



UK GOVERNMENT CHEMIST – STATUTORY CASE ANALYSIS

Julian Braybrook, Government Chemist



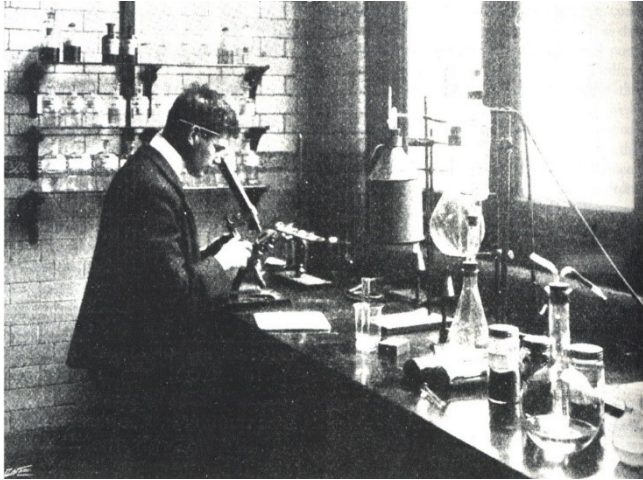
Origins of UK food law



- In the Middle Ages, UK traders formed Guilds to regulate trade in precious metals, spices, drugs and other high-value items
- Prior to the first general food act, Special Statutes dealt with bread, tea, coffee, beer and wine to prevent defrauding of revenue and to protect purchaser health
- By the 19th century, concern wrt the quality, contamination and adulteration of food
- The Adulteration Act, 1860 (amended 1872) included appointment of Public Analysts
- **The Sale of Food and Drugs Act in 1875, amended 1879 and 1899**



UK food law and the Government Chemist



- The Merchandise Marks Acts, 1887, 1891 & 1894 dealt with mis-labelling of imported foods
- The Fertilizer and Feeding Stuffs Act, 1906 included appointment of agricultural analysts
- The Public Health Act, 1907 included regulations as to foods
- **Parliamentary Select Committee, 1874 proposed a central referee - ‘Chemical Officers of Somerset House’**



GOVERNMENT CHEMIST

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Responsibilities for official food controls



General traceability, hygiene, RASFF
Import controls (public health)
Labelling (food safety)
Composition and Standards (exc organic products)
Biological safety
Chemical safety
Biotechnology (GM)



Import controls (animal health)
Labelling (beef, protected foods)
Composition and Standards (organic products)
Veterinary residues



Labelling (nutritional health)
Composition and Standards (foods for nutritional cases)
Pesticide residues



Duties of the Government Chemist today



Duties as **referee analyst** defined in/under

- Food Safety Act, 1990
- Food Safety (Sampling & Qualifications) Regulations, 2013*
- Materials & Articles in Contact with Foods Regulations, 2012*
- Agriculture Act, 1970
- Feed (Hygiene, Sampling & Enforcement) Regulations, 2015
- GM Animal Feed Regulations, 2004
- Human Medicines Regulations, 2012
- Natural Mineral Water, Spring Water & Bottled Drinking Water Regulations 2007*

*With Devolved equivalents

Named as **authorised analyst** in/under

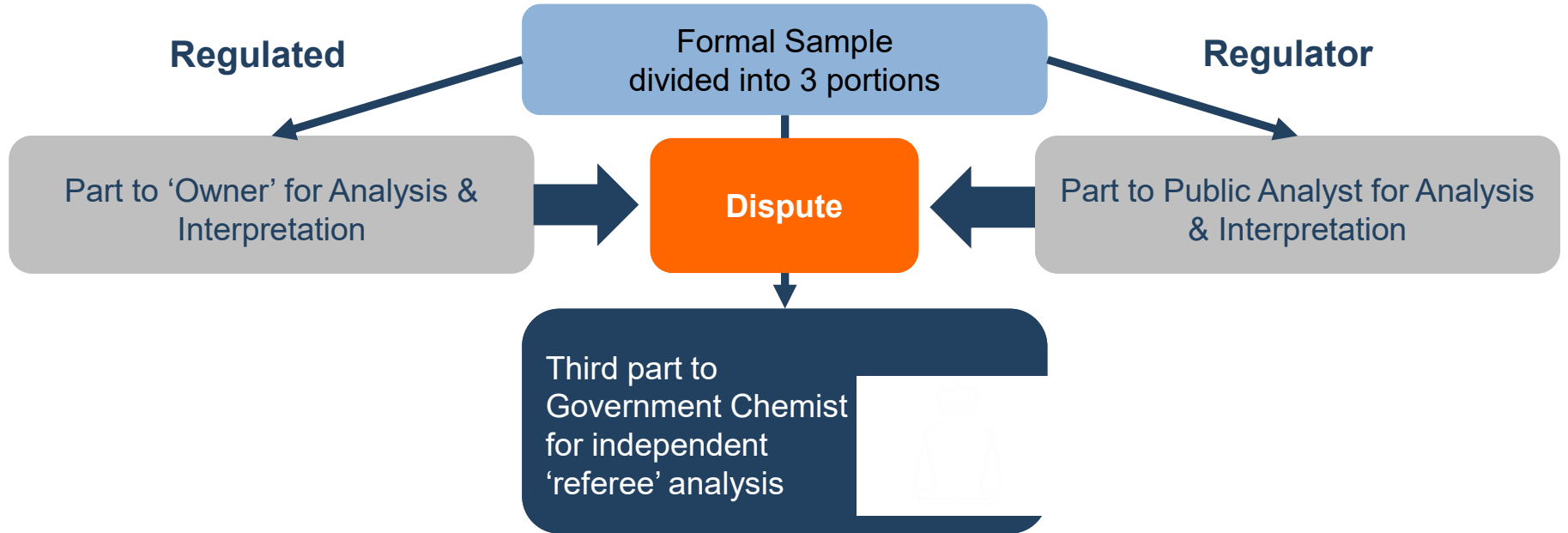
- Drinking Water Regulations, 2007
- Hydrocarbon Oil Duties Act, 1979
- Merchant Shipping Act, 1995

Referred to in

- The Poisons Act, 1972
- The Freedom of Information Act, 2000
- Government Chemist Regulations (NI), 1928
- Administrative Provisions Act (NI), 1928



Statutory referee function



Advisory role

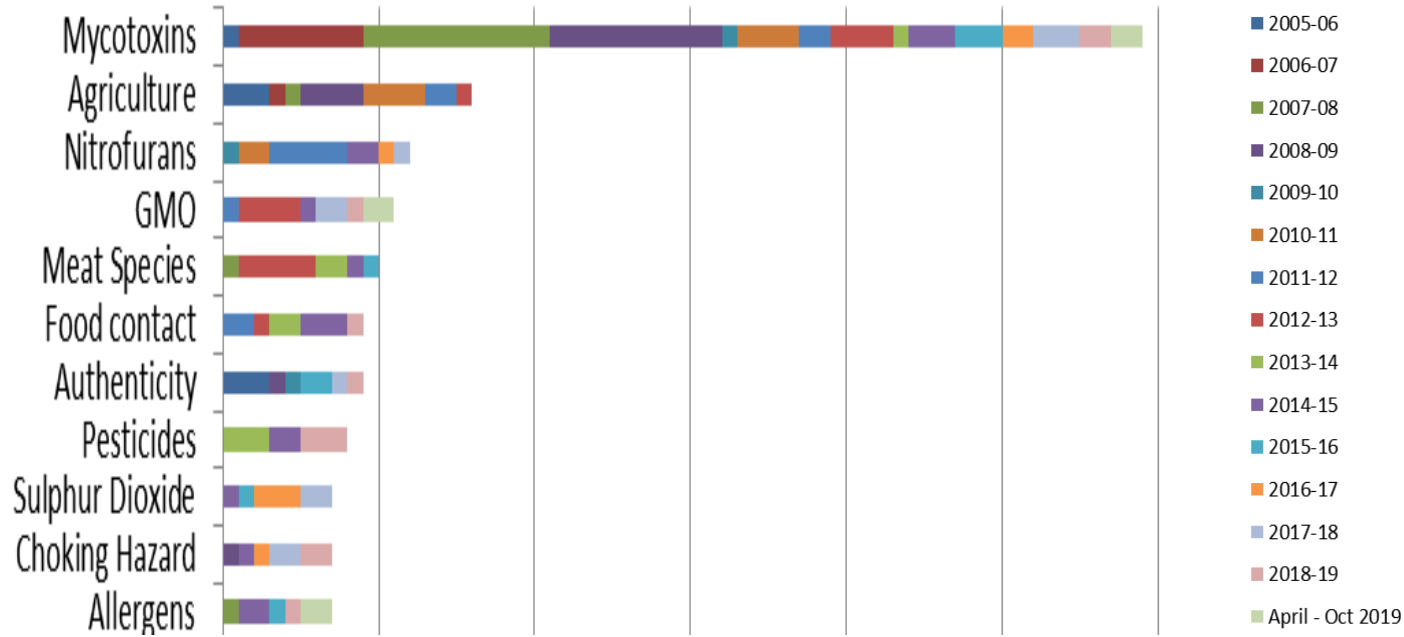


- Identification and dissemination of key food and feed legislative changes with measurement implications
- Provision of technical advice into Expert Groups and Industry Bodies
- Response to UK and EU consultations
- Provision of best practice measurement guidance
- Knowledge exchange - training and workshops
- Responding to enquiries (>75 in 2019)

“Using sound analytical science to support policy and regulation”



Overview of GC referee cases – cumulative by type




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