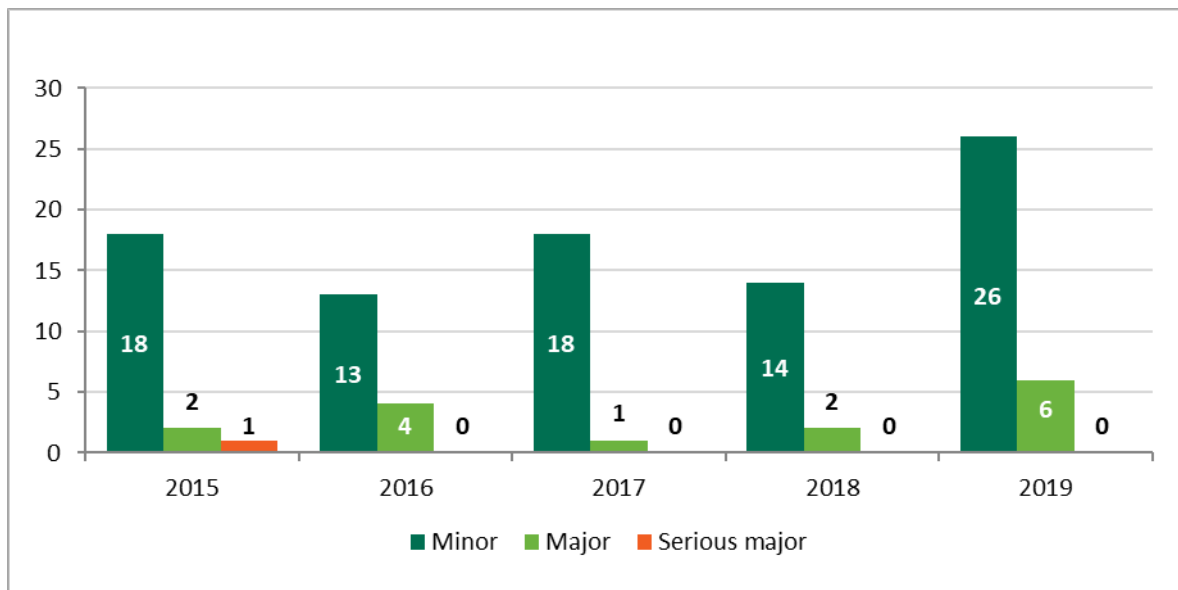
2.165 The number of TSE approved sampling sites remained stable over the five year period. The number of risk-based inspections reduced by 39% in 2019, compared to 2018. This was due to the introduction of the Field Services Management Tool which is an infield electronic data capture and management information reporting tool. This allows for the auto scheduling of field visits and has resulted in a reduction in inspection visits.

2.166 In Great Britain, 23 non-compliances were identified at TSE sampling sites during 2019, of which 23 were minor non-compliances and four were major non-compliances. These mainly related to structural and record keeping issues.

2.167 In Northern Ireland, two corrective actions notices were issued due to missed samples. Non-compliance notices were issued to the TSE sampling sites and corrective actions were monitored through follow-up inspections. Other issues were raised about collectors booking in animals. These situations were monitored through follow-up inspections.

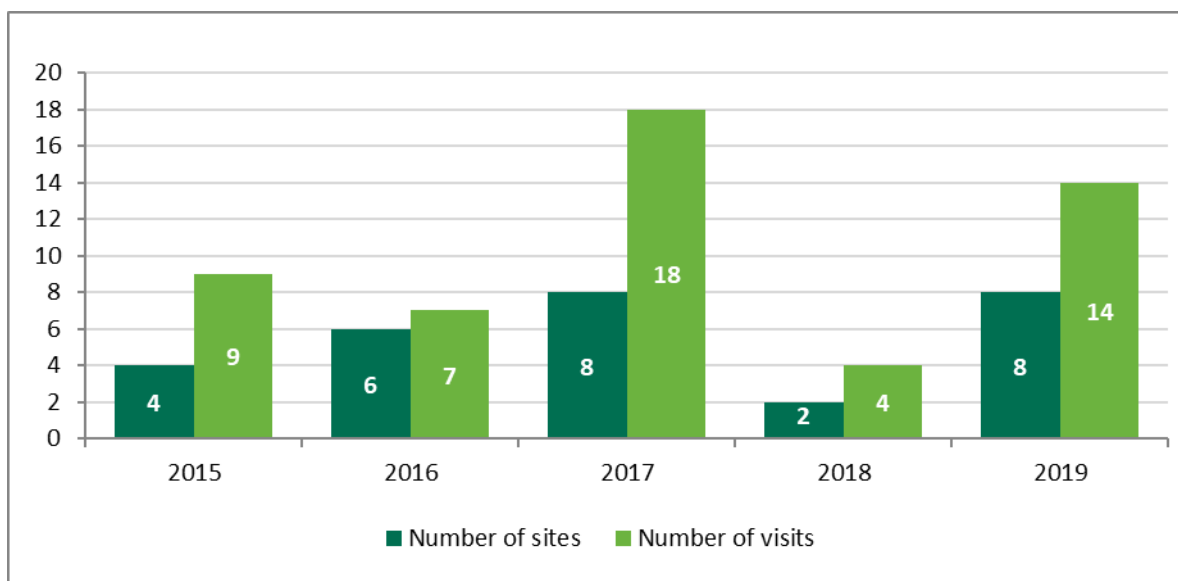
2.168 In the UK, no serious major non-compliances were identified during 2019.

Figure 31 - Chart showing the number of non-compliances at UK TSE sampling sites from 2015 - 2019



2.169 In GB, the number of controlled hide establishments visited and number of site visits had fallen in 2019. Only one site visit was required, which was found to be compliant. In Northern Ireland, the number of controlled hide establishments visited and number of site visits has increased in 2019 and all sites visited were found to be compliant.

Figure 32 - Chart showing the number of UK controlled hide establishments and the number of inspection visits from 2015 - 2019



2.170 In Great Britain, no new BSE were cases detected by active and passive surveillance 2019.

2.171 The numbers of confirmed TSE cases in the United Kingdom remained very low. Published [TSE surveillance statistics](#) provide further information.

2.172 Whilst there were no cases of BSE in Scotland in 2019, a final report on the 2018 classical BSE case in Scotland is available in the published [epidemiological report](#).

2.173 There were no cases of BSE in Northern Ireland in 2019.

Surveillance for BSE

2.174 The main purpose of BSE surveillance is to monitor the level of BSE in cattle over time and to check the continued effectiveness of BSE controls.

2.175 In 2019, 115,856 cattle were tested in Great Britain and 23,605 in Northern Ireland, under the active surveillance programme.

Scrapie in sheep in UK

UK surveillance for scrapie 2019

Type of surveillance	Great Britain	Northern Ireland
Number of sheep over 18 months slaughtered for human consumption	5,402	600
Number of sheep over 18 months (Fallen stock)	13,663	0
Number of sheep tested - fallen stock (including death in transit)	13,775	559
Number of classical scrapie cases	1	0
Number of atypical scrapie cases	6	0
Total number of sheep tested	19,177	1,159

2.176 In 2019, one sheep flock premises with classical scrapie was confirmed in Great Britain. This was confirmed via the identification of one case as part of active surveillance.

2.177 In 2019, six cases of atypical scrapie were confirmed in Great Britain. One case identified in sheep was submitted to the Fallen Stock survey and five cases from a sheep submitted to the Abattoir survey. No cases were confirmed in Northern Ireland.

2.178 [The Fallen stock survey](#) was the main contributor to the detection of atypical scrapie. Two new sheep holdings joined the Compulsory Scrapie Flocks Scheme (CSFS) in 2019, leaving 22 holdings with confirmed scrapie.

2.179 During the restriction period, fallen and healthy slaughtered sheep aged over 18 months were tested for scrapie. Eleven samples were tested from the classical scrapie restricted farms, and 534 sheep fallen stock submitted from atypical scrapie flocks.

2.180 In 2019, the Atypical Scrapie Monitoring Scheme (ASMS) continued to test the throughput of sheep holdings under restrictions by any kind. Sixteen holdings joined the existing 33 monitored due to confirmation of atypical scrapie. Thirty-three of the 49 holdings under restrictions submitted 435 samples to the various testing routes of the scheme.

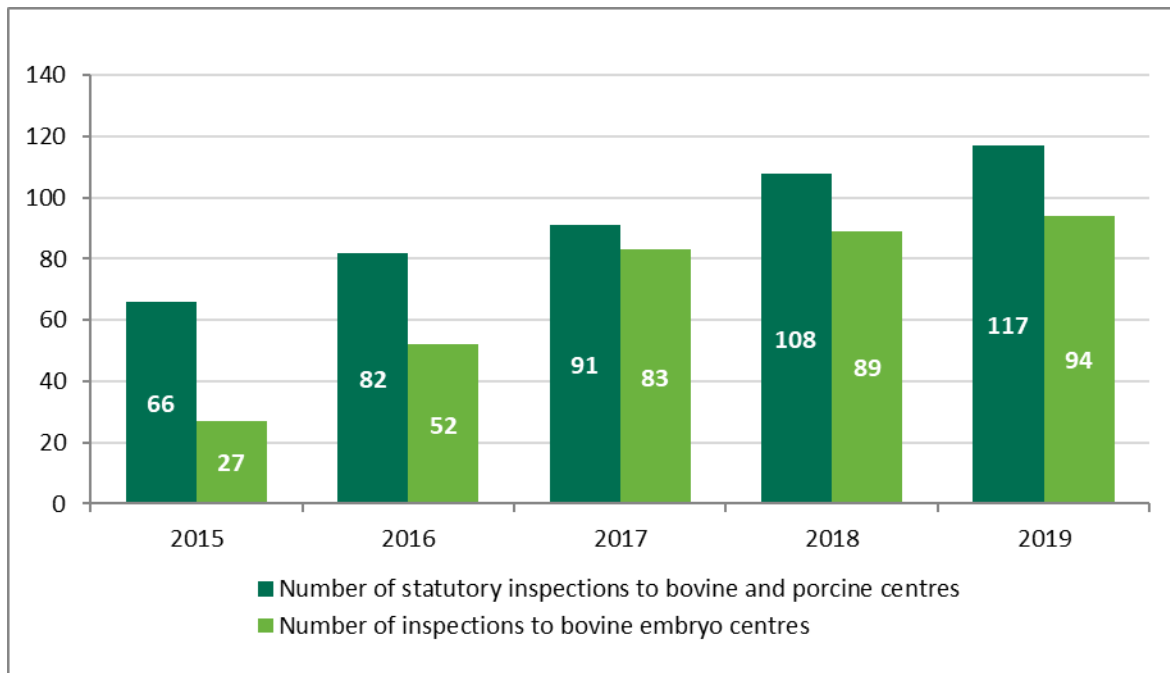
Scrapie in goats in the UK

2.181 In 2019, 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. There were 500 fallen goats aged over 18 months, but no positive cases were confirmed from this surveillance route. No new goat holdings entered the CSFS in 2018.

Artificial breeding controls

2.182 This area of work is largely driven by industry activity, stemming from requests for approvals and testing of approved sites. As such, no set targets were prescribed. The delivery of this work was in line with expectations. Controls remained consistent for 2019. The chart below summarises inspections for 2019 and the past five years.

Figure 33 - Chart showing number of artificial breeding inspections carried out in the UK, by bovine embryo centres and bovine porcine centres, from 2015 - 2019



**Number of artificial breeding control activities undertaken in Great Britain
2015/16 - 2019/20**

Activity	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Number of bovine embryo collection / production / transfer teams approved	15	21	10*	3*	4*
Number of bovine and porcine semen collection, processing and storage centres approved	10	6*	2*	7*	3*
Number of animals licensed for on-farm domestic semen collection	245	280	329	262	265
Number of animals approved to move onto approved AI centres	273	184	1,950	1,248	1,413
Number of animals licensed for semen export	1,200	1,312	1,881	1,204	1,366

*Stores and AQU approvals not included.

2.183 No sampling information was available for collection of bovine and porcine semen production.

**Number of artificial breeding control activities undertaken in Northern Ireland
2015/16 - 2019/20**

Activity	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Number of bovine embryo collection / production / transfer teams approved	6	6	4	5	5
Number of bovine and porcine semen collection, processing and storage centres approved	9	10	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	32	44	33	44	50

Sheep and goats identification and tracing inspections

2.184 The UK 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.

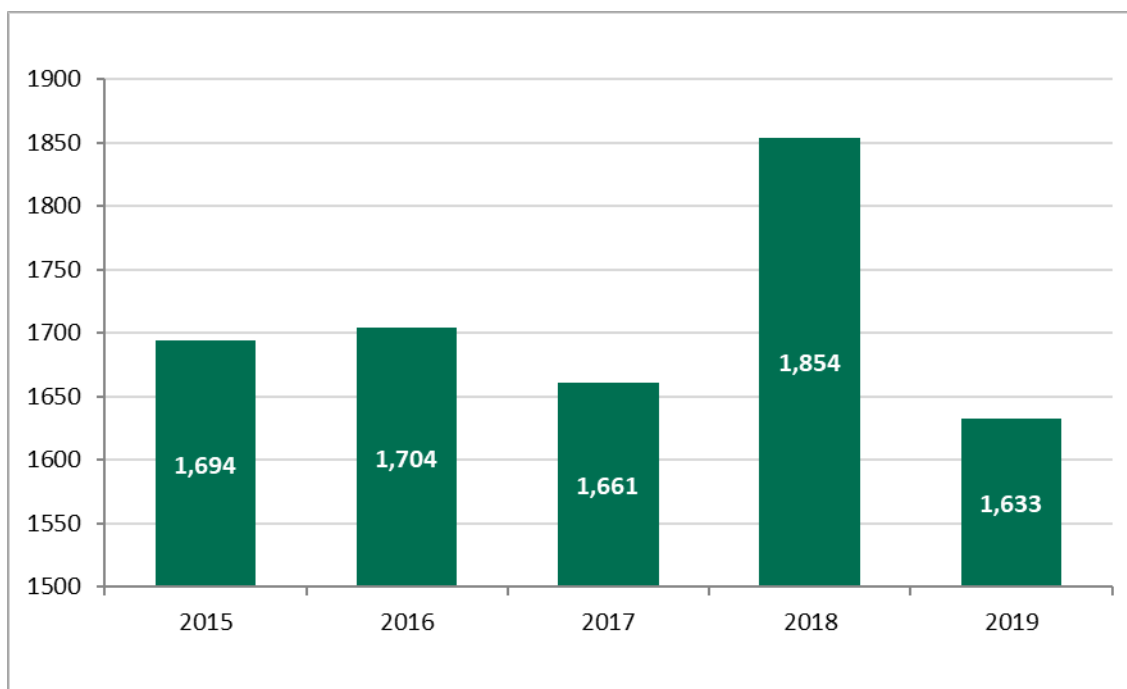
General information on holdings, animals and checks 2015 - 2019

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total number of holdings in the member state registered at the start of the reporting period	117,709	124,494	126,931	126,615	130,824
Total number of holdings checked	4,285	3,912	4,067	4,818	4,596
Total number of ovine and caprine animals in the member state registered at the beginning of the reporting period	18,786,694	18,787,469	18,982,072	18,625,546	19,210,216
Total number of ovine and caprine animals in holdings checked during the reporting	2,037,213	1,817,779	1,846,709	2,503,827	2,054,899

2.185 No significant changes were made to the risk selection criteria and the assessment of compliance, which are allied to Regulation 1505/2006 and EU Statutory Management Requirement (SMR) 8.

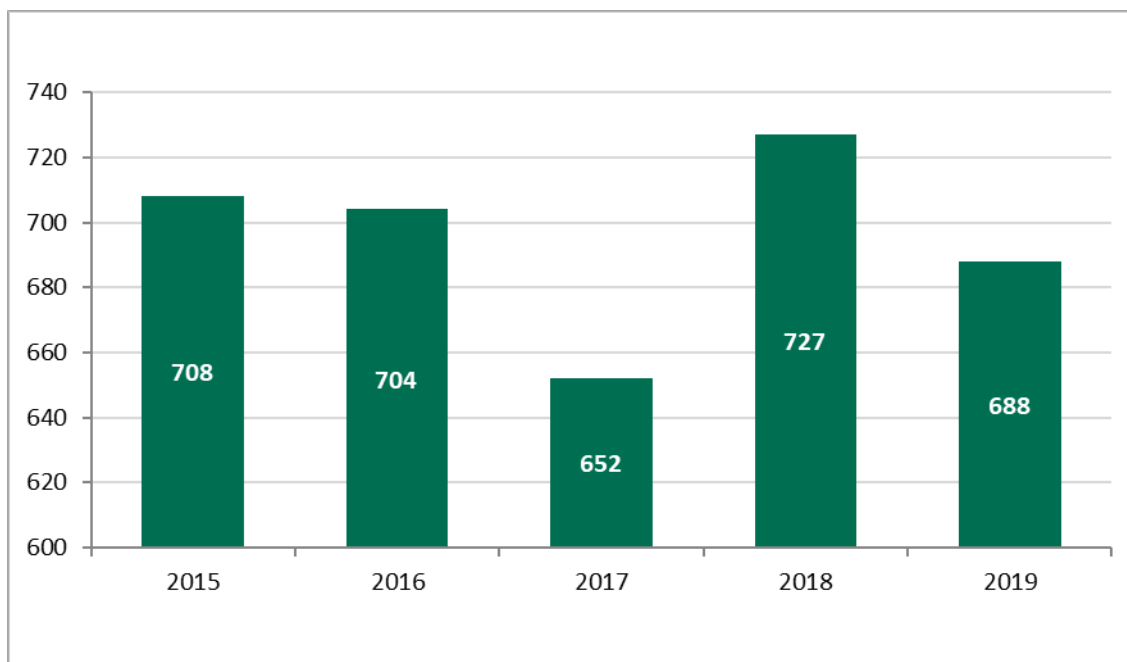
2.186 In 2019, there was a modest decrease of 12% in the number of non-compliant holdings. This was primarily due to a reduction in the size of the national flock and the number of sheep holdings. The chart below shows the number of non-compliances from 2015 to 2019.

Figure 34 - Chart showing the number of sheep and goat holdings with non-compliances in the UK from 2015 - 2019



2.187 Penalties were applied to sheep and goat keepers for non-compliance discovered during an SMR8 cross compliance inspection. The chart below shows the number of penalties imposed in the UK from 2015 to 2019.

Figure 35 - Chart showing the number of sheep and goat holdings with penalties imposed in the UK from 2015 - 2019



2.188 In 2019, there was a small 5% decrease in the number of holdings with penalties imposed, which aligns with the decrease in the size of the national flock. 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

2.189 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.

2.190 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 2019/20 inspection year.

General information on holdings and bovine animals in Great Britain from 2015 - 2020

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total number of holdings registered at the beginning of the reporting period	75,485	73,844	72,733	71,946	70,555
Total number of holdings checked during the reporting period	2,984	2,885	2,975	2,925	2,431
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	7,984,511
Total number of bovine animals checked during the reporting period	330,108	351,765	339,633	366,698	265,352

General information on holdings and bovine animals in Northern Ireland from 2015 - 2019

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total number of holdings registered at the beginning of the reporting period	23,024	22,815	22,330	21,963	21,970
Total number of holdings checked during the reporting period	856	806	841	828	770
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	1,553,973
Total number of bovine animals checked during the reporting period	97,684	89,589	85,291	101,641	92,028

- 2.191 The results of the cattle identification inspection annual programme over the past five years, show a stable level of compliance to the cattle identification regulations overall, and an increased level of compliance in 2019.
- 2.192 A variety of activities were inspected on farm, such as standards of tagging or record keeping, and notifications to the central database. In 2019, the most common types of non-compliance related to late or no report of movements and late or no report of births and deaths.
- 2.193 During 2019, in the UK, 6,698 bovine animals were subject to movement restrictions. A total of 2,060 animals were subject to individual restrictions and 4,638 were subject to whole herd movement restrictions. This represented 1.9% of animals subject to inspection. A total of 74 holdings were subject to a whole herd restriction, which equated to 2.3% of all inspected holdings. This represented an improvement on 2018/19's figure of 2.8%.
- 2.194 The charts below show holdings with non-compliances and inspections relating to cattle ID and registration from 2015 to 2019 in the United Kingdom.

Figure 36 - Chart showing the number of holdings with non-compliances for cattle identification regulations in the UK from 2015 - 2019

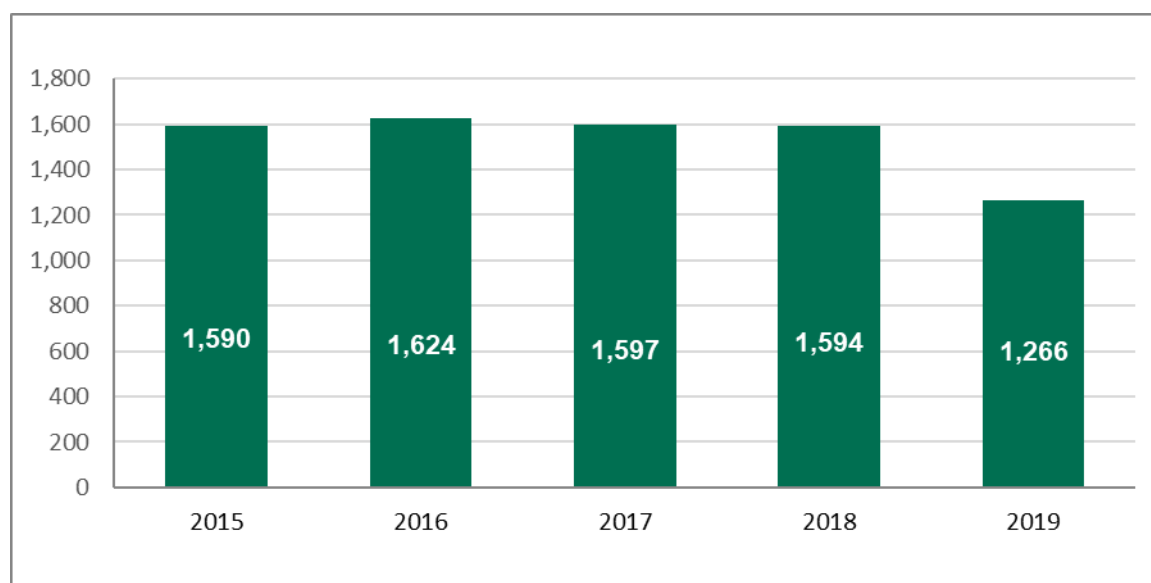
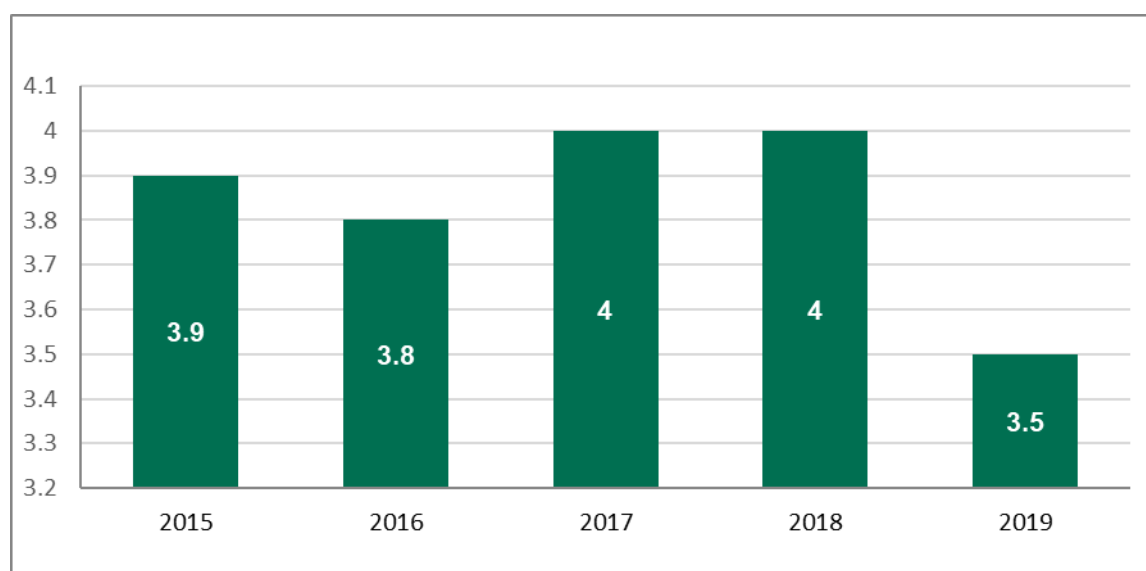


Figure 37 - Chart showing the percentage of cattle holdings inspected under the cattle identification regulations in the UK from 2015 - 2019



Zoonoses

- 2.195 Control of Salmonella in all the UK poultry sectors was maintained in 2019. The UK met or exceeded the regulated target prevalence for regulated serovars. The prevalence of Salmonella in UK kept poultry has gradually reduced. More detail on trends can be found in the report on [Salmonella in livestock in Great Britain 2018](#).
- 2.196 The Salmonella National Control Programme (SNCP) monitoring results for 2019 for breeding, laying and broiler chickens and also for fattening turkeys, showed that the levels of the regulated (target) Salmonella serovars were all below the EU designated targets. Official sampling programmes, as required by the EU legislation, are in place for each sector. A two-day national training event was held in October 2019, to raise awareness and build capacity.

- 2.197 The UK breeding chicken sector had a reported prevalence for regulated (target) serovars of 0% for 2019. No UK adult or immature breeding chicken flocks were detected positive for Salmonella Enteritidis, Salmonella Typhimurium, monophasic Salmonella Typhimurium, S.Hadar, S.Infantis or S.Virchow. A total of 14 laying chicken flocks tested positive for Salmonella Enteritidis, one was positive for Salmonella Typhimurium and one was positive for monophasic Salmonella Typhimurium.
- 2.198 This gave an overall prevalence in adult flocks of laying hens in the SNCP in 2019 of 0.35% for the target serovars. The main increase was due to 14 flocks on five premises which tested positive for Salmonella Enteritidis. The prevalence of the target serovars in broiler flocks was 0.03% in 2019, with two flocks positive for Salmonella Enteritidis, 10 flocks positive for S. Typhimurium and five flocks positive for monophasic S. Typhimurium, out of a total of approximately 54,417 flocks tested.
- 2.199 In 2019, a total of 2,425 fattening turkey flocks were tested under the programme. No regulated Salmonella serovars were identified in fattening turkeys via NCP testing. The 2019 prevalence of the target serovars was therefore 0%, which is less than 0.33% recorded in 2018 and well below the EU target of a maximum of 1% of flocks positive for regulated serovars in fattening flocks.
- 2.200 In 2019, there were 227 turkey breeding flocks tested in the National Control Programme. Of these, two turkey breeding flocks were positive for regulated serovars. Both flocks were owned by the same company that had recorded six positive flocks in 2018 and at one of the same sites found positive in 2018. They tested positive for the same monophasic Salmonella Typhimurium as was found in 2018, but it was not clear if this was due to a re-contamination from the local environment or possibly due to carry over.
- 2.201 Therefore, the estimated prevalence for regulated serovars was 0.72%, which is less than the 2.07% prevalence in 2018 and below the EU target of 1% of flocks positive for S. Enteritidis and S. Typhimurium, including monophasic Salmonella Typhimurium strains.
- 2.202 No turkey breeding flocks were positive for S. Enteritidis in 2019. This has been the case since the introduction of the UK turkey NCP in 2010.

Figure 38 - Chart showing prevalence of Salmonella spp. in regulated serovars relative to the EU target in audit laying hen flocks of Gallus Gallus in the UK Salmonella National control programme from 2015 - 2019

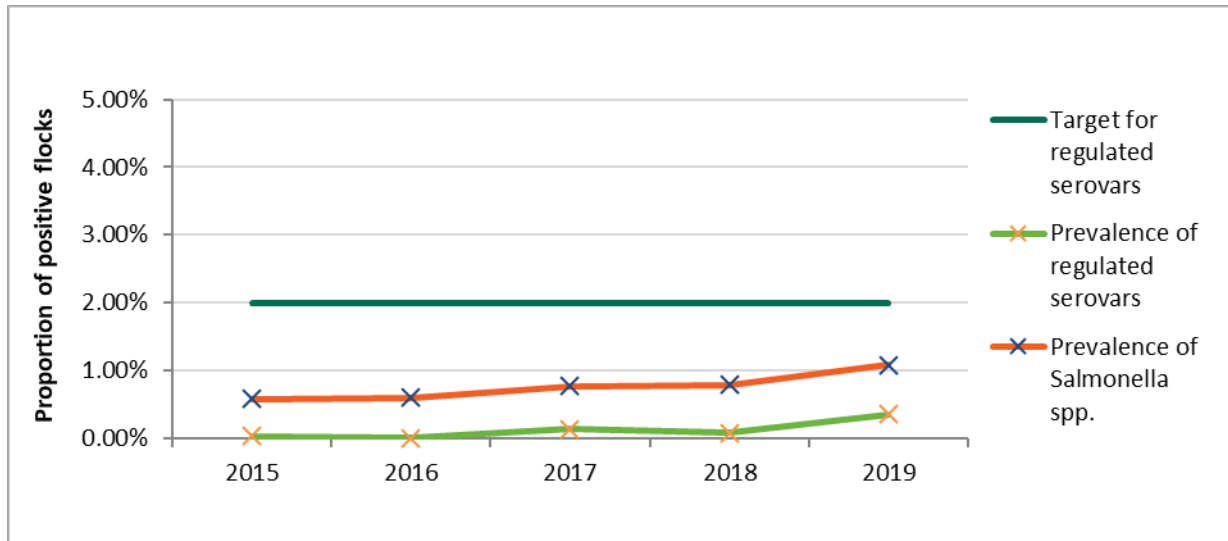


Figure 39 - Chart showing prevalence of Salmonella spp. in regulated serovars relative to the EU target for broiler flocks of Gallus Gallus in the UK Salmonella National control programme from 2015 - 2019

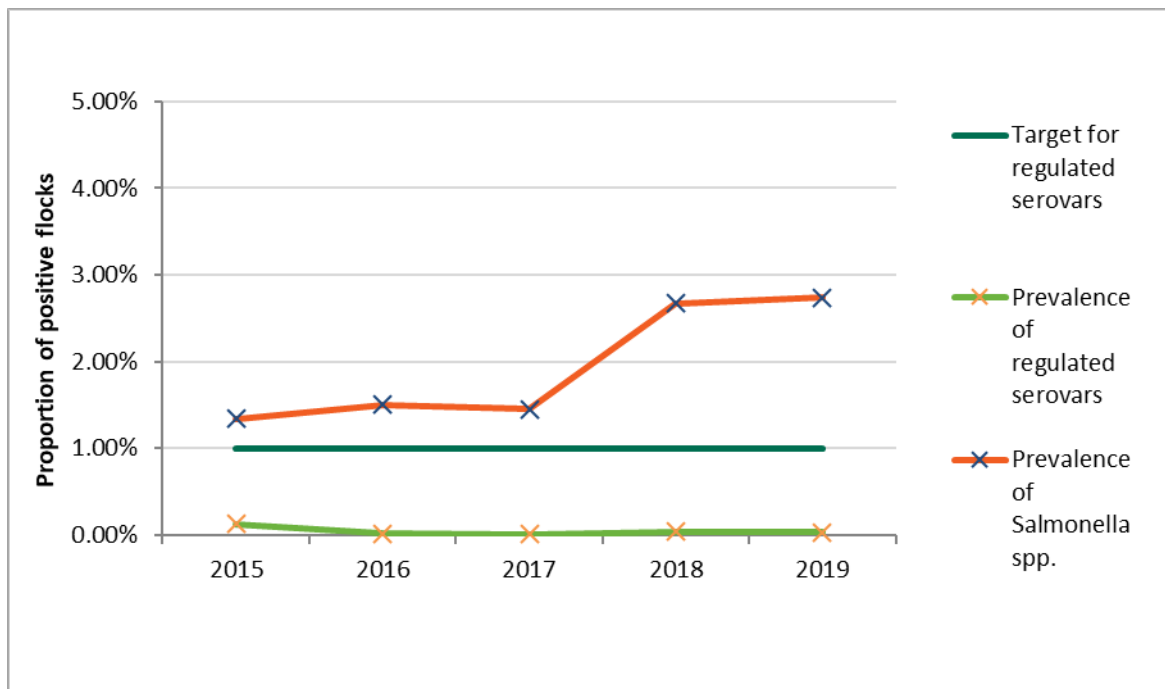


Figure 40 - Chart showing prevalence of Salmonella spp. and the regulated serovars relative to the EU target in adult breeding flocks of Gallus Gallus in the UK Salmonella National control programme from 2015 - 2019

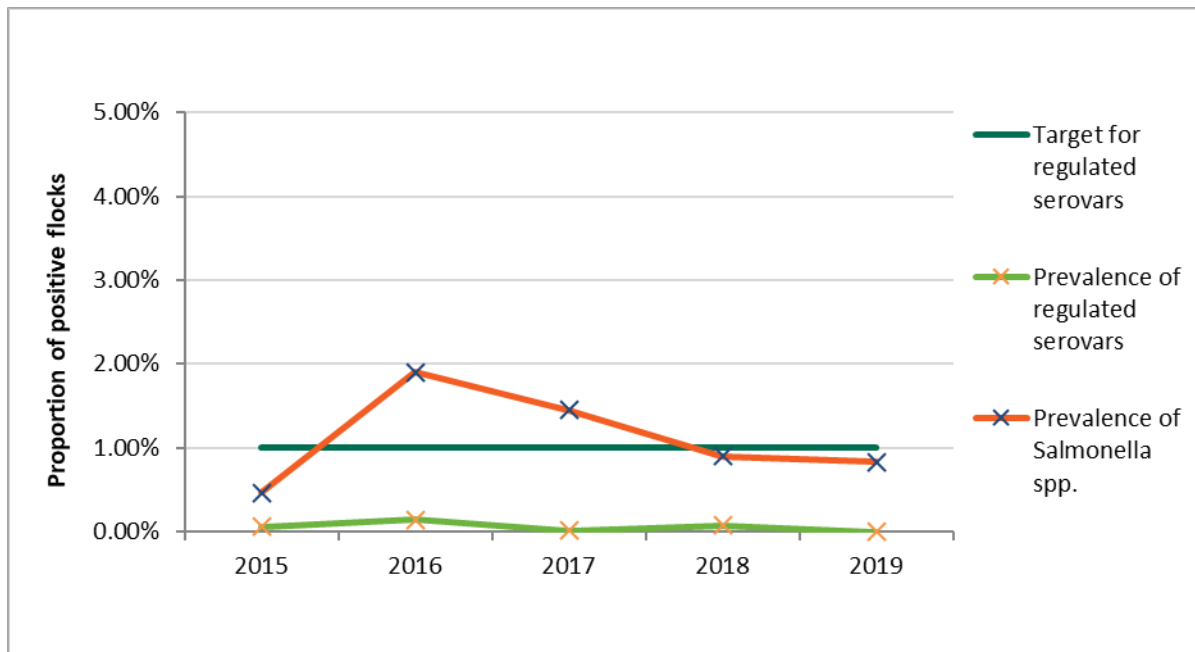


Figure 41 - Chart showing prevalence of Salmonella spp. and the regulated serovars relative to the EU target for fattening turkey flocks in the UK Salmonella National control programme from 2015 - 2019

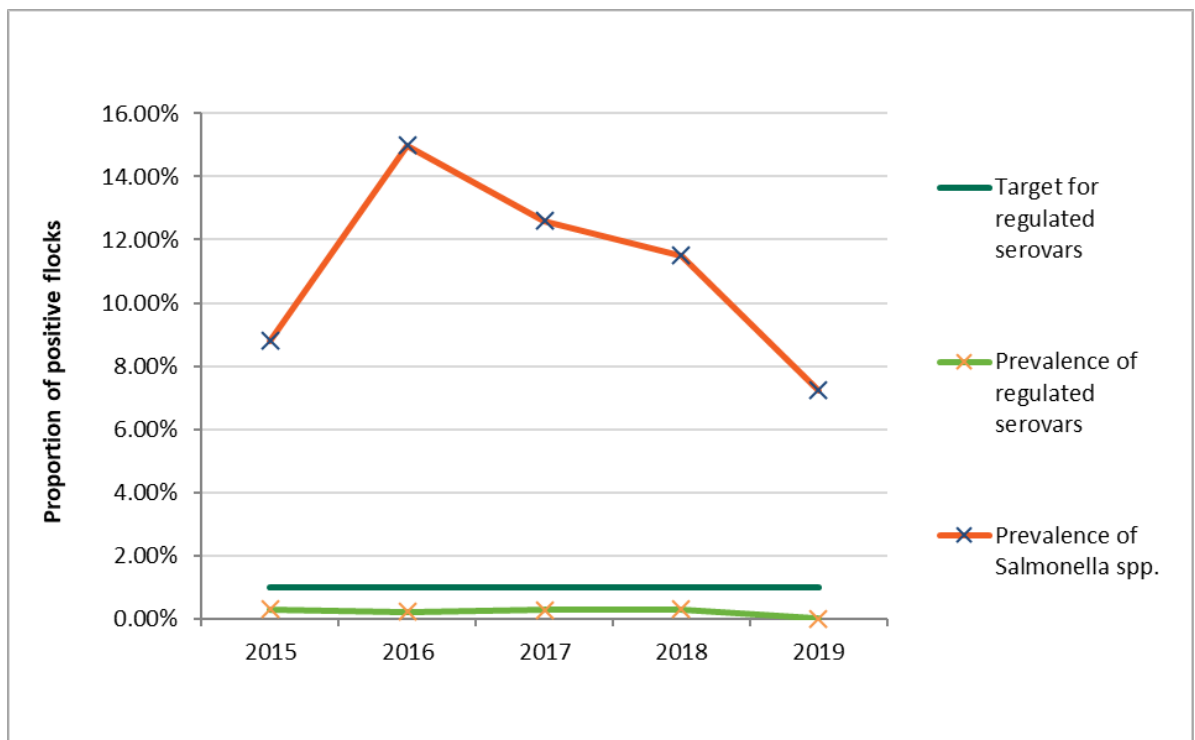
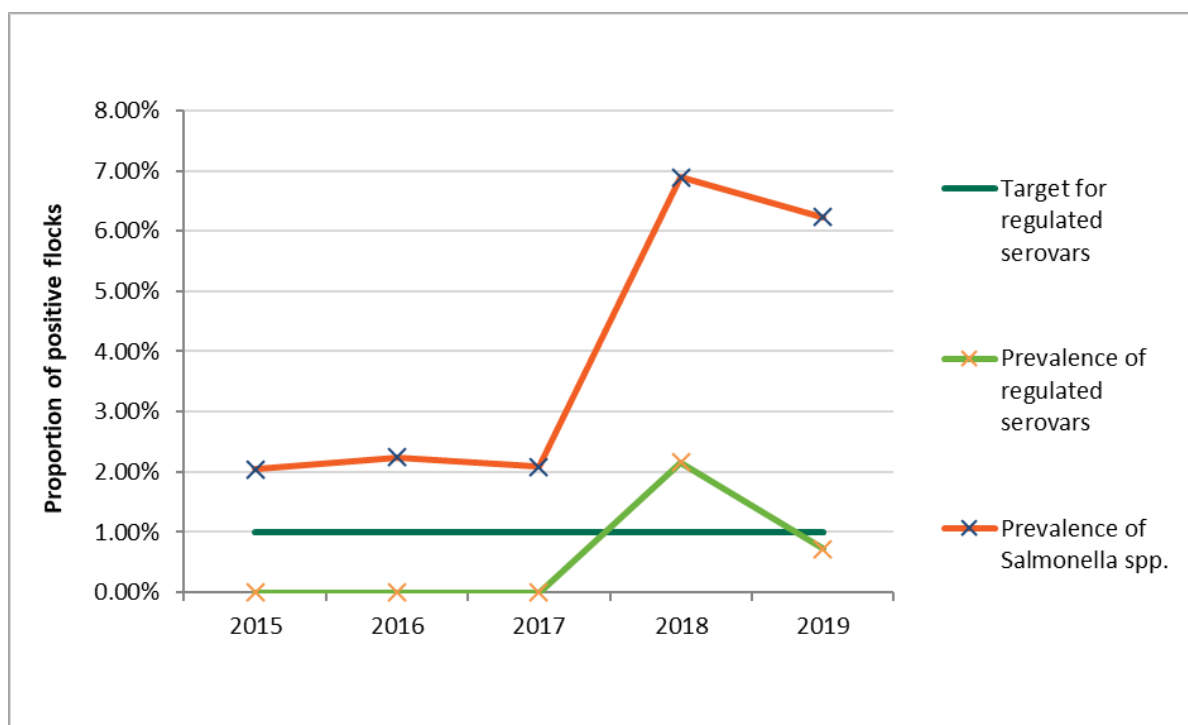


Figure 42 - Salmonella spp. and the regulated serovars relative to the EU target in breeding turkey flocks in the UK Salmonella National Control Programme from 2015 - 2019



2.203 The requirements for official sampling are laid out in Regulation 2160/2003 (as amended) and implementing legislation. In total for all poultry sectors across the UK, 3,553 poultry flocks were subject to annual routine official sampling in 2019.

Number of flocks officially sampled in the UK per year

Sector	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Breeding chickens	1,725	1,396	1,223	1,442	1,571
Laying chickens	1,633	1,445	1,438	1,534	1,526
Broilers	180	185	179	163	178
Breeding turkeys	269	252	282	248	278

2.204 The assessment of FBO 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.

2.205 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.

Summary of non-compliance in the poultry sector in the UK from 2015 - 2019

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Non-compliances	120*	152	125	60	83

*GB only

2.206 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 and a slight increase in 2019. There were 27 penalty notices and nine warning letters issued in 2019. This financial penalty system is not used in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Salmonella in pigs

2.207 In 2018/19, in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, 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.

Border controls – Animals and products of animal origin

2.208 The number of consignments of animal products imported in 2019 has gone down again from 56,774 in 2018 to 55,079 in 2019. In the case of live animal imports, the number of consignments also decreased from 8,614 in 2018 to 8,585 in 2019.

2.209 Compliance remains high for third country imports of animals and animal products. For products, the figures are lower the previous year. In 2019, the number of consignments rejected was 1,102 (2.0%) compared to 983 (1.7%) in 2018. 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, 55 consignments were rejected in 2019 compared with 30 consignments in 2018.

2.210 If a 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.

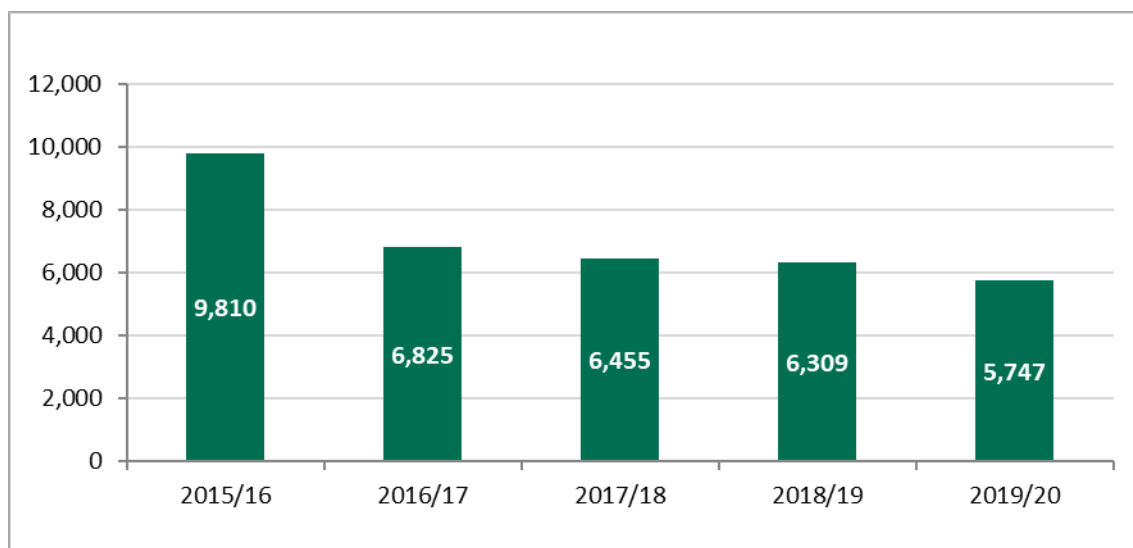
UK controls on imported consignments: animal products from 2015 – 2019

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total certificates issued	57,980	58,457	56,691	56,774	55,079
Number of controlled certificates	57,978	58,457	56,690	56,771	54,880
Number of rejections	780	774	1,134	983	1,105
Number of rejections re-exported	262	228	377	375	378
Number of rejections transformed	3	2	3	2	1
Number of rejections destroyed	512	554	783	629	726

UK controls on imported consignments: live animals from 2015 – 2019

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total certificates	9,655	9,375	8,820	8,614	8,585
Number of controlled certificates	9,646	9,375	8,817	8,614	8,585
Number of rejects	32	50	61	30	55
Rejects re-exported	23	37	50	24	48
Rejects slaughtered	0	0	0	1	0
Rejects subject to euthanasia (fish & gastropoda)	9	12	10	5	7

Figure 43 - Chart showing the number of imported products of animal origin seized in the UK from 2015/16 - 2019/20



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

Illegal imports⁹ controls of products of animal origin

- 2.211 Between 2018/19 and 2019/20, the number of seizures at UK airports and ports of illegally imported products decreased by 8.9%. The figure is slightly lower than expected as data for seizures at Gatwick airport from 1 October - 31 December 2019 was not available at the time of writing. This is due to the switch to a new reporting system which is still being fine-tuned. Barring this, compliance has largely remained consistent with previous years.
- 2.212 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.

⁹ '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.

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

Bee health

2.214 In England and Wales, the National Bee Unit (NBU)¹⁰ carried out a statutory inspection programme for Defra and the WG. 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 2019 and in previous years.

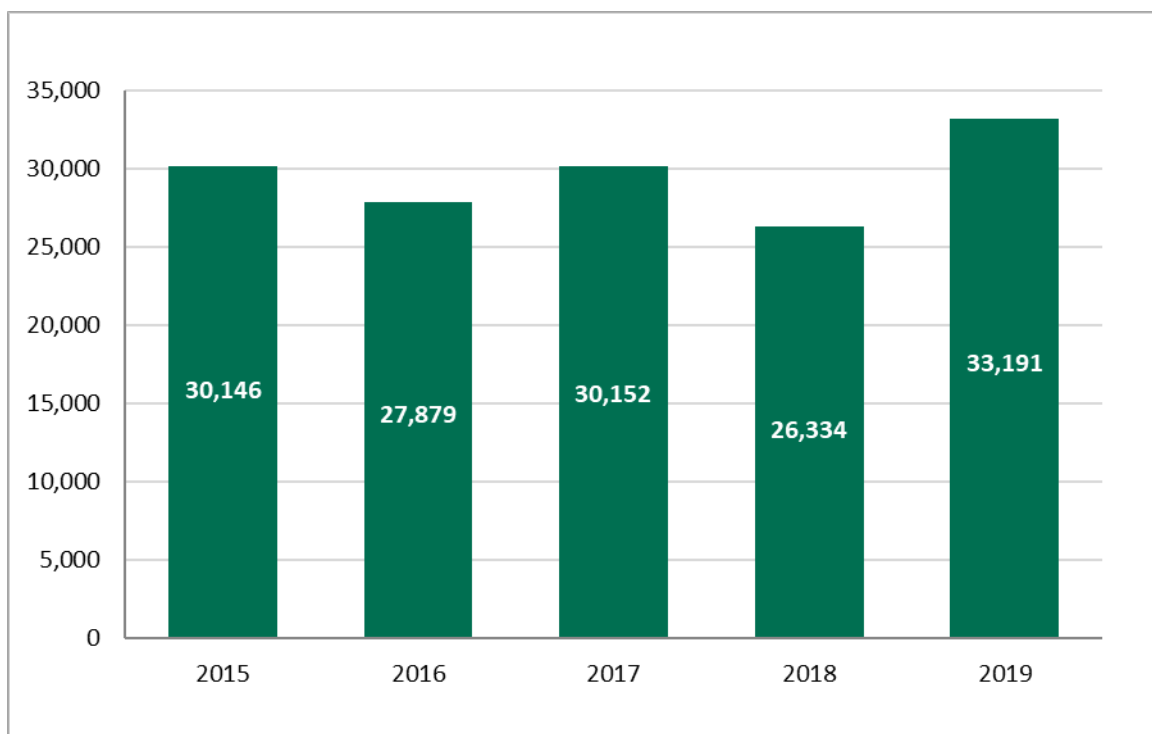
2.215 The number of colonies infected with American foulbrood (AFB) and European foulbrood (EFB) has remained at low levels in recent years. All colonies found to be infected with AFB were destroyed. Treatment for EFB is dependent on the level of infection and the time of year it is found, but it can involve destruction, a technique called 'Shook Swarm' or more rarely and as a last resort the antibiotic Oxytetracycline (OCT).

2.216 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.

2.217 A total of 33,191 unique colonies in 5,274 apiaries were inspected across England and Wales. The chart below shows inspections undertaken from 2015 to 2019.

¹⁰ From 1 October 2014 the NBU Inspectorate moved into the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA).

Figure 44 - Chart showing the total number of unique colonies inspected in England and Wales from 2015 - 2019



Turnaround times on laboratory diagnosis and control measures on diseased apiaries for 2019 in 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%	166
Import Samples	4	N/A	0
Statutory Foulbrood	1	92%	583
Voluntary Foulbrood	1	100%	7

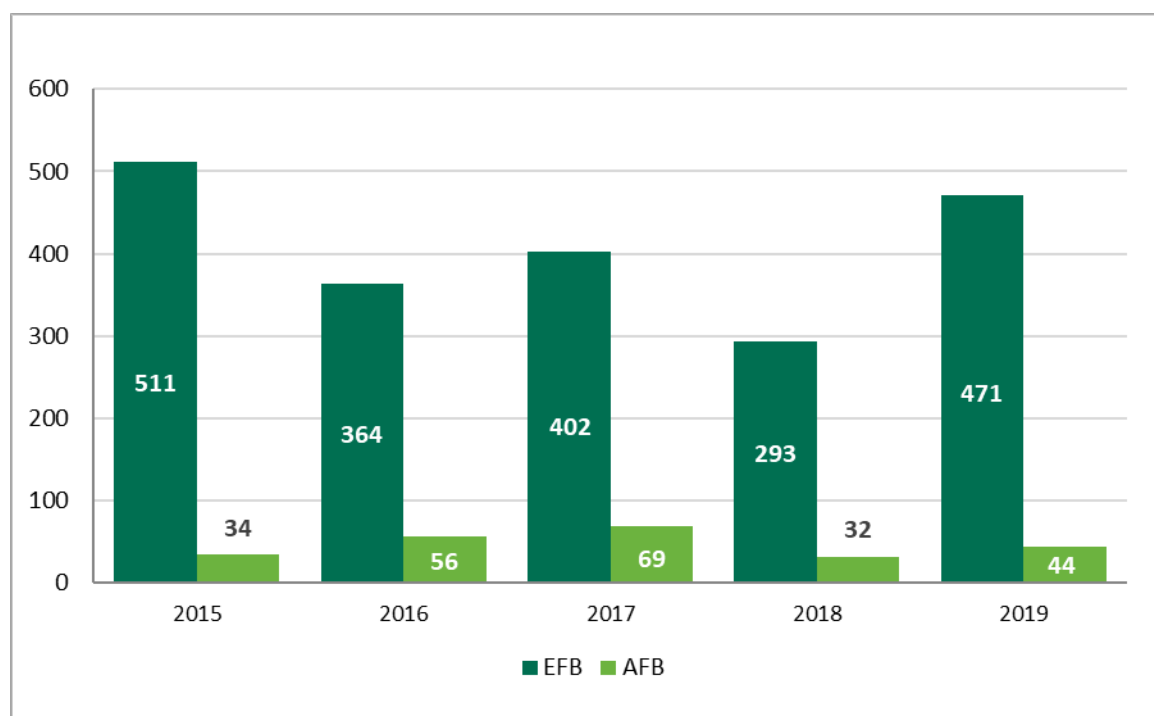
Turnaround times on laboratory diagnosis and control measures on diseased apiaries for 2019 in Wales

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%	18
Import Samples	4	N/A	0
Statutory Foulbrood	1	81%	43
Voluntary Foulbrood	1	N/A	0

2.218 Field work and inspection comprised of 185 colonies in 94 separate apiaries treated by shook swarm/or Oxytetracycline antibiotic: 100% within 10 days (mean treatment time four days). While 327 colonies in 198 separate apiaries were controlled by destruction: 100% within 10 days (mean treatment time two days).

2.219 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 and *Tropilaelaps* mites. The numbers of AFB cases over the past 10 years has remained at relatively low levels. In 2019, there were 44 cases of AFB and 471 cases of EFB in England and Wales in 2018, which is similar to the number of cases found prior to 2018. The chart below summarises infection levels in colonies from 2015 - 2019.

Figure 45 - Chart showing the number of colonies found to be infected with EFB and AFB in England and Wales from 2015 - 2019



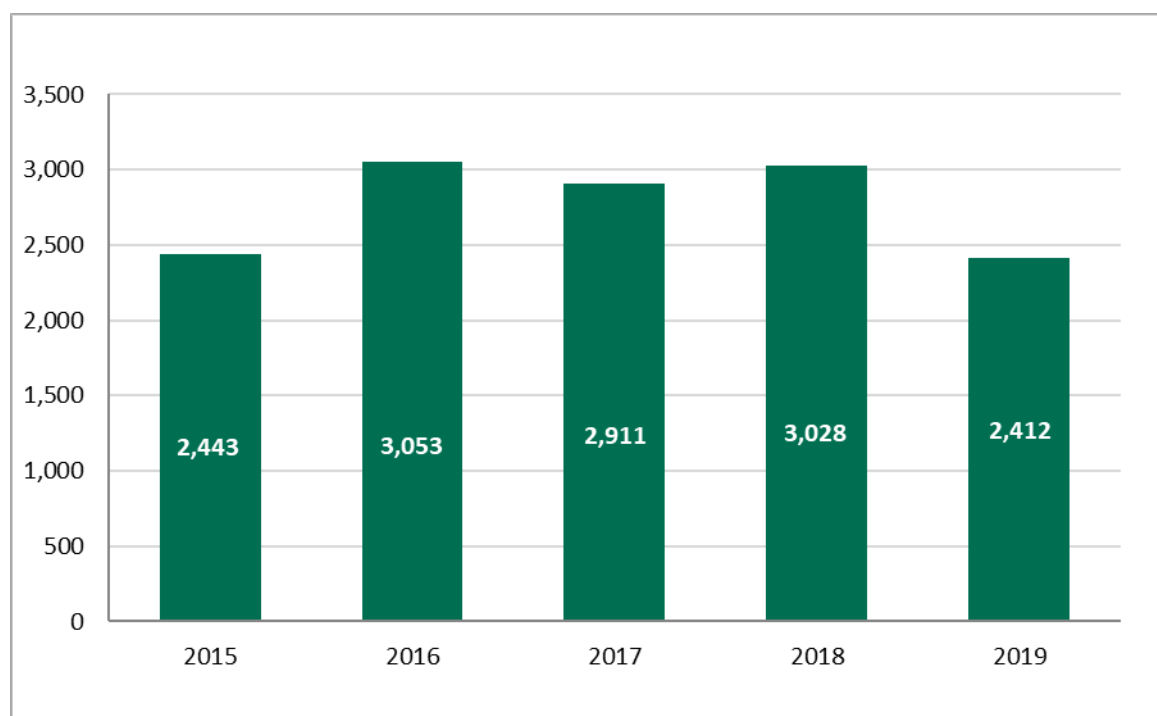
2.220 The NBU continued to monitor for the exotic pests, the Small hive beetle and *Tropilaelaps mites*.

2.221 A total of 12,855 colonies in 2,412 apiaries were specifically examined in England and Wales for the presence of exotic pests. A total of 184 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.

2.222 The significant increase in exotic pest inspections since 2014 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.

2.223 The reduction in exotic pest inspections in 2019 was due to increased time spent tackling outbreaks of European foulbrood, cases of which had increased from the previous year. Also, responding to outbreaks of Asian hornet of which three nests were detected and destroyed. The below chart shows inspections for exotic pests in England and Wales from 2015 to 2019.

Figure 46 - Chart showing the number of apiaries inspected for exotic pests in England and Wales from 2015 - 2019



- 2.224 In Scotland, the Bee Health Inspectorate carried out statutory inspection programme for the Scottish Government. Diagnostic support for the programme is provided by [SASA](#). Details of the programmes are available from the [Scottish Government Bee Health Pages](#). Full details of the Scottish Government Bee Inspectorate inspections and pest and disease incidence across the years can be found in the [NBU pages](#).
- 2.225 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 Scotland as 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 2009, although 2019 saw an unexplained spike in the number of cases.
- 2.226 The Bee Health Inspectorate are working on establishing the true picture of EFB spread in Scotland. Honey samples were also collected under contract for the VMD for the National Surveillance Scheme. Ten samples are collected each year under Council Directive 96/23/EC; none of these samples were non-compliant.
- 2.227 A total of 4,117 unique colonies in 200 apiaries were inspected across Scotland. The Scottish Bee Inspectorate inspection priorities are the detection and management of statutory notifiable diseases, AFB and EFB and surveillance for exotic pest species, the Small hive beetle and *Tropilaelaps mites*. The numbers of AFB cases over the past 10 years remained at relatively low levels. In 2019, there were 10 colonies diagnosed with AFB and 193 colonies diagnosed with EFB in Scotland. The cases of AFB however were in a single beekeeper, in five of his apiaries.

2.228 [The Scottish Government EFB Control Plan](#) has been in operation since 2010, where commercial beekeepers are able to complete their own initial disease inspection. The plan was renamed the Scottish Advanced Honey Bee Health Standard (SHBHS) operated during 2018 and 2019. 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.

Figure 47 - Chart showing the number of apiaries and colonies infected with EFB in Scotland, from 2015 - 2019

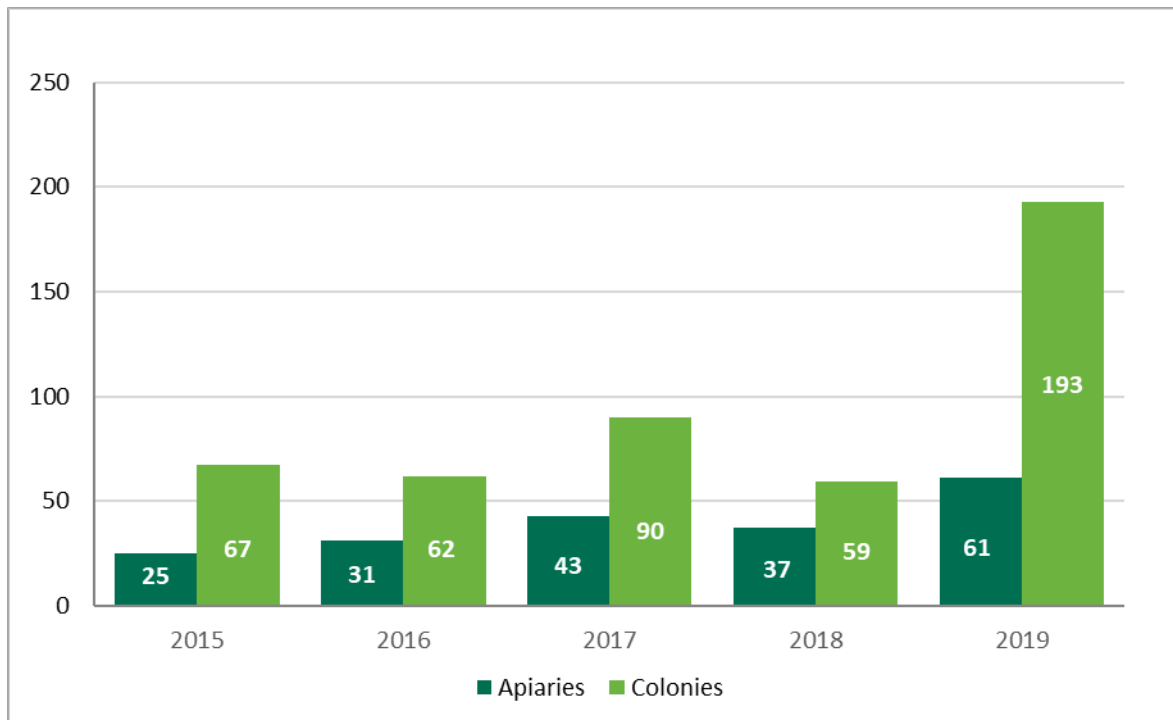


Figure 48 - Chart showing the number of apiaries and colonies inspected in Scotland from 2015 - 2019

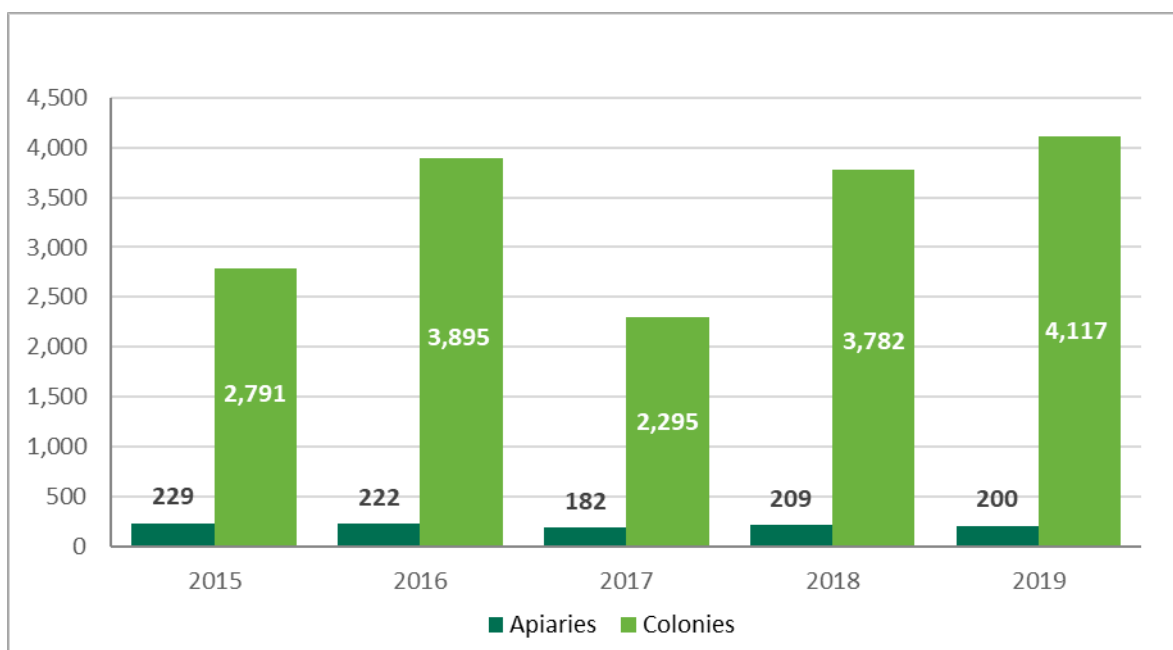
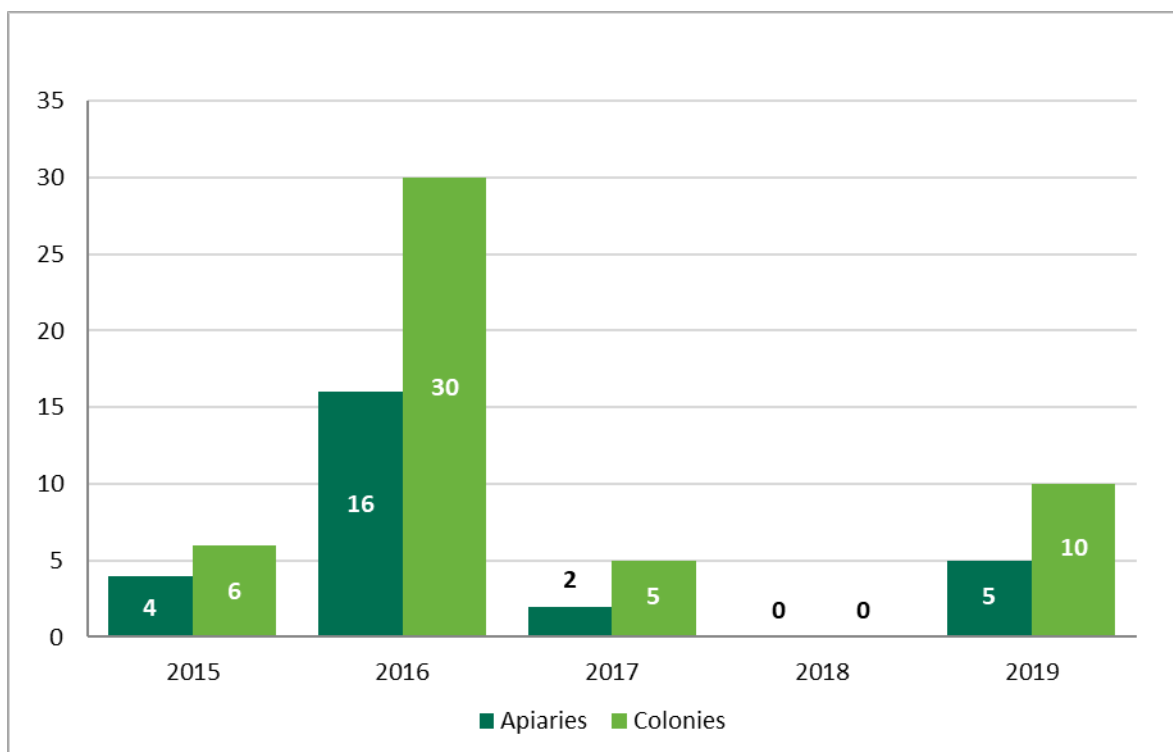


Figure 49 - Chart showing the number of apiaries and colonies infected with AFB in Scotland, from 2015 - 2019



2.229 In Northern Ireland, the number of apiaries infected with AFB has remained steady compared to 2018, with six 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 decline in EFB findings with two apiaries recorded with the infection again 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.

2.230 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.

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

2.232 A total of 153 apiaries were inspected in Northern Ireland by DAERA Bee Inspectors.

Aquatic animal health

England and Wales

2.233 The planned official control programme on aquatic animal health was successfully completed for England and Wales, meeting the objectives and targets set out in the MOU between Defra and Cefas. The official control programme supported the continued maintenance of approved zone status for the UK for a number of serious diseases of fish and shellfish and contributed to the protection of the UK's high aquatic animal health status.

2.234 All the inspection programmes are run on a calendar year basis, therefore figures in this section of the report are for the 2019 calendar year. In England and Wales, the intensity and the type of controls remained consistent over the past five years. The annual routine inspection programme for compliance with the Aquatic Animal Health Regulations (England and Wales) 2009 was completed successfully for the authorised Aquaculture Production Businesses (APBs). The inspection programme figures are given in the table below. In 2019, 52 APBs were authorised and 41 APBs were deauthorised.

Total number of APB compliance inspections 2017 - 2019

ABP compliance inspections	2017	2018	2019
Fin Fish	320	308	310
Shellfish	88	77	75
Crustacea	6	6	4
Depuration	53	50	49
Importers	112	114	79

2.235 An additional 127 unprogrammed (ad hoc) inspections were undertaken on authorised APBs and other sites. These were in response to notifications of mortality, suspicion of disease, or observation of clinical signs of disease during routine inspection. A total of 58 diagnostic samples from fish, 15 samples from molluscan shellfish and 8 samples from crustaceans were submitted for diagnostic testing. This testing covered listed diseases, new and emerging diseases and to identify the cause of mortality. In addition, 145 official controls were undertaken on sites under either initial designations (ID) or confirmed designations (CD) for the control of listed diseases.

Total number of investigations and inspections for disease control from 2017 - 2019

Investigations/inspections	2017	2018	2019
Disease Investigations	159	168	127
Disease Control Inspections	225	177	145

- 2.236 The Fish Health Inspectorate also registers low risk aquaculture production businesses such as managed fisheries. In 2019, 631 recreational fisheries were registered with a total of 11,355 registered fisheries in England and Wales.
- 2.237 The FHI has a contractual agreement with the VMD to undertake fish farm inspections and sampling for veterinary residues and mixing licences on their behalf. In 2019, 50 samples were obtained and submitted to the analytical laboratory FERA, Sand Hutton, York for testing. Ten inspections were conducted on fish farms holding veterinary medicines mixing licences.
- 2.238 The risk-based import surveillance programme continued and is targeted at sources of live fish posing a higher risk for the introduction of disease. Under the 2019 import surveillance programme, a total of 28 samples were subject to diagnostic testing for listed diseases. No evidence was found for the presence of listed diseases in imported consignments of live fish. The programme was reduced from previous years, due to budgetary constraints. This was mitigated through maintaining a targeted and risk-based approach to the programme, which supplements checks at border, carried out by APHA.

Total number of fish import samples from 2016 - 2019

	2016	2017	2018	2019
Third country	30	32	36	22
EU	9	17	10	6
Total import samples	39	47	46	28

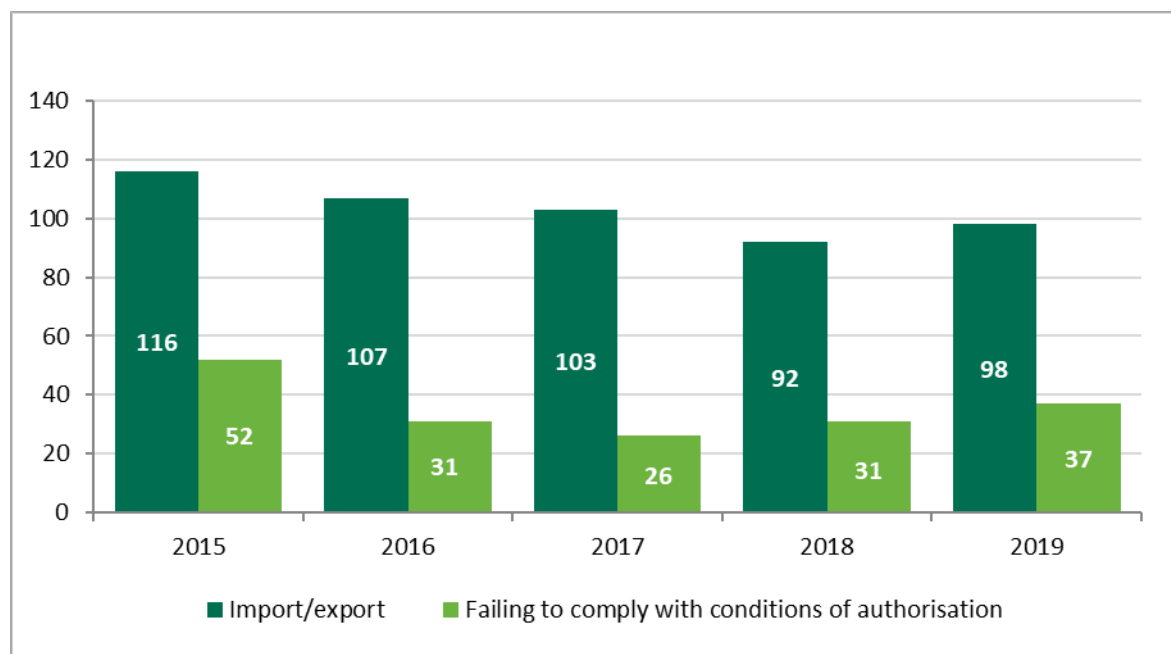
- 2.239 Koi herpesvirus (KHV) disease continues to represent a significant cause of mortality in common carp in managed fisheries. The FHI issued a total of 18 Confirmed Designations in 2019, all for the control of KHV disease. Sixteen were applied to control outbreaks in recreational coarse fisheries. The other two were for the control of KHV disease in imported ornamental koi carp originating from Japan. The affected fish at these two sites were culled and the sites were cleaned and disinfected
- 2.240 This follows the usual pattern for KHV disease in England and Wales, although the total number of confirmed cases in 2019 was at its lowest since 2015. This decrease is largely attributed to environmental factors creating sub-optimal conditions for expression of the disease during the early part of summer, particularly the very wet weather experienced in June.

Total number of confirmed designations issued for KHV from 2015 - 2019

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Designations issued for KHV	11	33	26	30	18

- 2.241 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, increased biosecurity and improved management practices.
- 2.242 In 2019, there were no changes to the geographic distribution of the listed shellfish diseases in England and Wales, with no new outbreaks outside of the existing disease control zones, indicating that infection with the listed diseases remained stable. Long standing disease controls continue to remain in place in multiple shellfish harvesting areas for *Bonamia ostreae* and for Oyster herpesvirus 1 microvariant (OsHV-1 μ var), while the listed protozoan parasite *Marteilia refringens* remains restricted to infection in edible mussel *Mytilus edulis* populations in a single estuary system. The [disease control zones](#) are published online.
- 2.243 The situation in respect of the other listed diseases remains stable with the high status for aquatic animal health maintained overall. Improved levels of awareness and enhanced biosecurity in the fish farming, ornamental wholesale and fisheries sectors have helped to contribute to the containment and control of serious disease.
- 2.244 Trade and import and export activities remained high with the FHI issuing 426 health certificates for the export of aquatic animals from England and Wales. This is again an increase in the number of health certificates issued in the previous year. The number of non-compliances relating to the import of aquatic animals remained largely consistent with the overall decreasing trend seen since 2015, as illustrated in the table below.

Figure 50 - Chart showing the number of imports/exports and the number failing to comply with conditions of authorisation from 2015 - 2019



- 2.245 Compliance by aquaculture production businesses remained at a high level, reflecting the effectiveness of the inspection programmes, and the prompt and consistent actions taken in event of non-compliance.

- 2.246 The majority of non-compliances were administrative in nature and dealt with through the provision of advice, warning letters and enforcement notices, followed by further inspections to check corrective measures had been actioned. This was sufficient to ensure good statutory compliance, with infrequent need to take further action. The FHI continues to place emphasis on working with industry to improve awareness on biosecurity and protection of stocks against incursion of disease to encourage and facilitate the high standard of compliance with statutory requirements. The nature of trade and authorisation non-compliances were as follows:
- 2.247 One uncertified consignment of goldfish was culled in cooperation with the importer to prevent the possibility of disease introduction. All other cases were resolved through written and verbal advice or actions taken. Sixteen sites were importing without any authorisation. Three sites were importing unauthorised species and three sites were importing from unauthorised sources. All issues were resolved by warning letters and advice.
- 2.248 Six sites were keeping unauthorised or illegal species. The animals were seized and destroyed and warning letters were issued. One site was operating as an APB with no authorisation. A warning letter was issued and the site was subsequently authorised. There were two sites failing to keep records as specified. Enforcement notices were issued and follow up inspections to ensure corrective action was undertaken.
- 2.249 Three sites failed to attend inspections. Enforcement notices were sent to two sites and subsequent inspections undertaken. The third site was deauthorised. Two sites were failing to comply with conditions of their Catch Documentation Schemes. Enforcement notices were issued and unannounced surveillance was increased to ensure compliance.
- 2.250 One site failed to notify a mortality. An unannounced inspection with sample confirmed the designation issued with warning letters and advice.
- 2.251 Cefas FHI continued to engage with importers and trade bodies and to provide 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, enforcement continues in this area in order to prevent this type of non-compliance spreading to higher risk activities.
- 2.252 Illegal import of live freshwater fish continued to represent the biggest risk to the aquatic animal health status of England and Wales. In 2019, the FHI maintained a proactive approach to tackling illegal imports and undertook intelligence-led interceptions of consignments of fish. This included three operations to intercept consignments of uncertified SVC susceptible ornamental fish and illegal non-native species coming in from the Czech Republic via Dover. The FHIs extensive work over the last three years with National Crime Agency and UK Border Force (UKBF) resulted in the successful prosecution of a seafood trader who was found guilty at Southwark Crown Court of smuggling up to £51m worth of glass European eels to China.

- 2.253 The FHI continued to work in accordance with the National Intelligence Model and works closely with other government Agencies such as UKBF in the investigation of illegal activities. The Cefas FHI contributed to many joint agency operations resulting in a significant increase in the flow of intelligence from other government agencies and from stakeholders about illegal trade in elvers, failures to comply with statutory requirements and failure to report mortalities. As a consequence, the Cefas FHI has maintained a programme of unannounced visits to a range of sites and as a result, identified a number of non-compliances.
- 2.254 In August, the FHI were inspected by the Investigatory Powers Commissioners Office (IPCO), as part of a wider review of Defra regulatory bodies holding Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 capabilities to ensure ongoing compliance. The review was extensive covering structure and responsibilities, covert capabilities, documentation, records and policies. There was a focus on use of social media, open source material and training. The final report was very positive and encouraged the further alignment of forms and processes with Defra and the latest RIPA authorisation.
- 2.255 During 2019, no businesses were closed as a result of actions arising from official controls.

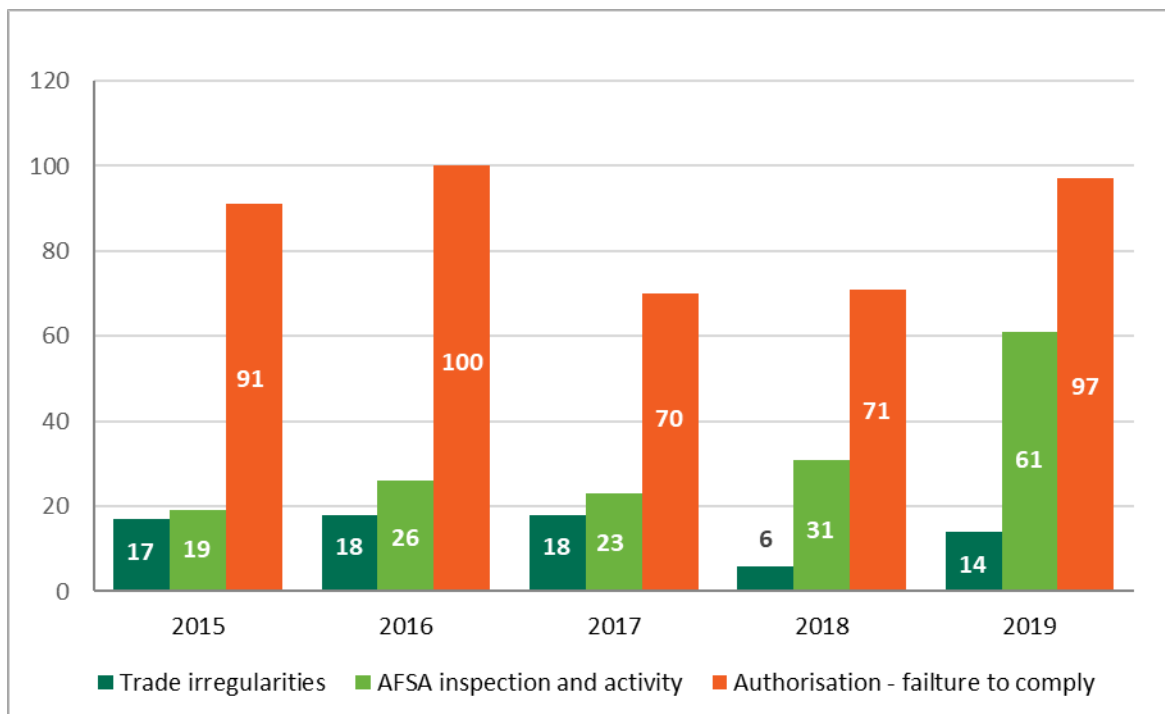
Aquatic animal health – Scotland

- 2.256 In Scotland, in accordance with the Risk Based Surveillance scheme (Council Directive 2006/88/), 177 inspections on fish farms and 62 inspections on shellfish farms were conducted in 2019. In addition, one statutory inspection and five statutory sampling visits were conducted to determine the presence of *Bonamia ostreae*. Throughout the inspection process a total of 13 unannounced inspections were conducted.
- 2.257 A total of 50 diagnostic samples were taken from fish and shellfish in response to notifications of mortality, suspicion of disease, or through routine active inspection involving the observation of clinical and post mortem signs of disease. Further details are available through [published case information](#).
- 2.258 Through a contractual arrangement with the VMD, a total of 1,707 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.
- 2.259 Fourteen inspections were conducted at fish farm sites approved by the VMD as 'manufacturers of medicated feedingstuffs intended for feeding to their own fish'. Ten facilities inspected demonstrated good compliance with ≤ 6 minor deficiencies, one facility was rated with ≥ 6 minor deficiencies, and two facilities inspected, demonstrated ≥ 6 major or any critical deficiencies.
- 2.260 Two inspections were conducted of consignments introduced into Scotland.
- 2.261 At the beginning of 2019, three fresh water rainbow trout farm sites had movement restrictions in place for bacterial kidney disease (BKD). No new movement restrictions for BKD were placed during 2019. Control measures are only placed where the presence of clinical disease was confirmed.

2.262 During 2019, movement restrictions were placed on seven sites following suspicion of the presence of *Bonamia ostrea* and was confirmed at two of these sites. Movement restrictions for *Bonamia ostreae* remained in place in two sea water lochs in Scotland, as they have been since 2006 and 2007. A total of four areas are now under restriction for *Bonamia ostrea*.

2.263 There are presently around 700 active fish and shellfish sites in Scotland. 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 cases of non-compliance compared to the number of active sites and the fact that the majority of non-compliances are not considered significant on the risk of contracting or spreading serious aquatic animal disease. A case is equivalent to a single site visit which may record more than one issue of non-compliance.

Figure 51 - Chart showing the number of non-compliances in Scotland from 2015 - 2019



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

2.264 All 14 trade irregularities were resolved through advice or actions taken, for example re-issuing of missing or accurate certificates. Where applicable, advice was given to importers and assurances sought from CAs in exporting countries. One warning letter was issued.

2.265 Inspection and activity associated with the Aquaculture and Fisheries (Scotland) Act 2007 and 2013 saw a total of 61 non-compliances. Nineteen cases related to the Act's enhanced inspections and all issues were addressed either during site visits or through follow-up recommendations.

- 2.266 Seventeen issues related to farm management statements or agreements. Seven issues related to sea lice records and were resolved via receipt of appropriate information. Three issues related to containment issues and were all resolved via receipt of appropriate information. Five advisory letters were issued in relation to the Scottish Government to control sea lice. All other areas were satisfactorily resolved via the receipt of appropriate information.
- 2.267 There were 97 non-compliances for failure to comply with authorisation conditions. Ninety issues related to record keeping requirements. Three sites were found to be operating without prior authorisation. There were two instances of sites holding species/stage without prior authorisation and two issues where the site did not follow biosecurity measures as described in the site biosecurity measures plan. All issues were successfully resolved with warning letters. Some authorisations were amended retrospectively once the issues had been satisfactorily addressed.
- 2.268 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 2019 decreased in comparison to 2018. It should be noted that the number of non-compliances represents the number of issues detected and more than one issue can be found per individual visit.

Visits and non-compliances on fish and shellfish farms from 2017 - 2019

Visits and non-compliances	2017	2018	2019
Number of visits	254	351	292
Number of cases of non-compliance	70	58	80
% of non-compliance	28%	17%	27%

- 2.269 Risk-based enhanced inspections continued to be conducted in accordance with the Aquaculture and Fisheries (Scotland) Act 2007 (as amended), during 2019. Analysis of the number of inspections in comparison to the number of cases involving non-compliance suggests a slight decrease in the level of compliance during 2018, although this analysis has not been statistically tested.

Risk based inspections and non-compliances on fish and shellfish farms from 2015 - 2019

Risk based inspections & non-compliances	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Number of inspections	38	21	22	7	32
Number of cases of non-compliance	19	8	10	4	19
% of non-compliance	50%	38%	45%	57%	59%

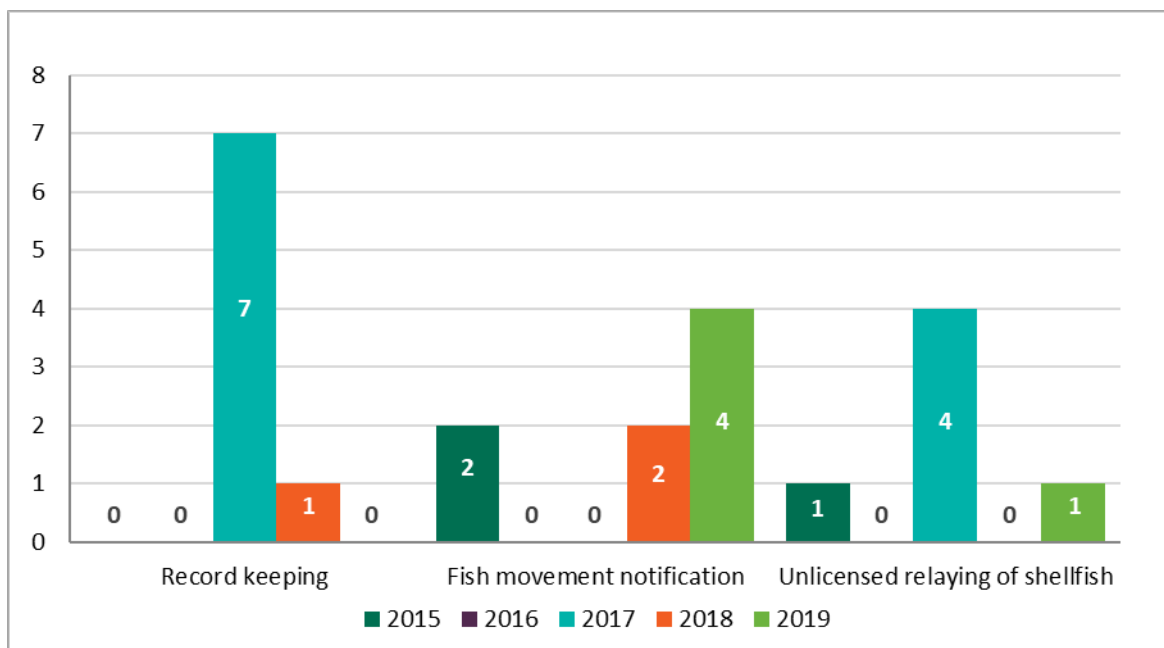
- 2.270 At the end of 2018, Marine Scotland's policy on satisfactory measures for the control of sea lice was subject to a review, having been implemented for a two year period. [Marine Scotland published a summary of the policy revisions](#).
- 2.271 We have also clarified that the weekly average adult female sea lice count per fish number(s), should be reported within one week in arrears. In addition, Marine Scotland Science consider a weekly average adult female sea lice count per fish to be an average of all adult female sea lice count data per fish taken during a calendar week (a seven day period from Monday to Sunday).
- 2.272 The level of compliance on trade irregularities in 2019 decreased in relation to those reported in 2018.
- 2.273 During 2019 no businesses were closed as a result of actions arising from official controls.
- 2.274 There are a relatively small number of farms in Northern Ireland, 24 authorised active finfish farms and 21 authorised active shellfish sites. In 2019, DAERA FHI continued to undertake a comprehensive inspection programme to ensure protection of Northern Ireland's good aquatic animal health status.
- 2.275 In Northern Ireland, the frequency of controls remained consistent with the previous year. A total of 35 Aquaculture Production Businesses were subject to compliance inspections in 2019. In addition, eight risk based unannounced inspections and 27 scheduled visits were undertaken to investigate possible non-compliances or to provide technical guidance to operators.
- 2.276 Samples were collected from six finfish farms, ten shellfish sites, five wild freshwater sites and three ornamental wholesalers and submitted for diagnostic testing for listed diseases and new and emerging diseases. Four additional statutory inspections were undertaken and two samples were collected to investigate reported mortalities or clinical signs of disease. The DAERA FHI received a report of suspected Coldwater Strawberry Disease in Rainbow Trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) which was confirmed after inspection of the affected APB and examination of samples collected.
- 2.277 There were seven inspections of the transshipment of fish and shellfish from Great Britain to the Republic of Ireland through Northern Ireland, providing reassurance that appropriate biosecurity measures were being taken. During 2019, there were 10 farm inspections to monitor adult Atlantic Salmon sea lice numbers during harvesting operations.

Aquatic animal health – Northern Ireland

- 2.278 DAERA also register low risk aquaculture production businesses, mainly Put and Take Fisheries. In 2019, five new Fisheries and one Non Commercial Institution (NCI) were registered, resulting in a total of 256 registered Fisheries in Northern Ireland. The FHI also conducted two inspections on new applications for Put and Take Fisheries.
- 2.279 To facilitate trade, 706 Health Certificates for the export of aquatic animals were issued in 2019, of which 215 were inspected. A total of 37 inspections of consignments introduced into Northern Ireland were also conducted.

- 2.280 Seed mussel imports continued in 2019, as in previous years. Consignments of half-grown mussel from rope grown sites in Scotland and wild mussel seed from the Republic of 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.
- 2.281 Confirmed Designations for Oyster Herpesvirus (OsHV-1 μ var) 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.
- 2.282 Movement restrictions also remain in place for *Bonamia ostreae* in Strangford Lough and Lough Foyle and for *Marteilia refringens* in Dundrum Bay and Belfast Lough.
- 2.283 The trend in compliance across the aquatic animal health sector in Northern Ireland remains high with good working relationships and communications between the FHI and APB operators evident. The main non-compliance issue was notification of fish movement. All compliance issues were resolved through either verbal or written warnings in line with the Aquaculture and Fish Health Inspectorate Enforcement Policy.

Figure 52 - Chart showing the number of non-compliances in relation to aquatic animal health in Northern Ireland from 2015 - 2019



- 2.284 The number of non-compliances increased slightly in 2019. Given the nature of the non-compliance events this was likely due to increased numbers of oyster exports compared with 2018.

Incidents and outbreaks in the animal health sector

APHA

2.285 In 2019 there were 113 reports of suspected outbreak cases investigated. There was one confirmed outbreak of Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza (LPAI) H5N3 in poultry in Suffolk. Four confirmed cases of European Bat Lyssavirus (EBLV) were confirmed in 2019, and five cases of Equine Viral Arteritis (EVA), with all cases reported in England. All incidents were successfully resolved.

Cefas FHI

2.286 Cefas FHI has a statutory duty to respond to reported disease outbreaks and to investigate emerging diseases. Most notably in 2019, the first case of Infectious Hypodermal and Haematopoietic Necrosis Virus (IHHNV) was detected in a species of warm water Penaeid shrimp, the Whiteleg shrimp *Penaeus vannamei*, farmed at a bio-secure closed facility. The investigation was initiated on receipt of reports that the larvae source site (a farm in the US) had become infected with the virus.

2.287 IHHNV is not subject to official control in the UK, but is reportable to the [World Organisation for Animal Health \(The OIE\)](#). Details of the UK outbreaks were submitted to the OIE. The affected site was initially placed under an ID to prevent possible further spread. The FHI then worked closely with the site to undertake a phased cull and disinfection programme supported by a robust retest programme. This programme resulted in the successful elimination of the virus whilst maintaining the viability of the farm.

Marine Scotland

2.288 Marine Scotland were involved in a diagnostic investigation relating to the detection of the presence of the OIE listed disease Infectious Hypodermal Hematopoietic Necrosis Virus (IHHNV). The virus was confirmed within a Whiteleg shrimp (*Litopenaeus vannamei*) aquaculture recirculation facility within Scotland.

2.289 An investigation was initiated following reported poor performance of shrimp on site and the presence of the virus was confirmed. Imported animals had been introduced from a supplier on the assurance of stocks being IHHNV free, however, this virus was later found at the supplying site, after import into Scotland had occurred.

2.290 Marine Scotland worked in conjunction with site staff to confirm the voluntary removal and disposal of infected animals, appropriate cleaning and disinfection of the holding facilities and the safe restocking with disease free animals. Around the same time as the detection of IHHNV in Scotland, the virus was also found on a shrimp site in England which had imported stock from the same supplier.

- 2.291 As part of our response to listed and emerging disease outbreaks and in accordance with current regulations¹¹ concerning aquatic animals health, Marine Scotland were involved in discussions at a UK level concerning the detection of this virus, sharing information and discussing the appropriate approach to take following confirmation.
- 2.292 Scotland has had two long standing areas subject to movement restrictions for *Bonamia ostrea*. In 2019, pathogen screening of farmed *Ostrea edulis*, as part of a commercial testing contract, revealed a positive result for the parasite. Subsequent following up testing and epidemiological investigation at a further seven sites was undertaken. The presence of the *Bonamia ostrea* was confirmed at two of these sites. An additional two areas are now subject to movement restrictions, with further investigations continuing. Further details of the restrictions in place are available through the [Scottish Government website](#).

DAERA

- 2.293 Northern Ireland had its first reported outbreak of Crayfish Plague in 2018. No further mortalities in the affected area or other areas have been observed in 2019.

¹¹ Council Directive 2006/88/EC implemented in Scotland through The Aquatic Animal Health (Scotland) Regulations 2009

Official controls in animal welfare sector

2.294 The centralised FSA and FFS referrals process for England, Wales and Scotland continued to report to APHA. This covered all non-urgent welfare issues where animal welfare was not immediately at risk. This was in addition to referrals to LAs for investigation and appropriate action.

2.295 All other FSA referrals relating to on farm welfare issues or a combined farm and transport issue were triaged by the central APHA administration team. Further action and investigation by both APHA and LAs was guided at a central level by a dedicated central vet team.

On-farm animal welfare in Great Britain

2.296 In 2019, the total number of farm visits, individual farms and enterprises, remained approximately at the same level compared to 2018. The number of enterprise types inspected at each visit remained at two enterprises per visit in 2019. The number of repeat visits in 2019, to farms inspected the same year, comprised 21% of all visits; a slight decrease compared with 22% in 2018.

Figure 53 - Chart showing the number of farm inspections in Great Britain from 2015 - 2019

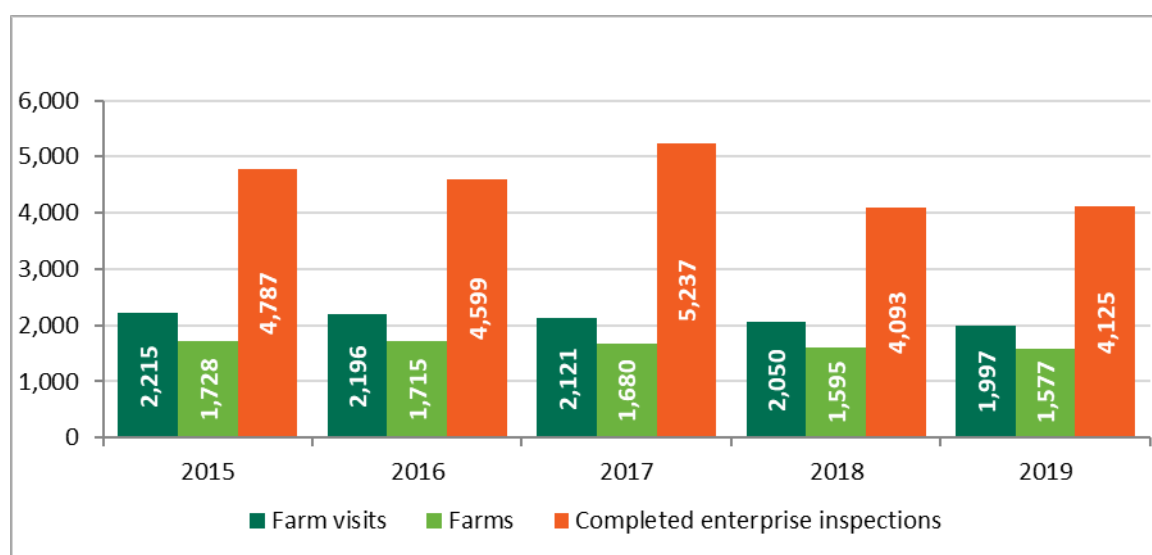
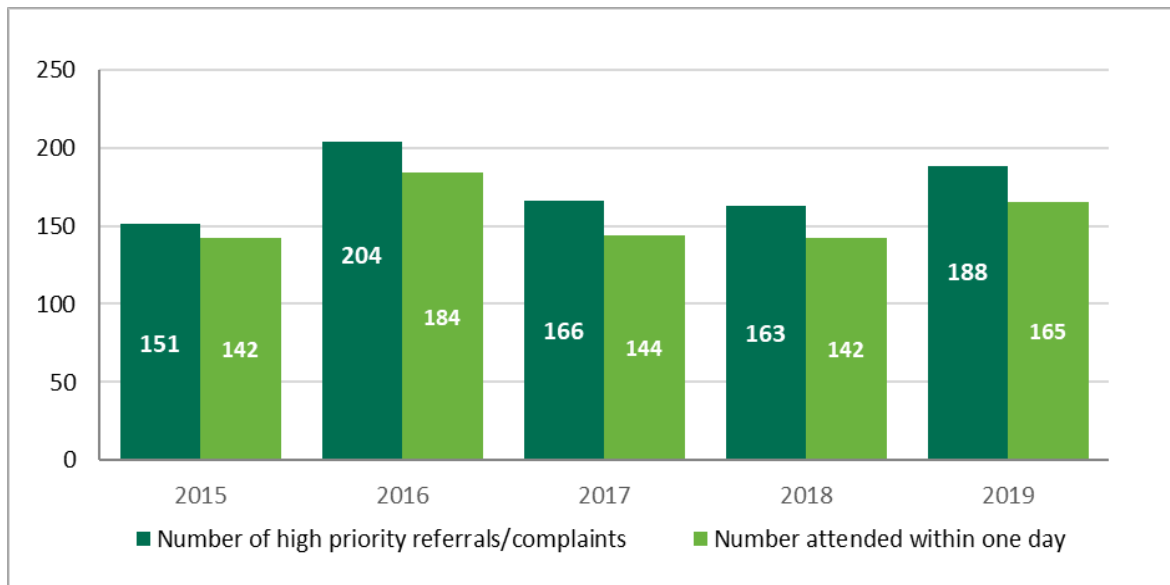
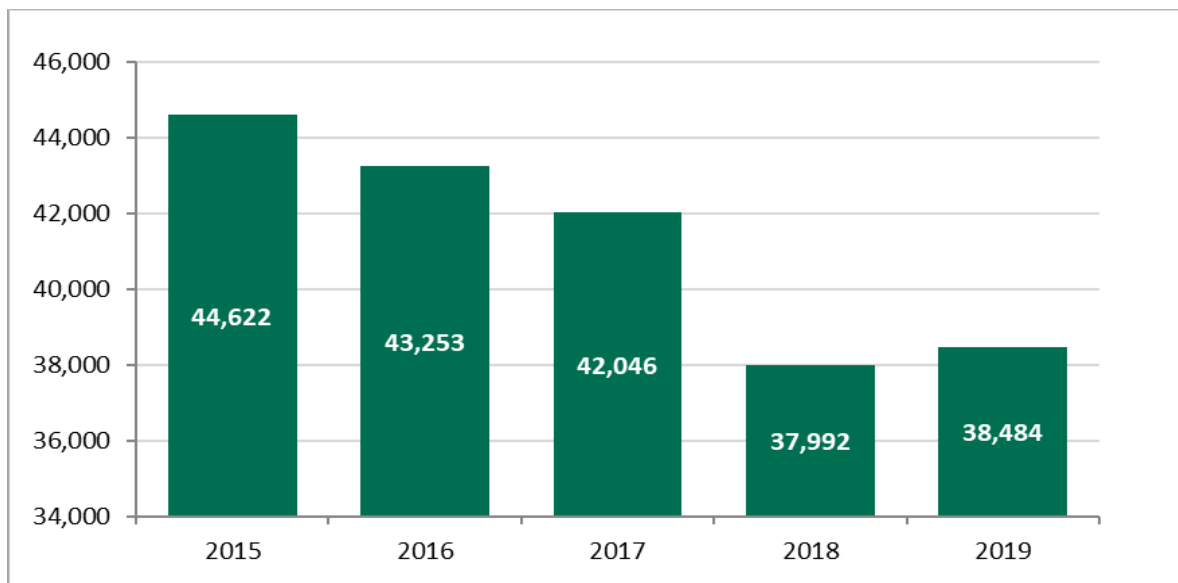


Figure 54 - Chart showing the number of high priority referrals/complaints alleging unnecessary suffering attended by APHA inspectors in Great Britain from 2015 - 2019



2.297 All complaints and allegations of poor welfare were risk assessed by a veterinary officer and high priority visits were carried out as a matter of urgency. In 2019, a slightly higher number of complaints and allegations were received compared to 2018. One hundred and sixty five of the total number of referrals and complaints were assessed as high priority and visited within 24 hours of receipt. This accounts for 88% of the total number of high priority referrals received.

Figure 55 - Chart showing the number of individual welfare criteria assessments in Great Britain from 2015 - 2019



2.298 The number of individual welfare criteria assessments slightly increased in 2019. In 2019, the level of compliance on farms in Great Britain was similar to that recorded in previous years. Overall, 94.6% of category assessments indicated compliance. A total of 24.5% of enterprises however, had at least one non-compliance and 342 advisory letters were issued to farmers.

Welfare non-compliance only (C score) in Great Britain from 2015 - 2019

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Number of non-compliances per 1K assessments	37	43	48	47	43
Number of enterprises with overall C score	732	798	899	796	735
% of enterprises inspected with overall C score	15%	17%	20%	19%	18%
Advisory letters issued	205	194	189	212	342

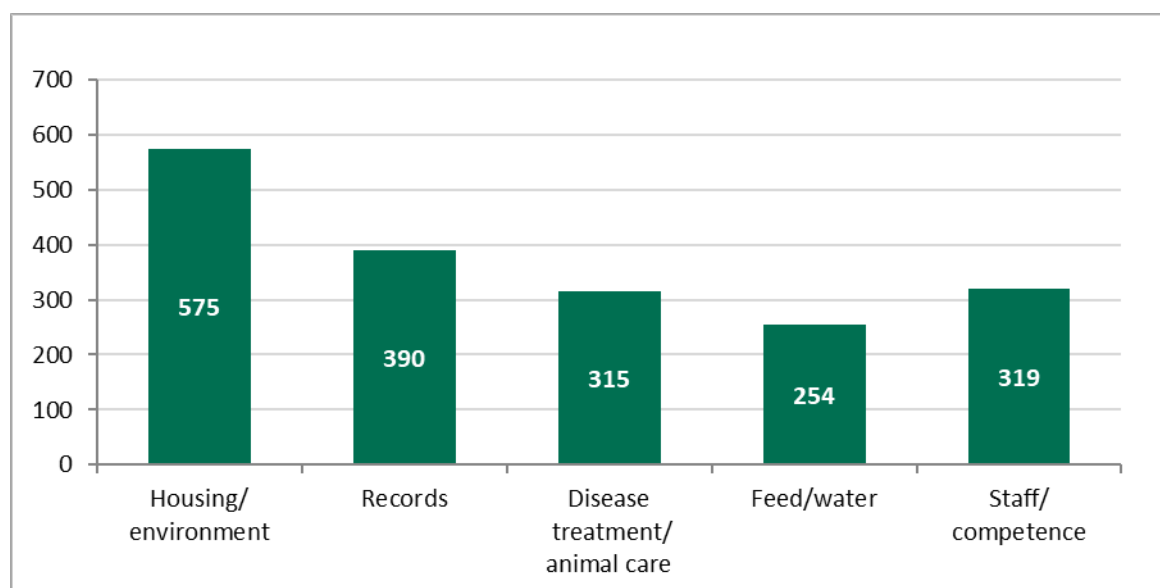
Welfare non-compliance with unnecessary suffering (D score) in Great Britain from 2015 - 2019

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Unnecessary suffering found per 1K assessments	6	6	8	8	11
Number of enterprises with overall D score	158	154	186	177	206
% of enterprises inspected with overall D score	3.8%	3.3%	4.1%	4.3%	5.0%
Average number of days to clear D score	15.1	14.2	*	N/A	N/A

*figure not available

- 2.299 The results of inspection visits are classified into four score categories - A to D. The overall level of non-compliance, a C score, for 2019 was slightly lower than 2018 and 2017. However, the number of enterprises receiving a D score, where unnecessary suffering had taken place, increased slightly.
- 2.300 As in previous years, the welfare criteria with the most non-compliances related to housing and environment, record keeping, staffing and competence, disease treatment including failure to provide appropriate care, and provision of feed, water and other substances.

Figure 56 - Chart showing the most frequently detected non-compliances in Great Britain in 2019



2.301 During 2019, APHA provided 86 witness statements concerning 40 farms to enforcement bodies in support of legal action. Overall, this shows a reduction on 2018 figures by 38%, suggesting improved compliance.

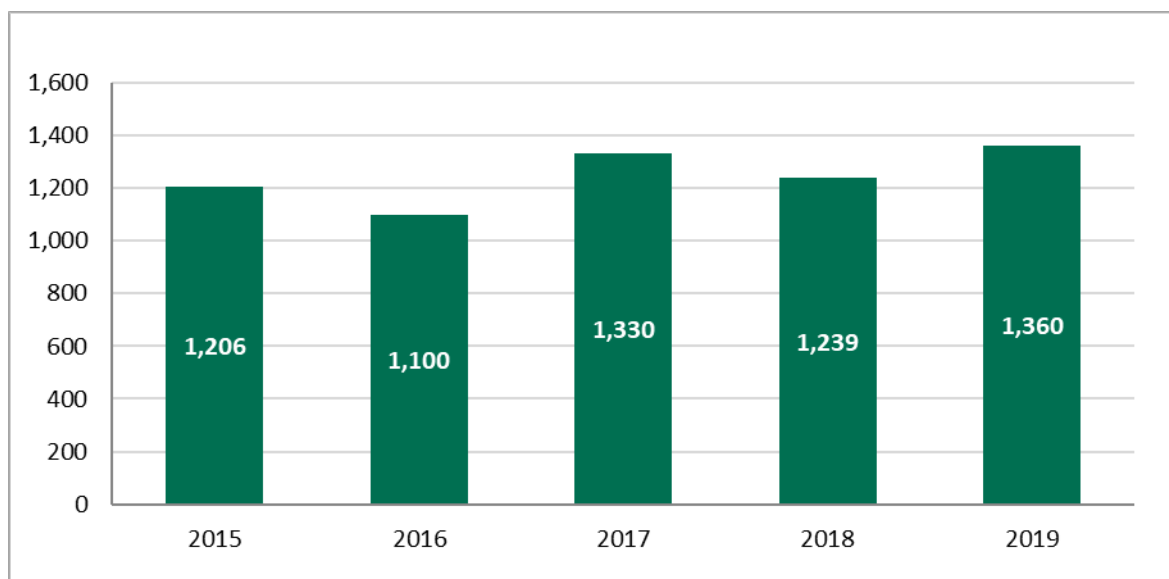
On-farm animal welfare in Northern Ireland

2.302 In 2019, DAERA completed 1,360 production site inspections with an overall compliance rate of 94%. Of the 205 non-compliances reported, 80 sites detected by DAERA, 52% 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 (ABSPA) and an inspection notice or cover letter served.

Production site inspections in Northern Ireland from 2015 - 2019

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
% compliance rate at enterprise inspection level	91%	90%	94%	95%	94%
Number of non-assessment level	-	-	-	-	-
Number of sites with non-compliances	112	105	74	63	80
% of non-compliant sites with category C non-compliance	56.2%	23%	14%	16%	13%

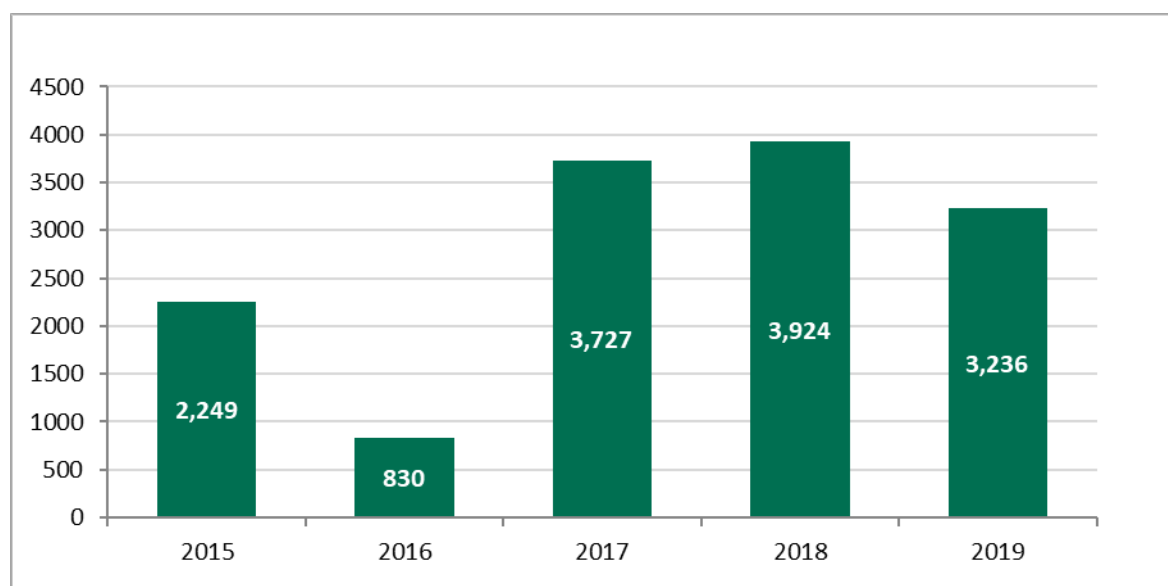
Figure 57 - Chart showing the number of enterprise inspections in Northern Ireland from 2015 - 2019



Meat Chicken Directive

- 2.303 APHA, FSA and FSS deliver a system for all eligible flocks. All trigger reports generated were assessed for further action. All farmers received their trigger report results from the FSA and FSS and were required to take action.
- 2.304 In Great Britain, trigger report data collected from 2018 was used to target farm inspections in 2019. This was done using a ranking process from a combination of all-flock cumulative daily mortality rates and total rejections, excluding those relating to 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 following an evaluation of 2018 and 2019 data just prior to visits being carried out.
- 2.305 In 2019, 966,947,875 chickens were inspected. This is a 12% decrease on 2018 inspection levels. A total of 3,236 trigger reports, batch level for DAERA and flock level for Great Britain, were generated in the UK and sent to producers. This is a 17.5% decrease, compared to 2018. Inspection visits following trigger reports increased to 67 visits, up from 60 visits the previous year. Non-compliance with legislation decreased from 18 farms in 2018 to 13 farms in 2019.

Figure 58 - Chart showing the number of trigger reports received by APHA in Great Britain from 2015 - 2019



Actions taken in Great Britain on meat chicken welfare from 2016 - 2019

	2016 (%)	2017 (%)	2018 (%)	2019 (%)
Farmer notified in writing & requested to take action	2,946 (100%)	3,763 (100%)	3,924 (100%)	3,236 (100%)
Telephone discussion	296 (10%)	25 (0.6%)	47 (1.2%)	4 (0.1%)
Action plan received	41 (1.4%)	11 (0.3%)	42 (1.1%)	8 (0.2%)
Inspection based on historical data to target highest risk farms (from previous year)	5 (0.2%)	15 (0.4%)	29 (0.7%)	17 (0.5%)
Inspections associated with complaints, referrals or other inspections*	20 (0.7%)	20 (0.5%)	31 (0.8%)	55 (1.7%)
Total inspections checked for compliance with 2007/43/EC	25 (0.8%)	35 (0.9%)	60 (1.5%)	68 (2.1%)
Farms sent warning letters/prosecutions/other further enforcement measures in respect to non-compliances detected at inspection	4 (0.1%)	2 (0.1%)	9 (0.2%)	14 (0.4%)

* for example cross compliance, exception report or trigger reports from slaughterhouse)

2.306 The table below details outcomes from the inspections of 67 meat chicken farms carried out under 2007/43/EC in 2019.

Results of GB combined APHA Inspections of meat chicken holdings under 2007/43/EC from 2016 - 2019

	2016 (%)	2017 (%)	2018 (%)	2019 (%)
Number inspected	25 (100%)	35 (100%)	60 (100%)	67 (100%)
Compliance with code & legislation	9 (36%)	29 (83%)	20 (37%)	20 (100%)
Compliance legislation, but not code	12 (48%)	4 (11%)	22 (27%)	34 (50.7%)
Non-compliance with legislation, unnecessary suffering not detected	13 (12%)	1 (3%)	16 (27%)	12 (17.9%)
Non-compliance with legislation, unnecessary suffering detected	1 (4%)	1 (3%)	2 (3%)	1 (1.5%)

Results of DAERA Inspections of meat chicken holdings in Northern Ireland in 2019¹²

Result of inspection	Number of inspections	%
Full compliance	4	100%
Non-compliance - less than 3 months allowed for compliance	0	0%
Non-compliance - more than 3 months allowed for compliance	0	0%
Unnecessary suffering	0	0%
Total	4	100%

¹² NI classifies inspections slightly differently to the rest of the UK so the definitions are different from the GB table.

- 2.307 Higher levels of compliance were reported for 2019, when compared with previous years. Non-compliances relating to the Welfare Code were still evident, but more than half of producers were compliant with the legislation.
- 2.308 In 2019, 36 inspections were triggered by FSA and FSS referrals in GB. This demonstrates the importance of these referrals in targeting high risk premises. Eight on farm random welfare audit inspections were conducted in GB. No non-compliances were found.
- 2.309 Several trigger reports based on FSA referrals related to a large company. APHA risk assessed the group together and selected a small number of premises to inspect. Follow up meetings were held with the company to ensure that each farm was addressed and accounted for.
- 2.310 Common non-compliance findings at farm inspections included overstocking at more than 39kg/m² and poor litter quality. In one instance, the farm ceased activities following an inspection due to severe non-compliances.
- 2.311 Six premises received multiple inspections (up to five) throughout the year.
- 2.312 No trigger reports were issued in Northern Ireland. Compliance levels remained high.

Animal welfare during transport

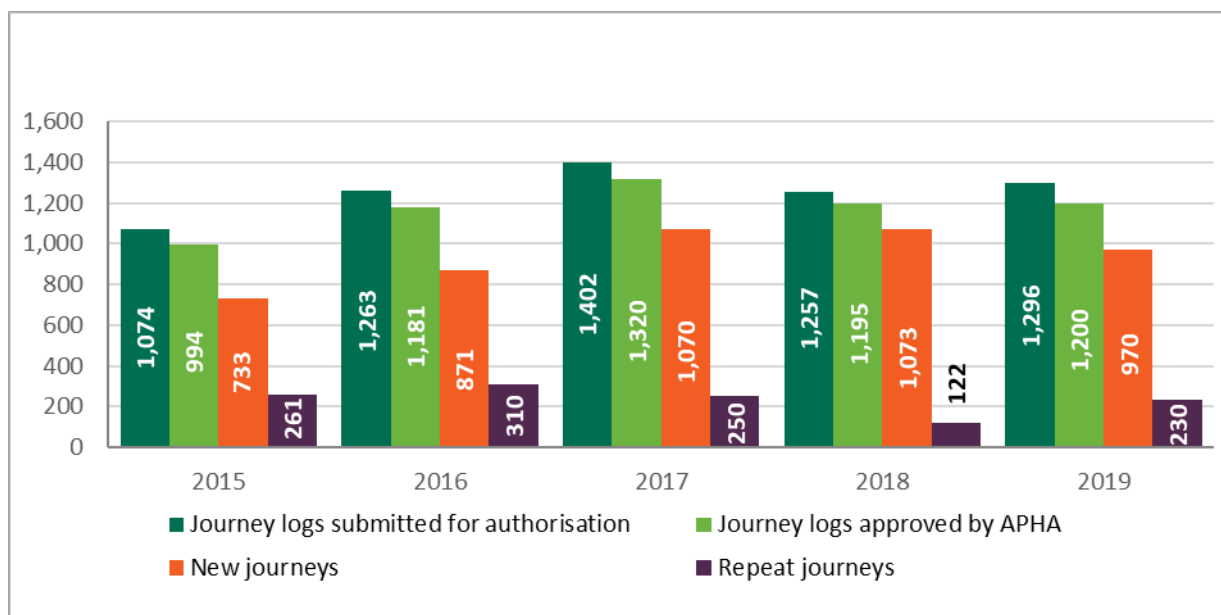
- 2.313 Inspections are carried out in the UK on a risk basis and in response to intelligence received. Inspection programmes are planned by APHA and LAs in Great Britain through local liaison. DAERA performs these activities in Northern Ireland. Findings are kept under review and local action taken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

Number of transporter authorisations in Great Britain in 2019

Year	New applications	New authorised	Refused	Applications for re-authorisations
2015	844	680	0	55
2016	883	684	0	149
2017	817	865	8	7,988
2018	168	564	4	930
2019	820	754	0	741

- 2.314 In Northern Ireland, in 2019, DAERA issued 104 transporter authorisations (this compares with 89 transporter authorisations in 2018 and 109 in 2017).

Figure 59 - Chart showing the number of journey logs in Great Britain from 2015 - 2019



2.315 In GB, in 2019, 1,296 journey logs were submitted for validation and 1,200 were approved. This represents a 3% increase in journey logs submitted in 2018. In Northern Ireland, DAERA approved 134 journey logs in 2019, compared to 201 in 2018. This is a 29% decrease on 2018 figures.

2.316 No journey logs were rejected by APHA. Ninety-five applications did not proceed to approval and would be deemed cancelled by the exporter. This is likely the result of the exporter being unable to demonstrate compliance with the Regulation following requests for further information to support the application. One journey log was recalled and cancelled following approval. The journey in question was due to go ahead during extreme heat and would have breached regulations.

Number of checks of animals and means of transport in UK from 2015 - 2019

Checks and non-compliances	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Vehicles inspected (including documentary checks)	135,568	93,093	98,668	95,787	53,378
Non-compliances (excluding documentary non-compliances)	700	722	796	533	738
Documentary only checks (vehicles inspected)	2,100	3,718	2,625	2,180	487
Non-compliances documentary checks only	66	10	197	258	363
APHA checks of vehicles transporting livestock and horses at ports through UK	157	384	451	357	154
APHA supervised loading inspections	67	149	71	21	62

2.317 The majority of routine checks of animals and means of transport were carried out by LA inspectors in conjunction with APHA in Great Britain. These checks are carried out by DAERA inspectors in Northern Ireland. APHA aims to supervise 100% of loadings for animals on long journeys for slaughter purposes. However, in 2019, loading of one shipment of sheep and one of calves were not supervised due to lack of resource.

Number of checks of animals and means of transport in Northern Ireland from 2015 - 2019

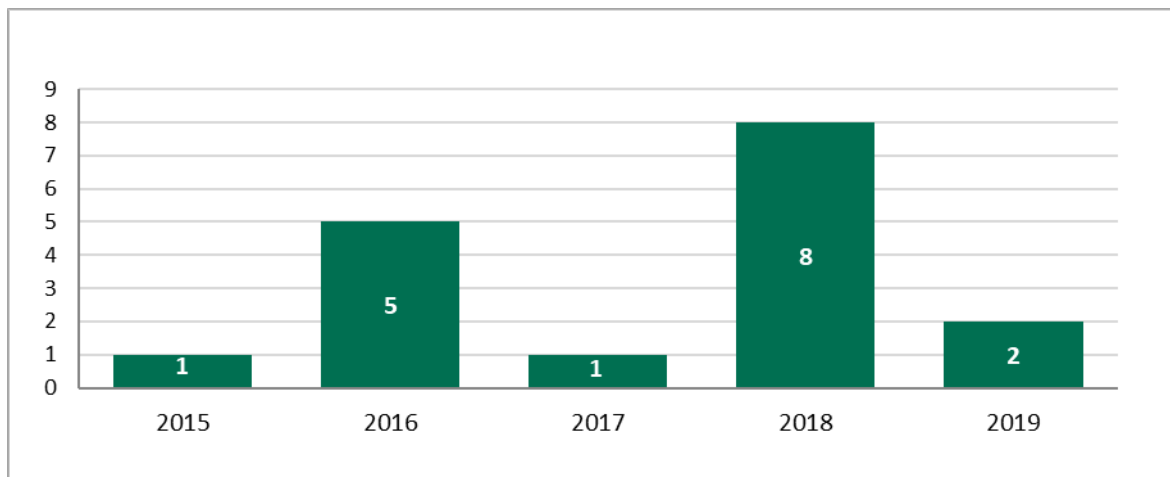
Checks and non-compliances	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Vehicles inspected (including documentary checks)	6,676	7,459	7,220	7,310	7,072
% compliance	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%
% infringement detection across departure, destination and market	<1%	1%	1%	1%	1%

2.318 DAERA inspected 7,072 vehicles in Northern Ireland. Fifty-six non-compliances were identified in 2019. The compliance rate for 2019 was 99%, and remains in line with previous years. This calculation does not include poultry transport vehicles at slaughter.

2.319 GB inspections resulted in a variety of enforcement action ranging from verbal warning to prosecutions. The annual report to the Commission confirmed that an action plan that was in place to address any major levels of non-compliance.

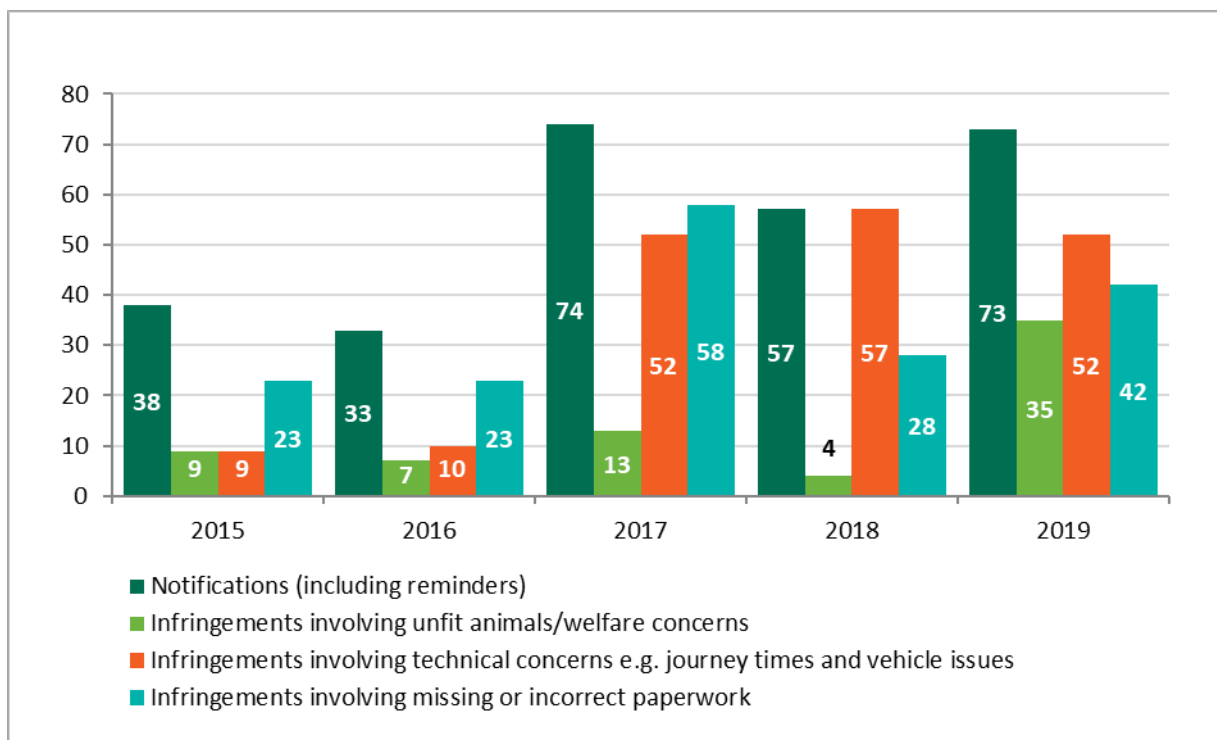
2.320 GB authorities continued to communicate and work with member states on potential contraventions of Regulation EC 1/2005 and information exchange under Article 26. GB received two notifications from other member states on potential contraventions. One was for a horse transporter with an expired authorisation and vehicle approval and one was for an unauthorised transporter that had moved two cats. One cat died soon after arrival at its destination.

Figure 60 - Chart showing the number of reports of infringements by UK authorised transporters raised by other Member States from 2015 - 2019



2.321 Fifty-six of the 75 notifications to other member states related to interceptions of dogs and puppies destined for the commercial market in GB. These were flagged due to transporter and technical issues.

Figure 61 - Chart showing the breakdown of types of infringement by non UK transporters from 2015 - 2019



Transport on-farm - FSA and FSS referrals

2.322 The table below is the total number of non-urgent referrals received by APHA from the FSA and FSS for 2019 Data from FSS and covers July to December.

Poultry catching issues referred to LAs in Great Britain from 2018 - 2019

Referral type	2018*	2019
Total Number received	5,372	4,842
Poultry catching	2,756	2,148
Dead on arrival	1,372	1,294
Late gestation (>90% pregnancy)	384	427

*For 2018, only 6 months of FSS data was available.

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

2.324 Poultry catching issues were referred to LAs for monitoring and action as appropriate, including joint actions with APHA. The welfare in transport team issues letters to transporters on late gestation. The table below summarises the number and type of referrals for 2018 and 2019.

2.325 The table below shows how the remaining referrals were triaged. Cases relating to a welfare in transport issue were logged with APHA's transport team and allocated to the appropriate LA for action. APHA's Welfare in Transport (WIT) team also handled monitoring and ongoing action.

APHA welfare in transport referrals in Great Britain from 2018 - 2019

Referral type	2018*	2019
Welfare in transport (WIT)	298	185
Welfare on farm (WOF)	210	296
Welfare in transport and a Welfare on farm origin / cause (WIT / WOF)	271	422
Triage not required	81	45

*For 2018, only 6 months of FSS data was available.

2.326 Cases relating to 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 LA and APHA. Those cases 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.

2.327 A total of 321 farm inspections were carried out as a result of FSA and FSS triage and 88% were found to be compliant at the time of inspection. Only 9.6% inspections resulted in a 'C' score, which shows non-compliance without unnecessary suffering. The below table summarises inspections and non-compliances for 2018 and 2019.

Farm inspections and non-compliance in Great Britain from 2018 - 2019

	2018	2019
Total farm inspections following referral	200	321
Non-compliant findings	30	39
Non-compliant findings without unnecessary suffering	17	31
Non-compliant findings with unnecessary suffering detected	13	8

2.328 Only 2.5% 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.

2.329 Whilst civil cross compliance penalties are usually applied by inspectors for on-farm findings, certain slaughterhouse findings traced 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

2.330 Council Regulation (EC) No.1099/2009 was enforced through the Welfare of Animals at Time of Killing (England) Regulation 2015. Parallel legislation applied in the devolved administrations of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

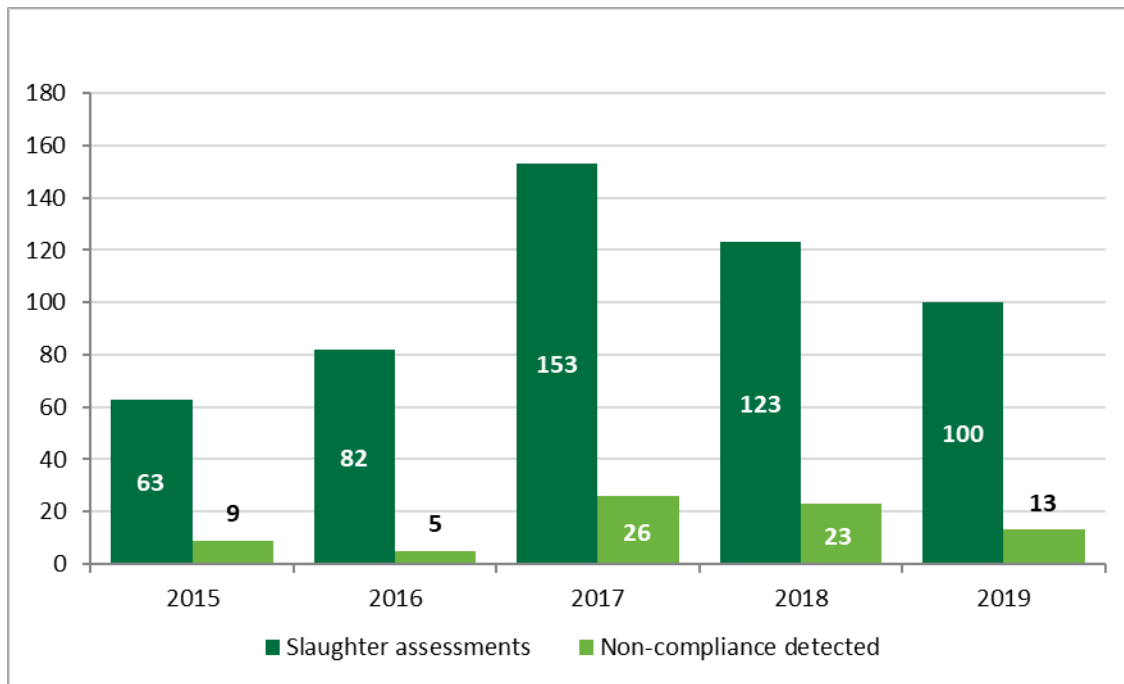
2.331 In 2019, APHA followed up reports and allegations relating to poor animal welfare during slaughter or killing operations. This also applied to locations outside of approved slaughterhouses in Great Britain, as such APHA also assessed slaughter operations during the licensing of slaughtermen in locations outside of slaughterhouses. Where appropriate, APHA provided support to LAs for prosecution.

2.332 Farm animal welfare at the time of killing was considered high risk and was therefore treated as a high priority. There was proactive engagement with seasonal slaughterers, a process that was centralised in England and Wales to ensure consistency across all areas. Inspection levels for 2019 were below 2018 levels, but continued to be above levels for 2014 to 2016.

2.333 APHA field staff and LAs raised concerns about the lack of intelligence on when and where licensed slaughtering occurred. Businesses are under no obligation to inform the APHA and LAs when and where licensed slaughter occurs. This is currently under review with the aim of finding appropriate refinements to the process.

2.334 The chart below shows the number of slaughter assessments and non-compliances detected in GB for the past five years.

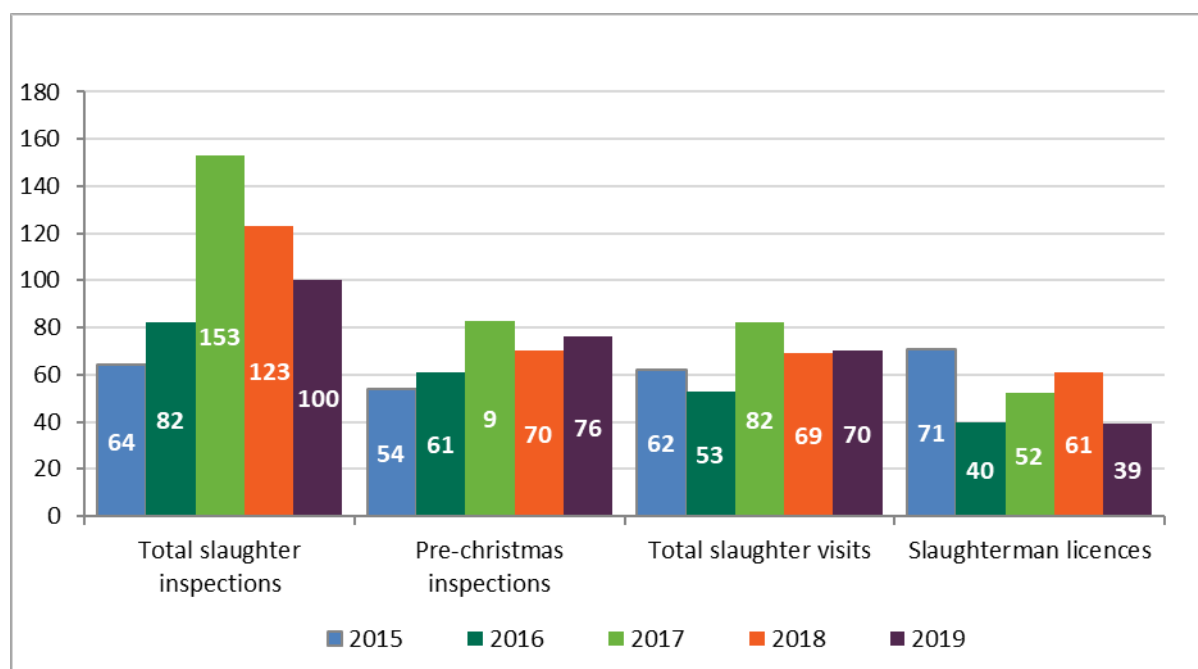
Figure 62 - Chart showing the number of slaughter assessments and the number of non-compliances in Great Britain from 2015 - 2019



2.335 In Great Britain, 39 of the 100 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 76 welfare at killing assessments just before the Christmas peak period. A total of 13 slaughter assessments were found non-compliant; five of those found non-compliant were associated with seasonal slaughter.

2.336 The chart below shows the number of inspection visits regarding welfare during slaughter or killing outside of approved slaughterhouses in GB for the past five years.

Figure 63 - Chart showing the number of welfare inspection visits during slaughter in Great Britain from 2015 - 2019



2.337 The areas of non-compliances detected at seasonal slaughter included issues related mostly with equipment and its maintenance. Five non compliances were related to the lack of a back-up stunner available at the time of the visit. No maintenance or maintenance records were evident for the stunner used and also ammeter and voltmeter were not available. In one instance, despite the lack of maintenance records for the electric stunning device, the stunning of birds was deemed to be effective.

2.338 The table below describes the areas where non-compliances were disclosed. No assessments revealed unnecessary suffering at the time of assessment.

Disclosure of non-compliances in Great Britain from 2018 - 2019

Assessment finding	2018	2019
Licensing	17	2
Construction, equipment, maintenance	11	11
Animals awaiting killing	0	0
Handling and restraint	3	0
Stunning and killing	11	5
Bleeding or pithing	4	5

Welfare of Animals at Time of Killing (WATOK) in Great Britain in 2019

Country	Slaughterman license	Certificate of Competence (CoC)	Temporary CoC
England & Wales	57	1,407	1,573
Scotland	N/A	74	0
Northern Ireland	0	109	127

2.339 In 2019, 57 slaughtermans' licenses were issued under Welfare of Animals at Time of Killing (WATOK) by the FSA, in England and Wales

2.340 In Scotland, 74 CoCs were issued for operatives in slaughterhouses, farms and knacker companies, under the WATOK (Scotland) Regulations 2012, between January and December 2019. Twenty-nine existing CoCs were amended to include new activities.

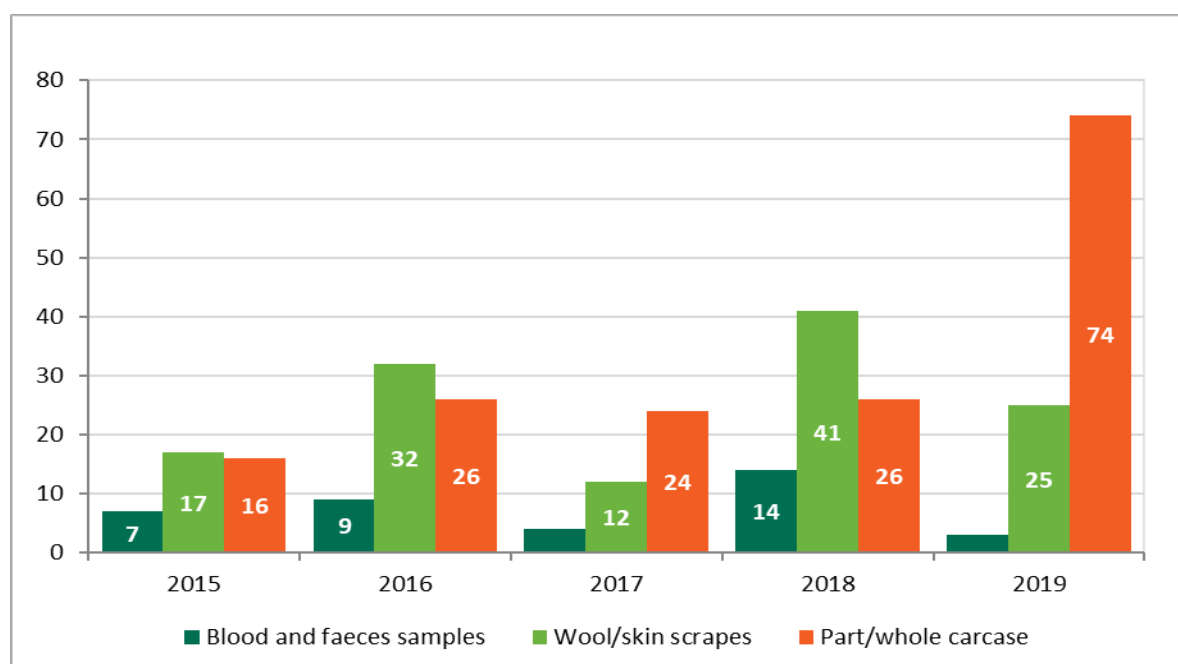
2.341 In Northern Ireland, DAERA monitored compliance on farm with welfare during slaughter or killing legislation. No significant non-compliance was found. During 2019, 54 full CoCs and 39 temporary CoCs were issued under the Welfare of Animals at the Time of Killing Regulations (NI) 2014.

2.342 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.

Welfare forensic pathology and advice

2.343 The below chart shows submission to the regional veterinary laboratories in England and Wales from 2015 to 2019.

Figure 64 - Chart showing the number of samples submitted to Regional Veterinary Laboratories in England and Wales from 2015 - 2019



- 2.344 In 2019, APHA's Regional Laboratories (RLs) received 56 welfare forensic submissions consisting of 29 whole carcasses and 45 carcass parts such as heads or limbs. Thirteen carcasses and 10 carcass parts were from cattle, four carcasses and 35 carcass parts were from sheep. In addition, two pig carcasses and 10 poultry carcasses were submitted.
- 2.345 The remainder of the samples, 25 in total, were wool or skin samples relating to suspect sheep scab cases, and three faeces samples.
- 2.346 Some visits carried out by veterinary investigation officers (VIOs) revealed welfare concerns. These were referred to the APHA's field service. Examples included: cow's foot with chronic osteomyelitis; a cow which had sloughed the lower part of its leg following inappropriate use of twine as hobbles; a pig with multiple chronic abscesses and joint infection; emaciated animals and several other cases of animals insufficiently fed. Evidence provided by investigatory officers from RLs was used in court cases and resulted in guilty verdicts and disqualification orders, financial penalties, community orders and in the most extreme case, a suspended prison sentence.

Incidents and outbreaks in the animal health sector

- 2.347 No major incidents or outbreaks were reported in the animal health sector during 2019.

Official controls in the plant health sector

Controls on imported plants, plant products and plant material

England and Wales

- 2.348 In 2019/20, 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 and 100% of required mandatory inspections were completed. The majority of import inspection targets were met. The target was met for inspecting other low risk controlled material, with 66% of material inspected against the required 65 target%.
- 2.349 There was a 17% increase in the number of consignments declared and requiring control, compared to 2018/19. A total of 124,404 declared and controlled consignments in 2019/20, compared to 106,708 in 2018/19.
- 2.350 For the 123 trades subject to reduced import checks, the required levels of inspection were achieved for 122 trades. For tomato fruit from Morocco, there was a 6% shortfall in the required inspection rate.
- 2.351 In 2019, the Forestry Commission (FC) customer service standard target of inspecting 95% of imports of wood and wood products on the day of notification of landing, or the next working day, was met. Customer Service Standard response time was achieved in over 97% of cases in 2019, thereby meeting the annual target.
- 2.352 The FC continued to receive additional resources to increase its inspections of wood packaging material associated with known high risk commodities and were able 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
 - recruit additional field staff to strengthen the inland plant health team, to increase the surveillance level of trees and woodlands for newly emerging pests and diseases
 - 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
 - conduct an import inspection regime which commenced 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. The legislation has an inspection rate of 1% of all of the 52 commodities being imported
 - the FC delivered certain statutory plant health functions on behalf of the Devolved Administrations in Scotland and Wales as well as in England. The extent of this work was detailed in a cross-border memorandum of understanding and delivery is coordinated and reported on to all three countries

Northern Ireland

- 2.353 In 2019/20, 4,850 inspections were carried out on horticultural plants and plants in the wider environment and forests. This is a reduction from the previous year's figures, mainly because the widescale survey of ash across the country was discontinued after confirming the widespread presence of Chalara Ash Dieback. A further 5,000 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.
- 2.354 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 one lot of Spanish potatoes was imported and checked.
- 2.355 All required checks for imports of other controlled plants and plant products from non-EU countries were met in 2019/20. Numbers of consignments are low and did not change significantly compared to previous years.

Plant health surveillance and outbreak management

England and Wales

- 2.356 In 2019, work has continued to monitor and manage a number of tree health pest and disease incidents as summarised below.
- 2.357 ***Anoplophora glabripennis* (Asian long-horn beetle)** - In 2019 this outbreak was declared as successfully eradicated following six years of trapping and surveillance work.
- 2.358 ***Phytophthora ramorum* and *Phytophthora kernoviae*** - 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.
- 2.359 ***Dryocosmus kuriphilus* (Oriental chestnut gall wasp)** - The long term policy approach for OCGW continues to be focused on surveillance whilst investigating the potential to suppress the pest through the use of a biological control agent, *Torymus sinensis*.
- 2.360 ***Hymenoscyphus fraxineus* (ash dieback)** - Most parts of the UK (all counties) are now experiencing ash tree decline. The FC has a surveillance programme in place to monitor the infection. Since ash dieback was first detected in the UK, government has invested more than £6 million to advance our scientific understanding of this disease. FC conducted the world's largest screening trials for tolerant trees and in 2020 and planted 3,000 trees in the first UK archive of tolerant ash. This will provide the basis for a breeding programme of tolerant ash over time and is a major step towards landscape recovery.

- 2.361 ***Cryphonectria parasitica* (Sweet Chestnut blight)** – In 2019, as part of ongoing surveillance activity, several new outbreak sites have been detected (in London, West Sussex and Cornwall). Infection also appears to have re-emerged on a few sites previously thought eradicated. Infected host trees have been removed from most infected sites (although a few have been retained for research into disease control and/or due to operational constraints). A surveillance programme is in place to monitor disease presence. In addition, research is ongoing to investigate whether an effective treatment for sweet chestnut blight can be developed, and is exploring the potential to use a biocontrol, using a phenomenon known as hypovirulence.
- 2.362 ***Thaumetopoea processionea* (Oak processionary moth (OPM))** - In 2019, the UK plant health service dealt with numerous interceptions of OPM caterpillars on oak trees imported into the UK. Around 70 planting sites were affected in the UK Protected Zone and eradication action has been completed at these sites. Work continues on investigating the situation through tracing work and surveillance activities. A lessons learnt exercise was carried out in November 2019, attended by representatives from all the key organisations involved in the interceptions. A number of key recommendations were identified from this process and are being implemented. This includes a review of the pest specific contingency plan, as well as an ongoing review of the generic contingency plan which will integrate many aspects of the lessons learnt process of the OPM incident.
- 2.363 ***Ips typographus* (Spruce bark beetle)** – This was found for the first time in the wider environment in 2018 in Kent. A wide-ranging programme of surveillance is in place (including enhanced trapping and surveillance measures in the wider environment), and we have introduced emergency national legislation to reduce the risk of spread within the UK. To date, there is no evidence of breeding populations of the beetle elsewhere.
- 2.364 ***Xylella fastidiosa* (bacterial disease in olive trees)** - In 2019, the target to inspect a minimum of 75% consignments of *Olea Europa* for all genera of consignments notified and selected in active growth within six months of arrival was met. The achieved inspection rate was 89%.
- 2.365 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. Covid-19 impacted on surveillance in March 2020, with restrictions on site visits affecting potato inspections particularly.

Scotland

- 2.366 Two producers are part of the Fruit Certification Scheme, one developing micro-propagated Pre-Basic material (*Fragaria* and *Rubus*) and the other raising field grown raspberry canes at Certified grade. Both producers increased their production in 2019/20 when compared to 2018/19. Raspberry Root Rot (*Phytophthora fragariae* var. *rubi*) was identified in one stock of Glen Clova (0.1 ha) and this was subsequently destroyed.
- 2.367 All Garden Centre chains saw instances of interceptions of pest and diseases on regulated plants, and these plants were destroyed under notice.

Northern Ireland

- 2.368 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. Two new *Phytophthora ramorum* infections were found in 2019, both on rhododendron - one in a forest and the other adjacent to a forest.
- 2.369 *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus* (Chalara ash dieback) is now widespread in the country and symptoms are getting more severe. Two 1km plots were surveyed and scored for the level of infection to monitor the level of increase over the last year. Research programs continue to focus on Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) that is resistant to the disease. The Forest Service is working with landowners to help manage the disease.
- 2.370 In addition to Protected Zone surveillance, additional monitoring for *Ips typographus* was undertaken at forests in proximity to haulage routes and in proximity to sawmills.
- 2.371 A targeted inspection was undertaken on the public forest estate in Northern Ireland for *Neonectria neomacrosporum*, in the later part of 2019/20 reporting year.

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

Disease / pest type	Host	Action take in 2019/20
Ceratocystis platani	<i>Platanus</i> (Plane)	In total, 165 consignments of <i>Platanus</i> from EU Member States were notified. Of these, 159 were selected for inspection and 67% (107 consignments) were inspected on arrival or in active growth within six months of arrival, against a target of 75% (119 consignments of those selected).
Cryphonectria parasitica	<i>Castanea</i> (Sweet Chestnut)	In total, 14 consignments of <i>Castanea</i> from EU Member States were notified. Of these, 13 were selected for inspection and 69% (9 consignments) were inspected on arrival or in active growth within six months of arrival, against a target of 75%. (10 consignments of those selected).
Phytoplasma ulmi	<i>Ulmus</i> (Elm)	In total, 258 consignments of <i>Ulmus</i> from EU Member States were notified. Of these, 241 were selected for inspection and 63% (153 consignments) were inspected on arrival or in active growth within six months of arrival, against a target of 75% (181 consignments of those selected).
Thaumetopoea processionea	<i>Quercus</i> (Oak)	In total, 1,351 consignments of <i>Quercus</i> from EU Member States were notified. Of these, 1,000 were selected for inspection and 71% (710 consignments) were inspected on arrival or in active growth within six months of arrival, against a target of 75% (10 consignments of those selected).
Dothistroma pini and Dothistroma septosporum; Thaumetopoea pityocampa	<i>Pinus</i> (Pine)	In total, 3,040 consignments of <i>Pinus</i> from EU Member States were notified. Of these, 1,015 were selected for inspection and 83% (841 consignments) were inspected on arrival or in active growth within six months of arrival, against a target of 75% (761 consignments of those selected).
Xanthomanus arboricola pv. Pruni / other pests and diseases	<i>Prunus</i>	In total, 18,312 consignments of <i>Prunus</i> from EU Member States were notified. Of these, 4,501 were selected for inspection and 72% (3,228 consignments) were inspected on arrival or in active growth within six months of arrival, against a target of 75% (3,376 consignments of those selected).

Disease / pest type	Host	Action take in 2019/20
Xylella fastidiosa	Olea Europa	In total, 1,386 consignments of <i>Olea Europa</i> from EU Member States were notified. Of these, 1,097 were selected for inspection and 89% (980 consignments) were inspected on arrival or in active growth within six months of arrival, against a target of 75% (823 consignments of those selected).
Epitrix spp	Solanum tuberosum	The target was to inspect 50% of all Spanish and Portuguese notified ware consignments. 239 consignments were notified and 128 (54%) were inspected.

Surveillance surveys required under EU legislation carried out during 2019/20

Disease / pest type	Action taken in 2019/20
<i>Ralstonia solanacearum</i> (Brown rot) tuber survey and <i>Clavibacter michiganensis</i> (Ring rot) tuber survey	855 inspections of seed stocks from the Seed Potato Classification Scheme (SPCS). This covers all E&W seed stocks excluding Pre Basic not marketed
Brown rot river survey of treated/scheduled water courses completed	<p>The Brown Rot river survey was completed during September 2019, involving approximately 200 samples from 24 water courses and 48 sampling points. There were two new positive results at two separate watercourses in Wiltshire and West Sussex</p> <p>Containment measures have been implemented, including additional sampling</p>
EU minimum: <i>Phytophthora ramorum</i> and <i>Phytophthora kernoviae</i> survey of parks, gardens and commercial establishments	<p>2,623 retail outlets and nurseries were visited against a minimum target of 1,000 (target met). 402 wider environment sites were inspected against a minimum target of 300 (target met)</p> <p>262 clients authorised to issue plant passports for <i>Phytophthora ramorum</i> hosts received an additional inspection visit (71%) against a target of 95% of 369 clients</p> <p>The total number of visits was 4,921</p>

Disease / pest type	Action taken in 2019/20
PCN survey	<p>The EU requires 0.5% of the area used to produce ware potatoes to be sampled. For England and Wales, this amounts to 432 ha in 2019. Growers are randomly selected for inspection</p> <p>In 2019, 532ha were sampled and 37% was found to be infested</p> <p>Area of fields with <i>G pallida</i> only =160ha</p> <p>Area of fields with <i>G rostochiensis</i> only =13ha</p> <p>Area of fields with combined population = 26 ha</p> <p>Total infested area = 199ha</p>
<i>Epitrix</i> surveillance	<p>In England and Wales a target was set to inspect 200 consignments of ware potatoes grown from UK seed. A total of 132 consignments (66%) were inspected (target met)</p>
<p>Anoplophora chinensis survey, Xylella fastidiosa survey, Leptinotarsa decemlineata survey, Erwinia amylovora survey, Potato spindle tuber viroid survey, Rhynchosporium secalis survey, Gibberella circinata survey, Dryocosmus kuriphilus survey and Bemisia tabaci survey.</p>	<p>No set targets per pest. Plant hosts were inspected as part of Quarantine Surveillance inspections</p> <p>Quarantine Surveillance inspection visit frequency is determined by a Plant Health and Seed Inspectorate (PHSI) established risk matrix. See section 2.356 for risk matrix</p> <p>All activities are ongoing as EU reporting periods vary and are not synchronised with business plan.</p>

Disease / pest type	Action taken in 2019/20
Clavibacter michiganensis (Ring rot) tuber survey	<p>115 (96%) consignments of E&W ware from EU seed & EU ware inspected against a target of 120</p> <p>In 2019/20, 170 inspections were carried out on consignments of EU seed entering the SCPS scheme</p> <p>In 2019/20, 560 (75%) consignments of EU seed inspected, from 746 selected for inspection. 1,684 consignments were notified.</p>

Preventive action on deliveries at point of destination - Northern Ireland

- 2.372 Notification of EU imports of seven genera of woody plants became compulsory in Northern Ireland in December 2018, followed by an additional genera in March 2019. During the 2019/20 financial year, 93 notifications were received of which 26 were followed up. Certain genera/country or origin combinations were prioritised for inspection.
- 2.373 Extensive trace work and inspection of oak originating in other EU Member States was carried out during the summer of 2019, following interceptions of Oak Processionary Moth in Great Britain on recently planted trees. But there were no resulting findings in Northern Ireland. Three pheromone traps were put up around Belfast and a further 44 consignments were followed up.
- 2.374 Advanced notification of arrival for statutory requirements resulted in 428 wood and bark checks being carried out at the point of entry. There were 65 wood and bark phytosanitary certificates issued in 2019/20. This represents a significant increase over the last reporting period.
- 2.375 Inspections at point of destination were undertaken on Wood Packaging Material associated with commodities of stone at 19 premises. Host trees in the vicinity of these premises were surveyed for *Anoplophora glabripennis*. Inspections took place at premises of six importers of tile sanitary ware in late 2019/20.
- 2.376 In March 2019, an alert regarding *Xanthomonas arboricola* pv *pruni* on cherry laurel prompted some tracework and additional inspections. There were no findings in Northern Ireland, but 14 plants were destroyed on a precautionary basis. A total of 246 inspections for *Xanthomonas arboricola* pv *pruni* were carried out on nurseries in Northern Ireland during 2019/20.

Surveillance surveys¹³ carried out during 2019/20

- 2.377 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 42 tuber samples and 51 leaf samples were submitted for laboratory test with no positive findings.
- 2.378 Northern Ireland carried out annual surveillance for its 24 Protected Zones. After December 2019, *Ceratocystis platani* was reclassified as a Union Quarantine Pest and no longer requires annual surveys. Pests that required annual surveys under emergency EU legislation were surveyed.
- 2.379 In addition to quarantine pests, surveillance was carried out on a number of pests of interest to the UK or to Northern Ireland specifically. These include Ash Sawfly (*Tomosthetus nigritus*) and *Phytophthora austrocedrae*.

¹³ Required under EU legislation.

General quarantine surveillance

England and Wales

2.380 As part of quarantine surveillance, inspection visits in England and Wales were determined according to the following risk matrix in 2019/20.

Plant health risk matrix and achievements against targets in England and Wales in 2019/20

Client plant health risk rating*	Minimum and maximum achievement	Achievement (%)
Very high risk (10 to 12 visits per year)	180 visits (100% of required visits)	203 (113%)
High risk (4 to 6 visits per year)	1,196 visits (100% of required visits)	1,230 (103%)
Medium risk (2 visits per year)	Min = 2,038 visits (50%) Max = 4,076 visits (100%) Target = 3,057 visits (75%)	3,520 (86%)
Low risk (once every two years)	Min = 946 visits (50%) Max = 1,893 visits (100%) Target = 1,420 visits (75%)	2,236 (157%)

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

2.381 For Brown rot (*Ralstonia solanacearum*), as a result of the 2019 surveillance programme, positive results were recorded at two separate watercourses in Wiltshire and West Sussex. However, follow up testing came back as negative at these locations. Further investigations are proceeding at these sites for the survey next year. The 2019 survey followed up the findings at locations in 2018, with the focus on drains that are considered to be possibly at risk due to their proximity to those that had been identified as contaminated. The survey found no further positive results at these sites.

Scotland

2.382 In Scotland, for 2019, the number of import consignment from third countries was 98, a similar number to the consignments that were imported in 2018. Operational targets for inspections, documentary and identification checks were all achieved.

2.383 Seed potato export tonnages in 2019 (74,756 tonnes) were almost identical to those in 2018 (74,755 tonnes). Ware potatoes saw a decrease from 11,021 tonnes in 2018 to 10,545 tonnes in 2019. Other significant third country exports included oats and barley to Japan and *Narcissus* bulbs to USA, the Netherlands, Scandinavia and Russia. Of the *Narcissus* bulb exports, approximately half went to the USA (1,693 tonnes / 31,676,470 bulbs, with a

value of £1.7 million) There were regular shipments of brewing products to USA.

2.384 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 in the UK from 2015 - 2019

Type of diagnosis	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Viroids	2,268	2,268	1,142	1,922	3,043
Virology	89	89	89	89	244
Bacteriology (incl. brown rot/ring rot)	2,953	2,942	3,180	3,253	2,996
Mycology	395	383	392	357	454
Nematology/Entomology	15,778	18,574	17,574	15,351	18,424
Total	21,483	23,778	22,377	20,972	25,161

2.385 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, 844 plants representing 46 true seed accessions were quarantine tested. Test results were negative.

Enforcement activities for Single Market and EU surveillance activities in England and Wales in 2019

Disease / pest	Surveillance	Findings
<i>Dothistroma</i> Needle Blight of Pine (DNB)	Joint growing season inspections to forestry nurseries undertaken with Forest Research	No DNB was found
<i>Erwinia amylovora</i> 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

Disease / pest	Surveillance	Findings
<p><i>Phytophthora</i> – Nursery Trade</p>	<p>The nursery trade has largely been clear of the disease. Registered nurseries producing susceptible material for <i>P. ramorum</i> and <i>P. kernoviae</i> continue to receive two site inspections plus one based on risk</p>	<p><i>P. ramorum</i> was identified on <i>Rhododendron</i> hybrids at two registered nurseries located near Barrhead and Kilsyth</p> <p>The infected stock at one site had been imported from the Netherlands in 2019 and the other was on material imported from the Netherlands which had been on site for a while.</p> <p>Control measures were put in place and the infected plants were destroyed with tracing activity completed</p> <p>Five inspections at nurseries and garden centres have also included visual checks of <i>P. austrocedri</i> and <i>P. lateralis</i> hosts. <i>P. austrocedri</i> was identified at a registered nursery on <i>Juniperus horizontalis</i> 'Blue Chip' which had been produced on site</p> <p>The entire batch of plants were destroyed and tracing indicated that none had been sold on</p>

Enforcement activities for Single Market and EU surveillance activities in Scotland in 2019

Disease / pest	Surveillance	Findings
<p><i>Phytophthora</i> – Gardens / Landscaped sites</p>	<p>There are currently 53 ‘active’ outbreak sites across Scotland consisting of 40 with <i>P. ramorum</i>, 7 with <i>P. kernoviae</i> and 9 with both pathogens.</p> <p>There are also 52 gardens which have ‘non-active’ status where controls have been lifted and continued to be monitored as part of general surveillance activity.</p> <p>The 2019 garden survey covered 50 sites across Scotland and consisted primarily of ‘non-active’ sites and prominent public gardens</p>	<p>This was a decrease in comparison with the 61 active outbreak areas for <i>P. Ramorum</i> and <i>P. Kernoviae</i> in 2018</p>
<p>Rhizomania</p>	<p>A survey was undertaken to provide evidence of <i>Rhizomania</i> freedom in Scotland. It was completed between October to December and covered 21 farms</p>	<p>Fodder beet roots consisting of 47 samples were taken from 233 ha. All roots tested were negative</p>

Enforcement activities for Single Market and EU surveillance activities in Northern Ireland in 2019

Disease / pest	Surveillance	Findings
Protected Zone pests	1,559 trade inspections 40 parks/gardens	No findings
<i>Agrilus anxius</i>	129 trade inspections 38 parks/gardens	No findings
<i>Agrilus planipennis</i>	1 trade inspection 40 parks/gardens	No findings
<i>Erwinia amylovora</i>	217 inspections* 16 nurseries requested buffer zone status and latent sampling was done for these. Hosts were also inspected in each buffer	1 finding which as a consequence meant buffer zone status could not be granted
<i>Anoplophora</i> spp	306 trade inspections 40 parks/gardens	No findings
<i>Phytophthora ramorum</i>	345 trade inspections 77 inspections outside of trade	No findings in trade 2 new findings in forestry. Other outbreak sites largely contained
<i>Phytophthora austrocedri</i>	97 trade inspections 12 locations around the country	No findings
<i>Tomostethus nigrinus</i>	81 locations around the country	No new findings outside of known outbreak site but outbreak continues to grow
<i>Xylella fastidiosa</i>	317 trade inspections 42 inspections outside of trade	No findings
<i>Clavibacter michiganensis</i> and <i>Ralstonia solanacearum</i> .	302 samples of seed and ware potatoes tested for Ring Rot and Brown Rot. 14 water samples from rivers and 32 water samples from processors and 9 Woody Night Shade plants sampled were tested.	No findings

Disease / pest	Surveillance	Findings
Diabrotica virgifera	Six fields trapped as part of all Ireland strategy. No findings	No findings
Rhizomania	7 fields inspected and five beet samples tested	No findings
PSTVd	93 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

2.386 In the UK, during 2019/20, overall compliance in the official controls improved for commercial cargo, but there was a significant increase in detected non-compliance for postal imports. Import inspection targets were largely met for England and Wales.

2.387 In England and Wales notifications on imported harmful organisms increased in 2019/20 to 562 findings, compared to 499 findings in 2018/19 for both controlled and non-controlled material.

2.388 The previous bans on some fruit and vegetables from India and Ghana have elapsed, and commodities that were previously responsible for high levels of non-compliance are now traded under stricter phytosanitary controls from third countries. This has led to some reductions in interceptions.

2.389 In 2019/20, the most common third country import / pest combinations were:

Pest detected and non-compliances in third country imports during 2019/20

Country of origin	Pest detected	Non-compliances (number of cases)
Nigeria	Thrips sp.	33
Nigeria	<i>Bemisia tabaci</i> (tobacco whitefly)	27
Peru	Peru / <i>Elasmopalpus lignosellus</i> (Lesser cornstalk borer)	24
Bangladesh	Bangladesh / <i>Elsinoe</i> (Citrus scab)	23
Colombia	Colombia / <i>Liriomyza</i> sp. (leaf miners)	23
Kenya	Kenya/ <i>Thaumatotibia leucotreta</i> (False Codling Moth)	21

- 2.390 Other reasons for non-compliance related to 7,550 cases of documentation based infringements. This was due to the increased activity at Langley postal depot where numerous issues were identified particularly on the import of small consignments of plants from Thailand and seeds from the USA.
- 2.391 The increase in interceptions was the result of cooperation with the UK Border Force, where exports from countries with known issues of non-compliance – in particular Thailand and USA were targeted.
- 2.392 When harmful organisms or outbreaks were found at ports or inland in the UK, 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.

Plant, wood and wood products imports subject to inspections

2.393 In 2019/20, in England and Wales, the number of consignments subject to import inspection, declared and requiring controls was 124,404, an increase of 17% from 2018/19 (106,708). The increase in 2019/20 reflects the inclusion of new commodities subject to inspection, including kiwi, papaya, grapes, strawberries, *Rubus* and agricultural machinery. The increase in 2019/20 continues the general yearly upward trend in the number of consignments subject to inspection since 2014/15, barring a very small decrease in 2017/18 of 0.55%.

Figure 65 - Chart showing plant import consignments subject to inspections in England and Wales from 2015 - 2019

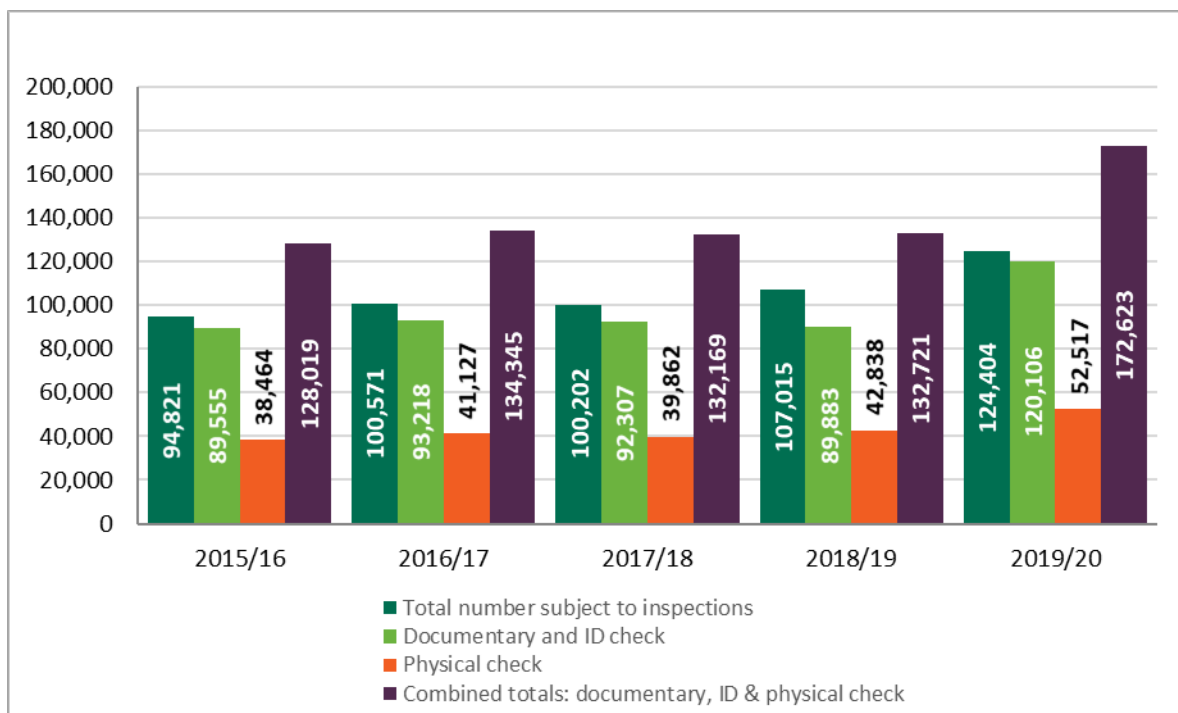
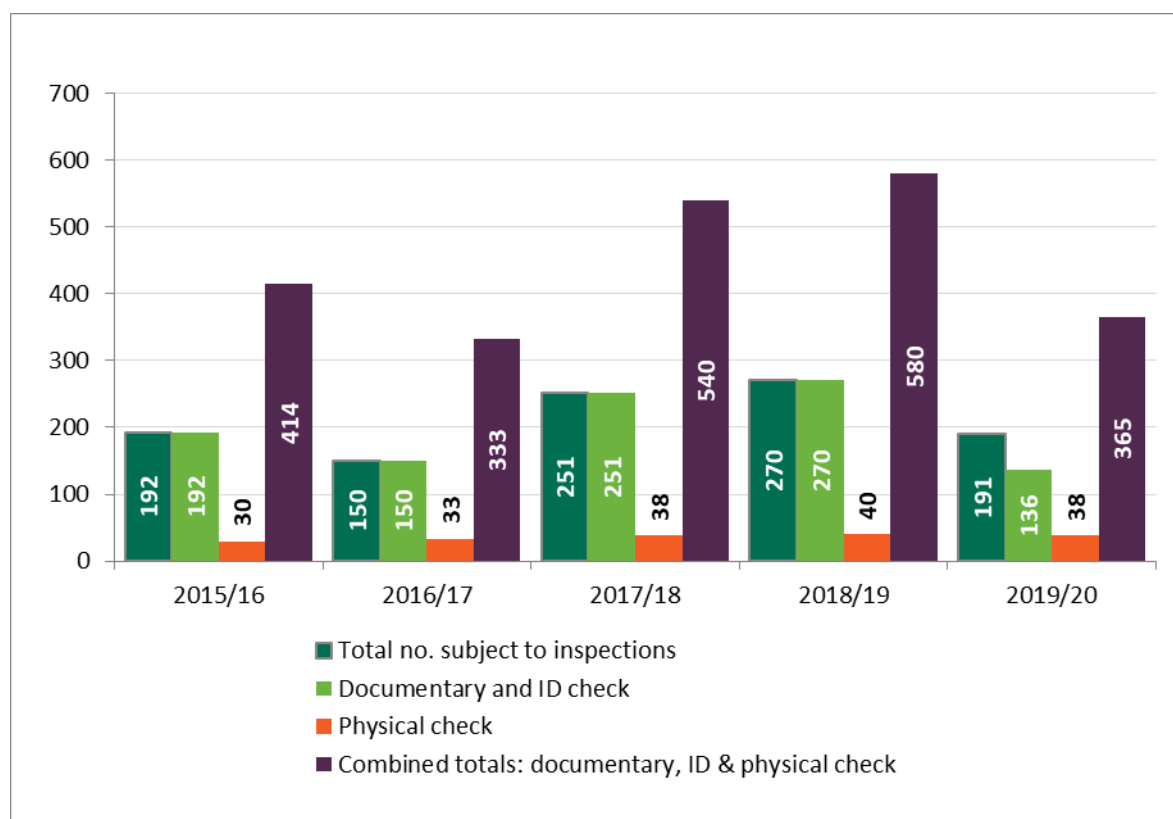


Figure 66 - Chart showing plant import consignments subject to inspections in Northern Ireland from 2015 - 2019



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

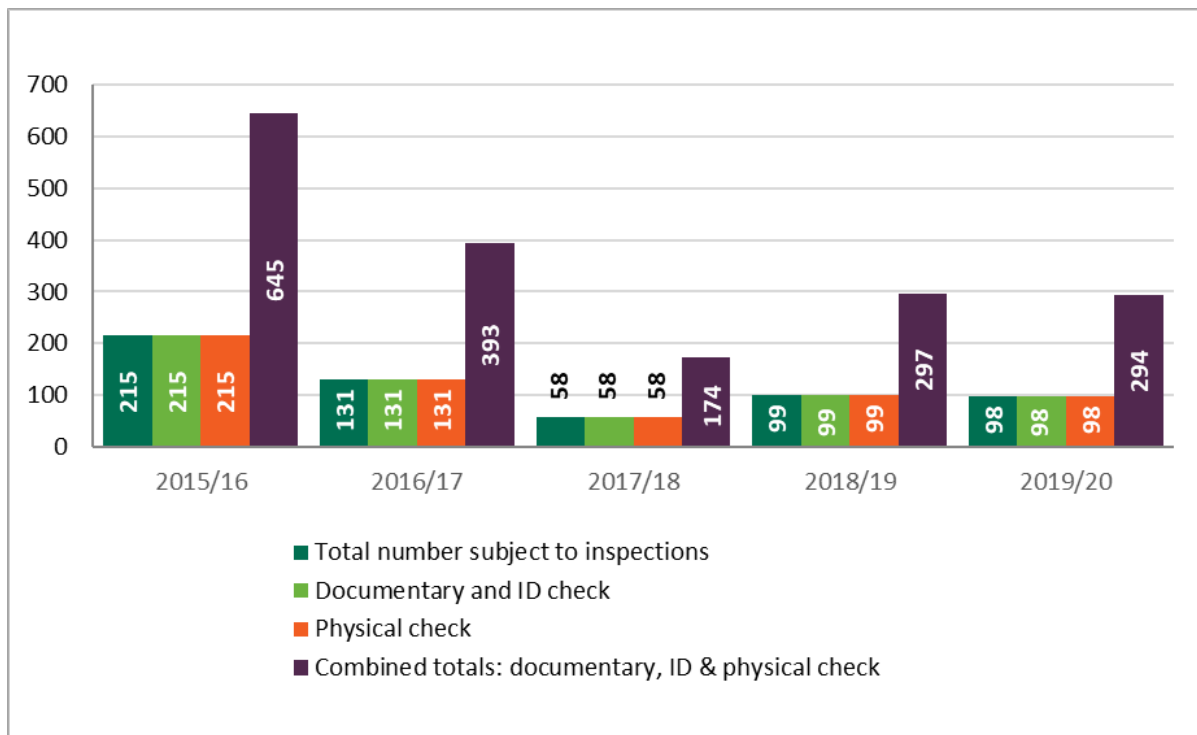
2.395 During 2019, for wood and bark commodities, a single Statutory Plant Health Notice was issued for a consignment of 1.6 cubic metres of *Picea sitchensis* from Alaska.

2.396 In Northern Ireland, in 2019, there were 237 import pre-notifications for consignments of specified CN code commodities on wood packing material, 100% had documentary and ID checks and 12 physical checks. No cases of non-compliance were identified.

2.397 Portal checks on firewood imports and movements into Northern Ireland via Belfast Port were undertaken on 301 consignments in 2019/20.

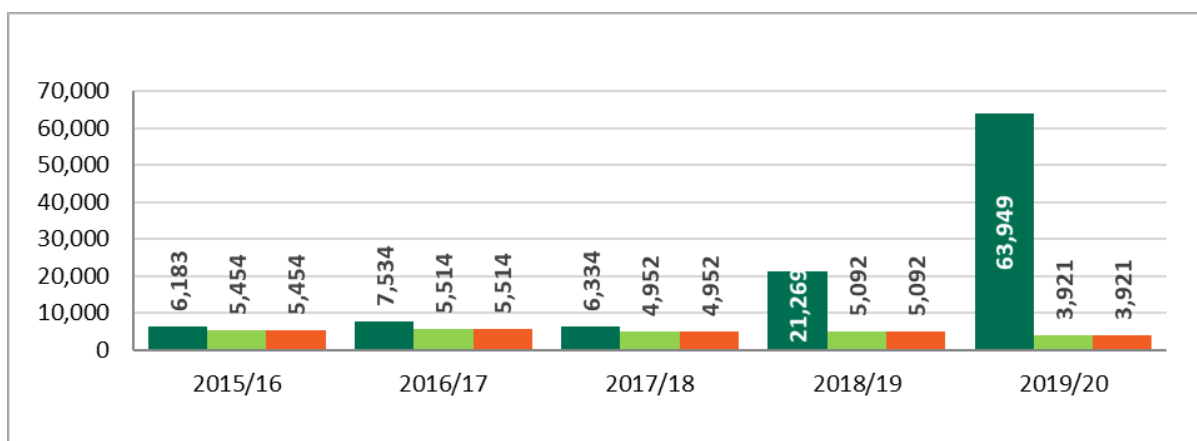
2.398 During 2019/20, 28 non-timber consignments were pre-notified, with 100% documentary and identity checks completed and 13 physical checks carried out. No non-compliances were identified.

Figure 67 - Chart showing plant import consignments subject to inspections for Scotland from 2015 - 2019



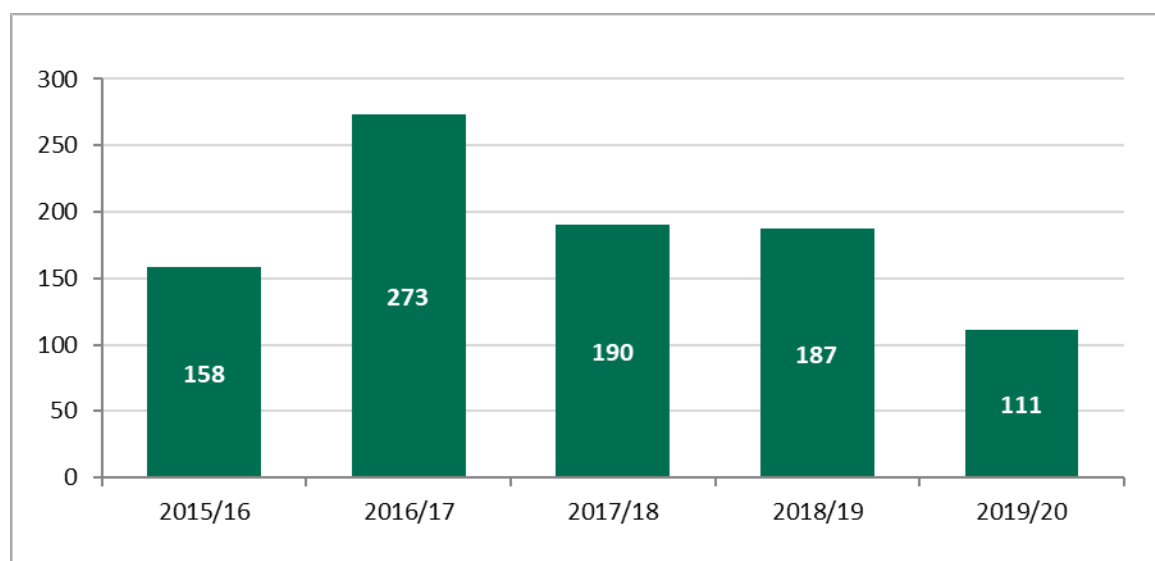
2.399 An instance of non-compliance of third country imports into Scotland was a container of mixed genera Bonsai plants which was received from Japan through Edinburgh port. Soil samples were removed from around the plants. *Ditylenchus dipsaci* and a *Xiphinema* sp. were identified and the importer was required, under notice, to remove the compost and root wash the infected plants. There were also a high number of saprophytic, non-quarantine nematodes found.

Figure 68 - Chart showing wood and wood products import consignments subject to inspection undertaken by UK Forestry Commission from 2015 - 2019



2.400 The higher inspection figures for the year 2019/20, relates to the higher number of commodities requiring inspection 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.

Figure 69 - Chart showing imported wood and wood products non-compliances in the UK from 2015 - 2019



- 2.401 Under the FC's jurisdiction for imported material, the number of non-compliances in 2019/20 was lower than in 2018/19.
- 2.402 The main cause of non-compliances was the failure of wood packaging material manufacturers and treatment providers in the country of export. Most were for failing to ensure that the material was compliant with ISPM15, and should be:
- clearly marked with a traceable ISPM15 mark
 - within the bark tolerance level permitted
 - free from pests and signs of live pests
- 2.403 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.
- 2.404 In 2019/20, 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](#).
- 2.405 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.
- 2.406 There was an upward trend in imports including significant volumes of conifer logs from the USA which were intercepted and found to contain the harmful pest of conifer trees, the pinewood nematode (*Bursaphelenchus xylophilus*).

Figure 70 - Chart showing the number of phytosanitary export certificates issued in the UK from 2015 - 2019

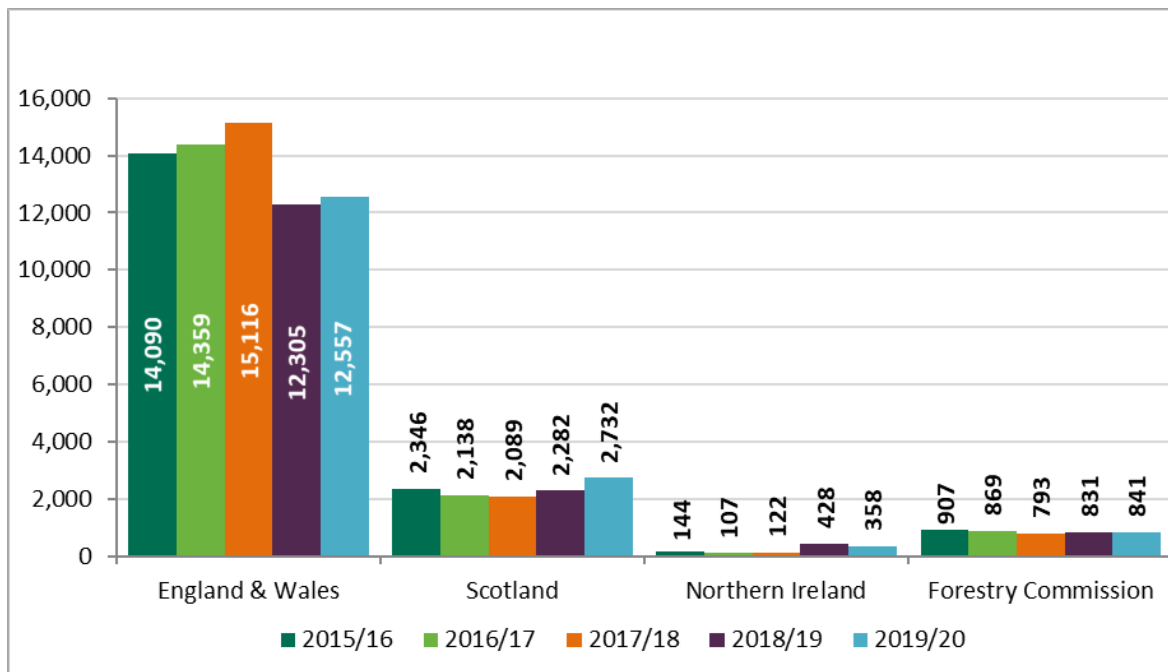
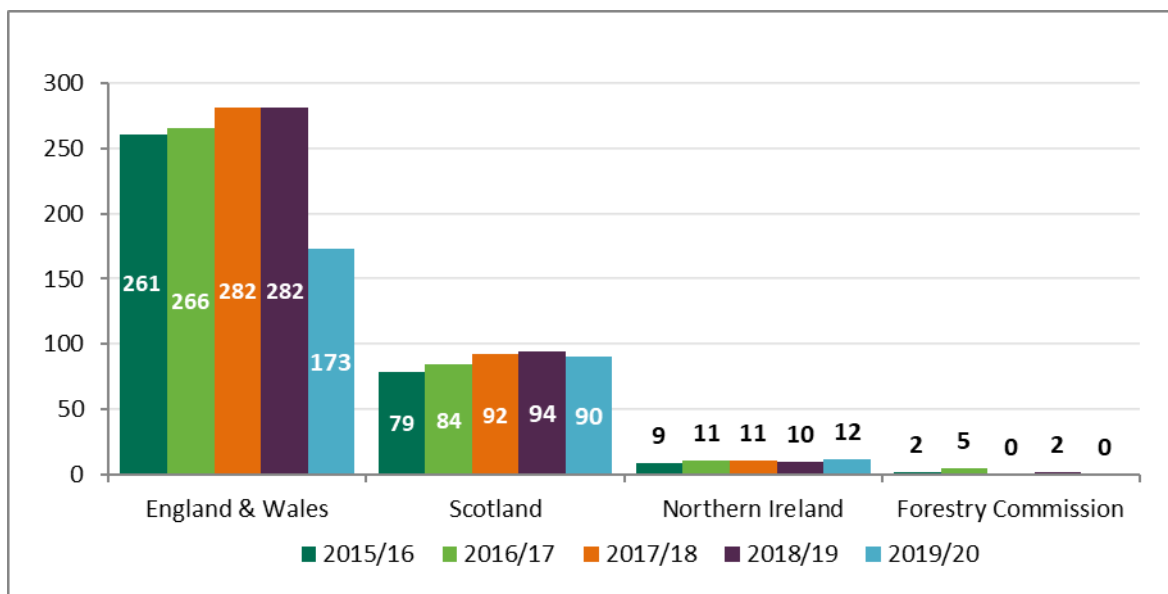


Figure 71 - Chart showing the number of licenses issued for import or holding of prohibited plants and pests in the UK from 2015 - 2019



2.407 Whilst the number of phytosanitary certificates for export issued by the FC in 2019/20 increased slightly, the general downward trend in issuing FC export certificates since 2015/16 continued. No scientific licences were issued in 2019/20 by FC.

- 2.408 In England and Wales, in 2019/20, 273 licences were issued to allow for the import or to hold prohibited plants and plant pests. The implementation of SRSF combining Forestry and Plant Health pests under one piece of legislation has allowed consolidation of the licensing regime in England and Wales¹⁴.
- 2.409 In Scotland, there was a slight decrease in the number of scientific licences issued compared to 2018/19.
- 2.410 In Northern Ireland there were 358 phytosanitary certificates issued which included 65 phytosanitary certificates issued for the export of wood and bark products.

Import controls enforcement trends and actions taken in cases of non-compliance

- 2.411 For APHA PHSI, enforcement of import controls was mainly by action on non-compliant consignments. This was generally handled by re-export or destruction of the consignment at the importer's expense.
- 2.412 During 2019/20, in England and Wales, the number of non-compliant actions for imports increased from 1,219 in 2018/19 to 1,561 in 2019/20, an increase of 28%. The increase can be attributed to the increased monitoring of postal and courier packages at Langley's postal depot. The inclusion of new commodities subject to inspection at import, and the increase in required inspections is a factor that has contributed to the rise in non-compliant imports.
- 2.413 The number of actions was higher 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.
- 2.414 In Northern Ireland, in 2019/20, there were 540 non-compliances relating to plants and plant products from passenger luggage and courier packages. The number of seizures increased after December 2019 when the legislation changed to no longer allow 2kg personal imports.

¹⁴ Additional legislative requirements in relation to licensing have also supported a move to a unified approach, such that from January 1st 2021, APHA will be taking over responsibility for all plant pest licences that were previously issued by the FC.

Chapter 3 - National systems of audit

Audit of local and port health authorities

3.1 The following LA audits were undertaken by the FSA or FSS, as appropriate, in the UK in 2019/20.

England

Programme topic / policy area	Dates	Number of authorities audited	Number of establishment 'reality checks'	Reporting	Number of recommendations
Complaints & infectious disease	December 2019	10	0	10 LA reports and 1 Summary report	6 for LAs & 1 for the FSA

Wales

Programme topic / policy area	Dates	Number of LA's audited	Number of establishment 'reality checks'	Reporting	Number of recommendations
Follow-up audits (food hygiene) to assess LA progress in implementing agreed full audit action plans.	June 2019 – October 2019	6	0	Updated LA action plans are published on the FSA website.	67 recommendations remain outstanding across food hygiene & food standards
Feed audits	November 2019 – February 2020	9	4	Programme not yet complete. Summary report will be published on the FSA website.	57

Northern Ireland

Programme topic / policy area	Dates	Number of authorities audited	Number of establishment 'reality checks'	Reporting	Number of recommendations
Food Hygiene Rating Scheme implementation in Northern Ireland / DCs	July & August 2019	3	0	3 individual reports issued. Summary report issued in February 2020.	Councils – 2 FSA – 1

Scotland

Programme topic / policy area	Dates	Number of authorities audited	Number of establishment 'reality checks'	Reporting	Number of recommendations
Capacity & capability audit - follow up visits	April 2019 - March 2020	2	0	Reports published on FSS website.	N/A as these were follow up audits
Desktop sampling audit	October 2019 - January 2020	32	0	Reports published on FSS website.	14

Summary of audit findings

England

Complaints and infectious disease

- 3.2 Generally, all LAs had developed and were following their Service Plans. LAs were found to be delivering in accordance with the Food Law Code of Practice and the Framework Agreement for controls on food and food establishments, complaints and food infectious diseases.
- 3.3 The main issues identified through audit were LA failure to update policies and procedures on a regular basis. More also needed to be done to ensure officers adhered to these documented procedures. Auditors also reported that whilst LAs appeared to have sufficient resources to carry out the investigation of food complaints and food infectious diseases, not all LAs were able to demonstrate that resources had been reviewed and allocated appropriately as part of service planning.

Wales

Follow-up Food and Focused Feed Audits

- 3.4 Between 2013 and 2017, all 22 LAs in Wales have been subject to a programme of full audits to assess performance in delivering food hygiene and food standards official controls. A detailed review of the findings of the full audit programme has been completed and a programme of follow up audits is in place to assess progress in implementing the agreed full audit action plans.
- 3.5 In 2019/20, follow-up audits were undertaken at services covering the responsibilities of six LAs. In addition, a focused audit programme to assess the extent to which the six regional feed services in Wales were meeting requirements. This was also commenced with four services covering the responsibilities of 16 LAs receiving an audit in 2019/20 and the services of nine of those LAs receiving an audit visit.
- 3.6 Overall, the findings of the full audit programme were that LA food hygiene official controls are largely being delivered in accordance with the Framework Agreement and Food Law Code of Practice. LAs continued to adopt a risk-based approach to interventions at food businesses, and with the benefit of FSA grant funding, were working with businesses to support them in achieving compliance. In general, LA services assessed on follow up audits are showing a gradual improvement.
- 3.7 In respect of food standards official controls, the findings of the full audit programme were variable. Overall, planned interventions were not being carried out at the prescribed frequencies in the Food Law Code of Practice, but LAs adopted a risk based approach. In general, records of planned interventions were not sufficiently detailed to verify the extent to which business compliance has been assessed. LA delivery of reactive food standards interventions was generally undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the FLCoP. In general, LA services assessed on follow up audits are showing improvement.

- 3.8 From the focussed feed audits completed to date, early indications are that significant improvements have been achieved by the introduction of the regional delivery model for feed services in Wales. The delivery of official controls continues to require further improvement to demonstrate effective implementation of planned arrangements suitable to fully achieve requirements.

Northern Ireland

Food Hygiene Rating Scheme (FHRS) implementation

- 3.9 Section 13 of the Food Hygiene Rating Act (Northern Ireland) 2016, includes a requirement for each LA to keep the operation of the Act under review. The FSA is also required to review the operation of the Act throughout Northern Ireland, within three years of the FHRS scheme becoming mandatory.
- 3.10 Three LAs were audited and two recommendations were made. The recommendations covered internal monitoring and document control. One recommendation was made to the FSA which covered the FSA's FHRS guidance on issuing fixed penalty notices. All three LAs had a comprehensive system of policies and procedures in place that covered the range of control procedure subject areas listed in Annex II, Chapter II of Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004. These procedures covered all the required aspects of the FHRS.

Scotland

Local authority sampling

- 3.11 This audit was commissioned to assess the consistency of sampling policies across Scottish LAs, and their alignment with the requirements of the Food Law Code of Practice and supporting guidance in this area. The findings will contribute to the evidence needed by FSS to develop a future sampling strategy which will ensure there is adequate capacity and capability for official controls and surveillance of the Scottish food chain beyond EU Exit.
- 3.12 The audit also provided the opportunity to review how different LAs commission and utilise their laboratory and Public Analyst Services and will therefore support FSS in understanding how these arrangements have impacted on the resilience of these services.

Internal audits conducted by competent authorities

3.13 UK competent authorities undertake risk-based audits of operational systems, processes and procedures for food and feed, animal welfare and plant health. Audits of associated control bodies are also undertaken. These audits ensure that requirements of the UK Public Sector Internal Audit Standards and Article 4(6) of Regulation (EC) 882/2004 are met.

Internal audits conducted by competent authorities

Audit programme topic / policy area audited	Sector	Competent authority	Country	Assurance level	Final report issued	Recommendations
OFFC- Meat chicken inspections	Animal health	APHA	England, Scotland & Wales	Limited	March 2020	8
Holding premises – registration & approval of holding under PRIMO	Animal health	APHA	England, Scotland & Wales	Moderate	Feb 2020	7
OFFC – Review of imports Balai arrangements	Animal health	APHA	England, Scotland & Wales	Unsatisfactory	March 2020	10
Bovine tuberculosis	Animal health & welfare	DAERA	Northern Ireland	Satisfactory	January 2019	0
Plant health (follow-up review)	Plant health	DAERA	Northern Ireland	Satisfactory	June 2019	1
Zoonoses	Animal health & welfare	DAERA	Northern Ireland	Satisfactory	June 2019	2

Audit programme topic / policy area audited	Sector	Competent authority	Country	Assurance level	Final report issued	Recommendations
Bee health	Animal health & welfare	DAERA	Northern Ireland	Satisfactory	June 2019	4
Identification, registration & movement	Animal health & welfare	DAERA	Northern Ireland	Satisfactory	July 2019	4
Trade certification (follow-up review) ¹⁵	Animal health & welfare	DAERA	Northern Ireland	Limited	November 2019	0
Northern Ireland Food Animal Information System (NIFAIS) consulting	Animal health & welfare	DAERA	Northern Ireland	N/A	November 2019	2
OFFC - Review of response to notifiable diseases	Animal health	Defra	England	Moderate	April 2019	5
OFFC - High risk welfare inspections under animal welfare regulation (EC) No 1099/2009	Animal health	Defra	England	Moderate	March 2019	4

¹⁵ Further Follow-Up completed 11/05/2020 – opinion raised to Satisfactory

Audit programme topic / policy area audited	Sector	Competent authority	Country	Assurance level	Final report issued	Recommendations
OFFC - On-going Wild Fish and Shellfish Surveillance/Quality Assurance/Epizootic investigations	Aquatic animal health	Defra	England	Moderate	July 2019	8
TB programme governance	Animal health	Defra & APHA	England	Limited	May 2019	4
Environmental incident management and response	Animal and plant health	Defra Group, APHA, Cefas, EA, FC	England	Moderate	May 2019	4
A review of the new plant health legislation	Plant health	Forestry Commission (Forest Services)	England	Moderate	February 2019	2
Bovine tuberculosis controls	Food & feed	FSA	England & Wales	Moderate	January 2019	5
Notifiable diseases	Food & feed	FSA	England & Wales	Moderate	March 2019	8
Approved game handling establishments	Food & feed	FSA	England & Wales	Substantial	March 2019	N/A

Audit programme topic / policy area audited	Sector	Competent authority	Country	Assurance level	Final report issued	Recommendations
Intervention protocol	Food & feed	FSA	England & Wales	Moderate	May 2019	7
Animal by products	Food & feed	FSA	England & Wales	Moderate	July 2019	1
Raw drinking milk	Food & feed	FSA	England & Wales	Moderate	October 2019	3
FBO approval system / FSA in NI operational policy and delivery team	Food & feed	FSA	Northern Ireland	N/A	March 2019	3
Food chain information / DAERA Veterinary Public Health Programme (VPHP)	Food & feed	FSA	Northern Ireland	N/A	N/A	0
Review of compliance with regulations for Meat Technical Services schemes	Food hygiene	RPA	England	Moderate	September 2019	6
Review of fruit & veg PO Aid scheme – Follow-Up	Food hygiene	RPA	England	Actions Cleared	September 2019	N/A
Animal by-products	Feed & food	Scottish Gov	UK	Limited	June 2019	5

Audit programme topic / policy area audited	Sector	Competent authority	Country	Assurance level	Final report issued	Recommendations
Bee health	Feed & food	Scottish Gov	UK	Limited	April 2019	9
Animal by products	Animal health & welfare	Scottish Government	Scotland	Moderate	June 2019	5
Analytical methods – Fera lab	Feed & food	VMD	UK	Acceptable	June 2019	8
Analytical methods – Afbi lab	Feed & food	VMD	UK	Acceptable	November 2019	5
Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer (OCVO) asset management	Animal health	Welsh Gov IAS	Wales	Reasonable	April 2019	4
Oysters farm pilot scale development	Aquatic animal health	Welsh Gov EFAT	Wales	Substantial	December 2019	0
Approvals	Food	FSS	Scotland	Substantial	April 2019	3
Traceability & recall	Food	FSS	Scotland	Moderate	December 2019	4

Audit programme topic / policy area audited	Sector	Competent authority	Country	Assurance level	Final report issued	Recommendations
Minced meat / meat preparations / meat products (including ready to eat products)	Food	FSS	Scotland	Moderate	March 2020	4
Micro criteria testing	Food	FSS	Scotland	Not assigned	Not fully completed due to Covid - 19	10

Summary of audit findings

England

- 3.14 Official controls delivery was found to be satisfactory in all the activities audited with no significant control issues being identified. There was also evidence of improvement in official controls outcomes as a result actions taken following a previous audit in relation to Raw Drinking Milk and Animal by Products. A common finding was that officials' had tended to rely on enforcement to tackle individual operator non-compliances (corrective action) rather than acting on root causes (prevention).
- 3.15 Plant Health reviews are now completely encompassed within the remit, plans and reporting for the UK Internal Audit programmes. The increase in the proportion and number of positive opinions (Substantial, Moderate, Reasonable) is notable in the UK.

Wales

- 3.16 During the year, European Funds Audit Team (EFAT) undertook an audit of the Welsh Government Oysters Farm Pilot Scale Development. This is a project part funded under the European Maritime Fisheries Fund (EMFF). No findings were identified from this audit. In addition, IAS carried out a review of asset management within the Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer (OCVO). Four 'Merits Attention' recommendations were raised as a result of this review regarding the logging and recording of assets.

Northern Ireland

- 3.17 The FSA audit team in Northern Ireland, audits processes and procedures used by the FSA in Northern Ireland. In March 2019, the FBO approval system operated by the FSA in Northern Ireland Operational Policy and Delivery Team, was audited. The report was issued on the 27 March 2019 with three recommendations. The recommendations covered authorisation of officers granting approval, approved establishment record retention and approval documentation.
- 3.18 One establishment in Northern Ireland was audited for Food Chain Information (FCI) and the collection and communication of inspection results (CCIR) in December 2019. No issues requiring recommendations were found.

Scotland

- 3.19 An Animal by-products audit was carried out. This related to the current risk, governance and/or control procedures that affect delivery or compliance with regulations Exposure to the weaknesses identified is moderate and is being mitigated.
- 3.20 The review identified three high and two medium recommendations, summarised below are the key examples of good practice and improvement opportunities.

Good practice examples

Reporting arrangements are in place with APHA, where progress against agreed targets is being communicated on a monthly basis and a RAG system. These reports provide a helpful basis for discussions at quarterly meetings between APHA and SG.

Both delivery partners have operating manuals in place (SMOC in FSS and Operations Manual in APHA) that outline roles and responsibilities for staff undertaking official controls and both appropriately embed requirements of ABP legislation and requirements of the EC Regulation 882/2004.

Improvement opportunities

Lack of clarity over arrangements with FSS relating to one of the two delivery partners for Animal By-Products official controls (Recommendation 1)

The Service Level Agreement with APHA needs to be reviewed, agreed and signed by both parties (Recommendation 2)

Absence of a quality assurance program that would help evaluate the delivery partners' ability to perform official controls in compliance with EC Regulation 882/2004 (Recommendation 3)

Roles and responsibilities of the SG ABP team regarding tasks related to OFFC are not embedded in job descriptions (Recommendation 4)

Lack of clarity over reporting on ABP official controls to the EU Commission (Recommendation 5)

- 3.21 Several recommendations have already been implemented. An assessment of the effective application of these improved controls will be undertaken in a follow up review.

Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) - United Kingdom

- 3.22 APHA audit work completed during 2019 has shown an increase in issues arising from testing, leading to conclude that in some of the main operational areas of APHA, there has been a slight reduction in the effectiveness of controls. Last year APHA achieved a positive report, with 70% of audit opinions being 'moderate' or above. This year that level has reduced slightly to 62%.
- 3.23 An audit of Meat Chicken Inspections was conducted. Delivery of welfare inspections within APHA were found to be of a high standard, identifying non-compliances with the Meat Chicken Directive and issuing improvement advice to farmers. However, there were significant issues with the documentation of the Meat Chicken Scheme within APHA. Issues included inaccurate registration records for premises; incomplete documentation and poor maintenance of records.

- 3.24 It was found that APHA management information (MI) produced from meat chicken records added very little value as the MI was partly based on historic inspections and discarded incomplete data records. Furthermore, the inconsistent management of records and information did not allow informed decision making and appropriate management of welfare non-compliances.
- 3.25 A review of third country imports under the Balai Directive was also conducted. One instance of non-compliance with this import requirement was identified. England was found to have adequate assurance, but there were issues with signature control on the IV43 veterinary inspection checklist. The review also identified gaps in some areas of officer instructions and a poor separation of duties in Scotland. In Scotland, the integrity of approved listings was found to be undermined due to these factors.

Audit of organic control bodies

- 3.26 The audit and assessment of control bodies is undertaken on Defra's behalf by the UK Accreditation Service (UKAS). UKAS checks these bodies are operating in accordance with the control requirements. In 2019, UKAS concluded that satisfactory evidence had been demonstrated in a number of areas to confirm confidence in the bodies competence to perform organic certification duties.

Directorate F audits and missions

- 3.27 There were no directorate Directorate-F audits carried out in 2019.

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	1,714.8
FSS	178.6
Local authorities	1,764
Defra	249.6
Welsh Government	117
Scottish Government	330.5
APHA	2,275.1
VMD	28
DAERA	581.5
HSE	5
RPA	231.8
Forestry Commission	40
Fera Science Ltd	108.9
Bee Health	81
Pirbright Institute	29
Cefas	33
MSS	34
MMO	89
Total	7,890.8

Chapter 5 - Actions taken to improve performance of competent authorities and food business operators

Actions in the feed and food sectors

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

- 5.1 In 2019, [a response to a consultation on the Food Law Codes of Practice](#) which took place in England, in 2018, was published. The FSA considered the responses and agreed to further refine some proposals for the next update of the Code and take forward some amendments e.g. changes that related to the new registration system.
- 5.2 A consultation was held in 2018 on proposed changes to the [Food Law Code of Practice \(Scotland\) 2019](#). The 2019 revision of the Code replaces any previous versions and incorporates changes reflecting the following:
- the LAs' Better Regulation obligations under the Scottish Regulators' Strategic Code of Practice
 - Food Standards Scotland's Regulatory Strategy
 - new and modified legislation
 - the introduction of the Scottish National Database
 - the creation of the Scottish Food Crime and Incidents Unit within FSS to tackle serious and / or complex fraudulent conduct and regulatory non-compliance.
- 5.3 In Scotland, a feed manual is being developed based on the Feed Code and Practice Guidance, which is in place in the rest of the UK. This should be finalised for implementation of the new feed delivery model for April 2021.
- 5.4 The [Interventions Food Law Code of Practice \(Scotland\) 2019](#) came into force across Scotland on the 26th of June 2019. It is part of a wider programme of work within our Regulatory Strategy to review the Food Law Codes of Practice. This Code incorporates the following changes:
- introduction of the Food Law Rating System (FLRS). It combines the rating systems for Food Hygiene and Food Standards into one Food law intervention scheme, based upon a new Food Business performance model that will target resources on high to medium risk and non-compliant businesses
 - alignment with Food Standards Scotland's Strategy
 - alignment to reflect Food Standards Scotland's Strategy to 2021 and the Scottish Government's approach to Better Regulation, as set out in the Scottish Regulators' Strategic Code of Practice

Food Hygiene Rating / Food Hygiene Information Schemes

- 5.5 The FSA and FSS continued to work with LAs to deliver the schemes. The Food Hygiene Rating Scheme (FHRS) is operated by all LAs in England on a voluntary basis and participation in Wales and Northern Ireland is mandatory. All LAs in Scotland operate the Food Hygiene Information Scheme (FHIS).

- 5.6 In 2019/20, FHRS information was available for approximately 487,000 food businesses. FHIS information was available for approximately 50,000 food businesses.
- 5.7 The chart below shows the percentage of business records published on food.gov.uk of those businesses within scope of the schemes as of March 2020.
- 5.8 A report on the Review of the Operation of the FHRS Appeals System in Wales was published in February 2019. The review found LAs were operating the scheme in accordance with statutory requirements. It demonstrated there were changes to hygiene ratings following appeals and that appeals were increasingly being used by businesses achieving a '3' or '4', suggesting businesses place a value on achieving a higher rating. The report found that LAs were applying safeguards fairly and effectively.
- 5.9 The charts below show a steady improvement in businesses achieving an FHRS rating of three and above in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Figure 72 - Chart showing the percentage distribution of FHRS ratings in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, from 2015/16 - 2019/20

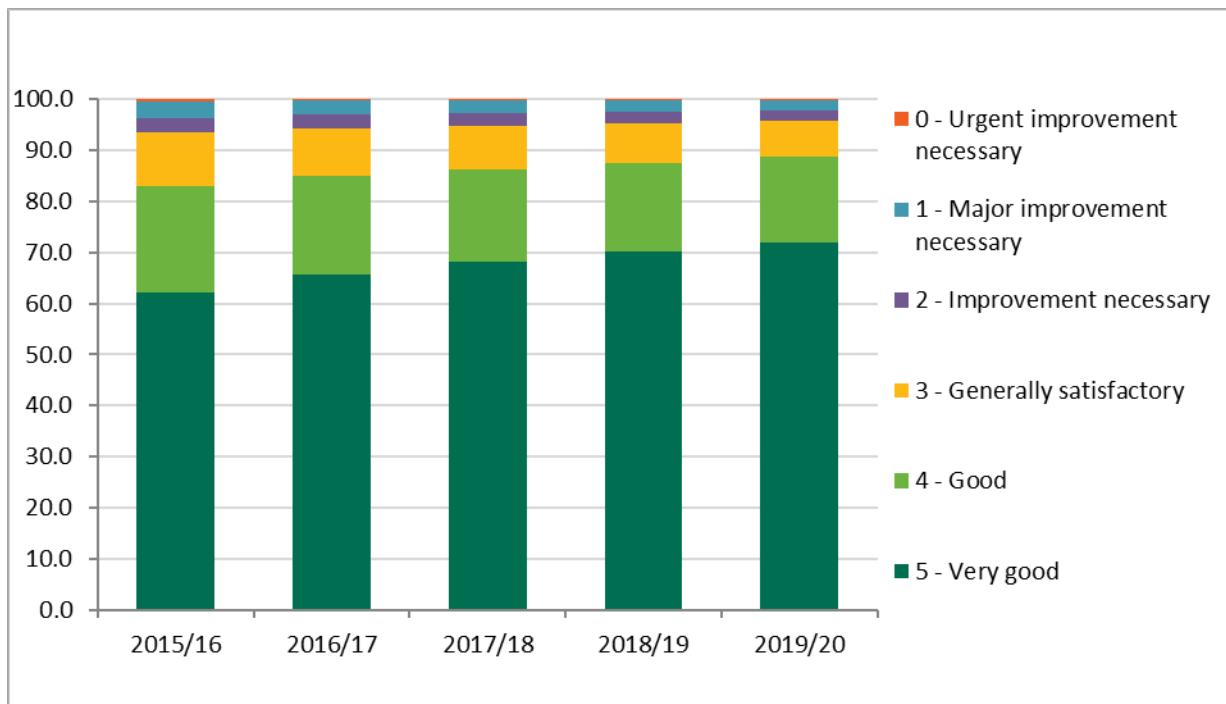
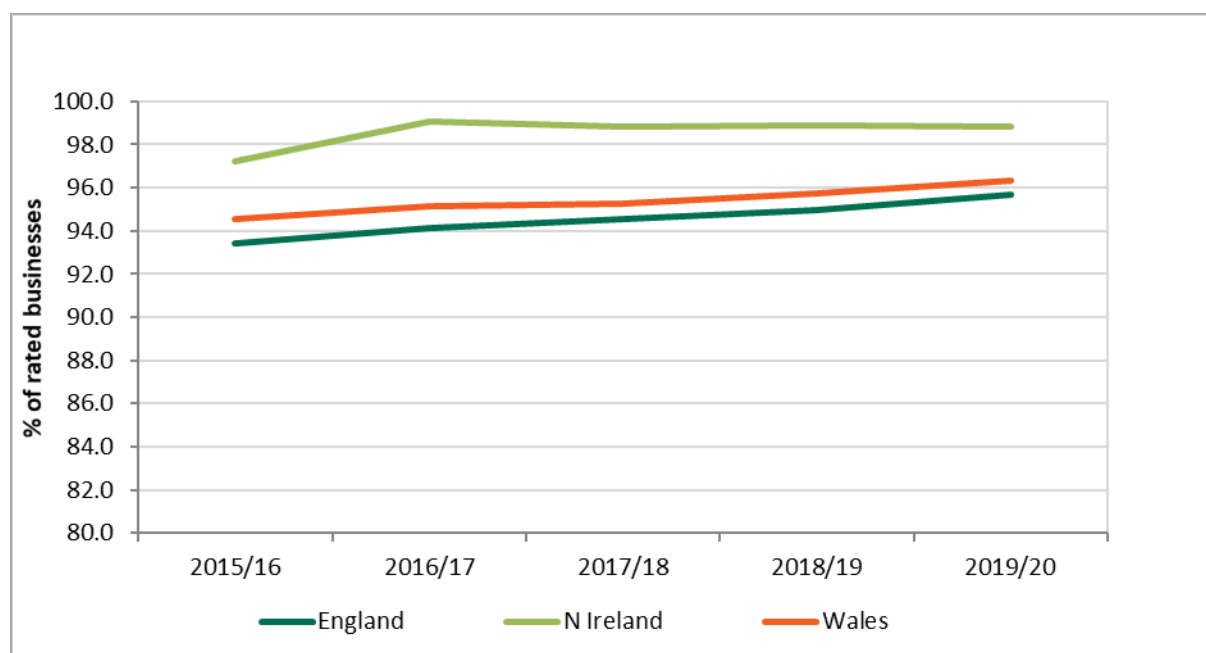


Figure 73 - Chart showing the percentage of FHS ratings three and above in England, Wales and Northern Ireland from 2015/16 - 2019/20



Allergen labelling

5.10 In June 2019, after careful consideration of consultation responses and the advice of the FSA board, the Government announced its intention to introduce new rules on labelling. These new rules will require full ingredient labelling for Pre-Packed for Direct Sale (PPDS) foods in England. Regulations relating to England were laid before Parliament on 5 September 2019. The regulations come into force on 1 October 2020 in England. Similar legislation has since been laid in Wales and Northern Ireland and aligns with that set in England and has the same implementation date.

Food fraud and food crime

- 5.11 The NFCU now consists of a criminal intelligence, investigation and prevention capability which aim to provide an end to end response to combat criminal activity within the food supply chain.
- 5.12 The NFCU secured access to industry authenticity data through an Information Sharing Agreement with the Food Industry Intelligence Network (FIIN). Joint working with key partners, namely, the Association of Chief Trading Standards Officers and the National Police Chiefs Council, allowed the NFCU to secure assistance with work across England and Wales. Similarly, a Food Crime Strategic Assessment was conducted with Food Standards Scotland.
- 5.13 Intelligence capabilities of the unit were bolstered by incorporating national systems including the Police National Computer (PNC), the Police National Database (PND), the National ANPR Service (NAS) and the main intelligence database utilised by LAs (IDB). A system was also developed to allow the authorisation and conduct of covert activity, including the introduction of new systems and operating processes.

- 5.14 In 2019/20, the NFCU recorded over 1,500 new intelligence reports with an associated increase in dissemination of intelligence to internal and external partners. NFCU was responsible for 64 disruptions to food criminality. Eleven new or existing investigations were initiated, covering fraud through misrepresentation of premium status, European Distribution Fraud, illicit activity around shellfish and the sale for consumption of sodium chlorite-based solutions.
- 5.15 Substantial work was undertaken to reduce the threat posed to consumers from DNP (2,4-dinitrophenol). This has included, concluding multi-national work on Operation OPSON, judicial outcomes both within the UK and overseas linked to the sale of DNP and warning over 200 consumers thought to have purchased DNP of the risks associated with the substance. NFCU work has led to the removal or suspension of at least 89 websites, 12 social media profiles and 400 online marketplace listings associated with the sale of DNP.
- 5.16 A key development for SFCIU in 2019 was their inclusion at the monthly National Intelligence Development Meeting (NIDM). This is a multi-agency law enforcement group chaired by Police Scotland, which provides an overview of emerging risks and trends and a platform to identify cross-interests and collaborative working.

Incident management protocols

- 5.17 During 2019/20, the FSA carried out over 40 incident related activities including exercises, drills and training. These activities aim to continually improve staff capability and incident response, build surge capacity and strengthening procedures and processes.
- 5.18 The FSS 2019/20 exercise programme included six events designed to provide opportunities to rehearse and interrogate current incident management arrangements.
- 5.19 During 2019/20, the FSA and FSS continued to jointly review and develop Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to support crisis management processes. This covers a range of issues including food and feed safety alerts, the efficacy or recalls project and the management of outbreaks of foodborne illness SOP. These are supported by training and drills to raise awareness and build surge capacity.
- 5.20 The FSA and FSS published [a package to help businesses understand the theory and practice of root cause analysis \(RCA\)](#), explaining how it aids in reducing the number of recurring food safety incidents. Along with this package, FSA and FSS also published a [Quick Reference Guide](#) to the Guidance on Food Traceability, Withdrawals and Recalls within the UK Food Industry.

Actions in the plant and plant health sectors

- 5.21 No actions were reported in the plant and plant health sector for 2019.

Actions in the animal health and welfare sectors

Animal Welfare

- 5.22 During 2019, FSS reported potential breaches of animal welfare legislation to APHA and LAs under the relevant Service Level Agreements. No key performance issues were identified. Training on the referral process was undertaken in parallel with APHA colleagues.
- 5.23 A pilot referral project using the CLIO incident management software was completed, with positive feedback from all involved and a longer term work stream has been initiated to develop this streamlined referral process.
- 5.24 Relevant portions of Annex II of EC Regulation 1099/2009 requiring certain layout, construction and equipment provisions, came into force in December 2019. Training on the requirements and implementation was provided. A pre- and post-implementation survey established all but one approved establishment had complied by the implementation date. The non-compliance with the requirement of Annex II on this case was not impacting on animal welfare.
- 5.25 A further survey of approved establishments has been carried out in readiness for Scottish legislation, implementing the requirement to have in place a CCTV system. A consultation with industry will follow.

Animal Health and Welfare Frameworks

- 5.26 The National Animal Health and Welfare Panel (NAHWP) meet quarterly to share intelligence and discuss national priorities. These are then updated based on current trends.
- 5.27 During 2019, a sub-group of NAHWP members trialled a new risk prioritisation programme, to assess the risks posed by animal health and welfare non-compliance. The Management of Risk in Law Enforcement (MoRiLE) standardised process, sets out the thematic areas for Animal Health and Welfare priorities, the sub-threats and the rationale behind risk scoring.
- 5.28 The programme is currently in the early stages of consultation, but it is anticipated that this process could assist LAs in how they set their priorities under the National Animal Health and Welfare framework. Further consultation is planned during 2020.

Bee health

- 5.29 No activities were reported in the bee health sector in 2019.

Aquatic animal health - England and Wales (Cefas FHI)

- 5.30 In 2019, the Cefas FHI rolled out a mobile friendly website to fish farmers in England and Wales, developed in-house (FHIOnline). This website aims to assist authorised Aquaculture Production Businesses (APBs) in England and Wales with compliance and statutory record keeping. It currently provides the facility for recording live aquatic animal movements to and from all authorised and registered fish and shellfish holdings in England & Wales.

- 5.31 The webservice provides a fast and accurate way to electronically record all live aquatic animal movements to and from holdings and generates Animal Transport Certificates (ATCs) for all loads. The benefits of this system include improved data sharing, reduced inspection time, improved industry compliance and improved data when responding to outbreaks.

Aquatic Animal Health - Northern Ireland (DAERA FHI)

- 5.32 In 2019, DAERA Fish Health Inspectorate conducted a review of Inspectorate competencies and training processes, to ensure that staff had the appropriate skills to effectively conduct duties. As a result, further training was arranged on the Codex Alimentarius Principles of Certification and Certifying Support Officers training. Additionally, a further three staff in allied disciplines were trained as Certifying Support Officers as a contingency.

Incident management protocols

Aquatic Animal Health - England and Wales (Cefas FHI)

- 5.33 In 2019, Cefas FHI contributed to the ongoing development of Defra's Incident Communications Manual for Serious Fish and Shellfish Diseases and to the Joint Contingency Plan for Notifiable and Emerging Diseases of Aquatic Animals in England and Wales. Epidemiologists and Diagnosticians also implemented a series of internal quarterly desktop exercises to test capacity for response to a serious disease outbreak, outcomes are reported to the Defra policy customer for aquatic animal health.
- 5.34 Cefas, FHI developed and rolled out a questionnaire to assess the salmonid industry on-site capability for response to a disease emergency. The questionnaire focused on a farm's capacity to drain water, remove silt, cull and clear fish stocks.
- 5.35 The fish farm biosecurity measures plan template (a requirement of authorisation) was also revised to include a section for farm contingency planning. This work will continue into 2020 across the other aquaculture sectors in England and Wales.
- 5.36 In addition, Cefas FHI initiated a review of the agreement held between Marine Scotland Science and Cefas for mutual assistance. This examined the provision of diagnostic and inspectorate resources and laboratory facilities in the event of a serious incident or disease outbreak affecting capacity. This work will be completed in 2020.

APHA

- 5.37 During 2019/20, APHA further developed and refined its incident management framework. The framework was subsequently tested in response to a potential flooding incident caused by a faulty reservoir in August 2019. APHA provided support and advice on animal health and welfare for the Local Resilience Forum and direct to animal keepers during the incident.
- 5.38 The same framework has been used to support the cross government response to both Operation Yellowhammer (an EU Exit preparatory exercise) and the Covid-19 pandemic.

Training delivered by competent authorities

5.39 In 2019/20, the following training programmes, courses and exercises were organised and held across the different CAs.

Training delivered by competent authorities

Competent authority	Course provider	Delivery method	Staff trained	Purpose of training
APHA	APHA	eLearning	794	Induction of new staff
APHA	TTC 2000	Face to face	235	Driving training
APHA	TTC 2000	Practical (on road)	6	Driving training
APHA	APHA	Face to face	62	Case officer training (disease outbreaks)
APHA	APHA	Face to face	11	Field Ops Manager training (disease outbreaks)
APHA	APHA	Face to face	36	Field Ops Manager - Contingency planning (disease outbreaks)
APHA	APHA	Face to face	36	Field Ops Manager - Contingency planning (disease outbreaks)
APHA	APHA	Face to face	38	Allocations for Contingency planning (disease outbreaks)
APHA	Experia	Face to face	22	Post Mortem of Pigs and Poultry
APHA	Experia	Face to face	96	Post Mortem of Pigs and Poultry (refresher)
APHA	Livestock wise	Face to face	72	Cattle handling
APHA	Livestock wise	Face to face	128	Conflict resolution
APHA	Happy computers	eLearning	32	Enforcement refresher

Competent authority	Course provider	Delivery method	Staff trained	Purpose of training
APHA	Happy computers	eLearning	89	Animal welfare
APHA	Happy computers	eLearning	91	Cross compliance and animal welfare
APHA	Bond solon	Face to face	48	Enforcement support and witness statements
APHA	ADAS	Face to face	25	Livestock industry awareness
APHA	APHA	Face to face	9	Carriage of dangerous goods
APHA	APHA	Face to face	10	Introduction to general clinical practice
APHA	APHA	Face to face	76	Salmonella national control programmes
APHA	APHA	Face to face	12	Applied epidemiology
Cefas - FHI	RYA	Face to face and exam	10	VHF radio operation
Cefas - FHI	Whitehorse training	Face to face	16	Conflict resolution
Cefas - FHI	DriveTech	Face to face and practical	10	Driver Safety - Advanced Skid pan training
Cefas - FHI	Barefoot thinking	Face to face and practical	6	Challenges of Science Leadership
Cefas - FHI	Spartan rescue ltd	Face to face and practical	1	Essentials of working in, on, or near water
Cefas – FHI	East coast college	Face to face and practical	1	Personal survival techniques
Cefas - FHI	Internal lead trainer	Face to face	16	Training on exotic disease control

Competent authority	Course provider	Delivery method	Staff trained	Purpose of training
Cefas - FHI	Internal lead trainer	Face to face	18	Training on export legislation and certification
Cefas - FHI	Internal lead trainer	Face to face and practical	10	Non-destructive sampling of wild salmonids for <i>Gyrodactylus salaris</i>
Cefas - FHI	Internal lead trainer	Face to face	10	Training in quality management system
Cefas - FHI	Internal lead trainer	Face to face	10	Training on UK listed diseases and status
Cefas - FHI	Internal lead trainer	Face to face	10	Ongoing competency and SOP refresher training - VMD/VMX samples and Inspections
Cefas - FHI	Internal lead trainer	Face to face	12	Ongoing competency and SOP refresher training - Disease Investigations
Cefas - FHI	Internal senior bacteriologist	Face to face and practical	10	Bacteriology sampling techniques
Cefas - FHI	Internal histologist	Face to face and practical	5	Histology sample processing and sectioning
Cefas - FHI	Internal lead trainer	Presentation and practical	10	Ongoing competency and SOP refresher training - Mollusc sampling
Cefas - FHI	Internal senior investigations and enforcement officer	Face to face and practical	16	National intelligence model training

Competent authority	Course provider	Delivery method	Staff trained	Purpose of training
DAERA FHI	Veterinary services animal health	Face to face	8	Training in the codex alimentarius principles of certification
DAERA FHI	Veterinary services animal health	Face to face eLearning	8	Certifying support officer training
DAERA FH Vet	Institute of Aquaculture Stirling University	Face to face	1	Fish health and welfare course
FSA	Epidemiology investigator	Face to face	10	Field investigation for veterinary staff
FSA	Core animal welfare	eLearning	24	Animal welfare and legislation
FSA	Origin growth	eLearning	N/A	Allergens for LA officers
FSA	Origin growth	eLearning	N/A	Vacuum packing for LA officers
FSA	Desq	eLearning	156	Root cause analysis for LA officers
FSA	Desq	eLearning	1,315	Labelling for LA officers
FSA	Desq	eLearning	407	Traceability for LA officers
FSA	OA training	Face to face	21	New field operations staff recruitment
HSE	Epidemiology investigator	face-to- face	10	Field investigation for veterinary staff
HSE	Core animal welfare	eLearning	24	Training on animal welfare and legislation
PHSI	PHSI	Seminars and workshops	250	Annual technical meeting

Competent authority	Course provider	Delivery method	Staff trained	Purpose of training
FSS	Official control verification	Face to face	57	Training on the OCV Guidance
PHSI	PHSI	Field and lab based	12	ISTA seed sampling
PHSI	PHSI	Workshop	12	New entrant plant passporting
PHSI	PHSI	Field and lab based	8	Herbage crop inspectors course - Retest & Initial
PHSI	PHSI	Face to face	15	New entrants imports
PHSI	PHSI	Face to face	15	New entrants plant pest and diseases
PHSI	PHSI	Field and lab based interactive	12	ISTA seed sampling - part two
PHSI	PHSI	Field and lab based	8	Pulse crop inspectors course - Initial & retest
PHSI	PHSI	Field and lab based	8	Cereals crop inspectors course - Compulsory retest & initial – part two
PHSI	PHSI	Field and lab based	15	Seed potato certification scheme
PHSI	PHSI	Face to face	15	New entrants imports
PHSI	PHSI	Field and lab based	12	Seed potato training (Gogar bank)
PHSI	PHSI	Classroom and lab	15	New entrants plant pest and diseases
PHSI	PHSI	Field and lab based interactive	8	Seed potato training (Gogar bank)

Competent authority	Course provider	Delivery method	Staff trained	Purpose of training
PHSI	PHSI	Field and lab based interactive	8	Seed potato fast track training
PHSI	PHSI	Field and lab based interactive	10	Seed potato training (Gogar bank)
PHSI	PHSI	Face to face	15	New entrants imports
PHSI	PHSI	Field-based workshop	8	Soft fruit training
PHSI	PHSI	Classroom and lab	15	New entrants plant pest and diseases
PHSI	PHSI	Classroom and field practical	15	New entrant exports
PHSI	PHSI	Workshop	10	Scientific licensing
PHSI	PHSI	Field and lab based	8	Fodder and oilseed crop inspectors course - Retest & initial
PHSI	PHSI	Field and lab based	12	LSS year refresher
PHSI	PHSI	Classroom	15	New entrants imports
PHSI	PHSI	Classroom and lab	15	New entrants plant pest and diseases

Abbreviations and acronyms

Abbreviation / acronym	Abbreviation / acronym in full
ABP	Animal By-Products
ABSPA	Area Based Schemes Payment Agency
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
ASMS	Atypical Scrapie Monitoring Scheme
ASP	Amnesic Shellfish Poisoning
BF	Border Force
BIP	Border Inspection Post
BKD	Bacterial Kidney Disease
BSE	Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathies
bTB	Bovine TB
CA	Competent Authority
Cefas	Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science
CN	Combined Nomenclature
CPC	Commonwealth Potato Collection
CSFS	Compulsory Scrapie Flock Scheme
DAERA	Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (Northern Ireland)
Defra	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

DHSC	Department of Health and Social Care
EEA	European Economic Area
EFAT	European Funds Audit Team
EFB	European Foulbrood
EBLV	European Bat Lyssavirus
EMFF	European Maritime Fisheries Fund
EU	European Union
EVA	Equine Viral Arteritis
FC	Forestry Commission
FHI	Fish Health Inspectorate
FHIS	Food Hygiene Information Scheme
FHRS	Food Hygiene Rating Scheme
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
HRA	High Risk Area
HSE	Health and Safety Executive
IPCO	Investigatory Powers Commissioners Office
IRM	Identification, Registration and Movement
KHV	Koi Herpesvirus

LA	Local Authority
LAEMS	Local Authority Enforcement Monitoring System
LPAI	Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza
LT	Lipophilic Toxins
MANCP	Multi-Annual National Control Plan
NCI	Non Commercial Institution
MMO	Marine Management Organisation
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
NSAID	Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drug
NTS	National Trading Standards
OCVO	Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer
OFFC	Official Feed and Food Controls
OTF	Officially Tuberculosis Free
OTFW	Officially Tuberculosis Free Withdrawn
PCB	Polychlorinated Biphenyl
PCN	Potato Cyst Nematode
PEACH	Procedure for Electronic Application of Certificates
PFN	Protected Food Name

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
PSTV	Potato Spindle Tuber Viroid
PZ	Protection Zone
RAN	Remedial Action Notice
RASFF	Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed
RCS	Root cause analysis – RCS
RDM	Raw drinking milk
RIPA	Defra regulatory bodies holding
RLs	Regional Laboratories
RPA	Rural Payments Agency
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
SPF	Specific Pathogen Free

SRM	Specified Risk Material
TB	Tuberculosis
TBSPG	Tuberculosis Strategic Partnership Group's (TBSPG)
TSE	Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy
UK	United Kingdom
UKAS	United Kingdom Accreditation Service
VIOS	veterinary investigation officers
VMD	Veterinary Medicines Directorate
VMP	Veterinary Medicinal Products
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