

Annual Report for 2021 on Official Controls performed in Great Britain under the OCR Multi-Annual National Control Plan



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Executive summary

1. Overall effectiveness of controls

This section provides a summary of the key official control data and activities for Great Britain (GB) in 2021, relating to feed and food safety, animal health and welfare (including aquatics), and plant health.

Most data in this Annual Report covers the calendar year 2021. In some reporting areas, however, data has been historically collected for accounting year periods (i.e., 1 April – 31 March). For this Report, this will include data for 1st April 2021 – 31 March 2022. Reporting periods are in line with the comparative data for previous years' Reports in each area.

2. Feed and food sectors

Food establishments where official controls are delivered by local authorities

Local Authorities (LAs) across Great Britain have been working towards delivery of their official control obligations, in line with the expectations set out in guidance and advice to LAs.

In England and Wales, an LA Recovery Plan was introduced in July 2021, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Plan covers the period from 1 July 2021 to 31 March 2023.

A limited dataset has been collected for 2021/22, with the aim of establishing a picture of delivery during the period from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022, including the on-going expectations set out in the FSA guidance for LAs.

For **food hygiene**, the percentage of interventions carried out at Category A establishments has increased by 24% in England and 30% in Wales, compared with 2020/21. The data also indicates that LAs have been carrying out interventions at Category B establishments and this shows an increase of 33% in England and 40% in Wales, compared to 2020/21.

In terms of **food standards**, the percentage of due interventions at Category A establishments showed an increase of 47% in England and 28% in Wales, compared with 2020/21. The prioritisation for onsite interventions in the LA Recovery programme was for Category A premises for food standards in England and Wales. Due interventions achieved at Category B establishments were not reported.

In Scotland, a detailed and robust recovery plan was formulated and implemented, to facilitate the return to normal delivery of Official Controls in 2021. The plan adopted a risk based approach, and prioritised inspection of high risk businesses.

Compliance is assessed by LAs under the Food Law Rating Scheme (FLRS) which combines Food Hygiene and Food Standards into a single intervention. During 2021/2022, interventions increased significantly as a result of the resumption of enforcement activity post the COVID-19 pandemic: a 54% increase from 2020/21.

Audit of approved meat establishments

During 2021/22, in England and Wales the FSA conducted routine audits of approved meat establishments. Due to the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, a programme of on site, semi-remote and remote audits was implemented. The programme focused on high risk establishments to provide reassurance to consumers, whilst optimising resources and complying with Government movement restrictions.

A total of 650 audits were completed in England and Wales during 2021/22. The findings indicated that 94.6% of slaughterhouses (with or without co-located cutting plants) and standalone cutting plants audited in 2021/22 achieved a compliance rating of generally satisfactory. This was consistent with compliance figures for 2020/21 which were 94%.

In Scotland, after having been suspended due to the pandemic, FSS veterinary audits resumed in January 2021. These audits used the Official Control Verification (OCV) methodology, with plants entering the inspection cycle in a gradual manner. 141 OCV intermediate reports were issued to FBOs in 2021/22 in Scotland. The intermediate findings indicated that 79% had a generally satisfactory or good level of compliance.

Milk production hygiene

The comparative increase of 94.5% in total inspections year-on-year was due to a significant reduction in inspections during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020/21, during which inspections were limited to high-risk premises only.

In England and Wales, 20.3% of planned inspections required follow-up checks - a slight improvement compared to 26% in 2020/21.

In Scotland, dairy hygiene inspections are carried out by LAs as part of their intervention programme. Following the reduction in inspections as a result of the pandemic, there was a three-fold increase in the number of inspections carried out in 2021/22 compared to the previous year.

Egg production hygiene

Egg inspections in England and Wales were carried out by the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) and prioritised according to risk and historical data to inform the assessment and frequency. Compliant establishments are those where no improvements were needed.

In England and Wales, compliance levels have decreased overall this year compared to last year, falling from 76% to 67%. This is partially due to the resumption of unannounced inspections, therefore ensuring a more accurate picture of non-compliance, with producers unable to rectify issues before inspection.

In Scotland, the Scottish Government's Poultry Unit carry out inspections on behalf of FSS. Compliance levels decreased in 2021/22, as indicated by an increase in the number of formal and informal enforcement actions issued compared with the previous year.

Shellfish hygiene

In England and Wales, a total of 3,387 samples were analysed in 2021. Sampling levels increased by approximately 8%, compared with the previous year. This was due to implementation of a revised risk assessment criteria.

Analysis of samples 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 three production areas.

For England and Wales, compared to 2020 there was an increase in detection of lipophilic toxins (LTs) and a decrease in paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP) toxins.

In Scotland, 5,829 samples were analysed in 2021/22 - an increase of 4% on the previous year. Scotland saw an increase in samples exceeding the maximum permitted levels in paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP) and lipophilic toxins (LTs) compared to 2020/21 levels, which resulted in a total of 55 closures.

Feed establishments

In England and Wales during 2020/21¹, there was a 44.5% decrease in the number of hygiene inspections undertaken. The numbers of revisits and sampling visits dropped by 59.6% and 52.4%, respectively. The number of feed business operators given advice also fell by 38.3%. These changes reflect the restrictions placed on activity as a result of the

¹ Feed figures are reported one year in arrears: the Annual Report presents 2020/21 statistics.

national lockdown to limit the spread of COVID-19, and the impact of the pandemic on LA resources.

The number of formal actions to address serious breaches of feed requirements increased by 6.7%, from 59 formal actions in 2019/20 to 63 in 2020/21, due to improved targeting of inspection activity.

In Scotland, no onsite feed inspections or sampling activities were carried out in 2020/21, due to the pandemic. A new feed delivery model was implemented during 2021/22.

Import controls

During 2021, 1,234 consignments imported to GB were tested under retained EU safeguard measures, compared to 1,279 in 2020. Official controls were applied on products listed under the relevant retained regulations, which included 100% documentary checks and the prescribed risk-based levels for identity and physical checks, including sampling and analysis.

A total of 14 non-compliances were identified compared to 11 in 2020. The difference is marginal compared to previous years. There were no significant changes to the types of consignments checked for imported high-risk food and feed.

3. Animal health, animal welfare, aquatic and plant health sectors

Animal health

Exotic disease

In 2021, 255 reports of suspected cases were investigated. There were 75 confirmed infected premises of HPAI in poultry across GB, three cases of European Bat Lyssavirus reported in England, and two cases of Contagious Equine Metritis (CEM). This is a marked increase in cases of HPAI compared to 2020, where there were 17 confirmed infected premises. The risk of incursion of HPAI into GB is linked to prevalence of virus presence in wild birds and seasonal bird migration.

Zoonoses

In 2021, the levels of regulated Salmonella serovars in chickens and turkeys in Great Britain remained below EU designated targets. A total of 2,484 poultry flocks were subject to routine annual official Salmonella National Control Programme sampling.

Animal welfare

On-farm welfare

In 2021, the total number of visits to individual farms and enterprises increased substantially compared with 2020 levels, which were impacted by regulations arising from the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020/21.

The Animal Welfare Committee published two reports on animal welfare issues in 2021:

- [Advice on methods for killing piglets on farm](#)
- [Opinion on the welfare of cattle kept in different production systems](#)

Meat chicken directive

In 2021, 901,874,003 chickens were inspected in the UK - a 5% decrease on 2020 levels, possibly reflecting some reduced levels in available staffing across the sector supply chain.

A total of 4,570 trigger reports (at batch level for Northern Ireland and flock level for Great Britain) were generated in the UK and sent to producers - a 38% increase from 2020 levels. Inspection visits following trigger reports increased to 40 visits up from 27 visits the previous year. Non-compliance with legislation increased from 10 farms in 2020 to 14 farms in 2021: however, although actual non-compliance numbers increased, the proportion of farms that were non-compliant decreased (35% in 2021 compared to 37% in 2020).

Animal welfare during transport

In Great Britain in 2021, 1,159 journey logs were submitted for validation and 1,092 were approved - a 15% decrease compared to 1,354 submitted and 1,331 approved in 2020. This reflected legislative changes to approved journey log requirements, following GB's exit from the EU at the end of 2020.

Bee health

A total of 34,684 unique colonies in 5,433 apiaries were inspected in England and Wales in 2021 - broadly in line with inspections undertaken in previous years.

In Scotland, there was an increase in inspections from 8,428 unique colonies inspected in 2020 to 12,648 in 2021, and a small increase in the number of apiaries inspected in 2021 (463 apiaries inspected versus the 412 inspected in 2020).

Aquatic animal health

In England and Wales, the compliance and aquatic animal health (AAH) surveillance inspection programme reverted to 2020's pre-COVID frequency, of a minimum annual

inspection on every Aquaculture Production Business (APB). This fulfilled the statutory requirements for AAH surveillance and APB official controls. The routine programme of inspections was successfully completed for England and Wales.

In Scotland, COVID restrictions continued to have a significant impact upon the delivery of AAH surveillance during 2021, reflected in a lower level of routine surveillance compared to the pre-2020 years. Despite the restrictions, emergency responses to serious listed diseases were maintained and delivered. Once re-established, routine surveillance was targeted towards high and medium risk aquaculture sites, supplemented with passive surveillance initiatives.

Plant health

In 2021, targets for the inspection of the majority of [controlled plant health](#) material imported into England and Wales from countries other than the EU were met. Prohibited material imported or held under scientific licence was subject to the required level of inspection.

When including EU material, 45% of required mandatory inspections were completed at designated inspection sites (PoDs or BCPs). If EU material is excluded from the data, a 99% inspection rate was achieved. The target was not met for inspecting other low risk controlled material (55% of material inspected against the required 65% target). The target of completing 100% of document and identity checks was also not met in 2021, with 84% of the checks achieved.

Delivery capacity was affected by:

- working under ongoing COVID-19 restrictions
- wider staff resource pressures from delivery of GB's withdrawal from the European Union (e.g., qualified staff needing to train new inspectors); and
- implementation of the new GB plant health regime.

In keeping with the previous years' pattern of growing numbers of controlled consignments requiring inspection, 2021 saw a 42% increase in the number of consignments declared and requiring control, compared to 2020. The total number of controlled and declared consignments in 2021 was 245,802, compared to 143,753 in 2020.

In 2021, the Forestry Commission (FC) standard target of inspecting 95% of imports of wood and wood products on the day of notification of landing (or next working day) was met. FC received additional Defra funding, enabling it to recruit additional staff in key areas, and thus increase its border checks and inland activity, including surveillance and inspections.

4. Trend analysis of non-compliance

Statement of overall trends in compliance

Trend analysis for 2021 has proved challenging, due to two unique and significant external factors simultaneously affecting compliance delivery, assessment, and enforcement in both positive and adverse ways, across all SPS sectors in GB, in 2020 and 2021. These are:

- the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and its after-effects; and
- Great Britain exiting the European Union on 31 December 2020, and the regulatory, policy and operational impacts up to and following our exit.

Year-on-year increases in enforcement actions were due to a combination of increased numbers of inspections, improved targeted inspections, and increases in data collection, compared to the more restricted activities that could be delivered under COVID restrictions in 2020. Increased enforcement activities in 2021 may not therefore reflect decreased compliance. A more meaningful comparison would either be to 2019 and prior year data, or to compare 2021 to 2022 outcomes in due course.

In areas where enforcement actions decreased, this appears to reflect fluctuating human resources available for inspection and assessment work. Staff shortfalls were driven by the need to re-prioritise work in some areas following the pandemic, concentrating limited staff resources on higher risk compliance commodities, functions and locations.

Resource shortages were also created by the new post-Exit control compliance requirements, in particular at the GB border and in more rigorous plant health controls. In areas where enforcement actions were reduced, there has been no evidence that this affected levels of compliance overall: standards have continued to be maintained in GB, and to meet expectations in all sectors over this anomalous period of time.

5. Enforcement action taken in cases of non-compliance

Statistics on enforcement and enforcement trends

Food establishment hygiene and standards

As noted above, collection of enforcement data in England and Wales during 2020/21 was limited due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. For the 2020/21 Local Authority return, a bespoke application was made available to LAs, allowing them to capture a more limited range of data than in previous years, providing a less detailed but still informative picture of delivery against FSA expectations during the pandemic.

In England and Wales respectively, there was a decrease of 23% and 43% in food establishments subject to formal food hygiene enforcement actions, compared to

2019/20². Written warnings for establishments in England and Wales similarly decreased, by 27% and 54% respectively.³ This decrease reflects the fall in interventions carried out during the post-COVID recovery period.

In 2021/22, in England and Wales, food standards formal enforcement actions decreased compared to 2019/20 - from 395 in 2019/20, to 393 in 2021/22 (England), and 56 in 2019/20 to 14 in 2021/22. These reduced figures reflected the need for Trading Standards officers at LAs in both England and Wales to be diverted from their normal duties to assist with the COVID-19 response (in Wales, the impact on Trading Standards staff was higher due to the specific COVID-related work requirements set by that administration).

The data also showed a decrease in written warnings issued, with a fall of 20% and 22% in England and Wales respectively, compared with 2019/20. This reflects the all in interventions carried out overall during the pandemic and the recovery period.

In Scotland, interventions during 2021/2022 increased by 54% following the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in an increase in the number of enforcement actions to a total of 6,606, including 6,326 written warnings, and 237 Hygiene Improvement Notices and Remedial Action Notices.

Meat establishment hygiene

Ongoing veterinary staff resource shortages in England and Wales required the FSA to continue the contingency planning approach established during the pandemic. In 2020/21, the FSA implemented a risk based approach, concentrating on high-risk meat establishments with a previous history of non-compliance, and/or those on which intelligence had been received by FSA.

There were 1,439 instances of Written Advice issued across 314 premises, equating to approximately 36% of all meat establishments. This was a 3.2% increase compared with 1,383 in 2020/21.

A total of 33 Hygiene Improvement Notices (HINs) were issued across 22 meat establishments, equating to approximately 2.5% of all meat establishments. This was a 48.5% reduction compared with 49 in 2020/21.

There were 69 referrals for investigation made across 26 meat establishments , approximately 3% of all meat establishments. This was a 53.6% reduction compared to 106 in 2020/21.

² Due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, data on enforcement actions carried out during 2020/21 were not collected in England and Wales. However, LAs were asked to report this information in 2021/22. We have therefore used 2019/20 data as a baseline for comparisons.

³ The food hygiene data for 2019/20 was based on 98% of expected returns.

While formal enforcement actions reduced across England and Wales, the contingency approach did not affect the FSA's full-time presence in slaughterhouses. This ensured continued operation, with animal welfare standards being supervised and the critical maintenance of an uninterrupted food supply in GB.

In Scotland the level of formal enforcement remains lower than previous years, due to the resumption of audits and inspections in the last quarter of 2021, and the implementation of the Official Control Verification methodology, involving a more continuous monitoring of compliance.

Milk production hygiene

During 2021/22, the number of enforcement actions in England and Wales more than doubled compared to the previous year, which could indicate a decrease in compliance levels. However, this data must be weighed against the significantly lower inspection levels during the pandemic in 2020/21, generating a very large comparative increase in inspections over the two reporting periods.

Inspection levels rose by 94.5% in 2021/22 compared to 2020/21. The significant increase in volumes of inspections has resulted in a corresponding increase in enforcement action – most of which (94%) was verbal advice or a guidance letter, which is classed as *informal action*.

In Scotland, the increase in inspections of dairy production holdings has resulted in an increase in the numbers of verbal and written advice actions issued in 2021/22. No formal notices were issued.

Fish inspection

In 2021/22 the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) carried out 1,441 inspections of fishing vessels landing in port, and 1,091 inspections of premises where first sale fish was handled. A further 340 inspections of transportation of first sale fish were undertaken, as well as 581 inspections of fishing vessels operating at sea. Any infringements were progressed in line with the MMO's published Compliance and Enforcement Strategy. Checks were made during all inspections of compliance with the Fisheries Control Regulation.

Feed establishments

In England and Wales, the number of formal actions to address serious breaches of feed requirements increased slightly - from 59 formal actions in 2019/20 to 63 in 2020/21. This increase is due to improved targeting of inspection activity, resulting in the identification of a higher volume of formal actions required.

4. National audit systems

FSA and FSS audit of local authorities

In 2021/22, no programmed audits or follow up audits took place in England and Wales, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It has therefore not been possible to draw any conclusions in respect of LA compliance in this year.

In Scotland, three capacity and capability audits of LAs were conducted in 2021/22 – remotely, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. All three resulted in recommendations and action plans. Two were carried out as a result of performance concerns.

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

In Great Britain, official controls delivery audits were undertaken by various competent authorities, covering Defra and its agencies, the Scottish and Welsh Governments, FSA and FSS.

FSA

An audit of FSA Food Chain Information and Post Mortem Inspection was conducted and was given a 'limited' assurance opinion. This highlighted the need for the FSA to strengthen arrangements in place for collecting and communicating approved establishment inspection results to farmers. Work is currently being undertaken to address the recommendations.

FSS

Four internal audits took place in 2021/22. Business Agreements, Shellfish sampling, and FBO audits all received a Reasonable Assurance opinion. An audit of OV and MHI training received a Limited Assurance opinion. Action has been taken to address the recommendations.

APHA

APHA conducted risk-based internal audits on feed and food, laboratories, operational systems, processes and procedures, as part of annual programmes agreed with the respective audit committees. Areas covered included (but were not limited to):

- Salmonella national control programme routine official sampling of broilers (OFFC)
- Plant passporting system (OFFC)
- Internal Control and Quality Assurance (ICQA)
- Movement Assistance Scheme
- Plant and Bee incident and outbreak response (OFFC)

- Third country imports – review of Balai arrangements (OFFC)
- Review process for the commission and Service level agreements/MOUs
- Key Performance Indicators (aligned to single departmental plan for Defra)
- ISO and other independent assurance reviews
- Importation arrangements including border arrangements and Point of Destination (POD) and risk management.

In 2021, APHA conducted a significantly high volume of both external audits and internal quality reviews. The results of these audits are appropriately escalated, with APHA bringing all the reports into one central location and all actions into one database for monitoring.

APHA also leads and delivers a strong follow-up process, for which the rate of implementation and evidence provided in 2021 was satisfactory. Only two actions remain from the previous year. Both rely on replacing the key operational system, eDomero (to note: Government Digital, Data and Technology Services are responsible for this).

Some improvements were highlighted to enhance the Veterinary Medicines control framework, to reduce the error rate and drive efficiency.

COVID-19 had potential for a significant impact on Bovine Tuberculosis (bTB) testing and inspections. Resources were reallocated using a risk-based approach. A review concluded that quality and compliance were not compromised by this measure.

5. Resources

Methodologies for FTE calculations have been changed in 2021 in many key reporting areas, to exclude administrative and policy staff from headcounts, and to report on those staff specifically resourced to deliver front-line operational controls at the GB borders and all locations inland. APHA data was prepared on the same basis in 2020 and 2021, showing an increase of c. 177 FTE staff in 2021.

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

GB continued its efforts to improve the quality and delivery of official controls. A number of initiatives were undertaken in 2021/22, including:

- Enhanced training programmes delivered, including webinars, eLearning, face to face workshops and seminars
- Incident management related activities including exercises, drills, and training, as well as the development of GB standard operating procedures, including lessons learnt from the COVID-19 pandemic
- Ongoing engagement with GB wide working groups to foster closer links, and sharing of best practice on official control delivery

- Implementation of a new feed delivery model in Scotland, resulting in FSS becoming the sole competent authority, working in partnership with local authorities by delegation
- Introduction of a new methodology (Official Control Verification) for auditing food businesses in Scotland, by applying a more structured and risk-based process, leading to significant improvements in compliance levels.
- Following revisions to the Food Law Code of Practice (FLCoP) in England, FSA Wales published an updated version of the Food Law Code of Practice and associated Food Law Practice Guidance in July 2021

In addition to ongoing support, the following measures were taken to help improve the performance of business operators in 2021/22:

- The FSA and FSS produced a range of resources for food businesses and held webinars to provide guidance on the new legislative requirements for the labelling of 'prepacked for direct sale' (PPDS) food, which came into effect from 1 October 2021. These new requirements specify that PPDS food must be labelled with a full ingredient list, with the allergens emphasised in GB.
- ongoing operation of the Food Hygiene Ratings Scheme (FHRS) to encourage businesses to improve and maintain hygiene standards.

Chapter 1 - Introduction and scope of the report

- 1.1 Domestic legislation on official controls requires Great Britain to have in place a Multi-Annual National Control Plan (MANCP) demonstrating that it has effective official control systems for monitoring compliance with and enforcement of feed and food law, animal health and welfare rules, and plant health law.
- 1.2 From 2020, Great Britain and Northern Ireland have been required to publish their own annual reports on implementation of the MANCP for their respective countries. **This document is Great Britain's Annual Report for 2021.**
- 1.3 The MANCP and the associated annual reports for GB are produced by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) with contributions from:
- Chemicals Regulation Division of the Health and Safety Executive (HSE)
 - Defra's Agencies, principally the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA)
 - Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC)
 - Food Standards Agency (FSA)
 - Food Standards Scotland (FSS)
 - Scottish Government Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate (SG ARE)
 - Welsh Government Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs (WG EERA)
- 1.4 This 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

- 1.5 The current MANCP (last updated 2019) and UK Annual Reports up to 2019 are available on [the FSA website](#). The 2020 Annual Report, and information on planning for the next update of the MANCP, can be obtained on request from the OCR Policy Team in Defra, email mancp@defra.gov.uk

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 2021/22 compared with 2020/21.

Official controls in the food and feed sectors

- 2.2 The FSA produced quarterly resource and performance reports for 2021/22. These were presented to the FSA Board and tracked the FSA's progress against corporate objectives. [The Quarter 4 2021/22 update](#) gives the position at the end of 2021.
- 2.3 Food Standards Scotland (FSS) undertook a critical review of the information provided in the previous Outcomes Reports presented to the FSS Board, and developed a revised suite of Strategic Performance Indicators, with the aim to present the revised data to the Board during the first Board Meeting in the following financial year. More information is available here - [FSS Board Meetings](#).

UK local authority food law enforcement

- 2.4 The FSA's expectations were adjusted during 2020, in recognition of the challenges LAs in England and Wales were facing in delivering their statutory food functions whilst also having to prioritise COVID-19 related duties. An LA Recovery Plan was implemented in July 2021.
- 2.5 LAs in England and Wales were expected to re-start the delivery system in line with the Food Law Code of Practice (FLCoP) for new and higher-risk food establishments. Some flexibility was allowed for lower-risk establishments. This was implemented alongside other ongoing work for LAs including, surveillance, enforcement and urgent reactive work.
- 2.6 For the 2021/22 LA return, a bespoke return was completed by LAs to capture a limited range of data. This provided a picture of delivery against the FSA's expectations of LAs during the COVID-19 pandemic and progress with implementation of the LA Recovery Plan. The analysis is based on 97% and 96% of the expected food hygiene and food standards returns respectively.
- 2.7 The expectation within the Recovery Plan was that all Category A establishments for food hygiene should have received an onsite intervention by 31 March 2022 and thereafter be back in the system for interventions in accordance with the FLCoP. The timeline for achieving interventions at Category B for food hygiene establishments and Category A for food standards establishments is 30 June 2022.
- 2.8 Data on the percentage of interventions achieved at these establishments was collected in 2021/22. LAs were only required to report the numbers achieved at

lower risk establishments. This was to provide an indication of whether they were able to deliver at a faster pace than the Recovery Plan minimum expectations.

Interventions achieved

Food hygiene

2.9 The total percentage of due interventions achieved at Category A and B establishments for food hygiene in England and Wales are set out below.

Percentage of due interventions achieved at higher risk establishments in England and Wales

	2021/22		2020/21		2019/20	
	% A	% B	% A	% B	% A	% B
England	96%	81%	72%	48%	99%	96%
Wales	97%	74%	67%	34%	100%	99%

2.10 The percentage of interventions carried out at Category A establishments in England and Wales has increased to 96% and 97% respectively. This shows an increase of 24% in England and 30% in Wales when compared to 2020/21.

2.11 The 2021/22 data also indicates that LAs in England and Wales have achieved 81% and 74% of the food hygiene interventions respectively. These are due to be completed by the end of June 2022. This shows an increase of 33% in England and 40% in Wales when compared to 2020/21.

Food standards

2.12 The total percentage of due interventions achieved at Category A establishments for food standards in England and Wales are given in the table below. In England and Wales, the percentage of achieved interventions has increased to 75% and 67% respectively. This shows an increase of 47% in England and 28% in Wales when compared to 2020/21.

Percentage of food standards due interventions achieved at higher risk establishments in England and Wales

	2021/22		2020/21		2019/20	
	% A	% B ⁴	% A	% B	% A	% B
England	75%	-	28%	17%	76%	30%
Wales	67%	-	39%	16%	91%	60%

⁴ The prioritisation for onsite interventions in the LA Recovery Plan was for Category A premises for food standards in England and Wales. Due interventions achieved at Category B establishments were not reported

Enforcement actions

- 2.13 Due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, data on enforcement actions carried out during 2020/21 were not collected in England and Wales. However, LAs were asked to report this information in 2021/22. We have therefore used 2019/20 data as a baseline for comparisons.

Food Hygiene

- 2.14 The number of establishments subject to formal enforcement actions and written warnings in England and Wales are given in the table below.

Number of establishments subject to food hygiene enforcement actions in England and Wales

	2021/22		2019/20	
	Formal enforcement actions	Written warnings	Formal enforcement actions	Written warnings
England	3,274	96,997	4,278	132,081
Wales	253	5,756	442	12,454

- 2.15 In England and Wales, food establishments subject to formal food hygiene enforcement actions decreased by 23% and 43%, compared to 2019/20.
- 2.16 There was also a 27% and 54% decrease in establishments subject to written warnings in England and Wales respectively, compared with 2019/20 levels.⁵ This reflects the fall in interventions carried out during the recovery period.

Food Standards

- 2.17 The number of establishments subject to formal enforcement actions and written warnings in England and Wales are given in the table below.

Number of establishments subject to food standards enforcement actions in England and Wales

	2021/22		2019/20	
	Formal enforcement actions	Written warnings	Formal enforcement actions	Written warnings
England	393	16,075	395	20,186
Wales	14	2,105	56	2,689

⁵ The food hygiene data for 2019/20 was based on 98% of expected returns.

- 2.18 In England and Wales in 2021/22, there was a decrease in food standards formal enforcement actions compared to 2019/20. In England, formal enforcement actions dropped from 395 in 2019/20 to 393 in 2021/22. In Wales, they dropped from 56 in 2019/20 to 14 in 2021/22.
- 2.19 During 2021/22, as mentioned previously, Trading Standards officers at LAs in both England and Wales were diverted from their normal duties to assist with the COVID-19 response. Pandemic responses differed slightly across GB, with each country implementing varying levels of restrictions, which in turn also affected what was required of Trading Standards officers at LAs.
- 2.20 In Wales, LA resources were diverted for a longer period of time due to differing restrictions, which were being enforced by Trading Standards officers. As at 1 October 2021, 68% of Trading Standards officers in Wales had returned to their normal duties, whilst 88% of officers in England had resumed their normal duties. The return to food standards inspections in Wales has therefore been more gradual, which explains the more marked decrease in formal enforcement actions recorded in Wales.
- 2.21 Written warnings also decreased by 20% and 22% in England and Wales respectively, when compared with 2019/20. This reflects the fall in interventions carried out overall during the pandemic and the recovery period.
- 2.22 In Scotland during 2021/2022, interventions increased significantly as a result of the resumption of enforcement activity following the COVID-19 pandemic. A total of 16,208 interventions were completed - a 54% increase from 2020/21. In addition, 6,606 enforcement actions were delivered, including 6,326 written warnings, and 237 Hygiene Improvement Notices (HINs) and Remedial Action Notices (RANs).
- 2.23 Following the drop in interventions due to the pandemic, a Local Authority Recovery Plan was produced for Scotland. The plan adopts a risk based approach and prioritises inspection of high risk businesses.
- 2.24 Similar to the previous year, the data gathered does not include Covid 19 interventions with food establishments that resulted in actions related to food law. As a result, the figures will be underestimates of the actual level of activity.
- 2.25 Within Scotland, compliance is assessed by Local Authorities, under the Food Law Rating Scheme (FLRS). This is a relatively new risk rating scheme which has been gradually implemented since 2018. The Scheme combines Food Hygiene and Food Standards into a combined intervention, with businesses' risk rated as such. This is different from the other two nations, where food hygiene and food standards are separate. The Scottish data is therefore not directly comparable with that of the other two GB nations.

2.26 While the rating schemes used to assess business compliance in Scotland differ from those used in England and Wales, both schemes relate to the assessment of an establishment's adherence to food law during an inspection.

Meat hygiene

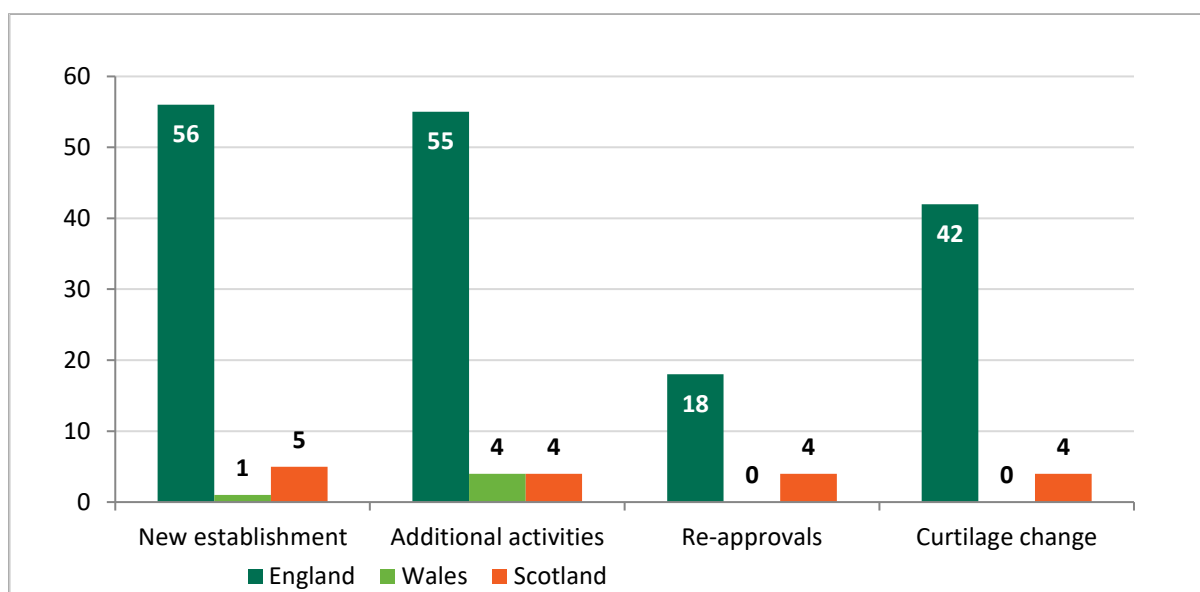
2.27 Throughout 2021/22, the FSA delivered official controls in 904 approved meat establishments across England and Wales. As at 31 March 2022, there were 873⁶ approved meat establishments. This included 239 slaughterhouses, 46 game handling establishments, and 792 cutting plants (including market stalls).

2.28 In 2021/22, FSS delivered official controls in 98⁷ approved meat establishments in Scotland. This included 25 slaughterhouses, 13 game handling establishments and 60 cutting plants including market stalls.

Approval of new meat establishments

2.29 In 2021/22, GB received 193 applications for approval or approval related activities - 193 applications were also received in 2020/21. The chart below shows a breakdown of approval applications received by type and region.

Figure 1 - Chart showing number of approval applications received in GB in 2021/22



⁶ An establishment may be approved for more than one activity.

⁷ Approved establishments may carry out more than one function.

Refusals

- 2.30 In England & Wales, 17 advisory visits were made in the 2021/22 period, compared to 19 in 2020/21. In Scotland, three advisory visits took place in 2021/2022.
- 2.31 Advisory visits aim to help FBOs identify animal welfare and hygiene requirements which may apply to their proposed activities. In April 2019, FSA introduced charging for advisory visits, to reduce the need for multiple approval re-visits by the FSA. FBOs who had not requested and paid for an advisory visit and did not meet the requirements for approval, were refused approval.
- 2.32 In England and Wales, nine FBOs were refused approval in 2021/22 compared to seven in 2020/21. In Scotland, no establishment was refused approval and therefore no re-submission of applications for approval were made.

Food business operator audits in meat establishments

- 2.33 During 2021/22, in England and Wales the FSA conducted routine audits of approved meat establishments. Due to the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, a programme of on site, semi-remote and remote audits were implemented. The programme focused on high risk establishments to provide reassurance to consumers, whilst optimising use of resources and complying with Government movement restrictions during the pandemic.
- 2.34 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.
- 2.35 In April 2020, FSS suspended veterinary audits due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Audits resumed in January 2021, using the OCV methodology, with plants entering the inspection cycle (which is a set period of 12 months) in a gradual manner, 7-8 plants every month.
- 2.36 The inspection cycle consists of several inspections/interventions, announced and unannounced, in every approved establishment, with each such intervention triggering a written report and an Intermediate audit outcome. Following completion of the 12 months inspection cycle, plants receive a final audit. By January 2022, 74 plants entered into the 2021/2022 cycle. The remaining plants are due to enter the inspection cycle in 2022/23.
- 2.37 The charts and tables below provide a breakdown of all approved meat establishments⁸ in England and Wales, as recorded at 31 March 2022. These are

⁸ Figures exclude newly conditionally approved meat establishments and those not operating long term with no score available as at 31 March 2022

summarised by audit outcome following the most recent full FBO audit, irrespective of the year in which the audit was completed. A separate breakdown is also provided for FSS, who operate a slightly different scheme.

Figure 2 - Chart showing audit outcomes in England and Wales for 2021/22 by percentage for slaughterhouses with or without co-located cutting plants

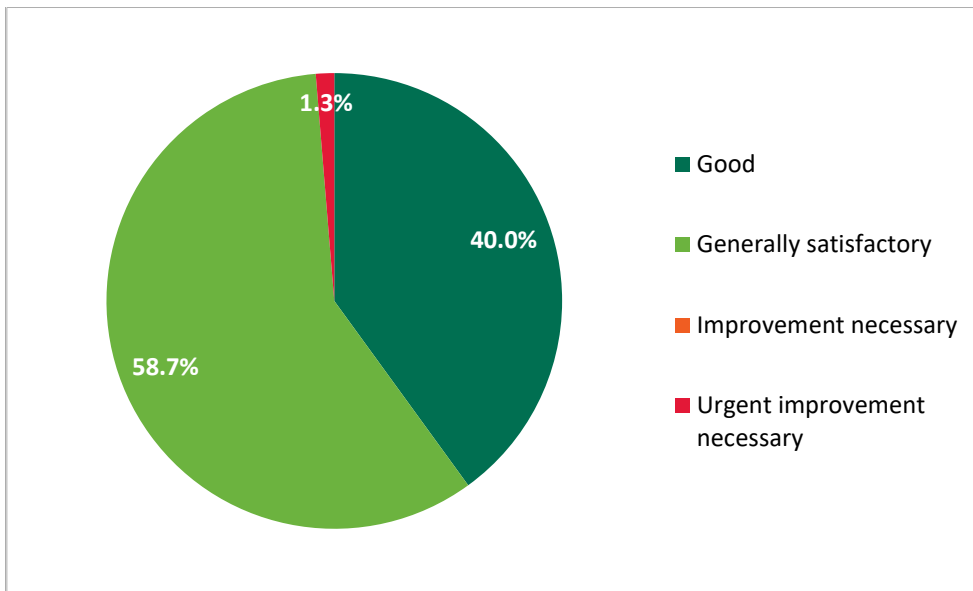


Figure 3 - Chart showing audit outcomes in England and Wales for 2021/22 by percentage for standalone cutting plants (including market stalls)

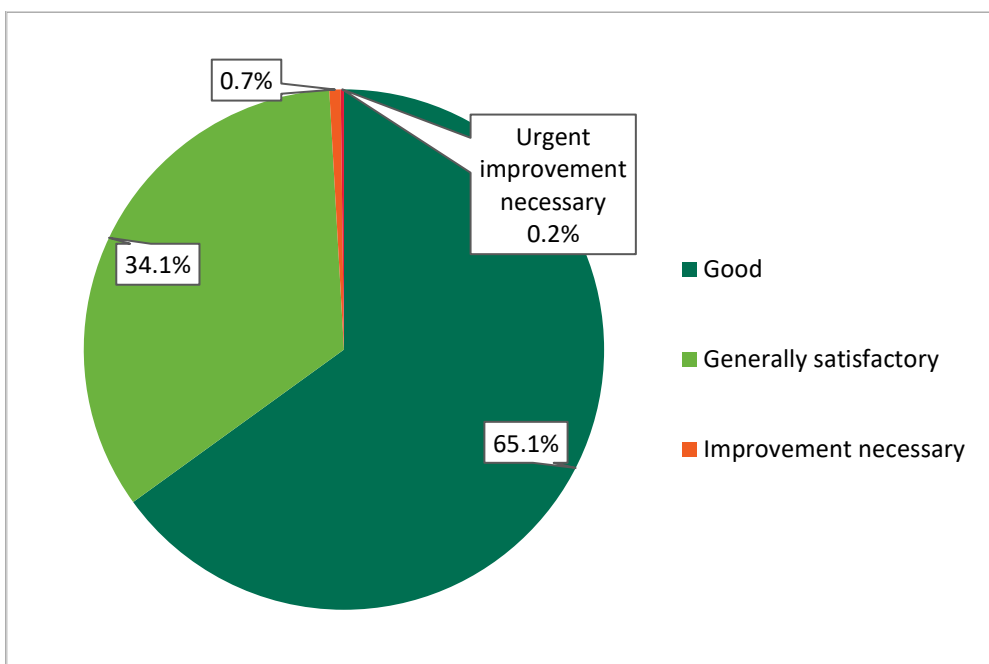


Figure 4 - Chart showing the number of audits completed in England and Wales, by audit outcome during 2021/22

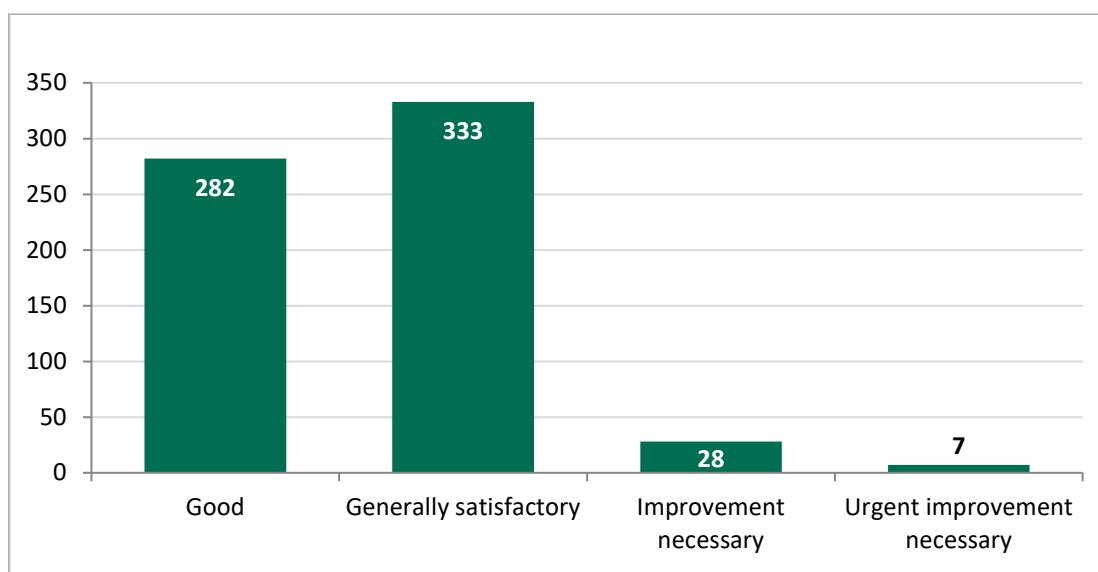
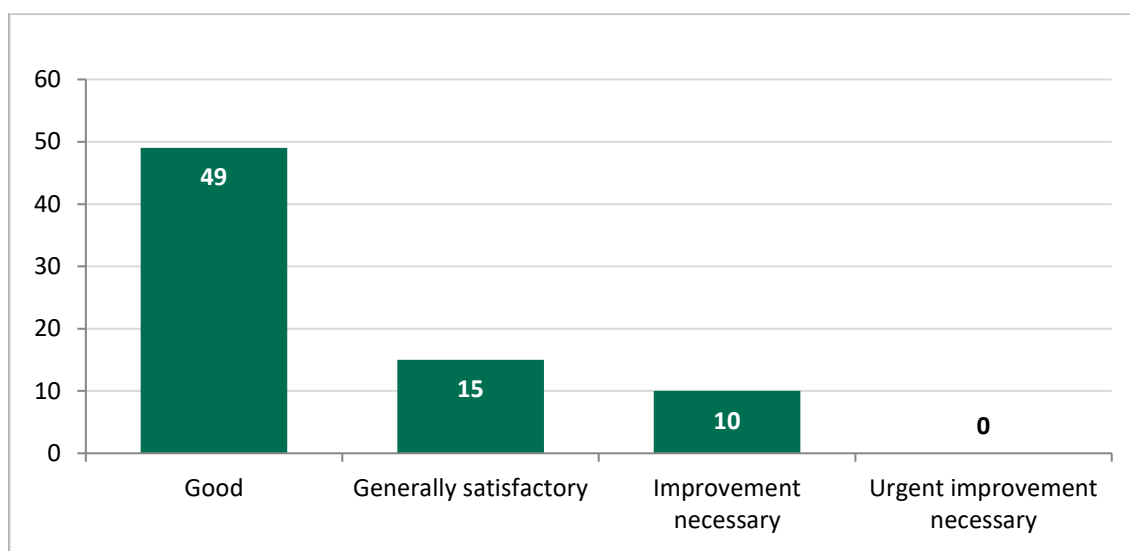


Figure 5 - Chart showing the number of audits completed in Scotland, by audit outcome during 2021/22



- 2.38 A total of 650 audits were completed in England and Wales during 2021/22. The findings indicated that 94.6% of slaughterhouses (with or without co-located cutting plants) and standalone cutting plants audited in 2021/22 achieved a compliance rating of generally satisfactory or good. This is broadly in line with compliance figures for 2020/21, which were 94%.
- 2.39 The programme of audits was disrupted in the earlier months of the pandemic, and a number were postponed during 2020. Those audits deferred due to the pandemic were completed during 2021/22. As at 31 March 2022, there were no deferred audits outstanding.

- 2.40 In Scotland, 141 OCV intermediate reports were issued to FBOs in 2021/22. The intermediate findings indicated that 79% of these FBOs had a generally satisfactory or good level of compliance.
- 2.41 The GB 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 plant, 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 audit inspection cycle is now 12 months for any type of plant.

Urgent improvement necessary

- 2.42 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.
- 2.43 In England and Wales in 2021/22, six slaughterhouses with or without co-located cutting plant, and one standalone cutting plant, received an audit outcome of 'urgent improvement necessary'. The [intervention protocol](#) seeks improvements through education, advice and enforcement action for meat establishments requiring urgent improvement.
- 2.44 In Scotland in 2021/22, two plants received an intermediate audit outcome of "urgent improvement necessary"; however, both establishments have improved compliance, and at the following intervention moved into "improvement necessary" outcome.

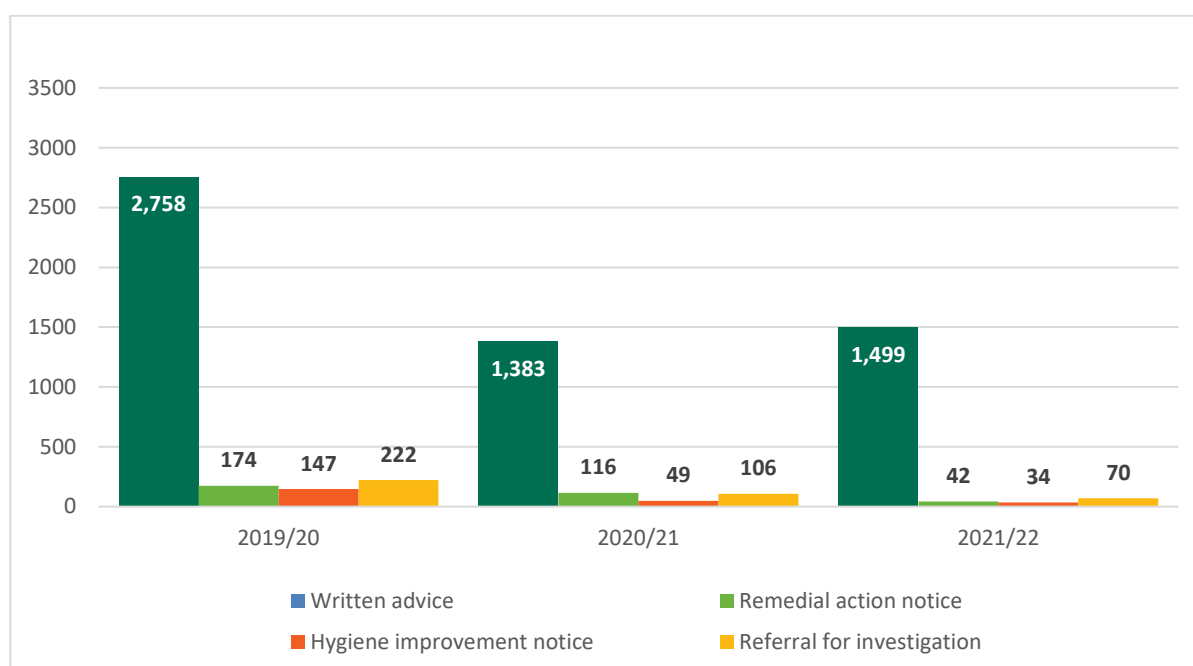
Unannounced inspections in cutting plants

- 2.45 During 2021/22, 813 unannounced inspections were completed in England and Wales, compared to 259 during 2020/21. This represents a significant increase following the disruption to site visits in the early stages of the pandemic. A recovery plan was implemented which brought the inspection regime broadly back in line with BAU levels by the end of the financial year 2021/22.
- 2.46 In Scotland, FSS conducts "classic" (routine annual inspections carried out in all standalone Cutting Plants) and "targeted" (specific factor identified or suspected at a plant) unannounced inspections (UAls). During 2021/22, a total number of 43 classic UAls and 17 targeted UAls were completed - all as part of the audit process.

Enforcement in meat establishments

- 2.47 The chart below shows the numbers and types of enforcement action taken by the FSA and FSS in meat establishments, over the last three years.

Figure 6 - Chart showing number of enforcement actions in GB meat establishments from 2019/20 – 2021/22



2.48 In England and Wales there were 1,429 instances of Written Advice issued across 314 meat establishments, equating to approximately 36% of all meat establishments. This was a 3.2% increase compared with 1,383 in 2020/21. In Scotland, there were 70 instances of Written Advice issued, a reduction from the 91 issued in 2020/21.

2.49 In England and Wales, a total of 42 Remedial Action Notices (RANs) were issued across 33 meat establishments - equating to approximately 3.8% of all meat establishments. This was a 63.8% reduction, compared with 116 RANs issued in 2020/2021. In Scotland, no RANs were issued - a decrease from the seven in 2020/21.

2.50 A total of 33 Hygiene Improvement Notices (HINs) were issued across 22 meat establishments, equating to approximately 2.5% of all meat establishments. This was a 48.5% reduction compared with 49 in 2020/21. In Scotland, one HIN was issued, an increase from none in 2020/21.

2.51 There were 69 Referrals for Investigation made across 26 meat establishments, approximately 3% of all meat establishments. This was a 53.6% reduction compared to 106 in 2019/20. In Scotland, one Referral for Investigation was made (as in 2020/21).

2.52 While formal enforcement actions reduced across England and Wales, the contingency approach did not affect the FSA's full-time presence in slaughterhouses. This ensured continued operation, with animal welfare standards being supervised and an uninterrupted food supply maintained.

- 2.53 In Scotland, the level of formal enforcement remains lower than previous years. This is likely to be a consequence of the resumption of the Official Audit Programme and associated Unannounced Inspections in January 2021, together with the implementation of the Official Control Verification methodology, which involves a more continuous monitoring of compliance.

Specified Risk Material (SRM) controls

- 2.54 In England and Wales in 2021/22, 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 all authorised slaughterhouses. No SRM breaches were reported.
- 2.55 In Scotland in 2021/22, 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. Routine verification and audit of the FBO processes were reinstated after COVID-19 pandemic restrictions were lifted.

Milk production hygiene

- 2.56 The number of GB milk production holdings as of 31 March 2022 was 9,091, as shown in the table below, which also sets out the number of primary and secondary inspections carried out in 2021/22.
- 2.57 In England and Wales, 20.3% of visits required follow-up checks - a slight decline compared to 26% in 2020/21. Follow-up inspections were conducted via a physical visit by an FSA inspector, or remotely using digital evidence to demonstrate compliance. The majority of non-compliances were resolved within agreed timescales, with any non-compliances being escalated through the established enforcement hierarchy.

Milk production holdings 2021/22

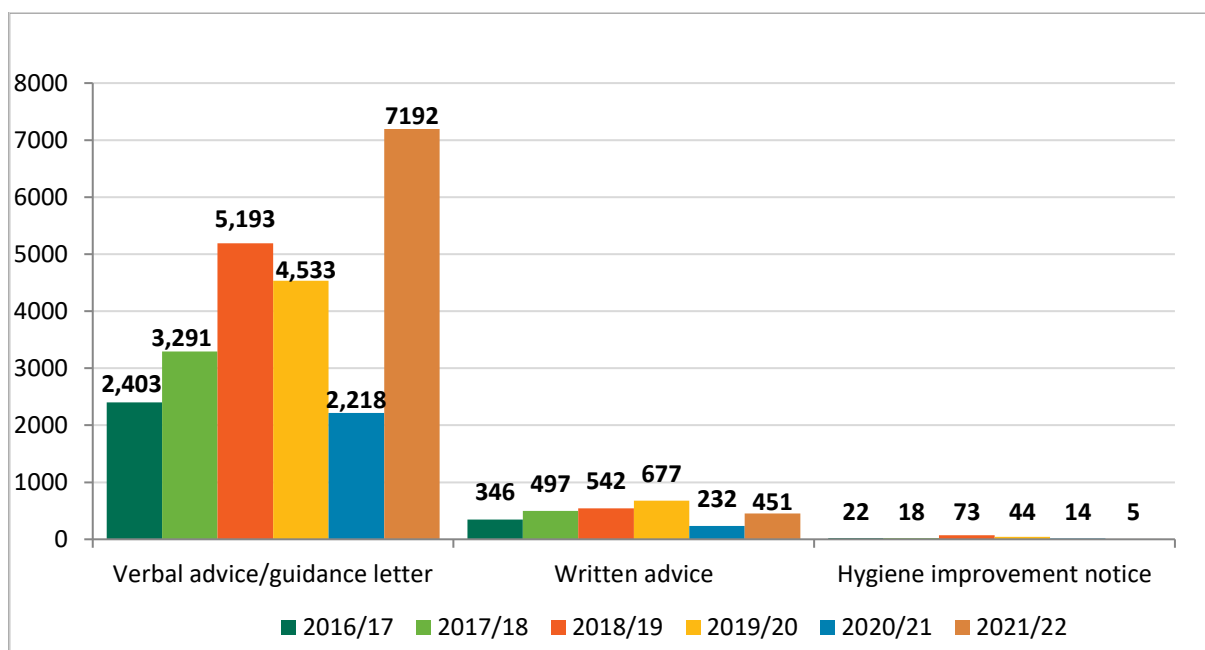
Holdings	England and Wales	Scotland	GB total
Milk production holdings and processing establishments	8,192	899	9,091

Milk production inspections 2021/22

Inspections	England and Wales	Scotland	GB total
Primary inspections	1,927	53	1,980
Secondary inspections (non-compliance highlighted from primary inspections)	392	4	396

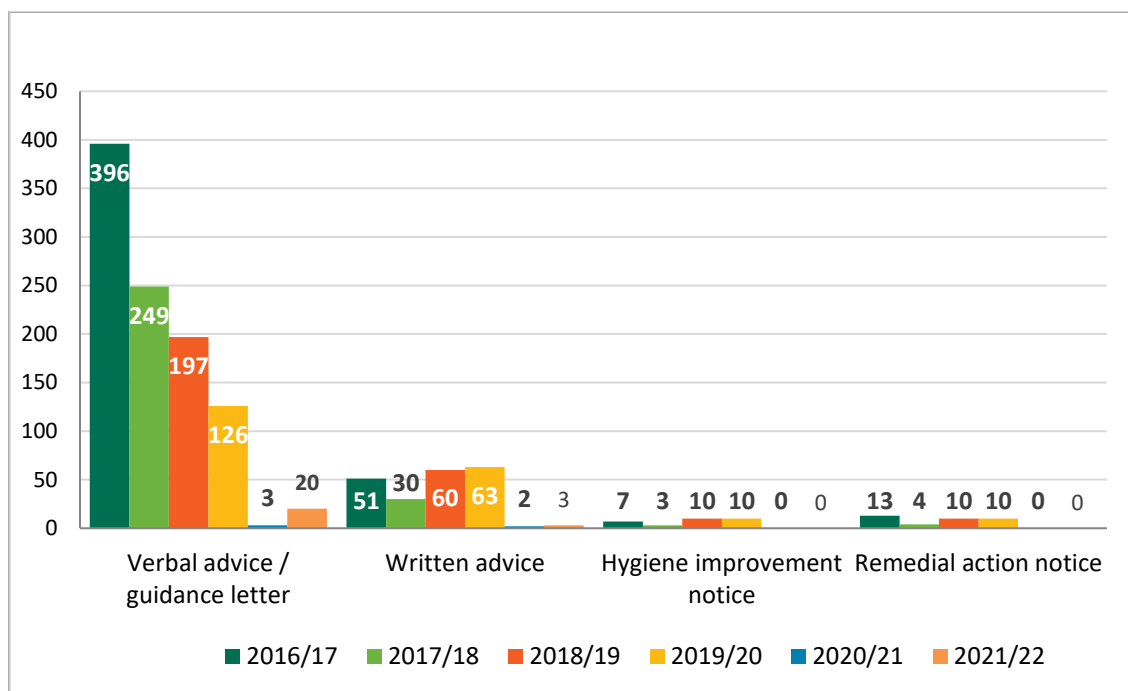
- 2.58 The FSA has direct responsibility for delivery of dairy hygiene inspections in milk production holdings in England and Wales. In 2021/22, there was a 2.6% decrease in the number of dairy farms in England and Wales compared to the previous year.
- 2.59 Significantly more inspections were completed in 2021/22 - a 94.5% increase compared to the previous year. This marked increase was due to a reduction in inspections as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020/21, during which period inspections were limited to high-risk milk production holdings only. Once lockdown restrictions were eased in 2021/22, resources were focussed on clearing the backlog of inspections postponed due to the pandemic.

Figure 7 - Chart showing milk production hygiene enforcement actions in England and Wales from 2016/17 – 2021/22



- 2.60 In England and Wales during 2021/22, the number of enforcement actions more than doubled compared to the previous year. This would imply that there has been a decrease in compliance levels. This should, however, be weighed against the significantly lower inspection levels during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020/21.
- 2.61 As mentioned above, there has been a very large increase in inspections across the two reporting periods: in turn, this has resulted in a corresponding increase in enforcement action, of which 94% was verbal advice or a guidance letter, which is classed as informal action.
- 2.62 In Scotland, inspections of dairy production holdings are carried out by 32 individual LAs. The impact of Covid-19 has had a dramatic effect on the number of dairy inspections carried out in the previous year but as we move out of this situation there has been an increase in the numbers of inspections, guidance letters and instances of written advice being issued in 2021/22.

Figure 8 - Chart showing milk production hygiene enforcement actions in Scotland from 2016/17 – 2021/22



Raw drinking milk (RDM)

2.63 In April 2021, there were 158 registered RDM producers compared with 144 at the end of March 2022, This represents a 9% decrease for this sector of the industry.

Egg production hygiene

2.64 In England and Wales, food hygiene inspections of egg production sites are carried out by APHA on behalf of FSA. In Scotland, the Scottish Government's Poultry Unit carries out inspections on behalf of FSS. The chart below shows the total number of registered egg production sites and inspection visits for 2021/22.

Figure 9 - Chart showing the number of egg productions sites, inspections and non-compliance in GB in 2021/22

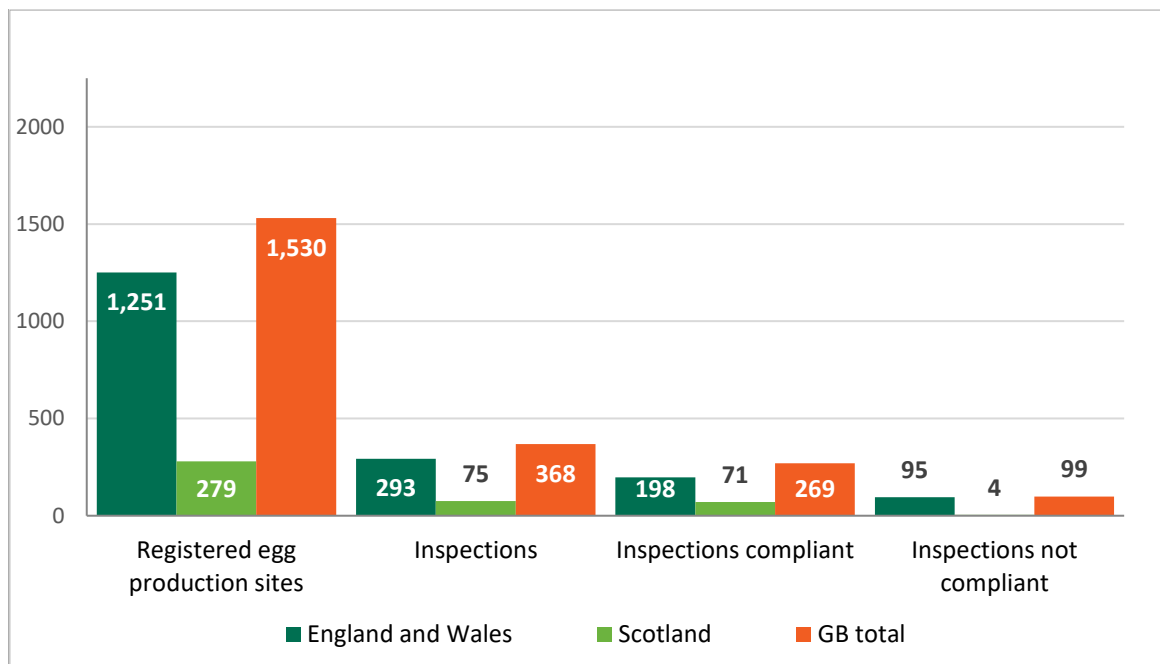
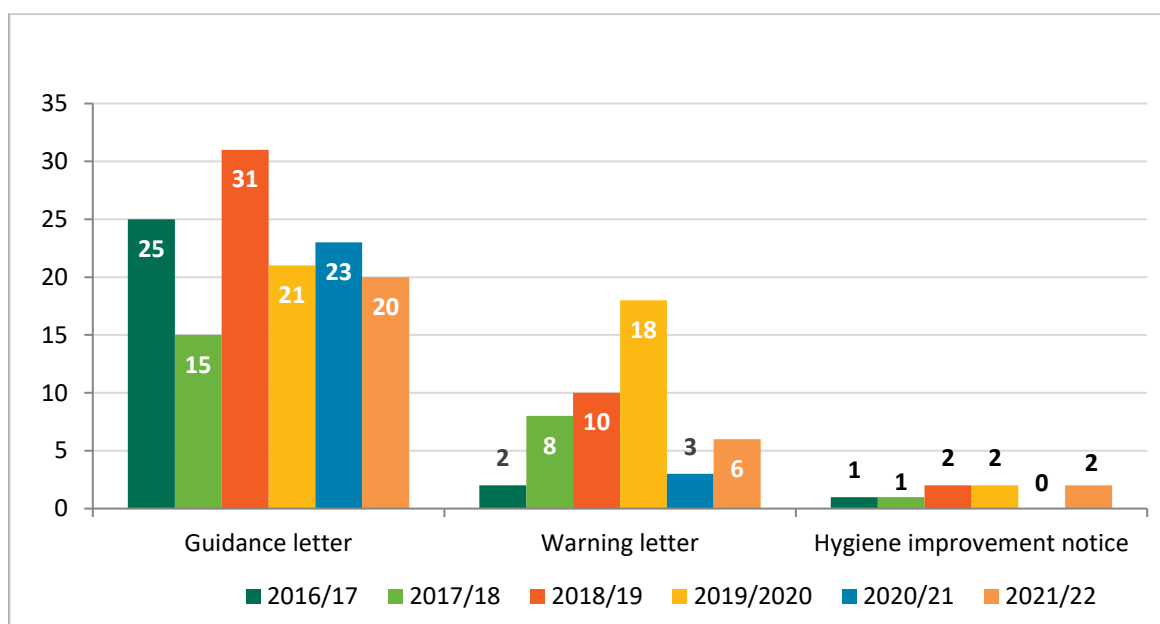


Figure 10 - Chart showing egg production enforcement actions in England and Wales from 2016/17 – 2021/22



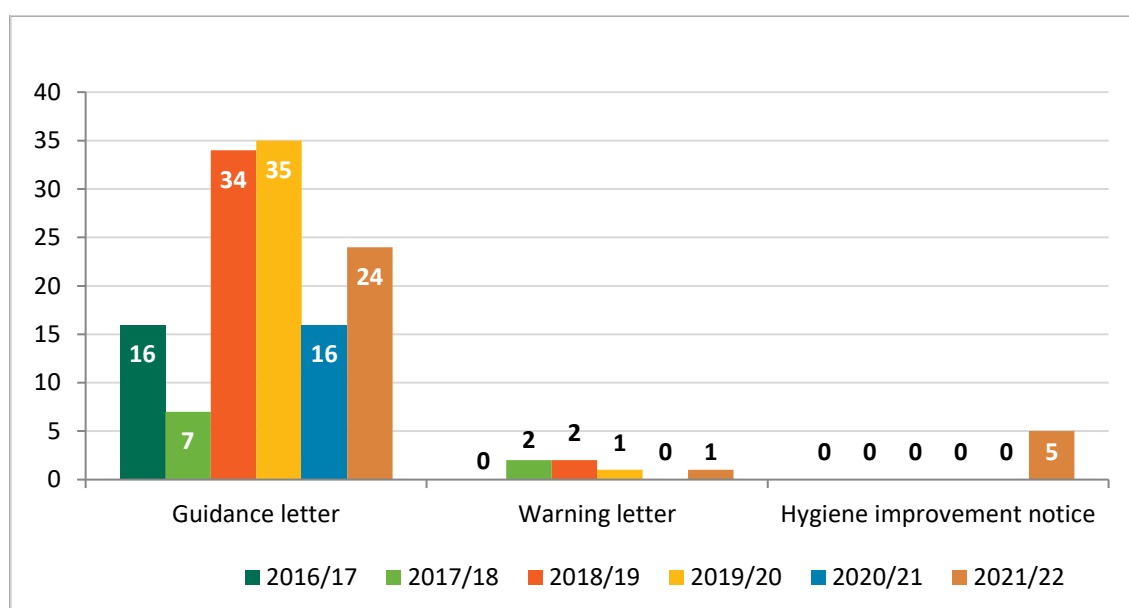
2.65 Egg inspections in England and Wales are prioritised according to risk and historical data, to inform the assessment and frequency of inspections. Compliant establishments are those where no improvements were needed.

2.66 In England and Wales, compliance levels have decreased by 9% overall this year compared to 2020/21, falling from 76% to 67%. This is partially due to the resumption of unannounced inspections, resulting in a truer picture of non-

compliance (where producers had less opportunity to rectify issues before the inspections).

- 2.67 During 2021/22 there was an increase in the issue of warning letters, from three in 2020/21 to six in 2021/22. The use of Guidance letters has remained relatively static. The increase in warning letters was due to an increase in serious non-compliances, requiring the immediate issue of a warning letter.
- 2.68 APHA have also issued two hygiene improvement notices - which were not complied with. These have been referred to the FSA for further enforcement investigations.

Figure 11 - Chart showing egg production enforcement actions in Scotland from 2016/17 – 2021/22



- 2.69 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.
- 2.70 During 2021/2022 there was an increase in the overall percentage of guidance/warning letters and HINs issued on the previous year in Scotland. Overall, compliance levels decreased over the period as a result. The five HINs issued to a single FBO resulted in egg production ceasing, reducing the overall risk to public health.

Shellfish hygiene

2.71 Shellfish sampling was carried out between 1 January and 31 December 2021 as part of the routine biotoxin monitoring programme. The results of sampling activities are summarised in the tables below.

Biotoxin sampling in 2020-2021 - England and Wales

	2020			2021		
Biotoxin sampling type	Total samples analysed	Number of toxins detected	Samples exceeding max permitted level	Total samples analysed	Number of toxins detected	Samples exceeding max permitted level
Amnesic Shellfish Poisoning (ASP)	714	41	0	769	31	0
Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning (PSP)	776	70	0	796	1	0
Lipophilic toxins (LTs)	729	15	0	885	83	8
Phyto-plankton (Seawater)	880	n/a	n/s (only trigger levels)	937	N/A	N/A (only trigger levels)

2.72 A total of 3,387 samples were analysed in 2021. There was an increase in detection of LTs and a decrease in the detection of PSP toxins when compared to 2020. Sampling levels increased by approximately 8% compared to the previous year. This was due to the implementation of a revised risk assessment criterion. Enforcement action was taken where sample results exceeded the maximum permitted levels, which resulted in the closure of three production areas.

Biotoxin sampling in 2020-2021 - Scotland

	2020			2021		
Biotoxin sampling type	Total samples analysed	Number of toxins detected	Samples exceeding max permitted level	Total samples analysed	Number of toxins detected	Samples exceeding max permitted level
Amnesic Shellfish Poisoning (ASP)	963	70	1	1,019	71	0
Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning (PSP)	1,276	280	11	1,352	332	13
Lipophilic toxins (LTs)	2,056	813	161	2,146	858	226
Phytoplankton (Seawater)	1,316	0	n/a (only alert levels)	1,312	0	n/a (only alert levels)

- 2.73 Scotland saw an increase in samples exceeding the MPL in LTs and PSP, compared to 2020/21 levels. This resulted in 48 LT closures and 7 PSP closures during 2021/22.

First fish sale

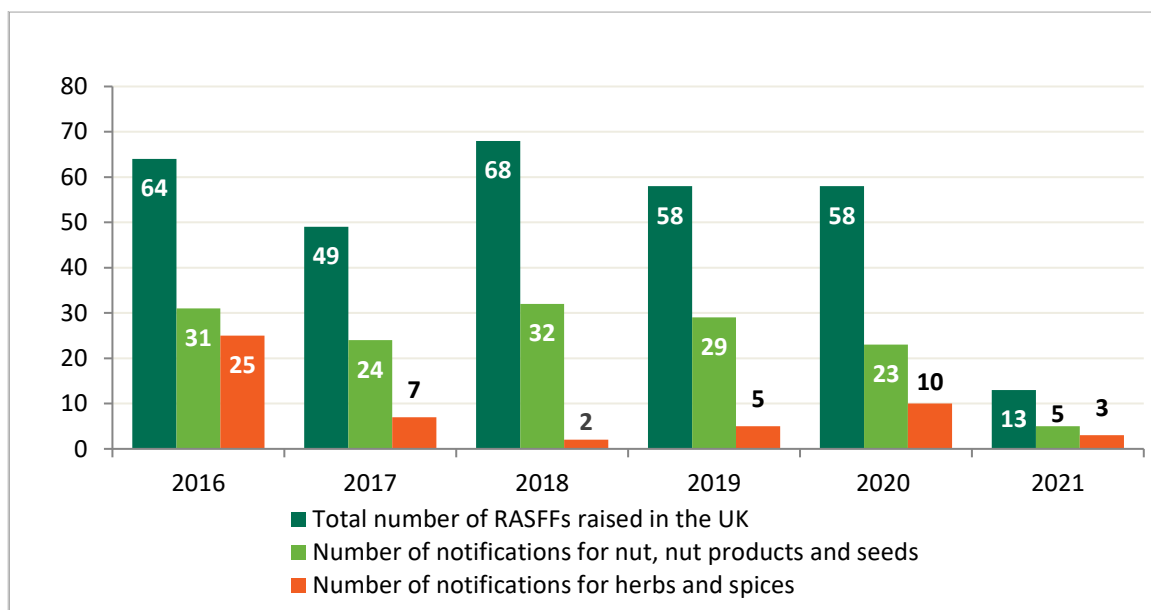
- 2.74 In 2021/22, the MMO carried out 1,441 inspections of fishing vessels landing in port, and 1,091 inspections of establishments where first sale fish was handled. It also conducted 340 inspections of transportation of first sale fish. Inspection ability for both these inspection types was impacted by the changes due to COVID-19 pandemic.
- 2.75 Checks were made to ensure compliance with the traceability requirements of the Fisheries Control Regulation. Inspections at sea were also conducted on 581 vessels and included checks on fish caught and retained.
- 2.76 Of these inspections, where first sale fish was handled and non-compliance with regulations was detected, the MMO issued a number of sanctions. In the reporting period, 494 written re-briefs were issued. Eighteen Official Written Warnings and 5 Financial Administrative Penalties were issued for breaches of Fisheries Control Regulations. Twelve of the cases referred for further investigation were then referred to prosecution.
- 2.77 During 2021 the MMO continued further compliance campaigns, increasing the quality and timeliness of data submitted through Control regulations, and supporting industry with guidance, information and engagement. In addition, the MMO further embedded the Catch Recording App for under 10m vessels (to accurately record catches), and supported a large scale compliance assurance campaign to increase traceability ahead of import and export restrictions following EU exit.

Mycotoxins in food and RASFF notifications

- 2.78 The UK⁹ dealt with 13 RASFF notifications out of a total of 46 mycotoxins incidents in 2020/21. The decrease in RASFF notifications can be attributed to changes in reporting systems post EU exit. 'Cereal and bakery products' and 'fruits and vegetables products' were new entries that were not observed during the previous year. 'Nuts and nut products' were the most common product types reported on. The changes are reflective of the annual variability for these incidents.
- 2.79 The chart below gives the number of RASFF notifications for mycotoxins in food in the last five years.

⁹ Data for RASFF notifications is only available at a UK level and is therefore reported as a UK figure.

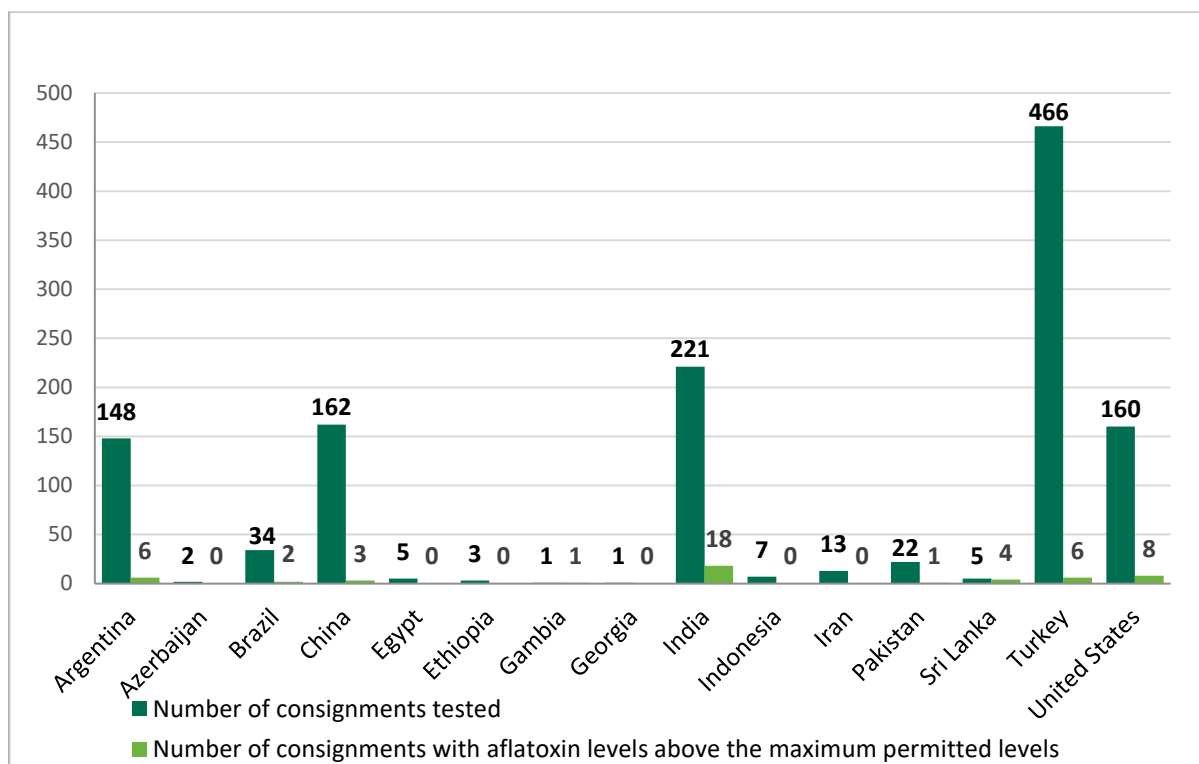
Figure 12 - Chart showing the number of RASFF notifications for mycotoxins in food (nuts, herbs and spices) in the UK from 2016 - 2021



Routine sampling of imported foods

- 2.80 The majority of samples tested for mycotoxins (aflatoxins & ochratoxin) 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 Border Notification (BN) was issued (to note: BN's are GB's replacement for RASFF after EU exit, and have been used since January 2021).
- 2.81 The chart below shows the number of samples taken for mycotoxins and the number of non-compliances for 2021. Overall, the level of compliance remained high. When compared with 2020, the proportion of non-compliances in 2021 has remained stable at 3.9%. However, more mycotoxins (ochratoxin) were included in the 2021 figures, which suggests a slight increase in compliance when compared to the smaller set of mycotoxins analysed in 2020.

Figure 13 - Chart showing number of GB consignments of imported food from non-EU countries tested for mycotoxins (aflatoxins & ochratoxin) in 2021



Import controls

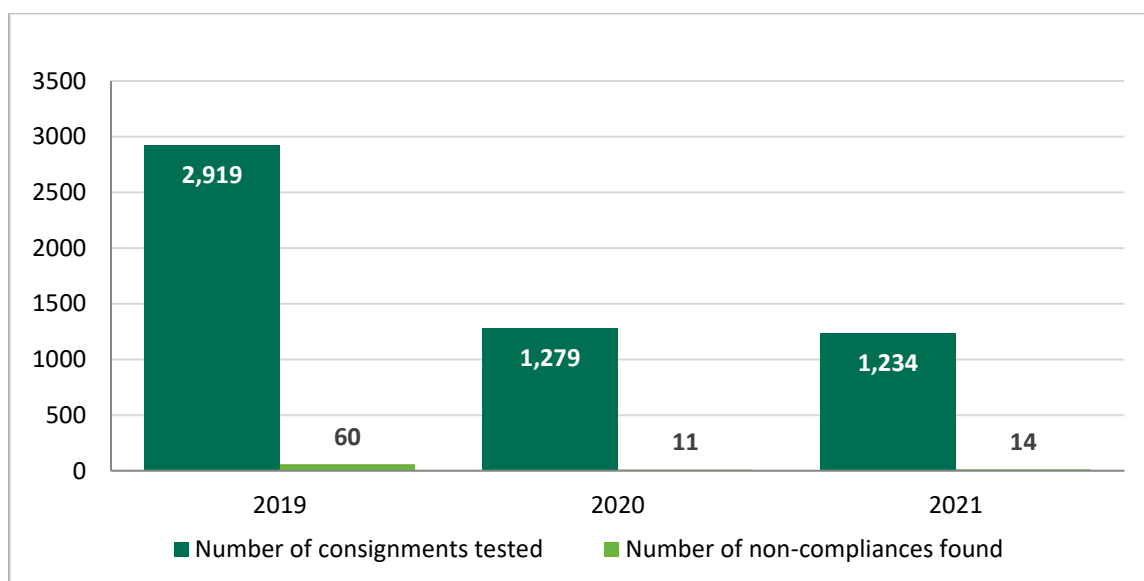
- 2.82 During 2021, controls on imported feed and food at points of entry were carried out under Regulation (EU) 2019/1793 and various EU safeguard measures, which all became UK retained legislation after EU Exit.
- 2.83 Official controls were applied on products under the below listed retained EU safeguard measures. These included 100% documentary checks, and the prescribed levels for identity and physical checks, including sampling and analysis. Under these safeguard measures, 1,234 consignments were tested in 2021, which is a similar proportion to previous years.
- 2.84 In Scotland, non-EU import sanitary and phyto-sanitary checks remain in place. Import controls on direct consignments on EU-GB food/feed trade will be implemented in 2023.

Official controls on food imported from third countries

Decision / Regulation (UK-retained legislation)	Country	Product	Hazard	Consignments tested	Un-satisfactory tests
(EU) No. 2011/884	China	Rice products	Unauthorised GMOs	87	10
Decision / Regulation (UK-retained legislation)	Country	Product	Hazard	Consignments tested	Un-satisfactory tests
(EU) No. 284/2011	China and Hong Kong	Melamine and polyamide plastic kitchenware	Formaldehyde and primary aromatic amines	135	2
(EU) No. 2016/1774	India	Aquaculture fishery products	Certain pharmaceutically active substances	997	2
(EU) No. 2016/6	Japan	Food & feed	Caesium-134, caesium-137	15	0
Totals				1,234	14

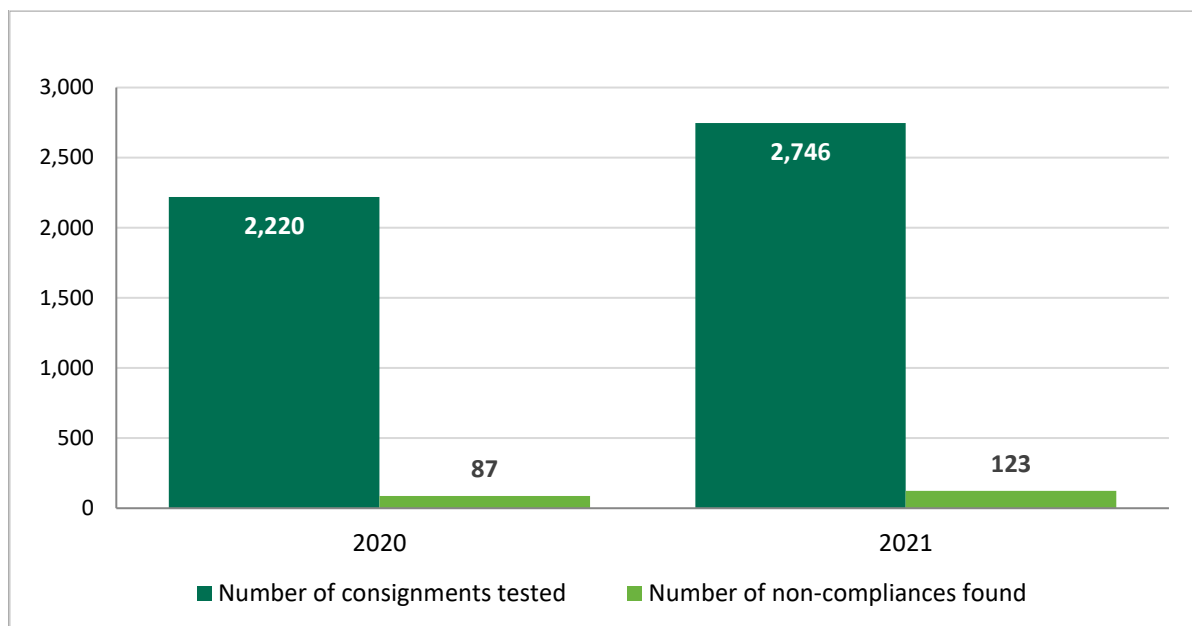
2.85 The chart below shows the number of consignments entering GB that were tested against retained EU safeguard measures requirements and the number of non-compliances found. Non-compliance levels in 2021 appear to be roughly the same as the previous year.

Figure 14 - Chart showing number of GB consignments tested and non-compliances under EU safeguard measures from 2019 - 2021



2.86 A total of 2,746 consignments entering GB were tested for compliance under retained Regulation (EC) No. 2019/1793 for Annex I and Annex II.

Figure 15 - Chart showing number of consignments tested in GB and non-compliances under Regulation EC No. 2019/1793 from 14 December 2019 – 31st December 2021



Novel foods

2.87 In 2021, the FSA and FSS made 31 assessments of dossiers for traditional food notifications under retained Regulation (EU) 2015/2283.

Food contact materials

2.88 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 GB.

2.89 In 2021/22, 97.4% of 1,083 consignments underwent documentary checks in GB. Approximately 14% were subject to identity and physical checks, compared to 9% of consignments in 2020/21.

2.90 No consignments were received in Scotland during 2021/22.

2.91 In total, 11 consignments were rejected in GB in 2021/22, compared to 15 in 2020/21. Of these, two were rejected due to a failure identified during physical checks. This represents 1.5% of the total 135 consignments that were physically checked. The remaining nine were rejected on the basis of unsatisfactory identity and documentary checks.

2.92 Overall, a slightly lower proportion of all consignments undergoing documentary and physical checks were rejected in GB. Only 1% of all consignments were rejected in 2021/22, compared to 1.5% in 2020/21.

2.93 There has been a reduction in the rate of non-compliance for consignments that underwent physical checks, falling to 1.5% in 2021/22 (compared to 6% in 2020/21).

Organic products¹⁰

2.94 Inspections of organic operators in 2021 involved physical inspections where possible, documentary checks, and virtual audits. Physical inspections were severely impeded by the COVID-19 pandemic. Almost all UK operators due for an inspection in 2021 were inspected during the annual cycle. Additional visits were announced or unannounced depending on the circumstances.

2.95 In 2021, there were 6,806 registered organic operators in the UK. A total of 6,559 (physical and virtual) announced and 354 (physical and virtual) unannounced inspections and visits were undertaken.

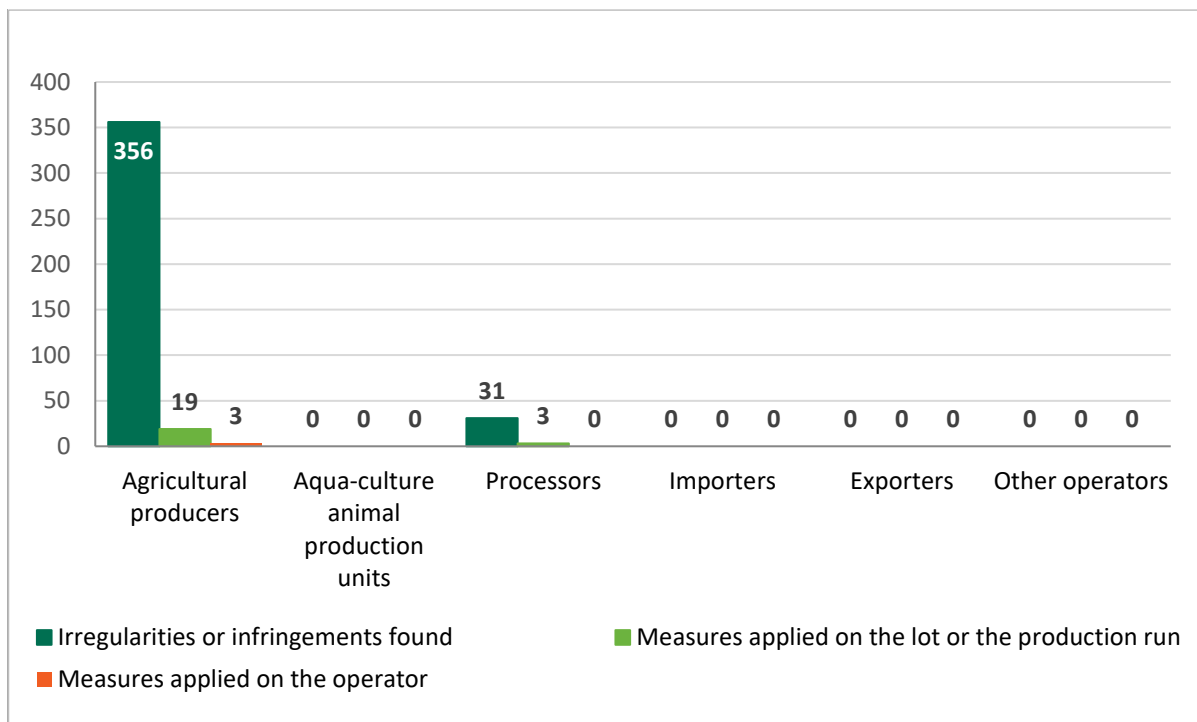
2.96 The table below shows additional risk-based inspections carried out in 2021. A derogation was introduced in 2020 reducing the 10% minimum additional risk based unannounced visits stipulated in the organic regulation to 5% because of difficulties caused by the pandemic.

Number of additional risk-based inspections of organic operators in UK from 2021

Organic operators	UK-02	UK-04	UK-05	UK-06	UK-07	UK-09	UK-13	UK-17
Agricultural Products	138	11	149	9	1	1	9	39
Aqua-culture animal production units	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
Processors	23	6	123	6	2	0	0	8
Importers	8	6	0	0	0	0	0	1
Exporters	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Operators	5	10	16	0	0	0	0	2

¹⁰ Data for organic products is only available at a UK level and is therefore reported as a UK figure throughout this section.

Figure 16 - Chart showing organic operator infringements and control measures in the UK from 2021/22



2.97 Infringements in 2021 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 without the required prior approval from the relevant control body or Defra. Non-organic feed was fed to organic livestock. In some cases, unauthorised substances in produce were found and led to formal investigation.

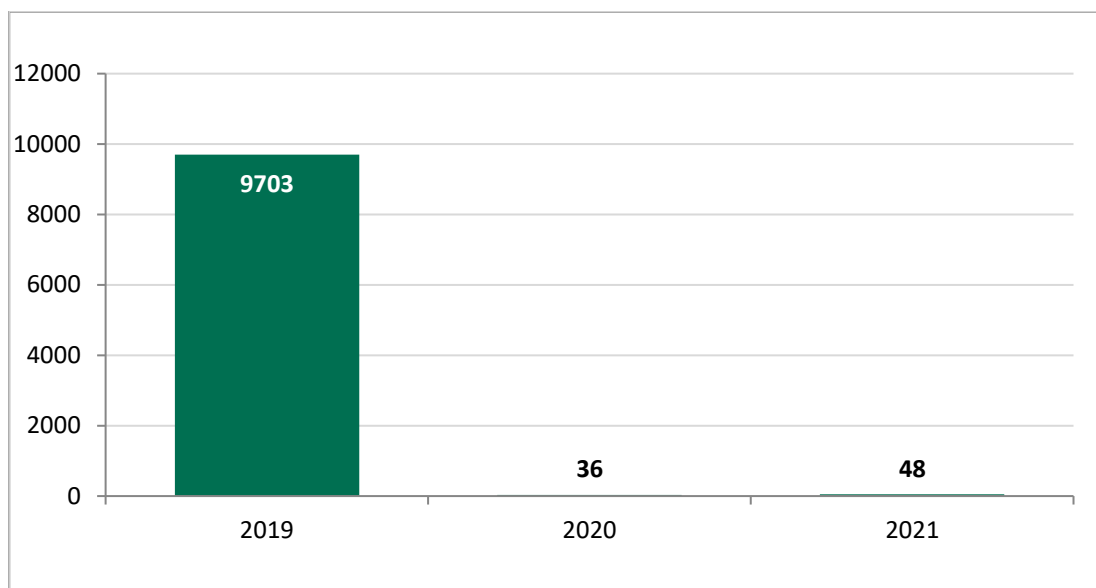
Agri-food Geographical Indications

2.98 Two of the control bodies responsible for inspecting some of the larger producer groups have gained extension to scope accreditation for Agri-food Geographical Indications inspections.

2.99 The cyclical nature of verification means that there were a higher number of reported inspection results for 2019, compared to subsequent years. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and 2021, a small number of GB producers were verified remotely for a specific product. No compliance issues were recorded that would result in harm to human or animal wellbeing or mislead the consumer.

2.100 The data in the chart below covers the 2021 calendar year.

Figure 17 - Chart showing the number of Agri-food Geographical Indications inspections in GB from 2019 - 2021



Natural mineral waters

- 2.101 Following EU Exit, and after a period of implementation of six months from 1st July 2021, all EU/EEA natural mineral water producers were informed that the automatic recognition of their products, to be marketed as natural mineral waters in Great Britain, would come to an end on 7th January 2022.
- 2.102 All natural mineral waters of non-UK origin had to seek recognition from the corresponding GB competent authorities, to continue to market their product in Great Britain, regardless of their origin (i.e., EU/EEA or Rest of World (RoW)). From 1st July 2021, Defra opened application procedures to EU/EEA and RoW natural mineral water producers. Defra provided guidance to producers obtaining recognition to market their waters in Great Britain.
- 2.103 Several recognitions were processed in 2021 and at the beginning of 2022. The successful brands are now listed in a single category – details of these recognised products, and of UK natural mineral waters recognised in GB, and in the EU / EEA, can be found at [Natural mineral waters: lists of recognised products](#).

Beef labelling

- 2.104 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 395 initial inspections in 2021/22. 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 395 initial inspections, 87 were found to be non-compliant.

2.105 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 between 2016 – 2021

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
% non-compliant	32.1	38.9	42.9	38.9	16.6	22.0

2.106 In 2021/22 a total of 478 inspections were completed - both initial and follow-ups - giving an overall non-compliance rate of 18.2%. One enforcement notice was issued in the 2021 scheme year, compared with three in 2020.

2.107 The Scottish Government carried out its planned official controls for 2021 when possible due to COVID-19 restrictions, completing a total of 20 inspections. Where non-compliance was found, establishments were normally revisited as a follow-up inspection within 14 days, until a satisfactory outcome was achieved. Of the 20 initial inspections, zero achieved an unsatisfactory outcome. Some inspections showed minor issues; however, these were resolved immediately. No prosecutions were brought in Scotland in 2021.

Percentage of beef labelling non-compliance for establishments in Scotland between 2016 – 2021

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
% non-compliant	19	5	13	20	7	0

Summary of beef labelling enforcement actions taken for Scottish establishments between 2016 – 2021

Year	Verbal warning	Follow-up inspection	Warning letter	Enforcement notices
2016	5	5	0	0
2017	0	2	0	0
2018	2	6	0	0
2019	7	3	0	0
2020	1	1	0	0
2021	3	0	0	0

Veterinary residues surveillance

2.108 Compliance was observed in 99.7% of all samples analysed under the National Surveillance Programme in 2021. Of the 33,428 GB samples analysed under the National Surveillance Programme, residues above the maximum residue level (MRL) or other action limit were detected in 85 samples. This high level of compliance is in line with levels seen in recent years.

2.109 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 the GB MRL ([Maximum Residue Limits in Great Britain](#)) list.
- authorised veterinary medicines (substance detected above the maximum residue limit): e.g., antibiotics, anthelmintics, anti-coccidials, carbamates and pyrethroids, sedatives, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) and glucocorticoids
- environmental contaminants and insecticides: e.g., organophosphates, organochlorines, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), heavy metals and dyes

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

2.111 Non-compliant residues were confirmed for various classes of compound, as presented in the summary table below. 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.

2.112 Likewise the investigations into non-compliances for heavy metals concluded that these residues arose due to environmental contamination, or the accumulation of substances over time. There were no confirmed non-compliant cases for PCBs.

Summary of results of GB residues analysis in 2021 for anthelmintics, antibiotics, avermectin, coccidiostats, heavy metals, and NSAIDs

Animals tested	Residue tested for	2020		2021	
		Number of inspections or samples	Non-compliant residues found	Number of inspections or samples	Non-compliant residues found
Calves	Anti-microbials	341	8	343	12
Pigs	Anti-microbials	1652	1	1692	0
Cattle	Anti-microbials	1258	6	1264	3
Milk*	Anti-microbials	1474	0	1470	1
Sheep	Antimicrobials	2102	1	2164	2
Poultry***	Antimicrobials	1941	0	1911	1
Cattle	Anthelmintics	568	1	571	2
Sheep	Anthelmintics	1332	8	1371	4
Pig	Anthelmintics	277	0	285	0
Sheep	Avermectin	450	1	461	2
Aquaculture**	Avermectin	87	1	109	0
Cattle	Avermectin	309	1	310	1
Milk*	Avermectin	301	1	296	1
Sheep	Coccidiostats	298	0	307	0
Poultry***	Coccidiostats	1394	1	1371	0
Game****	Coccidiostats	14	2	14	3

Animals tested	Residue tested for	2020		2021	
		Number of inspections or samples	Non-compliant residues found	Number of inspections or samples	Non-compliant residues found
Cattle	Heavy metals	60	3	60	3
Honey	Heavy metals	15	0	15	0
Horses	Heavy metals	1	1	1	0
Sheep	Heavy metals	47	1	49	3
Cattle	NSAIDS	356	1	358	1
Milk*	NSAIDS	146	0	147	0
Horse	NSAIDS	36	0	36	0

*Bovine milk only

**Salmon and trout, combined

***Broilers, layers, breeders, turkeys combined

****Partridge, pheasant, quail combined

Pesticides residues monitoring

2.113 The HSE carried out a monitoring programme in 2021. The table below shows numbers of samples taken and the percentage of samples tested containing residues over the MRL. 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 the UK / GB¹¹ between 2016 – 2021

Year	Number of samples	Types of food	% of samples containing residues	% containing residues above the MRL
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
2020	2,460	33	41.54	2.52
2021	2,642	28	52.16	2.84

2.114 [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](#).

2.115 In 2020, the Secretary of State, with the consent of Scottish and Welsh Ministers, introduced the Official Controls (Plant Protection Products) Regulations 2020 to meet the requirements of Regulation (EU) 2017/625. These Regulations enable

¹¹ Data for MRL samples is only available at a UK level up to 2020 and is therefore reported as a UK figure. Following EU Exit, reporting of data for 2021 is for GB only.

official controls to be undertaken across the plant protection products (PPPs) supply chain in Great Britain.

- 2.116 Operators placing professional PPPs on the market have been within scope of official controls since autumn 2021, and users of professional PPPs and retailers of amateur products were in scope from summer 2022. HSE and LAs will undertake official controls on behalf of GB governments.
- 2.117 The HSE already conducts a limited number of reactive controls including a small number of proactive controls. In 2020/21, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, HSE was unable to carry out any inspections of distributors of professional PPPs. However, 32 PPP samples were obtained for formulation analysis between the period of March and October 2020.
- 2.118 Of the 32 samples obtained, analysis identified that 3 (9%) samples were inconsistent with their authorisations, and a further 6 (18%) samples had non-compliances with the physicochemical tests. In 2021, only 59 samples were collected due to the impact of COVID-19. So far, preliminary analysis has identified one (1.6%) sample to be inconsistent with its authorisation.
- 2.119 The Chemicals Regulation Division (CRD) of HSE received 232 concerns to the marketing and use of PPPs in 2020 which resulted in advice or an enforcement notice 60 cases. In 2021, 21 concerns were received which resulted in advice or an enforcement notice 4 cases.
- 2.120 The Field Operations Division (FOD) of HSE - which primarily deals with the use of PPPs - investigated 26 PPP cases in 2020, and two PPP cases in 2021.

Official controls in the feed sector

- 2.121 In England in 2020/21¹², 99.0% of planned feed inspections were delivered. All LAs contributed to the planning process for controls to be delivered in 2020/21. The FSA continued to review and make necessary improvements to the feed inspection system.
- 2.122 In Wales in 2020/21, 18.5% of planned feed inspections were delivered. The low rate of delivery was caused by the restrictions put in place across Wales to reduce the spread of COVID-19. There was also a reduction in resources available for official feed controls as LAs diverted resources to support the Welsh Government response to the pandemic.

¹² In England and Wales, feed statistics are reported one year in arrears.

2.123 Data returns for 2020/21 showed a 3.5% increase in the number of feed businesses in England and Wales. The table below provides a breakdown for the last three years by business type.

Total number of feed business operators in England and Wales

Registered and approved feed businesses by type*	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Farms and primary producers	126,780	126,103	129,878
Feed manufacturers	1,352	1,662	1,933
Food businesses placing co-products and surplus food into the feed chain	5,691	6,001	6,299
Importers, distributors, transporters, and stores	4,424	3,995	4,545
Total	138,247	137,761	142,655

*Only main categories listed

2.124 The table below provides a breakdown of feed businesses in Scotland for the last five years, by business type.

Number of feed businesses in Scotland

Feed businesses by type	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Primary producers	18,067	15,423	22,819	22,819	22,288	22,371
Manufacturers	103	130	141	141	154	190
Food businesses placing co-products into the feed chain	760	278	329	329	307	295
Food businesses placing surplus product into the feed chain	N/A**	764	764	764	764	746
Importers	6	6	6	6	6	6
Distributors	296	279	318	318	328	328
Stores	181	169	233	233	225	254
Retailers	896	187	166	166	175	157

**New category added in 2017/18

GB feed controls and enforcement

2.125 In England and Wales during 2020/21, there was a 44.5% decrease in numbers of inspections undertaken by LAs. The number of feed business operators being given advice dropped by 38.3% compared to 2019/20. The number of revisits and sampling visits dropped by 59.6% and 52.4%, respectively. This was due to the restrictions placed on activity as a result of the national COVID-19 lockdown, and the impact on LA resources being diverted to aid in the pandemic response.

2.126 In Scotland, no on-site feed inspection activity was carried out in 2020/21, due to COVID-19.

Number of interventions undertaken in GB

Types of control / intervention	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	
			England & Wales	Scotland
Number of inspections	7,098	6,108	3,387	0
Number of revisits	228	156	63	0
Number of feed business operators given advice	3,873	3,173	1,957	0
Number of sampling visits	300	210	100	0

Reported use of formal enforcement activity in GB

Enforcement activity	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	
			England & Wales	Scotland
Written warnings for non-compliance identified for the first time + not an immediate threat to feed safety	1,126	612	399	0
Improvement notices on issue which required attention or not actioned after written warnings	8	33	44	0
Other formal actions to address serious feed breaches	15	26	19	0

2.127 The number of written warnings issued in England and Wales decreased by 34.8% in 2020/21. The number of formal actions to address serious breaches of feed requirements increased by 6.7%, from 59 formal actions in 2019/20 to 63 in 2020/21. This increase was due to improved targeting of inspection activity, resulting in more formal action.

2.128 No written warnings or formal actions were issued in Scotland in 2020/21.

LA and DC animal feed sampling in GB

2.129 According to UKFSS, LAs reported carrying out 61 samples in England and Wales. Samples were taken of imported feed at points of entry, as well as from raw pet food manufactured in England and Wales. Currently 40.2% of authorities in England and Wales use UKFSS to record feed sampling data. Whilst this does not present a complete picture of all feed sampling undertaken by LAs, it is currently the only centrally collated data available.

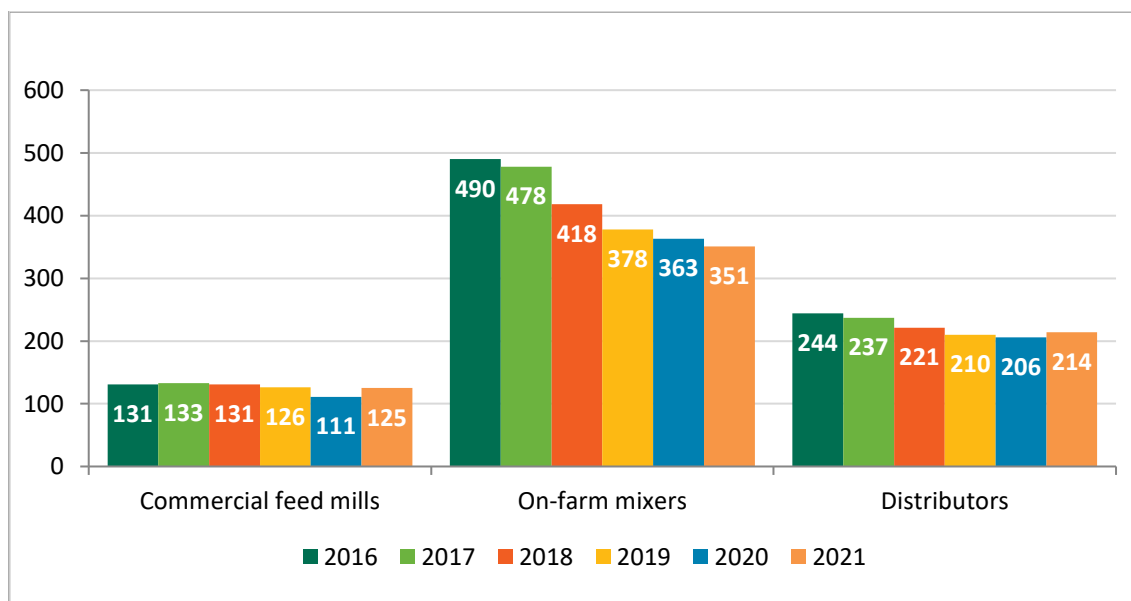
2.130 According to UKFSS, in England and Wales samples were tested for 1,043 analytes, including heavy metals, salmonella, and mycotoxins.

2.131 No sampling activity was undertaken in Scotland in 2020/21, due to COVID-19.

Inspection of feed business operators by VMD

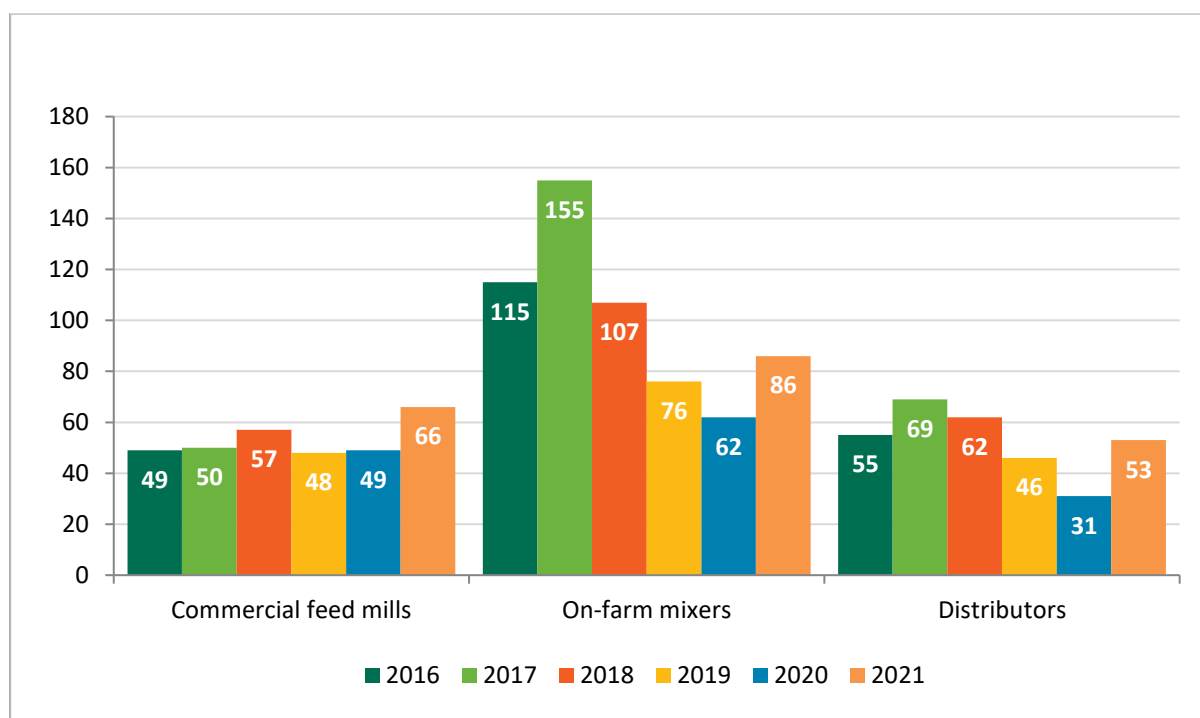
2.132 The number of approved feed establishments for the last six years is shown below.

Figure 18 - Chart showing the number of approved feed establishments in GB from 2016 - 2021



2.133 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 19 - Chart showing total feed inspections in GB from 2016 – 2021



2.134 Of the total inspections carried out in 2021, 25.8% of commercial feed mills were fully compliant, compared with 16.3% in 2020. A total of 44.2% of on-farm manufacturers were fully compliant, compared to 43.5% in 2020 and 43.4% of distributors were fully compliant, compared to 25.8% in 2020. This shows an increase in fully compliant feed manufacturers and distributors.

2.135 A total of two 'other' visits were carried out to feed business operators. These were unplanned visits, and diverted resources from scheduled inspections. There were also four visits recorded as 'no inspection carried out'. These were either commercial feed mills or farms where there was no one at the establishments. These four instances have not been included in the figures in the table above.

Table of GB Sampling results for 2021/22

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	15	13	4	3
Premixture or feedingstuff tested for 'carryover'	0	0	0	0
Premixture or feedingstuff tested as part of residue investigation	0	0	23	23
Premixture or feedingstuff tested as part of other investigation	0	0	0	0
Premixture or feedingstuff tested for 10 different AGPs	6	6	0	0

- 2.136 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.
- 2.137 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

- 2.138 Information for Great Britain in 2021 on the inspections and sampling programme that monitors for the presence of non-authorized animal protein in feed (the National Feed Audit) is set out below:

Number of inspections comprising checks on the presence of processed animal proteins in GB in 2021

Stage / inspection point	2021
Import of feed materials	28
Storage of feed materials	37
Feed mills	461
Home mixers/mobile mixers ¹³	79
Intermediaries of feeding stuffs	11
Means of transport	10
Livestock Farms	1,302
Total	1,928

- 2.139 In GB there were no non-compliant samples.

¹³ In the figures above, the category of home mixers mainly includes those farms where ruminants are kept, that are producing non-ruminant feed containing fishmeal. Visits to ruminant home mixers are a priority in the livestock farm inspection programme and are included in figures for livestock farms.

Number of samples tested for processed animal proteins in GB in 2021

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	76	22	0
Feed mills	691	1,010	285
Intermediaries/ storage	134	38	2
Means of transport	0	0	0
Home mixers/ mobile mixers*	27	54	40
On farm	165	1,360	224
Fats and vegetable oils	0	0	0
Total	1,093	2,484	5,514

2.140 In 2021, 4,128 samples were collected in GB. No non-compliances were observed. The NFA runs from 1st April to 31st March annually: the figures provided correspond to the period from April 2021 to March 2022.

Number of sampling inspection visits and samples collected in GB from 2016 – 2021

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Number of inspection visits	2,549	2,192	2,303	2,250	2,044	1928
Number of collected samples	5,023	4,751	5,250	4,818	4,327	4128

2.141 Since 2020, various high priority and unpredictable incidents have respectively consumed APHA resource, and resulted in the numbers of NFA inspections being reduced. These incidents included:

- 2020/21 Covid restrictions.
- 2021/22 Covid restrictions & HPAI outbreak.
- 2022/23 HPAI outbreak, and emergency work supporting people fleeing Ukraine and entering the UK with their pets.

Incidents and outbreaks in the feed sector

APHA

2.142 There were 20 illegal feeding incidents in the 2021 financial year. All 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. A distinct pattern was observed within the incident types, with the majority relating to the feeding of kitchen waste to pigs.

FSA

2.143 The FSA, along with other Government Departments, have continued to investigate an outbreak of Salmonella Enteritidis linked to feeder mice from Lithuania. The

outbreak affected more than 964 people, with 37% of those being children under 10. In September 2021, the highest number of cases were reported.

- 2.144 A product recall and withdrawal was carried out on 9 December 2021 and a further update was issued to include additional batches. Safeguard measures came into effect on 17 February 2022, preventing the import of rodents for animal feed from Lithuania.
- 2.145 In May 2021 an outbreak of Feline Pancytopenia affected more than 565 cats. A joint investigation involving other government departments and the Royal Veterinary College commenced, to explore possible causes of the illness. On the basis of strong epidemiological links, a voluntary precautionary product recall and withdrawal was conducted on three ranges of hypoallergenic (grain-free) cat food brands produced by the same manufacturer.
- 2.146 The FSA also published a product recall information notice (PRIN), detailing the affected products being recalled. No specific cause of pancytopenia has yet been conclusively identified despite significant concerted investigations amongst several government departments and other partner organisations.

FSS

- 2.147 In 2021, FSS managed a total of 10 incidents relating to feed - including microbiological contamination of salmon feed, sunflower pellets and raw pet food, high levels of cadmium in seaweed intended for animal feed and use of category 2 animal by-products.

Official controls in the animal health sector

Exotic diseases

- 2.148 APHA staff investigated 255 reports of suspected exotic diseases in GB in 2021. The following diseases were detected:
- Three cases of European Bat Lyssavirus were reported in England in September
 - 75 confirmed infected premises of HPAI in poultry across England, Wales and Scotland
 - Two confirmed cases of CEM
- 2.149 In addition, there were 603 field investigations of bovine sudden deaths for Anthrax and 760 field investigations for bovine Brucellosis abortions conducted. None of these investigations resulted in the confirmation of disease.
- 2.150 The following table shows the total number of official investigations for 2021.

Animal health Investigations in GB in 2021

Disease	Number of investigations	
	England & Wales	Scotland
African Horse Sickness	1	
Anthrax		1
Aujeszky's	3	
Avian Notifiable (Avian Influenza/ Newcastle Disease)	140	15
Bat Rabies	4	
Bluetongue	22	
Bovine Brucellosis	17	
Brucellosis (excl. bovine brucellosis)	3	1
Contagious Equine Metritis	3	
Enzootic Bovine Leukosis (EBL)	4	1
Equine Viral Arteritis	27	2
Foot and Mouth Disease	3	
Glanders	2	
Rabies	4	
Swine Fevers	2	
Total	235	20

2.151 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, setting out the annual return made under section 80 of the Animal Health Act 1981. The 2019 annual report was laid before the Scottish Parliament on 31st March 2020.

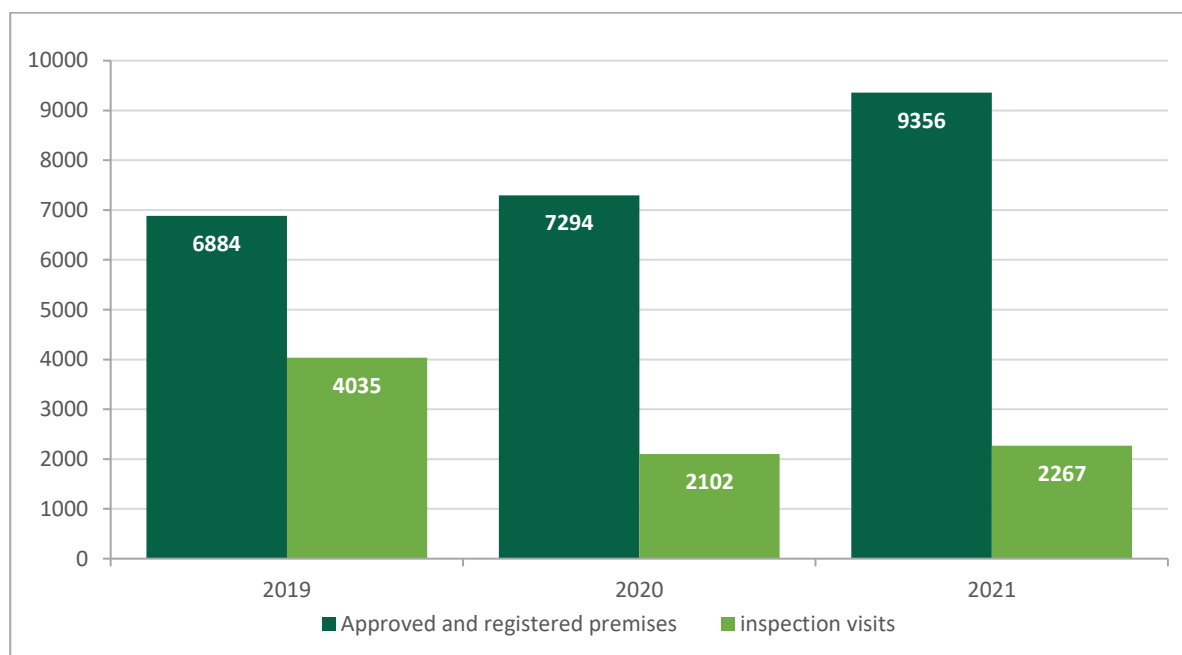
Animal by-Products (ABP)

2.152 During 2021, APHA issued 175 new approvals to ABP establishments in GB, and there were 610 new registrations of ABP establishments. A large number of the approvals were for operators in the pet food sector. In addition, there was an increase in the number of approvals for handling & storage premises. The latter is most likely linked to the way businesses are adapting to changes in the way they manage exports to the EU, as many hauliers have had to seek approval to allow them to store ABP loads prior to shipping to the EU.

2.153 The overall number of risk-based visits to ABP establishments remained relatively constant in relation to the previous year. As can be seen in the chart below, there was a similarly low level of visits carried out when compared to years prior to 2020. This is due to continued work pressure in areas such as Avian Influenza outbreak response and Ukrainian pet import authorisations. This has resulted in disruption to

the delivery of some business-as-usual work and prevented a recovery to the visit levels of previous years.

Figure 20 - Chart showing number of GB approved premises and Animal by Product (ABP) inspection visits from 2019 - 2021

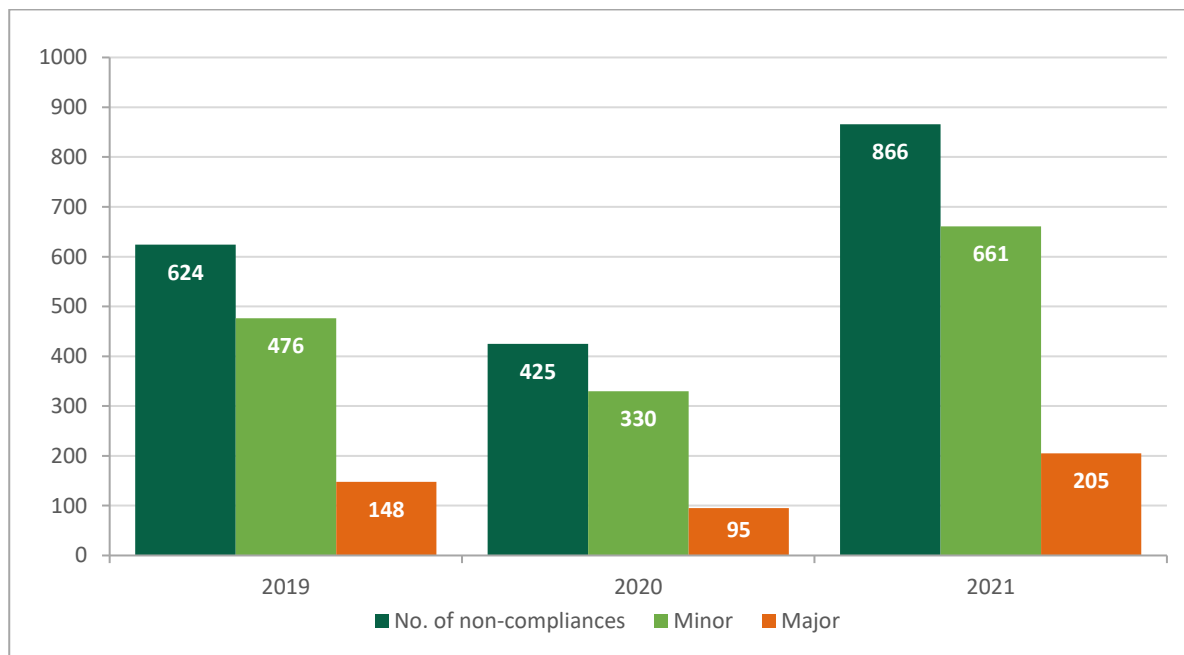


2.154 In 2021, the number of approval (334) and registration (811) requests continued to increase.

2.155 The chart below shows that the total number of non-compliances increased in 2021. This is possibly related to the fact that some premises may not have been inspected, due to extenuating circumstances, at visits scheduled in 2020. This could have led to an accumulation of non-compliances being identified and recorded in 2021 that were not captured in the 2020 MANCP Annual Report.

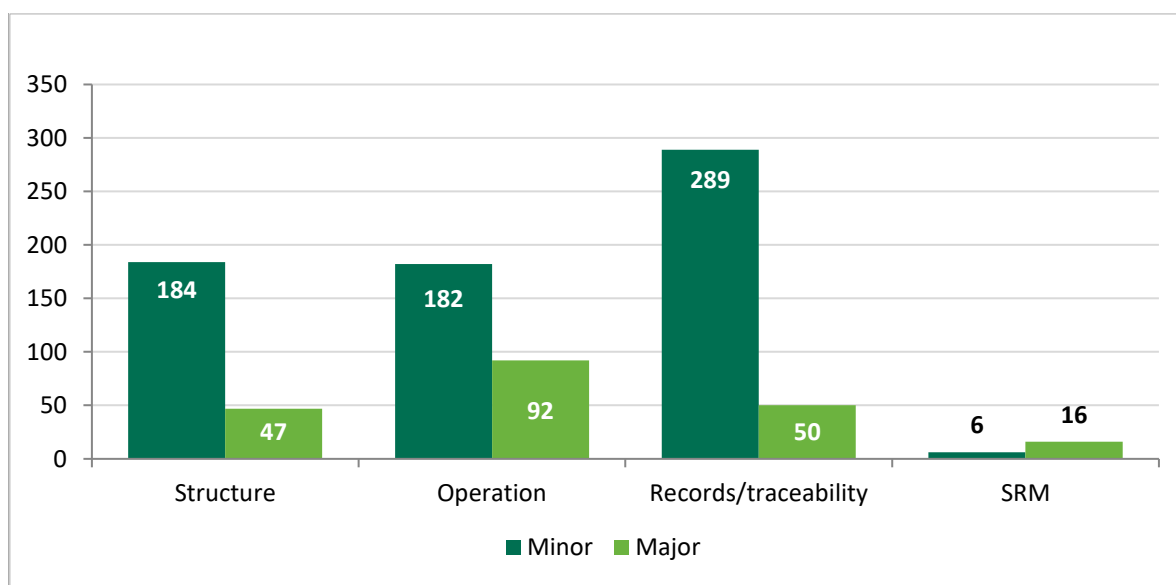
2.156 The pet food sector accounted for a significant percentage of non-compliances, with approximately 42% of inspections identifying a non-compliance. Approximately 35% of inspections at ABP storage premises identified non-compliances. In contrast, non-compliance findings during inspections at ABP processing plants and TSE Sampling Premises - the industry sectors considered to be higher risk in terms of TSE controls - were approximately 19% and 9% respectively.

Figure 21 - Chart showing overall GB Animal by Product (ABP) non-compliance scores for APHA risk based and follow up visits from 2019 - 2021



2.157 There was no significant pattern associated with the nature of these non-compliances; however, records & traceability continue to be the most common minor non-compliances, while operational issues account for the highest number of major non-compliances.

Figure 22 - Chart showing the number of GB ABP non-compliances disclosed at visits in 2021



Bovine Tuberculosis (TB)

2.158 In Great Britain, during 2021, as part of its TB eradication (England and Wales) and surveillance (Scotland) programme activities, APHA recorded:

- 72,457 herd tests, with 3,558 herds experiencing a new TB incident (positive herds), of which 1,913 contained at least one animal with typical lesions of TB and/or positive culture results (i.e., herds with Officially Tuberculosis Free status Withdrawn (OTFW)).
- 9.2 million TB tests in bovine animals (domestic cattle, water buffalo and farmed bison), including 694,225 statutory pre and post movement tests.
- 38,799 cattle slaughtered for TB control purposes. This includes tuberculin skin test reactors, inconclusive skin test reactors, animals positive to ancillary blood tests and direct contacts.

2.159 APHA traced and tested individual animals moved from establishments affected by TB incidents with OTF herd status withdrawn, to contain the potential spread of infection to other herds (spread or forward tracings). APHA also traced herds that had supplied infected animals identified in herds affected by TB incidents (source or back tracings). 10,227 standalone tracing skin tests were carried out in 2021, 94% of initiations were completed within the target time (of 13 days). In addition, 3,230 tracing skin tests were undertaken as part of a test of the whole herd.

2.160 The charts below show the annual numbers of TB herd tests completed and new OTFW herd incidents detected in Great Britain.

Figure 23 - Chart showing the number of TB herd tests in Great Britain from 2016 – 2021

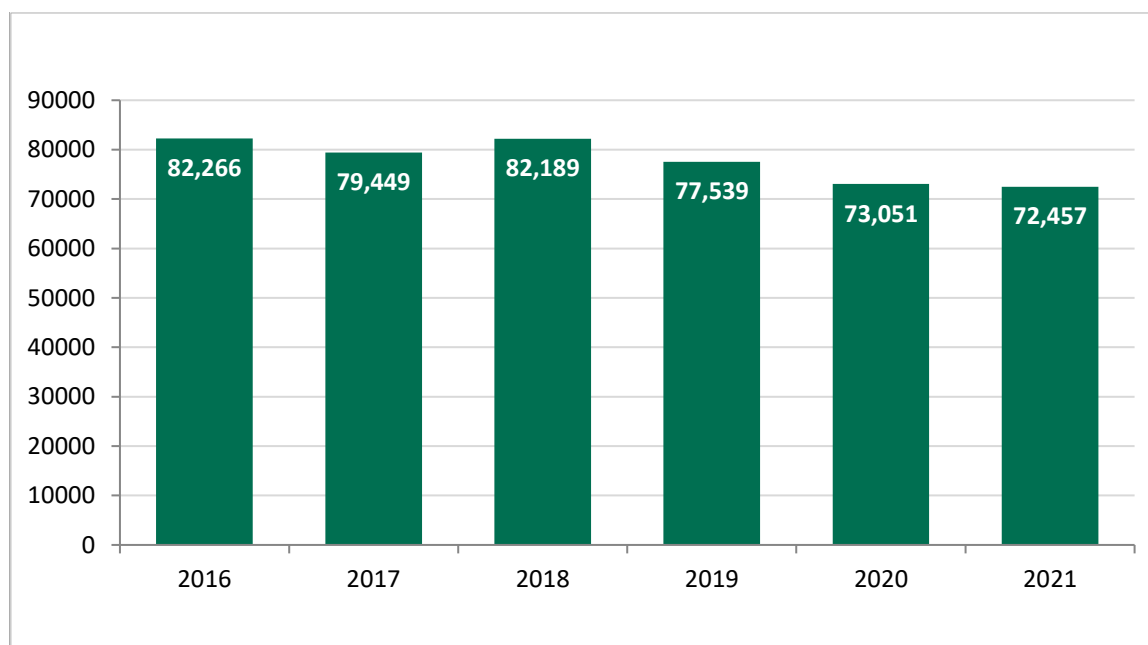
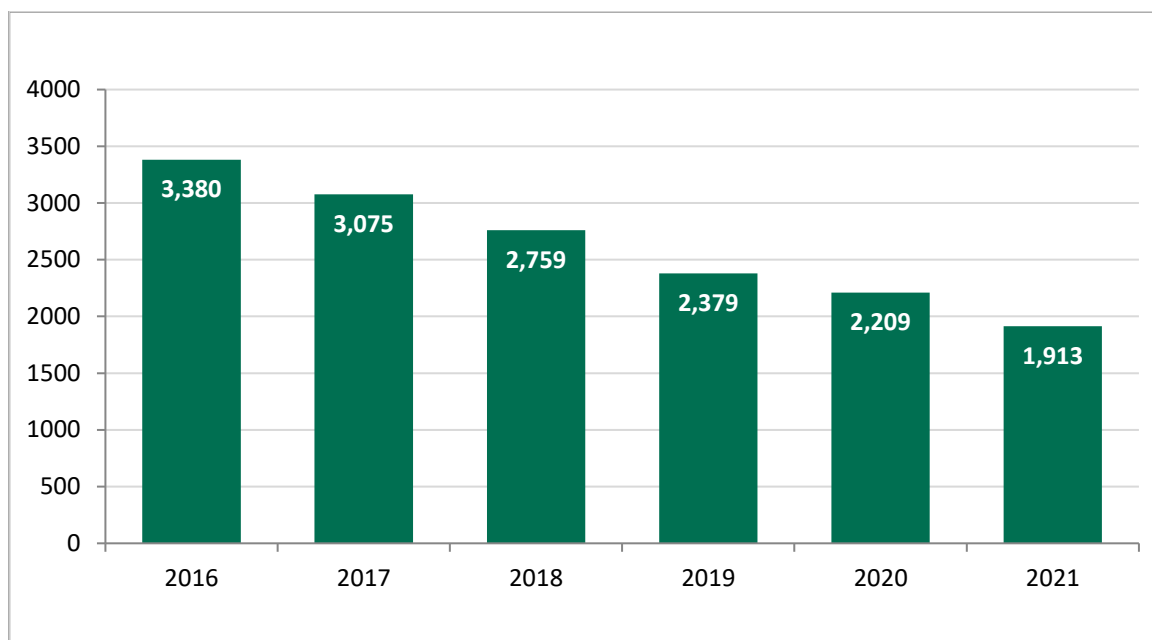


Figure 24 - Chart showing the number of new herd incidents where TB free herd status was withdrawn in GB from 2016 - 2021



England and Wales

- 2.161 The COVID-19 public health rules and guidelines for bovine TB operational delivery that had been introduced during 2020 were gradually removed during 2021, allowing for TB testing policy to return to pre-pandemic standards. Testing of calves under 180 days old recommenced in August 2021.
- 2.162 In 2021, 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 (although this increased to every six months – see below)
 - 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 HRA and LRA, where herds are tested annually or every six months.
- 2.163 Defra continued to implement its long-term TB eradication strategy to gradually achieve Officially TB Free (OTF) status for the whole of England by 2038.
- 2.164 Overall, the TB descriptive statistics for 2021 for England point to a stabilisation (and subsequent improvement) of the herd incidence rate and herd prevalence of TB over the last ten 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.

- 2.165 In England, 2021 saw the lowest number of new (and Officially TB Free Status Withdrawn (OTFW)) TB herd incidents recorded since 2009. For the HRA, this was the lowest recorded number since 2006.
- 2.166 It is expected that the reductions in new herd incidents and herds under restriction that were evident in 2021 will continue in future years as the government continues to evolve, deliver and monitor its bovine TB Eradication Strategy.
- 2.167 In particular, the following changes were made in England in 2021, despite the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic:
- Six-monthly surveillance testing of cattle herds in the HRA began in July 2021. The policy aims to detect disease at an earlier stage. Lower bovine TB risk herds that meet certain criteria will have the option to remain on annual testing, as is already the case in other six-monthly testing areas of England.
 - In July 2021 the mandatory interferon gamma (IFN- γ) testing policy in the HRA and parts of the Edge Area changed, to focus on herds that suffer a new (OTF-W) TB breakdown within 18 months of the end of a previous (OTF-W) incident (so –called recurrent breakdowns). This is in addition to continued application of IFN- γ testing to 1) new incidents in the LRA and annual TB surveillance testing counties and part-counties of the Edge Area, 2) persistent, chronic or explosive incidents 3) other ad hoc situations.
 - Since July 2021 cattle from Approved Finishing Units (AFUs) have been allowed to be sold at approved TB dedicated sales markets (orange markets) in England (and Wales). This policy has enhanced the marketing options for AFU cattle, including calves from TB-restricted sales.
 - Following the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) granting permission to APHA to conduct field trials of a cattle BCG vaccine against TB, and a companion 'DIVA' skin test to detect infected among vaccinated animals, trials got underway in June 2021.
 - Badger culling operations for 2021 saw seven new intensive cull areas authorised alongside the existing 33 intensive cull areas that were reauthorized. In addition, badger culling took place in a confirmed TB hotspot area straddling the Edge Area county of Leicestershire and the Low Risk Area (LRA) county of Lincolnshire, following the detection of *M. bovis*-infected badgers in 2020.
 - APHA completed badger vaccination across 102 km² of the confirmed TB hotspot in East Cumbria, in the LRA of England.
- 2.168 In 2021, Wales continued to divide its bovine TB surveillance and eradication into five TB incidence areas: High TB West, High TB East, Intermediate TB North, Intermediate TB Mid and Low TB Area. All herds are tested at least annually and the Welsh Government continues to implement its long-term eradication programme to achieve OTF status between 2036 and 2041. During 2021/22 a number of hotspot areas emerging in the Low TB Area of North Wales were temporarily transferred into the Intermediate TB Area North so remedial action could be more easily undertaken.

2.169 Overall, there have been long term decreases in overall incidence and prevalence since the TB Eradication Programme was established in 2008, with new TB breakdowns in Wales decreasing from a peak of 1,330 in the 12 months to March 2009 to 634 in the 12 months to March 2022 - representing a 52.3% decrease. In 2021, the lowest number of new TB herd breakdowns were recorded in the High TB Area East since 2001 at 171, while new TB breakdowns in the High TB Area West remain relatively low compared to previous recorded levels at 262. However, progress varies by TB Area, as 2021 saw the highest number of new TB breakdowns in the Intermediate TB Area North at 129 since the start of the data series in 1996.

2.170 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 2020. Key measures implemented in 2020 included:

- continued Cymorth TB/ 'Keep it Out' veterinary visits offered on an 'opt out' basis. This has been expanded to specified spatial units of North Wales
- continuing to use the Interferon-gamma test in all new TB breakdowns in the Low TB Area and in the Intermediate TB Area North (ITBAN), in persistent herd incidents (over 18 months duration), in those recurrent at a test 6 months following an incident and on an ad-hoc case management basis.
- increased use of the Flexible-extended gamma and IDEXX tests in chronic TB incidents (persistent and recurrently recurrent).
- continued heightened testing of contiguous herds in an area of increased disease prevalence in the ITBAN and now in 2 hotspot areas in North Wales.
- introduced severe interpretation from the beginning of a TB incident in specified spatial units in North Wales
- introduced additional supplementary Interferon-gamma and IDEXX testing in animals with an out-of-herd ear number and a positive reaction to bovine tuberculin, following a clear surveillance test, in specified spatial units in North Wales
- introduced OTFW by default across Wales with limited exceptions -meaning all incident herds require 2 clear tests, the first at least at severe interpretation, for revocation of restrictions.
- revoked the three year IR rule across Wales
- moved spatial units from the Low TB Area to the ITBAN to enable the legal reintroduction of pre-movement testing (but lose requirement to post-movement test
- maintenance and improvement of ibTB mapping system and making information available on cattle herds affected by bovine TB
- continue, in persistent herd breakdowns, to remove all inconclusive reactors at standard interpretation of the skin test and test inconclusive reactors at severe interpretation with both a gamma interferon blood test and an antibody test (IDEXX)

- continued with appropriate enforcement action on farmers who fail to test their cattle on time and those suspected of carrying out illegal activity
- Individual Herd Action Plans are developed by the case vet for all persistent herd breakdowns and now for all recurrent herd breakdowns at the 6M test, if they have had an Action Plan as a persistent herd breakdown previously. This has been expanded to all recurrent breakdowns to a test 6 months after an incident closes in the ITBAN and specified spatial units of North Wales
- Additional funds have been made available for expanding badger vaccination across Wales through a grant scheme.
- The Welsh Government has engaged with a group of farmers and vets on Gower Peninsula, who started to deliver badger vaccination alongside enhanced cattle control measures in order to eradicate TB in the area.
- The Welsh Government continue the All Wales Badger Found Dead Survey to increase our knowledge on the disease in badgers
- The Welsh Government has agreed a protocol to allow non-validated tests to be used in Wales, under specific criteria, which have to be agreed by the keeper and their private veterinary surgeon. This enables the Welsh Government to authorise the use of a non-validated test, in order to enable an assessment of its performance in the live animal under field conditions, prior to test validation. One herd has taken advantage of this protocol to use the Actiphage test in small groups of higher risk animals. Similar arrangements are being extended to the use of the Enferplex Antibody Test in 2021.

Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSE)

2.171 APHA delivered on all performance indicators within the agreed criteria for the 2021 period. The table below outlines BSE, TSE and scrapie performance indicators for Great Britain in 2021.

BSE, TSE and Scrapie performance indicators for 2021 in Great Britain

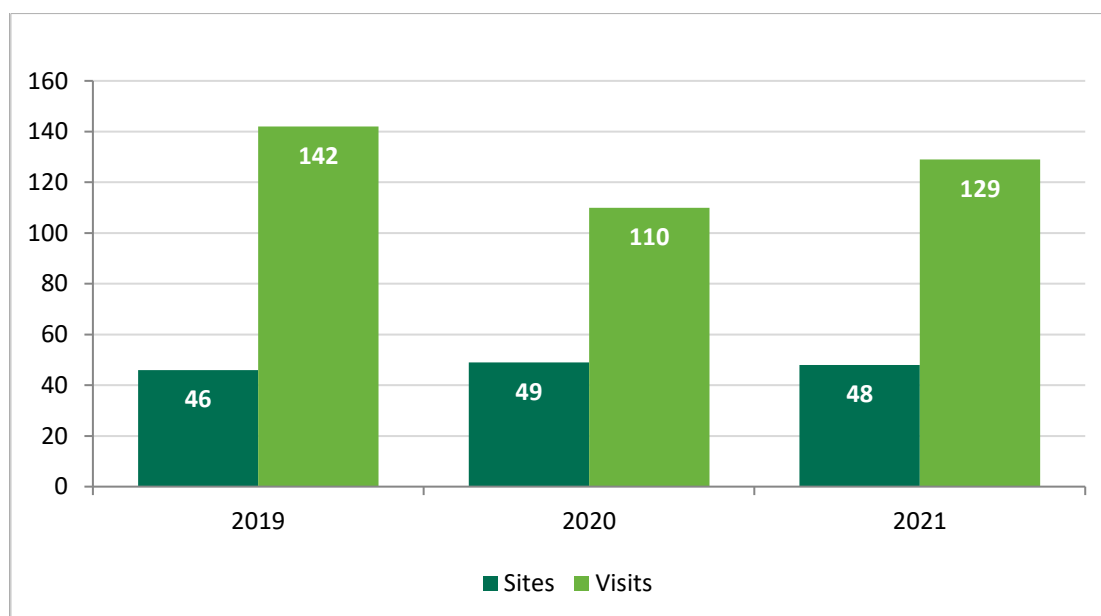
Performance indicator	Number of investigations	% completed within agreed target
Investigation of on-farm suspect BSE reports	2	100
Investigation of on-farm suspect Scrapie reports	2	100
Tracing of confirmed classical and atypical Scrapie cases	0	N/A
Risk-based inspection of approved TSE sampling sites and controlled hide stores	TSE:129 Hides: 0	N/A
Restriction of eligible BSE offspring and cohorts	2 (9 restriction notices)	100

2.172 There were two BSE suspects in 2021, one in England (Staffordshire) and one in Wales (Pembrokeshire). Both cases were cattle showing nervous signs which may be consistent with clinical BSE, reported by the farmers. The suspect animal in

Wales was euthanised and samples were submitted to the National Reference Laboratory, which following full confirmatory test, produced negative results allowing disease to be negated. The case in England was left on observation and BSE was not suspected and ruled out on the basis of observed clinical signs consistent with peripartum pathology and was negated.

2.173 There were no new cases of classical scrapie in 2021. All the on-farm investigation Scrapie suspects were restricted immediately and visited according to priorities.

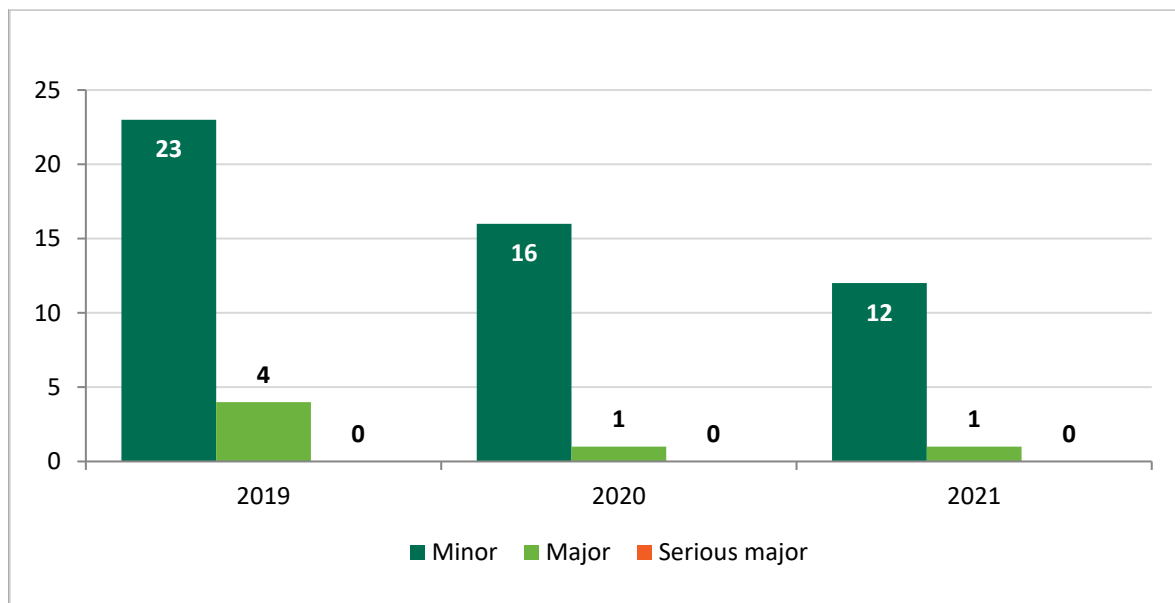
Figure 25 - Chart showing number of TSE approved sampling sites and visits in GB from 2019 – 2021



2.174 The number of TSE approved sampling sites remained stable over the three-year period. The number of risk-based inspections remained similar to those carried out in 2020. This was due to continuing resource pressures while trying to recover BAU work following Covid disruption and also dealing with an unprecedented number of Avian Influenza cases in the second half of 2021.

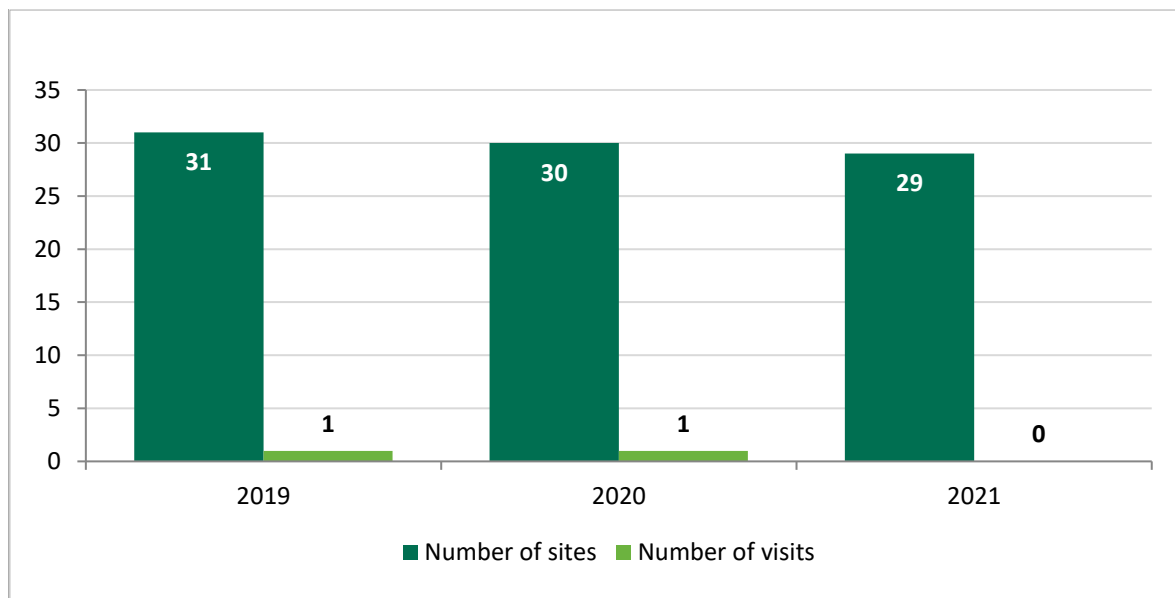
2.175 In Great Britain, 13 non-compliances were identified at TSE sampling sites during 2021, of which 12 were minor non-compliances and one was a major non-compliance. These mainly related to structural and record keeping issues. No serious major non-compliances were identified during 2021.

Figure 26 - Chart showing the number of non-compliances at GB TSE sampling sites from 2019 – 2021



2.177 The number of controlled hide establishments decreased by one in 2021, which was due to a site approval being revoked. As a result of resource pressures in other work areas, no site visits were carried out in 2021.

Figure 27 - Chart showing the number of GB controlled hide establishments and the number of inspection visits from 2019 - 2021



*2019 figure for number of sites amended due to an error in the 2019 report.

Surveillance for BSE

2.178 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.

- 2.179 In 2021, 109,045 cattle were tested in Great Britain under the [active surveillance programme](#). One Classical BSE case was detected in England (Somerset) by active surveillance, and none through passive surveillance in 2021. The numbers of confirmed TSE cases in Great Britain remained very low. Published [TSE surveillance statistics](#) provide further information.
- 2.180 Whilst there were no cases of BSE in Scotland in 2020 and 2021, a final report on the 2018 classical BSE case in Scotland is available in the [epidemiological report](#).

Scrapie in sheep in GB

GB surveillance for scrapie from 2020 – 2021

Type of surveillance	2020*	2021
Number of sheep over 18 months slaughtered for human consumption	5,487	5,505
Number of sheep over 18 months (Fallen stock)	13,704	13,570
Number of sheep tested - fallen stock (including death in transit)	13,767	13,648
Number of classical scrapie cases	0	0
Number of atypical scrapie cases	13	11
Total number of sheep tested	19,267	19,164

*2020 figures amended from the 2020 report.

- 2.181 In 2021, no classical cases were identified in sheep or goats. Eleven cases of atypical scrapie were confirmed in Great Britain. Seven atypical cases identified in sheep were submitted to the Fallen Stock survey, and four cases from sheep were submitted to the Abattoir survey.
- 2.182 [The Fallen Stock survey](#) was the main contributor to the detection of atypical scrapie. Twelve new sheep holdings joined the Compulsory Scrapie Flocks Scheme (CSFS) in 2021, leaving a total of 40 holdings with confirmed atypical scrapie and three with Classical Scrapie, two of which have now been depopulated, via a flock cull.
- 2.183 During the restriction period, fallen and healthy slaughtered sheep aged over 18 months were tested for scrapie. No sheep fallen stock sample was tested from the classical scrapie restricted farms, and 454 sheep fallen stock submitted from atypical scrapie flocks.
- 2.184 In 2021, the Atypical Scrapie Monitoring Scheme (ASMS) continued to test the throughput of sheep holdings under restrictions of any kind. Twelve holdings joined the existing 24 monitored due to confirmation of atypical scrapie. Twenty-six of the 40 holdings under restrictions submitted 463 samples to the various testing routes of the scheme.

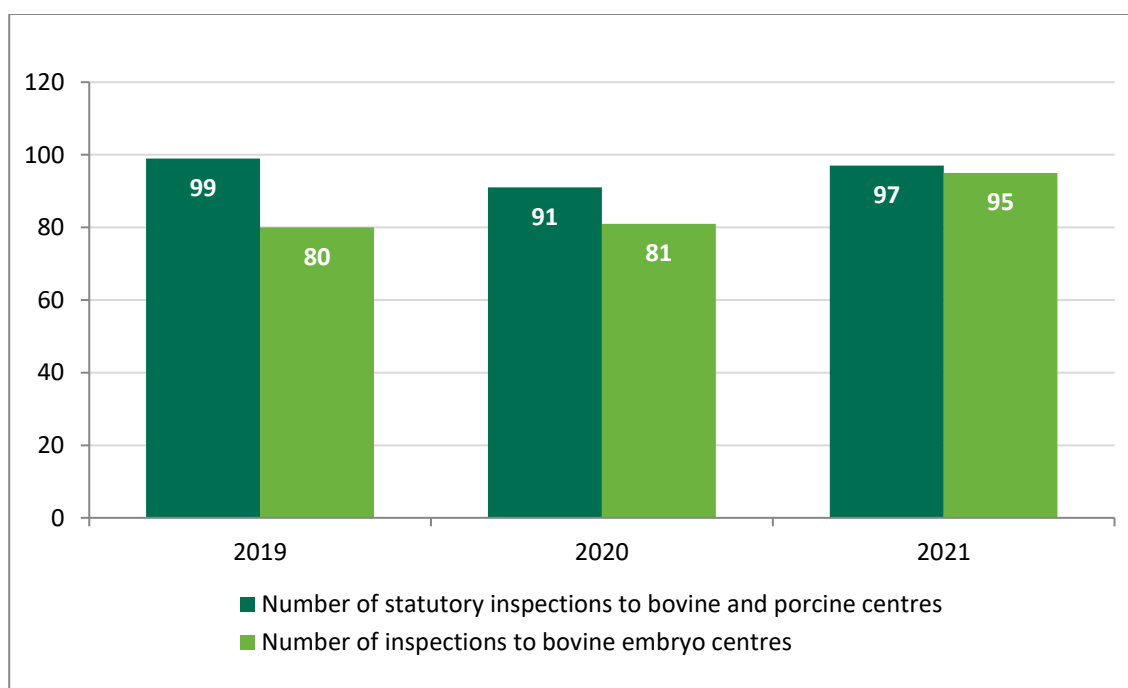
Scrapie in goats in the UK

2.185 In 2021, no clinical cases of classical scrapie were confirmed, together with no clinical cases of classical scrapie recorded, including CSFS holdings. In addition, there were no atypical scrapie cases recorded in goats. There were 302 fallen goats and 237 annual cull goats aged over 18 months tested, and no positive case was confirmed from this surveillance route, outside a CSFS holding. No new goat holding entered the CSFS in 2021.

Artificial breeding controls

2.186 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. This work was delivered in line with expectations. Controls remained consistent for 2021. The chart below summarises inspections for the past three years.

Figure 28 - Chart showing number of artificial breeding inspections carried out in GB, by bovine embryo centres and bovine porcine centres, from 2019 - 2021



Number of artificial breeding control activities undertaken in GB 2016/17 - 2021/22

Activity	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Number of bovine embryo collection / production / transfer teams approved	21	10*	3*	4*	9*	7*
Number of bovine and porcine semen collection, processing and storage centres approved	6*	2*	7*	3*	4*	4*
Number of animals licensed for on-farm domestic semen collection	280	329	262	265	308	355

Activity	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Number of animals approved to move onto approved AI centres	184	1,950	1,248	1,413	1,687	1,460
Number of animals licensed for semen export	1,312	1,881	1,204	1,366	1,625	1,357

*Embryo stores and porcine AQU approvals not included.

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

Sheep and goats identification and tracing inspections

2.188 GB competent authorities each met the regulatory requirement¹⁴ to inspect 3% of sheep and goat holdings, covering 5% of national sheep and goat populations.

General information on holdings, animals and checks in GB between 2016 – 2021

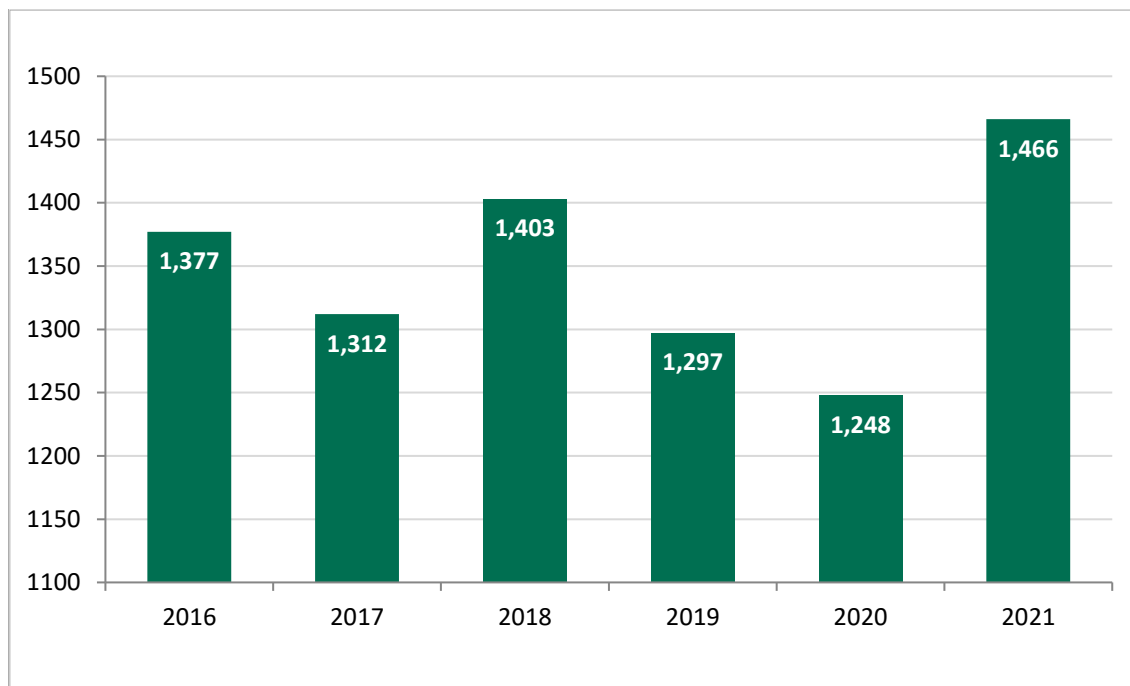
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total number of MS registered holdings at the start of the reporting period	109,347	112,040	114,720	108,212	109,217	136,959
Total number of holdings checked	3,456	3,561	4,216	3,602	3,468	4,350
Total number of MS registered ovine and caprine animals at the beginning of the reporting period	17,316,040	17,614,132	17,333,838	16,586,206	16,087,152	16,677,987
Total number of ovine and caprine animals in holdings checked during the reporting period	1,752,686	1,785,910	2,430,758	1,965,889	1,809,360	2,294,864

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

2.190 In 2021, there was a 25% increase in holdings due to cleaning data and encouraging registration, principally in England. There was a consequent 25% increase in GB holdings checked in 2021 and a 17% increase in non-compliant holdings. The chart below shows the number of non-compliant holdings.

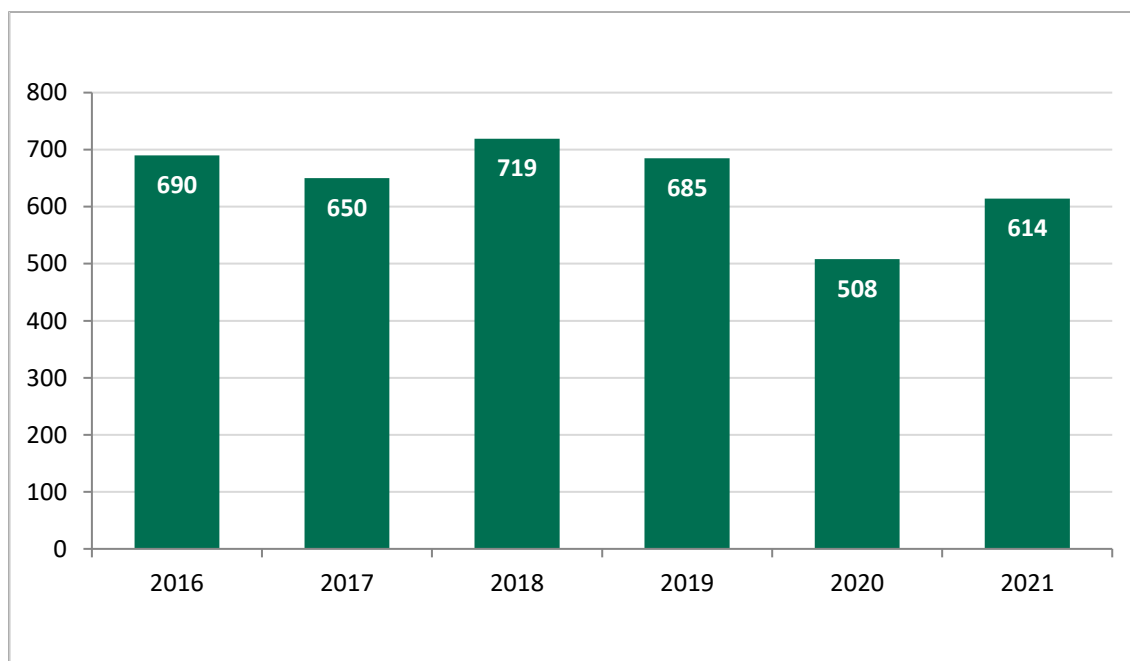
¹⁴ Retained Regulation (EC) No 21/2004, via retained Commission Regulation 2006/1505.

Figure 29 - Chart showing the number of sheep and goat holdings with non-compliances in GB from 2016 - 2021



2.191 Penalties were applied to sheep and goat keepers for non-compliance discovered during an SMR 8 cross compliance inspection. The chart below shows the number of penalties imposed in GB from 2016 to 2021.

Figure 30 - Chart showing the number of sheep and goat holdings with penalties imposed in GB from 2016 – 2021



2.192 In 2021, the increase in the number of holdings with penalties imposed was primarily due to more sheep businesses being inspected in Wales; many of which

comprised of multiple holdings, where common failings included errors in the on-farm holding register, such as missing or inaccurate dates for tagging, replacement tags, and deaths.

Cattle identification and registration

2.193 3.63% of holdings were inspected in accordance with regulation (EC) 1760/2000 with the minimum requirement being 3% as per Commission Regulation (EC) 1082/2003. All inspections were completed on time during the reporting period.

2.194 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.

General information on holdings and bovine animals in Great Britain 2016 – 2021

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total number of holdings registered at the start of the reporting period	73,844	72,733	71,946	70,555	68,661	68,488
Total number of holdings checked during the reporting period	2,885	2,975	2,925	2,431	2,345	2,488
Total number of bovine animals registered at the start of the reporting period	8,129,271	8,108,766	7,964,321	7,984,511	7,781,796	7,699,276
Total number of bovine animals checked during the reporting period	351,765	339,633	366,698	265,352	296,518	292,908

2.195 In 2021, the results of the cattle identification inspection annual programme for Great Britain have shown a mixed picture of compliance, with the number of non-compliant holdings increasing from 1,027 to 1,082, but with a reduced number of animals found to be in breach of the cattle identification regulation, decreasing by 1,142 - from 22,500 to 21,358.

2.196 Various activities were inspected on farms, such as tagging standards, record keeping and notifications to the central database. Where necessary, penalties were applied to cattle keepers found to be in breach of cross-compliance inspections. In 2021, the most common types of non-compliance related to late or no report of movements and late or no report of births and deaths, with the majority of animals inspected found to have only one error.

2.197 In Great Britain during 2021, 9,065 bovine animals were subject to movement restrictions. A total of 1,585 animals were subject to individual restrictions, and 7,443 were subject to whole herd movement restrictions. This represented 3.09% of animals subject to inspection. A total of 98 holdings were subject to a whole herd restriction, which equated to 3.93% of all inspected holdings.

2.198 The charts below show holdings with non-compliances and inspections relating to cattle ID and registration from 2019 to 2021 in Great Britain.

Figure 31 - Chart showing the number of holdings with non-compliances for cattle identification regulations in GB from 2019 - 2021

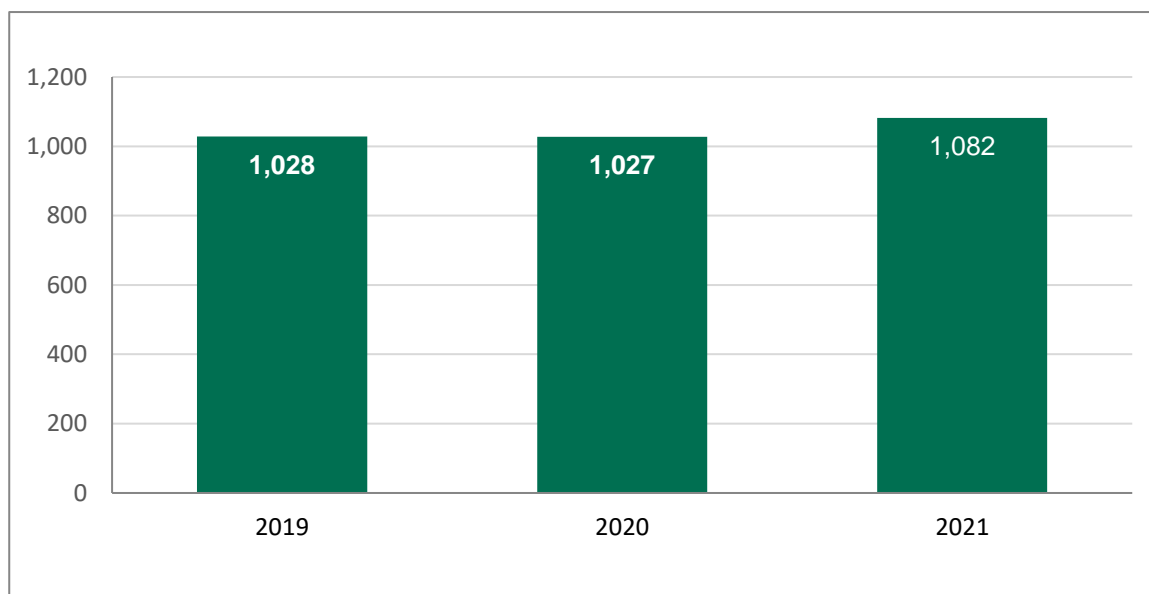
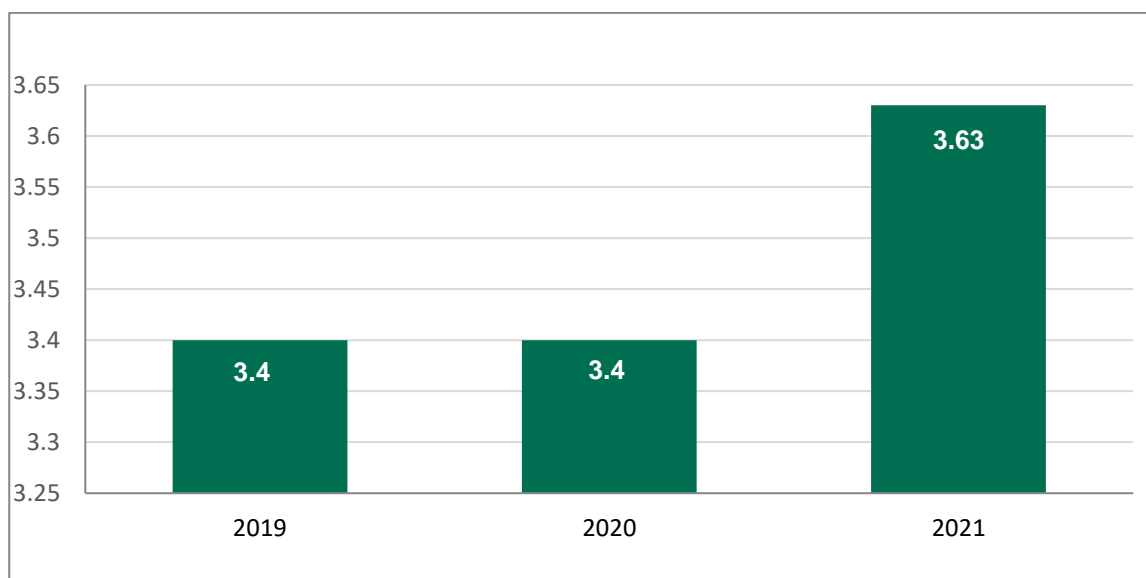


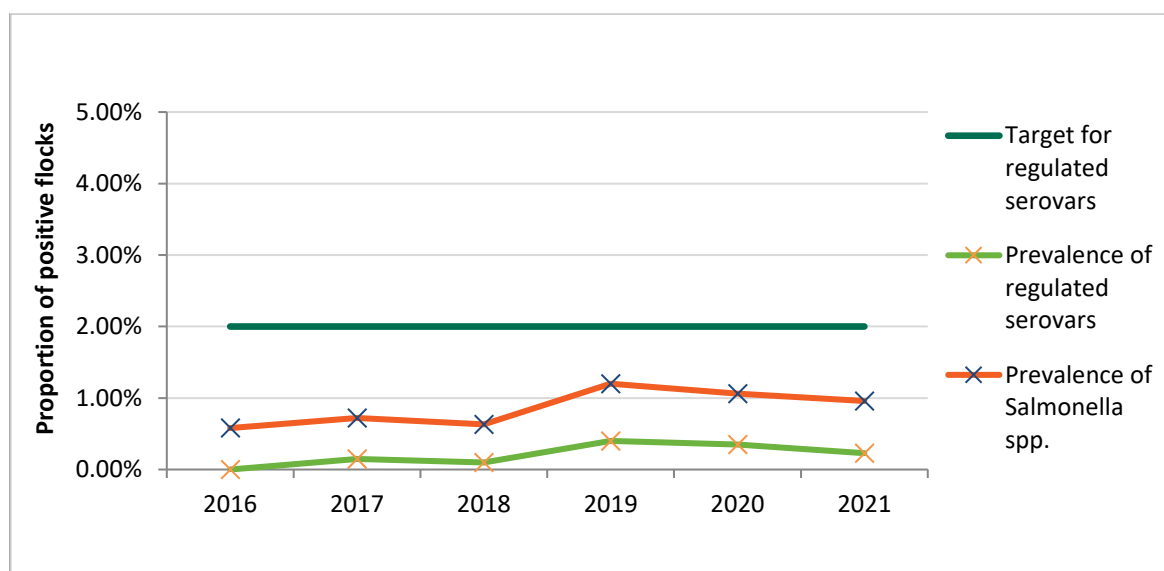
Figure 32 - Chart showing the percentage of cattle holdings inspected under the cattle identification regulations in GB from 2019 - 2021



Zoonoses

- 2.199 Control of *Salmonella* in all the UK poultry sectors was maintained in 2021. England, Scotland and Wales continued to meet or exceed their respective target prevalence for regulated serovars in all five NCPs. More detail on salmonella control trends can be found in the reports listed on [Salmonella in animals and feed in Great Britain](#).
- 2.200 The *Salmonella* National Control Programme (SNCP) monitoring results for 2021 for all five NCPs (breeding, laying and broiler chickens and for breeding and fattening turkeys) showed that the levels of the regulated (target) *Salmonella* serovars were all below and within the GB legally designated targets.
- 2.201 Operator and official sampling under the *Salmonella* national control programmes, as required by the retained EU legislation, are in place for each sector. Defra organised the first *Salmonella* Task Force meeting in December 2021. Operator sample sensitivity, official confirmatory sampling, and importance of good on-farm biosecurity, were the main items on the agenda and were discussed with industry representatives across all poultry sectors. This meeting included participants from across the UK.

Figure 33 - Chart showing prevalence of *Salmonella* spp. in regulated serovars relative to the target in adult laying hen flocks of *Gallus gallus* in the *Salmonella* National control programme from 2016 – 2021 in Great Britain

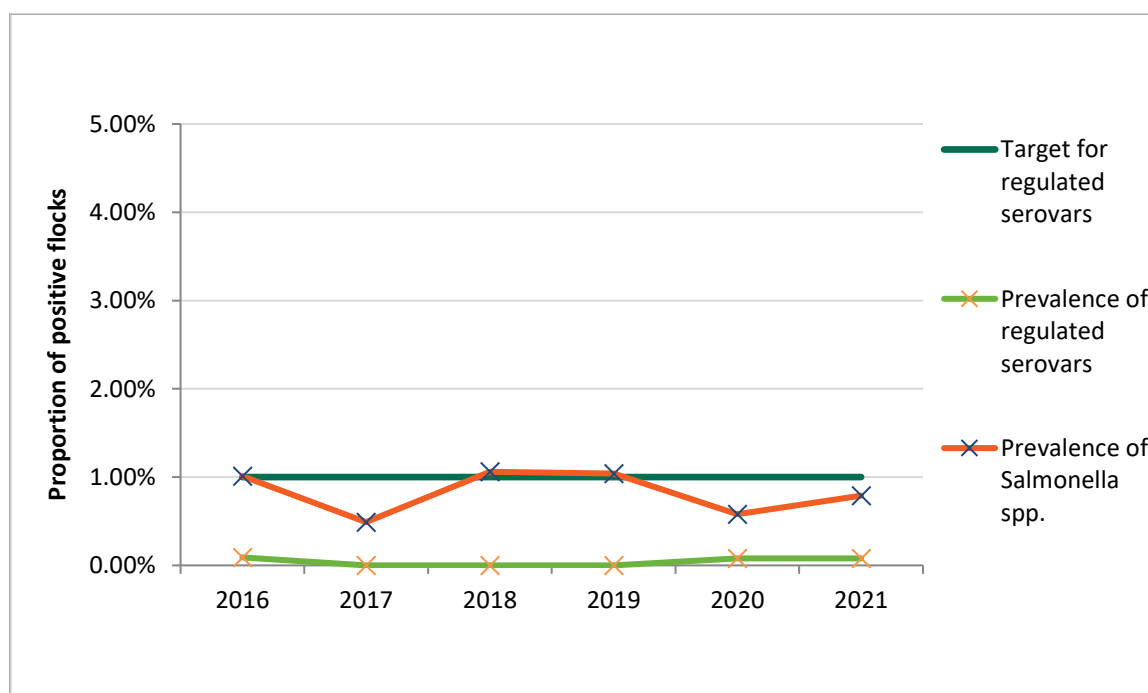


- 2.202 The GB breeding chicken sector had a reported prevalence for regulated (target) serovars of 0.08% for 2021, comparing favourably with the legal target of less than 1%. One adult breeding flock was positive for a regulated *Salmonella* serovar: *S. Infantis* identified in a broiler parent flock via operator sampling and this was subsequently confirmed via official confirmatory sampling. This was the first time *S. Infantis* had been identified in a breeding flock since the introduction of the breeding chicken NCP.

2.203 The estimated prevalence of *S. Enteritidis*, *S. Typhimurium* and/ or monophasic strains of *S. Typhimurium* in adult flocks of laying hens within the NCP in Great Britain during 2021 was 0.23%. While remaining well below the target of 2.00%, this is comparable with 0.35% in 2020 and 0.40% in 2019.

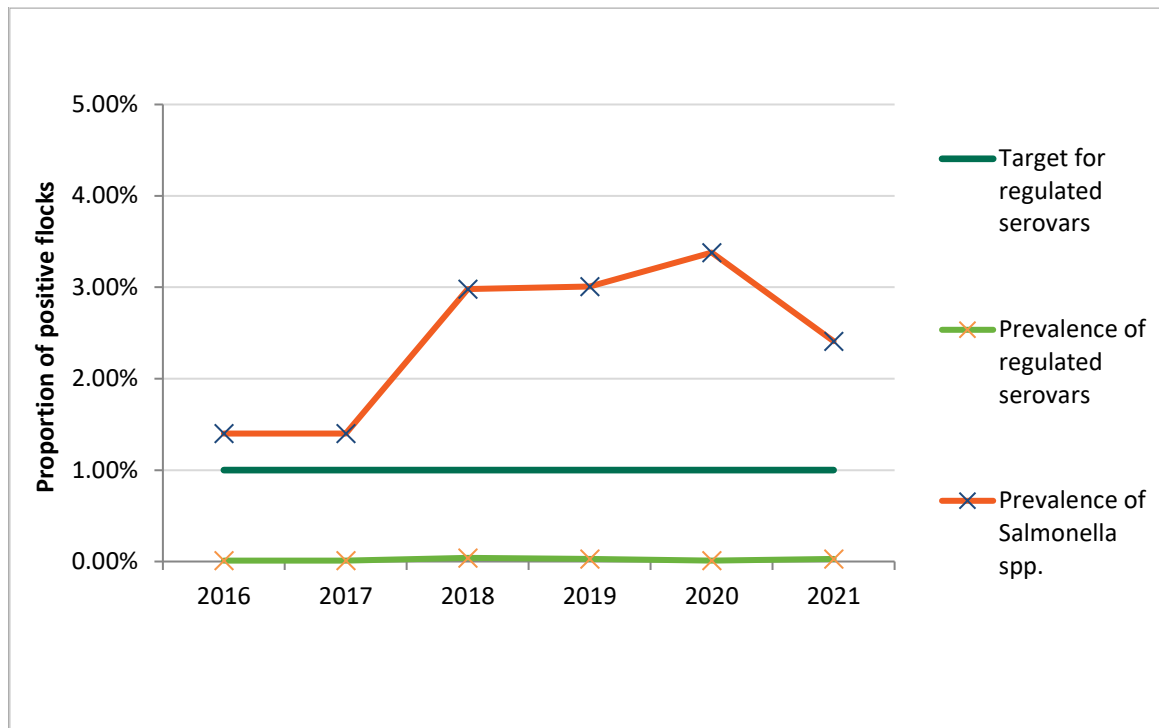
2.204 Three adult flocks of laying hens, originating from three separate holdings, were positive for *S. Enteritidis* (PT4 x2, PT8a x1). Six adult flocks of laying hens, originating from six separate holdings, were positive for *S. Typhimurium* (DT2 x3, DT1 x1, DT104 x1, RDNC x1). A total of 9 adult flocks of laying hens, originating from nine separate holdings, were therefore recorded as positive for regulated serovars (*S. Enteritidis* and/ or *S. Typhimurium*, including monophasic strains) in GB in 2021. Five of these flocks were identified through annual official sampling and four of these flocks were identified through operator sampling.

Figure 34 - Chart showing prevalence of *Salmonella* spp. and the regulated serovars relative to the target in adult breeding flocks of *Gallus gallus* in the *Salmonella* National control programme from 2016 - 2021 in Great Britain



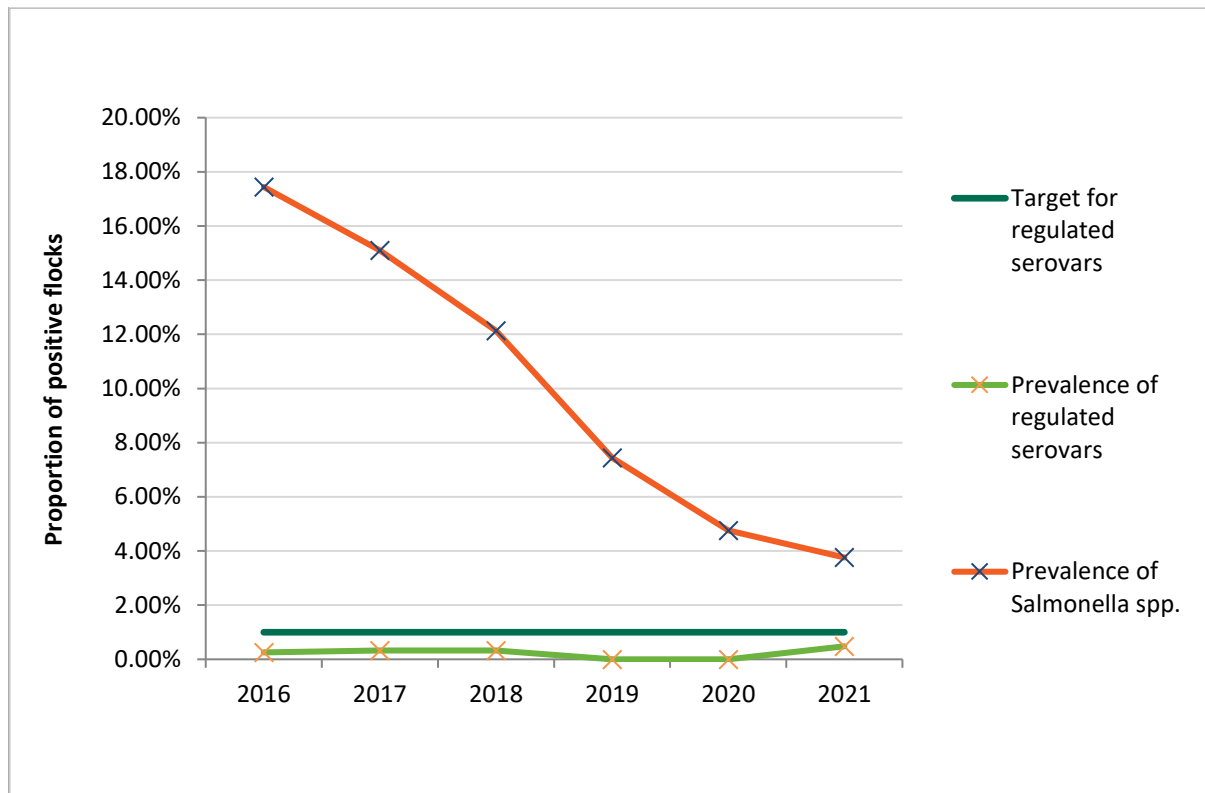
2.205 15 broiler flocks of *Gallus gallus*, were positive for regulated serovars: two for *S. Enteritidis* (PT4 x1 & PT20 x1), four for *S. Typhimurium* (RDNC x3, U320 x2, DT104 x1, and DT193 x1), six for *S. 4,5,12:i:-*, monophasic *Typhimurium* and three for *S. 4,12:i:-* monophasic *Typhimurium* (DT193) in 2021. One of these flocks was intensively sampled, with four samples testing positive for *S. Typhimurium* (U320 x2, DT193 x1, and RDNC x1) - hence the number of phages is greater than 4, Based on the estimated number of broiler flocks in 2021, the estimated prevalence of regulated *Salmonella* serovars in GB was 0.03%. This compares with 0.01% in 2020 and 0.03% in 2019 – again a favourable result in the context of a less than 1% legal target for regulated serovars.

Figure 35 – Chart showing prevalence of *Salmonella* spp. In regulated serovars relative to the target for broiler flocks of *Gallus gallus* in the *Salmonella* National control programme from 2016 – 2021 in Great Britain



2.206 Three turkey fattening flocks, all on the same holding, were positive for *S. Typhimurium* (ST) in 2021. In addition to the three *Typhimurium* positive flocks mentioned, one further holding was associated with eight flocks testing positive for the monophasic *S. Typhimurium* strain 4,5,12:i:- and one flock tested positive for monophasic *S. Typhimurium* 4,12:i:-. The 2021 prevalence of the target serovars was 0.48%, which is below the EU target of a maximum of 1% of flocks positive for regulated serovars in fattening turkey flocks. No regulated serovars were isolated from fattening turkey flocks in 2019 or 2020 so prevalence in both these years was 0%, although regulated serovars had been identified in previous years.

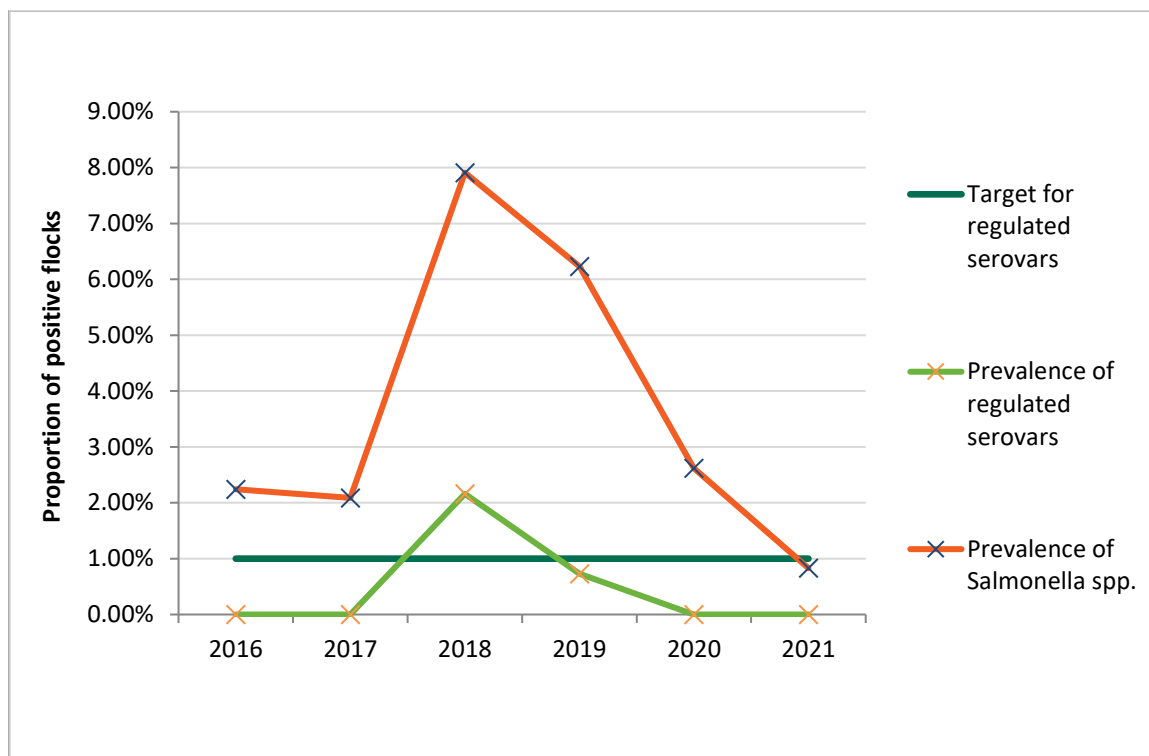
Figure 36 - Chart showing prevalence of *Salmonella* spp. and the regulated serovars relative to the target for fattening turkey flocks in the *Salmonella* National control programme from 2016 - 2021 in Great Britain



2.207 In 2021, there were 241 turkey breeding flocks tested in the National Control Programme. No turkey breeding flocks were positive for regulated serovars. The 2021 prevalence of the target serovars was therefore 0%, which is below the EU target of 1% of flocks positive for *S. Enteritidis* and *S. Typhimurium*, including monophasic *Salmonella* Typhimurium strains.

2.208 No turkey breeding flocks were positive for *S. Enteritidis* in 2021. This has been the case since the introduction of the UK breeding turkey NCP in 2010. Similarly no breeding turkey flocks were positive for *S. Typhimurium*, including monophasic *Salmonella* Typhimurium strains. The last year this regulated serovar was identified in breeding turkey flocks was 2019, and this was a monophasic *Salmonella* Typhimurium.

Figure 37 - *Salmonella* spp. and the regulated serovars relative to the target in breeding turkey flocks in the *Salmonella* National Control Programme from 2016 - 2021 in Great Britain



2.209 The requirements for official sampling are laid out in Regulation 2160/2003 (as amended) and implementing legislation. In total for all poultry sectors across Great Britain, 2,484 poultry flocks were subject to annual routine official NCP sampling in 2021.

Number of flocks officially sampled in Great Britain per year 2019-2020

Sector	2019	2020	2021
Breeding chickens	1,246	1,067	1,099
Laying chickens	1,187	805	1,044
Broilers	125	107	122
Fattening turkeys	44	32	37
Breeding turkeys	227	187	182

2.210 The assessment of FBO compliance with the requirements of the SNCP for all sectors in Great Britain, showed general overall compliance. The criteria for defining a non-compliance and the number of compliance inspections varied between poultry sectors, so data should only be compared within a specific sector for the years reported and should not be compared between sectors.

Summary of non-compliance in the poultry sector in Great Britain from 2019 – 2021

	2019	2020	2021
Non-compliances	83	35	44

2.211 In England and Wales, for laying chicken farms where non-compliances are detected, financial penalty notices may be issued for significant non-compliance with the requirements of the SNCP. There were 18 penalty notices and 15 warning letters issued in 2021. During 2021, 44 case referrals were received and moderated by APHA. As a result, 18 penalty notices were sent out to customers, and 15 warning letters were issued. This financial penalty system is not used in Scotland.

Salmonella in pigs

2.212 In England and Wales during 2021, sampling was undertaken at abattoirs that slaughter 100,000 pigs weekly. Of the 2,105 Salmonella tests carried out, 32 were positive. In Scotland during 2021, 301 Salmonella samples were collected in plants processing between 37,000 and 100,000 pigs, with no positives identified.

Border controls – Animals and products of animal origin

2.213 The number of consignments of animal products imported into Great Britain has increased from 48,489 in 2020 to 53,229 in 2021. In the case of live animal imports, the number of consignments increased significantly from 5,829 in 2020 to 10,395 in 2021.

2.214 Compliance remains high for non-EU country imports of animals and animal products. For products, the figures have increased slightly from the previous year. In 2021, the number of consignments rejected was 1,093 (2.05%) compared to 965 (1.99%) in 2020.

2.215 The major non-compliances are documentary errors - in particular, absence of a health certificate, or an invalid health certificate. This is likely to be due to a lack of understanding or knowledge of the GB rules in the third country exporting authority. For live animals, 183 (1.76%) consignments were rejected in 2021 compared with 103 (1.76%) consignments in 2020. The majority of rejected consignments of live animals were dogs, cats and fish.

2.216 If a consignment presented a public or animal health risk, it was destroyed. Otherwise the importer/person responsible for the consignment had the option to either re-export, destroy or arrange for the consignment to be subjected to special treatment or any other measure to ensure compliance and where appropriate, allocate the consignment for purposes other than those for which it was originally intended. This action must be undertaken under the control of the competent authority. For live animals most consignments were re-exported.

2.217 Since 1 January 2021, the UK has put in place strict biosecurity controls on the highest risk imports of animals, animal products, plants and plant products from the EU. To reduce disruption to travellers and support businesses as these controls were introduced, temporary easements have been implemented. These easements will cease when we implement our Target Operating Model, scheduled for 2023.

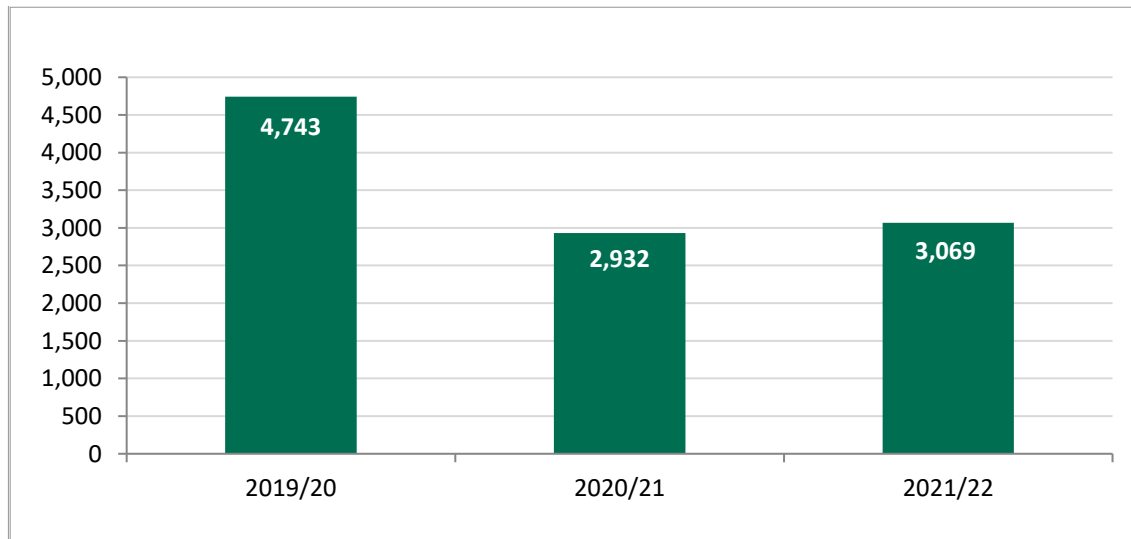
GB controls on imported consignments: animal products from 2019 – 2021

	2019	2020	2021
Total certificates issued	54,826	48,489	53,229
Number of controlled certificates	54,826	48,489	53,229
Number of rejections	1,102	965	1,093
Number of rejections re-exported	376	246	371
Number of rejections transformed	1	6	1
Number of rejections destroyed	725	713	661

GB controls on imported consignments: live animals from 2016 – 2021

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total certificates	9,375	8,820	8,614	8,585	5,829	10,395
Number of controlled certificates	9,375	8,817	8,614	8,585	5,801	10,395
Number of rejects	50	61	30	55	103	183
Rejects re-exported	37	50	24	48	102	160
Rejects slaughtered	0	0	1	0	1	0
Rejects subject to euthanasia (fish & gastropoda)	12	10	5	7	0	1

Figure 38 - Chart showing the number of imported products of animal origin seized in GB from 2019/20 - 2021/22



*2019/20 and 2020/21 figures have been amended to correct an error in the previous report.

Illegal imports¹⁵ controls of products of animal origin

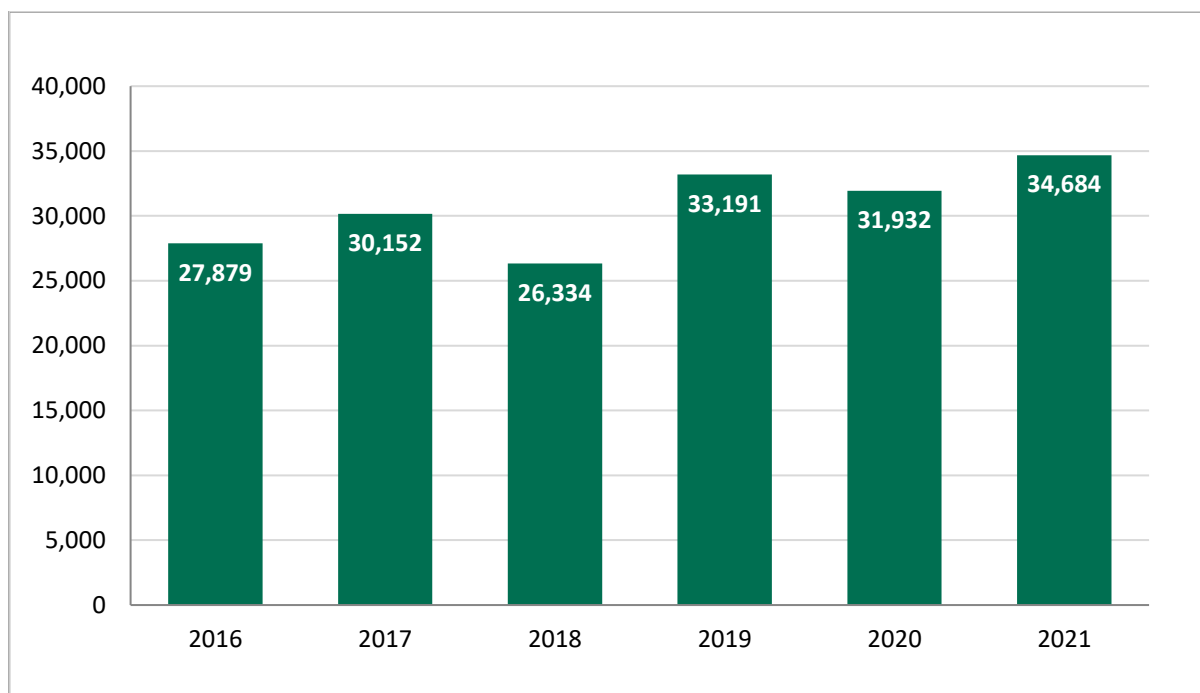
- 2.218 The increase in seizures of POAO from 2020/21 to 2021/22 reflects the progressive relaxation of air travel restrictions during this time.
- 2.219 Granular data relating to the origin of seized animal products are not available, but there is some evidence of substantial illegal importation of animal products from Africa following targeted enforcement activity by Border Force. Imports via online sales continue to be monitored, with scope for further enforcement action to prevent non-compliant animal products being imported without veterinary checks.

Bee health

- 2.220 In England and Wales, the National Bee Unit (NBU) 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 2021 and in previous years.
- 2.221 The number of colonies infected with American foulbrood (AFB) and European foulbrood (EFB) has remained at relatively 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 (OTC).
- 2.222 Honey samples were also collected under contract for the VMD for the National Surveillance Scheme. Approximately 100 samples are collected each year.
- 2.223 A total of 34,684 unique colonies in 5,433 apiaries were inspected across England and Wales. The chart below shows inspections undertaken from 2016 to 2021.
- 2.224 To note: laboratory diagnosis and control measures in England and Wales up to the end of 2020 were based only on samples of rest-of-world import apiaries, for which 100% of samples received were analysed. Following our exit from the European Union in December 2020, from 2021 onwards samples include bees imported from apiaries in the EU, and a proportion of samples received are analysed, rather than 100% analysis.

¹⁵ '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 Control Post. These statistics also include items voluntarily surrendered by passengers at ports and airports.

Figure 39 - Chart showing the total number of unique colonies inspected in England and Wales from 2016 – 2021



Turnaround times on laboratory diagnosis and control measures on diseased apiaries for 2020 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	97	177
Import Samples	4	n/a	0
Statutory Foulbrood	1	95	701
Voluntary Foulbrood	1	100	3

Turnaround times on laboratory diagnosis and control measures on diseased apiaries for 2021 in England

Type of sample	Target (working days within which 95% of samples should be completed)	% within target	Number of samples analysed
Statutory Exotics	1	n/a	0
Voluntary Exotics	1	94	185
Import Samples	10	72	33
Statutory Foulbrood	1	95	913
Voluntary Foulbrood	1	n/a	0

Turnaround times on laboratory diagnosis and control measures on diseased apiaries for 2020 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	27
Import Samples	4	n/a	0
Statutory Foulbrood	1	87	39
Voluntary Foulbrood	1	n/a	0

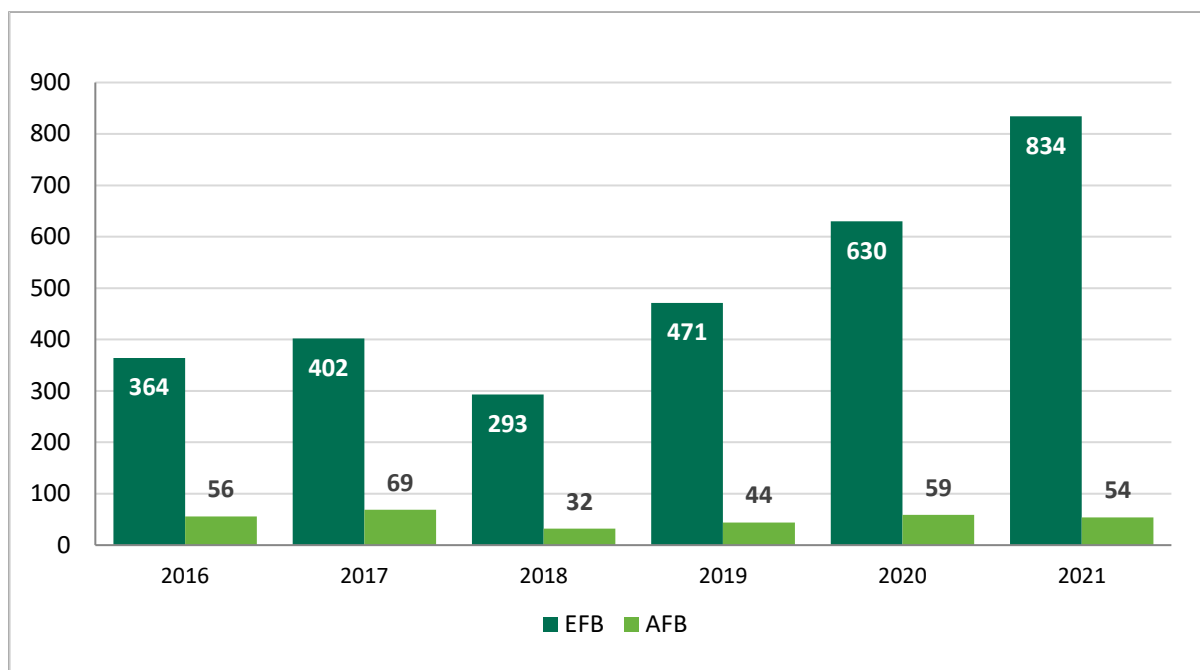
Turnaround times on laboratory diagnosis and control measures on diseased apiaries for 2021 in Wales

Type of sample	Target (working days within which 95% of samples should be completed)	% within target	Number of samples analysed
Statutory Exotics	1	n/a	0
Voluntary Exotics	1	89	19
Import Samples	10	n/a	0
Statutory Foulbrood	1	88	49
Voluntary Foulbrood	1	100	1

2.225 In England and Wales, official controls on colonies infected with foulbrood comprised 278 colonies in 154 separate apiaries, treated by shook swarm/or Oxytetracycline antibiotic: 95% within 10 days (mean treatment time three days), while 622 colonies in 301 separate apiaries were controlled by destruction: 91% within 10 days (mean treatment time two days).

2.226 The NBU's continuing inspection priorities include the detection and management of statutory notifiable diseases, AFB and EFB, and surveillance for the exotic pest species of small hive beetle and *Tropilaelaps* mites. In 2021, there were 54 cases of AFB and 834 cases of EFB in England and Wales. These figures represent significant increases compared with 2018 and 2019. Overall, however, the numbers of AFB cases over the past 10 years remain at relatively low levels. The chart below summarises infection levels in colonies from 2016 - 2021.

Figure 40 - Chart showing the number of colonies found to be infected with EFB and AFB in England and Wales from 2016 – 2021

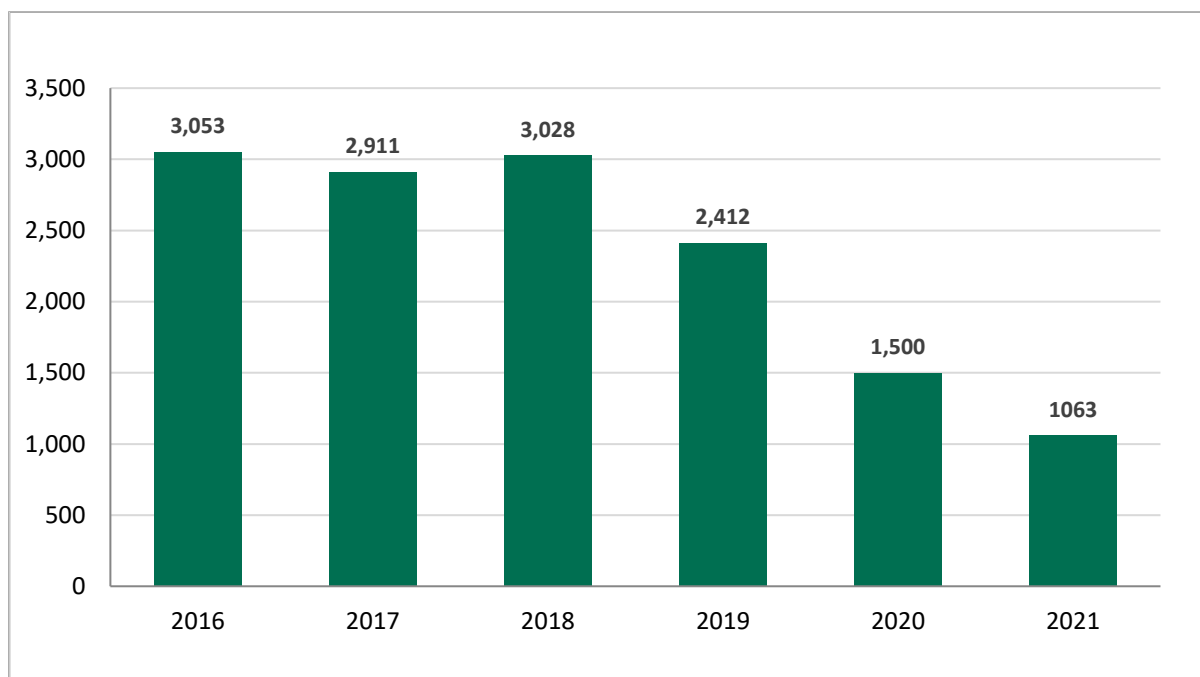


2.227 A total of 5,212 colonies in 1,063 apiaries were specifically examined in England and Wales for the presence of exotic pests. A total of 204 samples were also submitted voluntarily by beekeepers. None of these inspections revealed any findings of small hive beetle and *Tropilaelaps* mites, and 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.

2.228 The reduction in exotic pest inspections after 2018 was due to increased time spent tackling outbreaks of European foulbrood, cases of which had increased from the previous year; and in responding to outbreaks of Asian hornet, for which three nests were detected and destroyed in 2019, one nest in 2020 and two nests in 2021.

2.229 The risk-based system for prioritising apiary inspections was reviewed in 2020, and this has resulted in something of a shift in focus, from exotic inspections to foulbrood inspections. The below chart shows inspections for exotic pests in England and Wales from 2016 to 2021.

Figure 41 - Chart showing the number of apiaries inspected for exotic pests in England and Wales from 2016 – 2021



- 2.230 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](#).
- 2.231 The number of colonies infected with American foulbrood (AFB) remained at low levels in recent years, and all colonies that were found to be infected with AFB were destroyed.
- 2.232 European Foulbrood (EFB) is widespread in Scotland as in England and Wales. The Bee Health Inspectorate are continuing to work on establishing the true picture of EFB spread in Scotland and there are ongoing research projects that aim to better understand the disease.
- 2.233 A total of 12,648 unique colonies in 463 apiaries were inspected across Scotland. The Scottish Bee Inspectorate's inspection priorities are the detection and management of statutory notifiable diseases (AFB and EFB), and surveillance for exotic pest species (small hive beetle and *Tropilaelaps mites*).
- 2.234 The numbers of AFB cases over recent years have remained at relatively low levels. In 2021, 10 colonies with five different beekeepers were diagnosed with AFB, and 125 colonies with 21 different beekeepers were diagnosed with EFB.

2.235 [The Scottish Government EFB Control Plan](#) has been in operation since 2010, allowing commercial beekeepers to complete their own initial disease inspection, subject to a certification process.

2.236 The Scottish Honey Bee Health Strategy (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, and working in close partnership, have all contributed to this progress. The first 10-year Strategy has been reviewed and, along with the results from a SG honey bee health survey, has provided for the development of Scotland's second 10-year Honey Bee Health Strategy (published June 2022).

2.237 Honey samples were also collected under contract for the VMD for the National Surveillance Scheme. 10 samples are collected each year under Council Directive 96/23/EC; none of these samples were non-compliant.

2.238 Results of the Scottish Government inspection programme are provided below.

Figure 42 - Chart showing the number of apiaries and colonies infected with EFB in Scotland, from 2016 – 2021

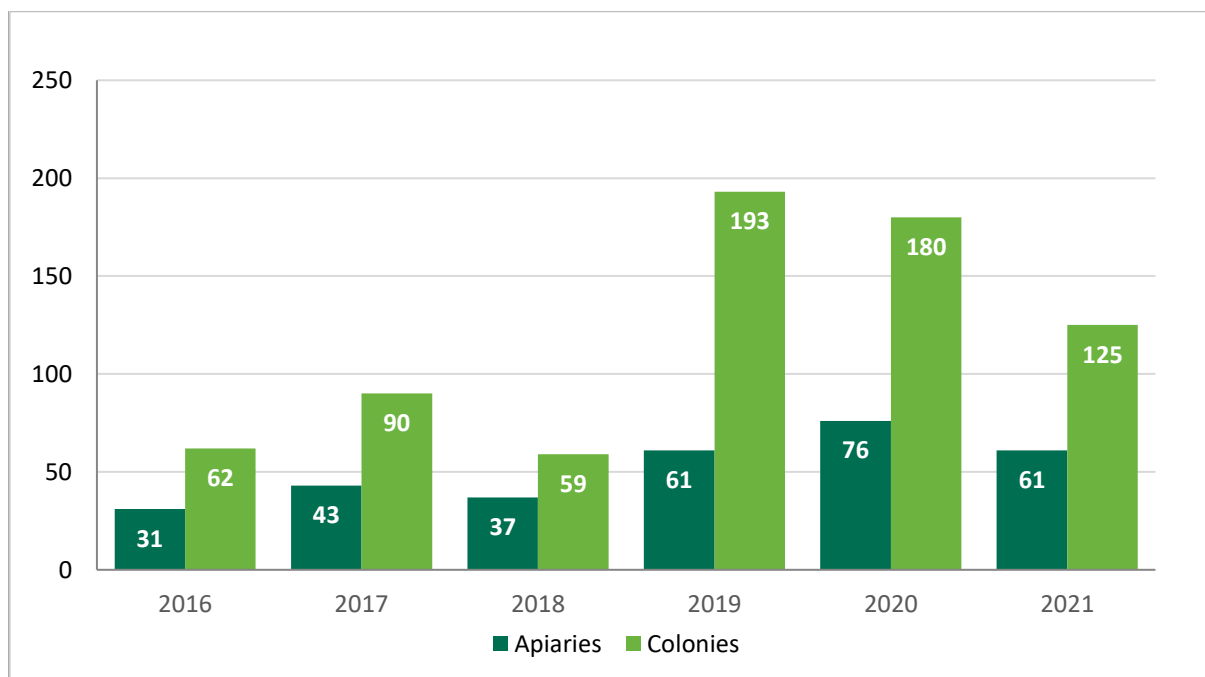


Figure 43 - Chart showing the number of apiaries and colonies inspected in Scotland from 2016 – 2021

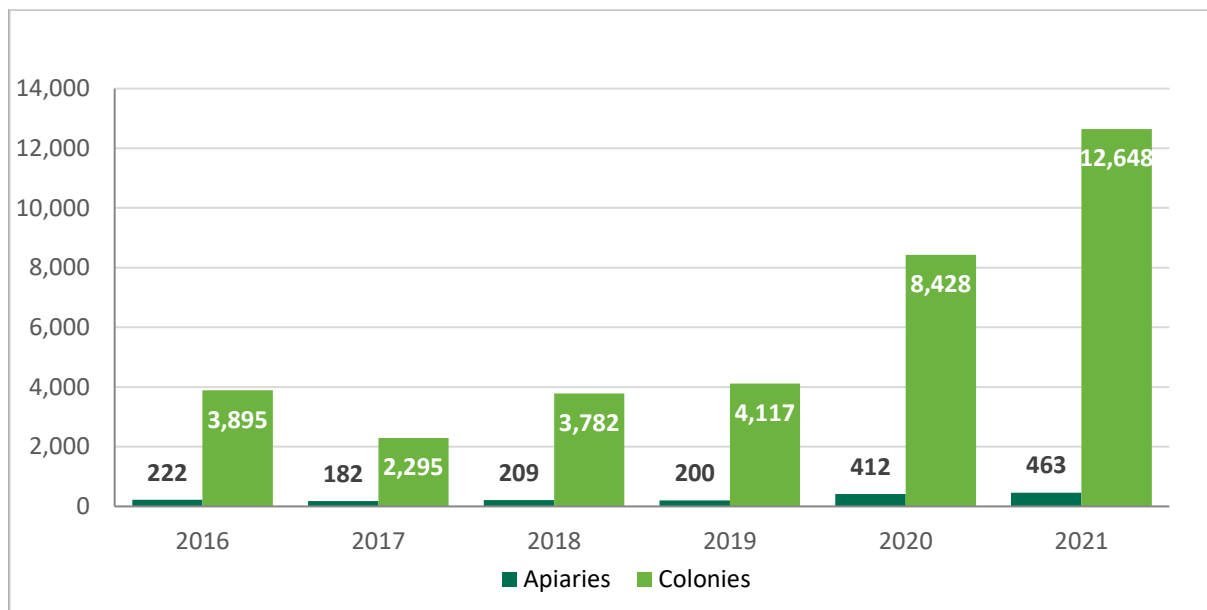
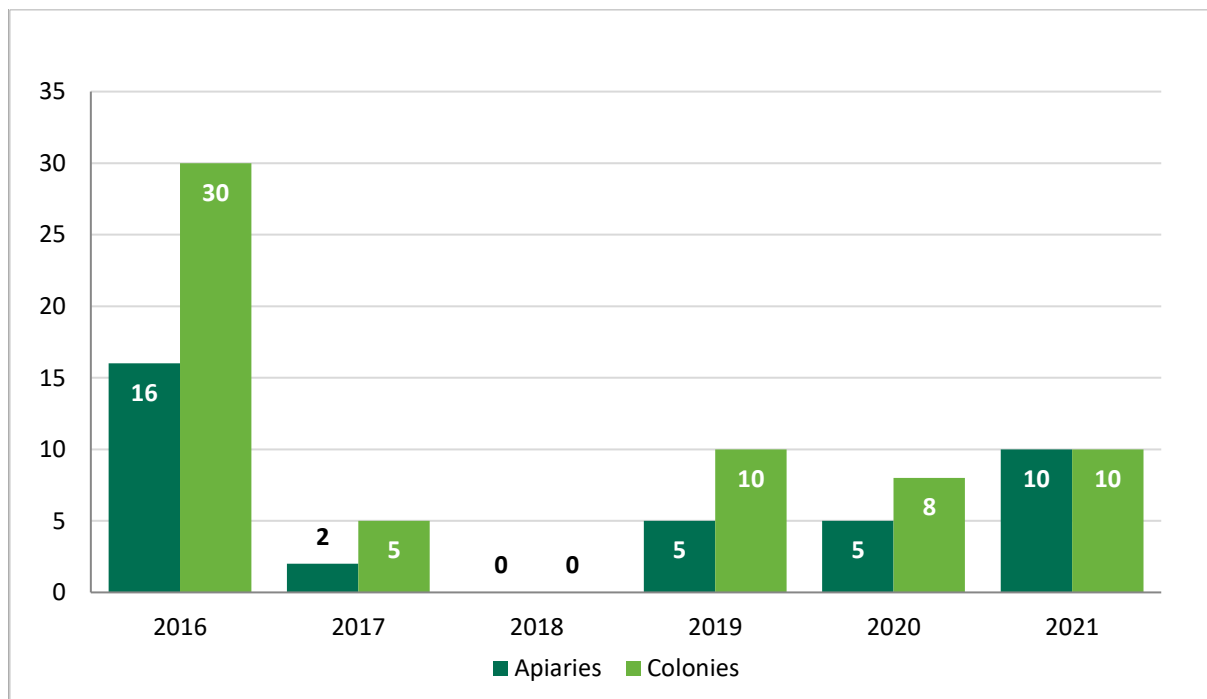


Figure 44 - Chart showing the number of apiaries and colonies infected with AFB in Scotland, from 2016 – 2021



Aquatic animal health (AAH)

AAH Aquaculture Production Business Compliance, Disease Surveillance and Control Summary (England and Wales)

- 2.239 The 2021 annual risk-based routine compliance and aquatic animal health (AAH) surveillance inspection programme reverted to the pre-COVID frequency of a minimum annual inspection on every Aquaculture Production Business (APB) in England and Wales. The annual programme fulfils the statutory requirements for aquatic animal health surveillance and delivery of official controls on APBs and is delivered by the Fish Health Inspectorate (FHI) at Cefas. Routine inspections are undertaken to monitor stock health and carry out surveillance for notifiable diseases (according to species susceptibility and conditions conducive to clinical expression of the disease in question) and to audit compliance with the requirements of The Aquatic Animal Health (England and Wales) Regulations 2009.
- 2.240 The routine programme of inspections was successfully completed for England and Wales, meeting the objectives and targets set out in the MoU between Defra and Cefas and fulfilling the risk-based statutory programme requirements. The official control programme supports the continued maintenance of GB's high aquatic animal health status for the listed (notifiable) diseases of fish and shellfish.
- 2.241 The routine inspection programme runs on a calendar year basis, therefore figures in this section of the report are for the 2021 calendar year. In England and Wales, the intensity and the type of controls has remained consistent over the past five years. 92 new APBs were authorised and 55 APBs were deauthorised in 2021.

Total number of routine APB compliance inspections 2017 – 2021

ABP compliance inspections	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Fish Farms	320	308	310	263	243
Mollusc Farms	88	77	75	63	50
Crustacean Farms	6	6	4	6	8
Purification Centres	53	50	49	40	43
Importers (live fish and shellfish)	112	114	79	72	66
Exporters (live fish and shellfish - new programme Nov 21)	NA	NA	NA	NA	12

- 2.242 In addition, a total of 509 routine disease surveillance inspections and samples were completed by the FHI on fish and shellfish APBs to monitor for the presence of notifiable diseases and detect increased mortalities.
- 2.243 The FHI received 144 disease and mortality reports in 2021. In response to these, and clinical signs observed during routine inspections, the FHI issued 40 Initial Designation Notices (IDNs) - controls on suspicion of notifiable disease in fish and shellfish - and conducted 118 investigations on suspicion of (or to rule out) notifiable and emerging disease. In total, 88 diagnostic samples were collected – 71 from fish,

three from molluscs, and 14 from crustaceans - and these were submitted for diagnostic testing to screen for notifiable, new and emerging diseases.

2.244 In 2021, 22 Confirmed Designation Notices (CDN's) were issued on confirmation of notifiable disease, all for the control of KHV disease. Two of these occurred in imported ornamental koi carp and were lifted on completion of humane stock cull, clearance, and disinfection at the affected premises under FHI supervision. The other 20 were for KHV disease outbreaks in recreational carp fisheries. Although KHV is notifiable, GB is not free of KHV disease and outbreaks occur routinely in these sectors. There were no other outbreaks of notifiable disease in fish or shellfish during 2021.

2.245 To monitor compliance with movement restrictions and biosecurity measures, 113 inspections were carried out on fish and shellfish sites subject to controls (under Confirmed Designation Notices) for notifiable diseases - 48 at molluscan APBs and purification centres, and 65 at registered fisheries.

Total number of investigations & inspections for disease control from 2017 – 2021

Investigations/inspections	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Disease Investigations	159	168	127	59	118
Disease Control Inspections	225	177	145	67	113

2.246 Long-standing disease control zones remain unchanged across multiple shellfish harvesting areas for the control of the protozoan parasite *B. ostrea* (affecting native oyster *Ostrea edulis*) and Oysterherpesvirus-1 microvariant (OsHV-1 μ var) in Pacific oysters (*Crassostrea gigas*). Controls for the protozoan parasite *Marteilia refringens* continue to remain limited to a single estuary system following detection of infection in edible mussel (*Mytilus edulis*) in 2011.

2.247 The situation in respect of the other notifiable 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. Details of all fish and shellfish disease controls and Designations in England and Wales are published on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).

2.248 The FHI registers low risk aquaculture production businesses such as managed fisheries for recreational angling: these are not subject to routine inspection and must be registered if introducing or removing live fish. In 2021, 462 recreational fisheries were registered. By the end of 2021 there were a total of 10,169 registered fisheries and cropping waters in England and Wales.

2.249 The FHI has a contractual agreement with the VMD to undertake sampling on their behalf for veterinary residues, and inspection of premises holding mixing licences for veterinary medicines. In 2021, 52 residue samples were obtained and submitted to

the analytical laboratory FERA (at Sand Hutton, York) for testing, and mixing licence inspections were conducted on 23 fish farms.

2.250 The risk-based import surveillance programme is targeted at sources of live fish posing a higher risk for disease introduction. In 2021, a total of 32 import samples were collected under the risk-based monitoring programme and screened for notifiable diseases. Samples were also collected from two illegal imports of live fish entering from the EU with incorrect certification. No evidence was found for the presence of listed diseases in any sampled imported consignments of live fish.

Total number of fish and shellfish import samples from 2016 – 2021

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Rest of the world	30	32	36	22	6	25
EU/EEA	9	17	10	6	1	9
Total import samples	39	47	46	28	7	34

2.251 The level of trade and import/export activity delivered by the FHI in 2021 was high, and intensified compared to previous years, with the FHI issuing 242 health certificates for the export of aquatic animals from England and Wales and managing a significant (>400%) increase in the number of documentary checks carried out on consignments of live fish and shellfish imported into GB from the EU. This was due to continued delays in the implementation of full border controls (such as mandatory entry via a BCP and full SPS checks, as required under the Official Controls) for EU imports post EU-exit. The FHI were also busy with advice and mailshots as industry adjusted to rule and process changes post EU-exit, with further changes to trade processes implemented as the year progressed.

2.252 The number of controls (Regulation 16 and 23 notices) applied to imports under TARP Regulations 2011 has remained largely consistent and mainly reflects certificate documentary errors. The lower figure for 2020 was due to the impact of COVID-19 restrictions on business operations.

Figure 45 – Chart showing the number of import checks and export certificates issued by the FHI (England and Wales) from 2016 – 2021

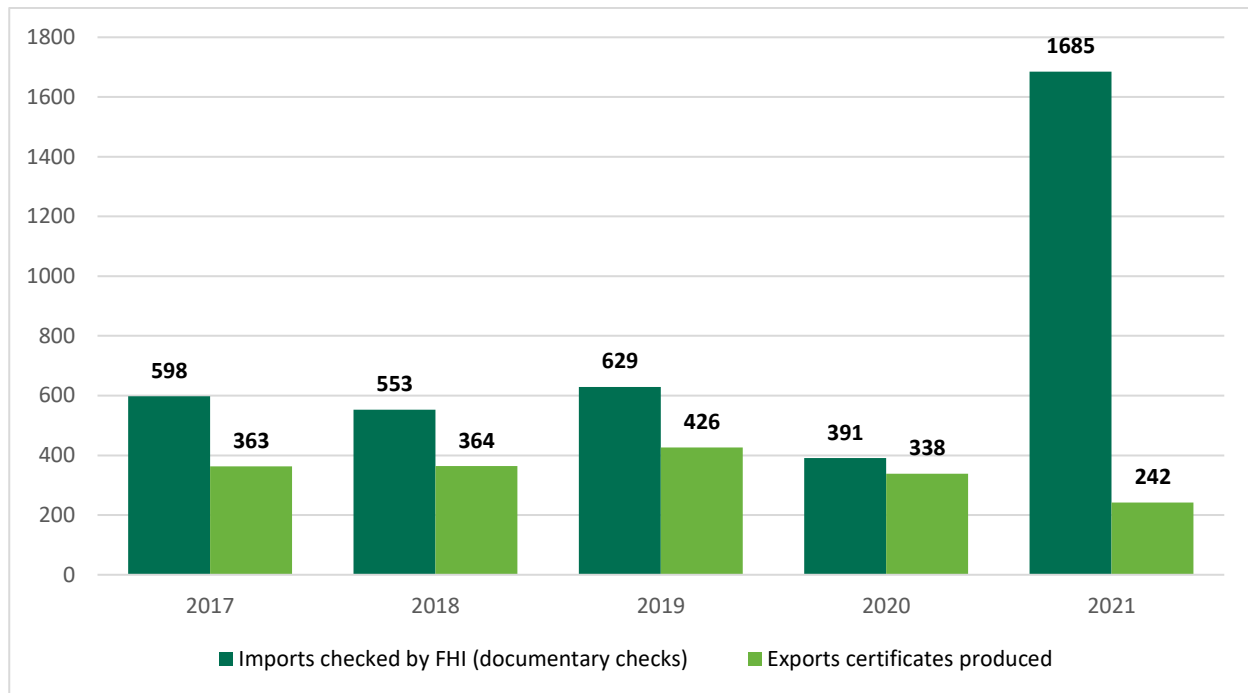


Figure 46 - AAH Non-compliance and Enforcement Summary (England and Wales)

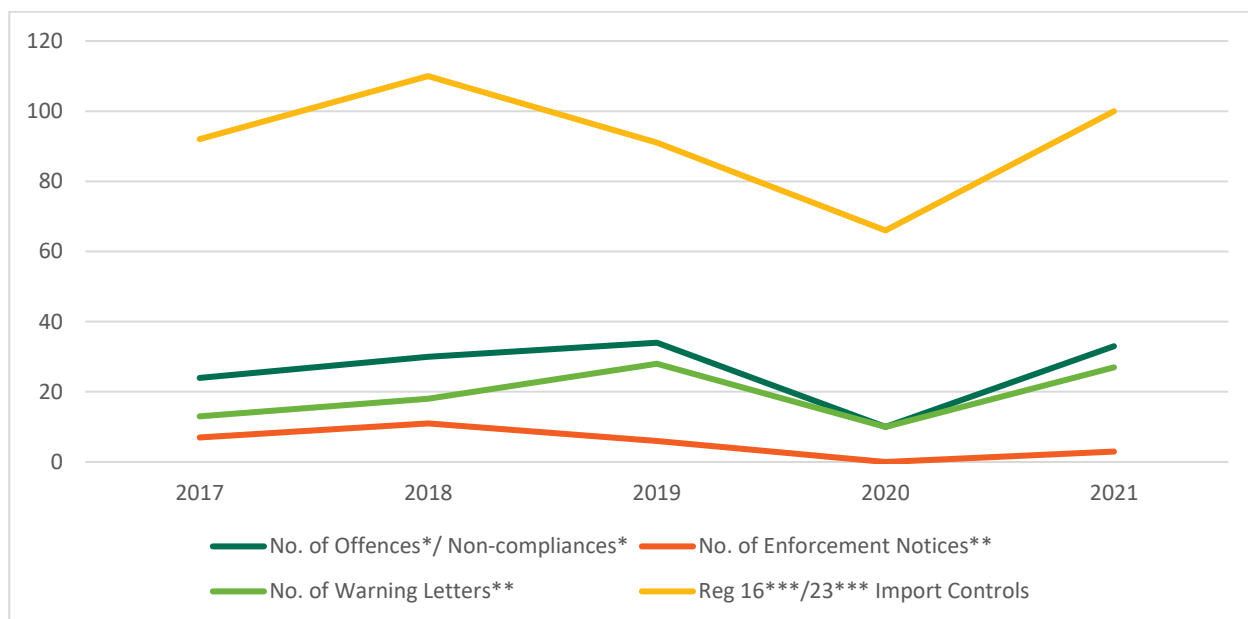


Table showing annotations for AAH Non-compliance and Enforcement Summary data (England and Wales)

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
No. of Offences*/ Non-compliances*	24	30	34	10	33
No. of Enforcement Notices**	7	11	6	0	3
No. of Warning Letters**	13	18	28	10	27
Reg 16***/23*** Import Controls	92	110	91	66	100

* Under The Aquatic Animal Health (England and Wales) Regulations 2009 (AAH Regs)/ APB Conditions of Authorisation

** The actual no of WLs/ ENs issued may differ to the number of offences and non-compliance, as they may be combined

***The Trade in Animals and Related Products Regulations 2011 (TARP 2011):

Regulation 16 notices – Are to authorise the removal of animals from the BCP

Regulation 23 notices – Are to detain and isolate or destroy consignments.

2.253 Details of the 33 offences and non-compliances in 2021 are:

- Twenty-two were for import non-compliances, such as failure to supply a health certificate via IPAFFS for imports from the EU. The vast majority of the offences were connected to the rule and process changes as a result of EU-exit and this accounts for the increase in non-compliances and offences over previous years.
- Eight were for non-compliance with APB authorisation conditions such as the keeping of movement records, operating in accord with an approved Biosecurity Measures Plan.
- Two were for not reporting mortalities as required under the AAH Regulations.
- One was for non-compliance with disease controls in a designated area.

2.254 The 100 Reg 16/23 controls issued under TARP were largely administrative, due to missing or incomplete health certificates, and were successfully resolved through advice or actions take - for example, re-issuing of missing or inaccurate certificates. Where applicable, advice was given to importers and assurances sought from CAs in exporting countries.

2.255 All offences and non-compliances were dealt with by warning letters (27) or enforcement notices (3), followed by further inspections to check corrective measures had been actioned where necessary. This was sufficient to ensure good statutory compliance, without further escalation or major enforcement action required. 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.

2.256 Overall APB compliance with conditions of authorisation continues to be maintained at a high level in 2021, reflecting the effectiveness of the inspection programmes, advice given and the prompt and consistent actions taken in event of non-

compliance. During 2021, no APBs had their authorisation suspended or revoked as a result of actions arising from official controls.

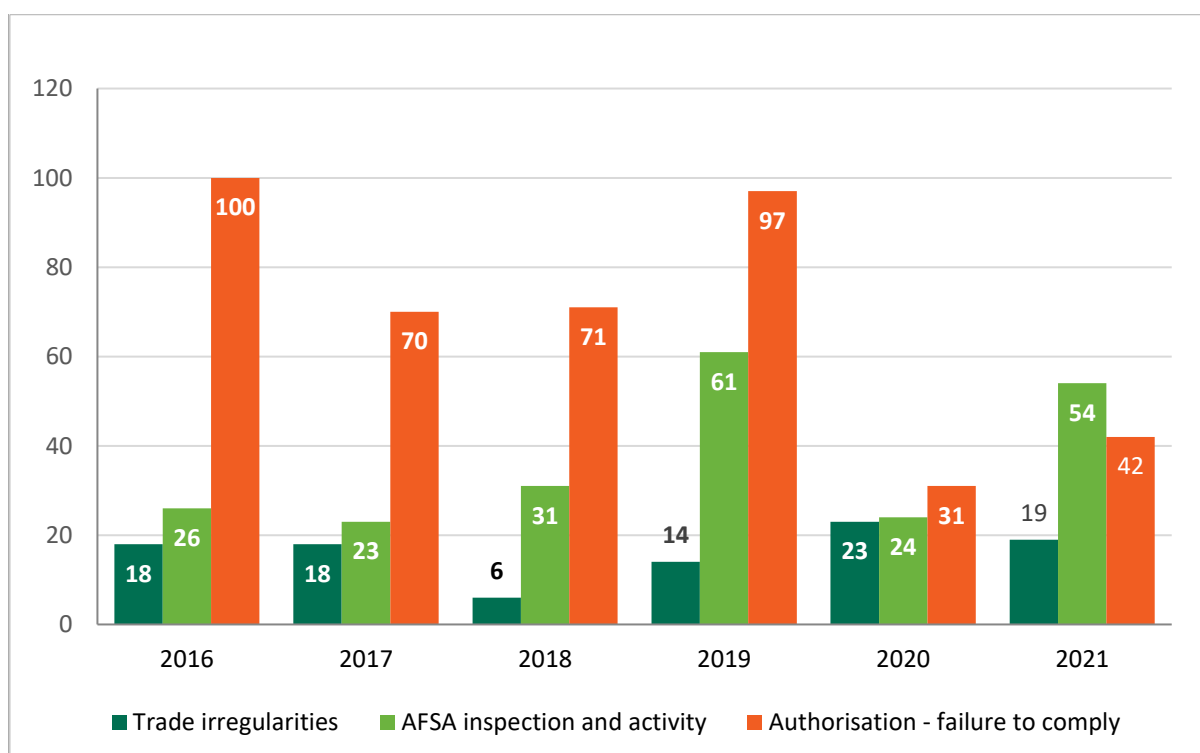
Aquatic animal health – Scotland

- 2.257 In Scotland, in accordance with the Risk Based Surveillance scheme (Council Directive 2006/88/), 189 inspections on fish farms and 52 inspections on shellfish farms were conducted in 2021. One statutory inspection was conducted in relation to Bacterial Kidney Disease (BKD). Throughout the inspection process no unannounced inspections were conducted. In addition, statutory sampling was undertaken in relation to wild Atlantic salmon in a river catchment following reports of reduced recruitment. No pathogenic cause was identified through the investigation to explain the reduced stock numbers
- 2.258 A total of 30 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](#).
- 2.259 Through a contractual arrangement with the VMD, a total of 1,754 samples were collected from finfish aquaculture sites. These samples were submitted to Fera Science Limited for analysis on residues of chemotherapeutants or environmental contamination.
- 2.260 Twelve inspections were conducted at fish farm sites approved by the VMD as 'manufacturers of medicated feeding stuffs intended for feeding to their own fish'. All 12 facilities inspected rated as Category 5 with ≤ 3 minor deficiencies
- 2.261 At the beginning of 2021, three fresh water rainbow trout farm sites had movement restrictions in place for bacterial kidney disease (BKD). A further movement restriction was placed at another freshwater rainbow trout farm, but this was removed when clinical disease was confirmed not to be present. Control measures are only placed where the presence of clinical disease is confirmed.
- 2.262 During 2021, movement restrictions were placed on two Atlantic Salmon farm sites following suspicion of the presence of Infectious Salmon Anaemia virus (ISAv). Following gene sequencing the presence of a non-pathogenic variant of ISAv known as HPR0 was confirmed. This strain of the virus is not subject to any statutory control measures and subsequently the movement restrictions in place were withdrawn.
- 2.263 Throughout the year protection zones were in place to control *Bonamia ostrea* within four sea water lochs in Scotland. All four zones remain under restriction.
- 2.264 One private ornamental facility was placed under restriction for KHV following confirmation of the virus within fish at the facility.

2.265 There are presently around 670 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 for 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.

2.266 It should be noted that the restrictions enforced as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic continued to have a significant impact upon the delivery of aquatic animal health surveillance during 2021. This is reflected in a lower level of routine surveillance in comparison to previous years although increased in relation to 2020. Despite the restrictions, emergency responses to the suspicion and presence of serious listed diseases were maintained and delivered throughout the year. Once re-established, routine surveillance was targeted towards high and medium risk aquaculture sites and was supplemented with increased activity associated with passive surveillance initiatives.

Figure 47 - Chart showing the number of non-compliances in Scotland from 2016 - 2021



Details of outcomes of the non-compliances found in Scotland during 2020

2.267 All 19 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.

- 2.268 Inspection and activity associated with the Aquaculture and Fisheries (Scotland) Act 2007 and 2013 saw a total of 54 non-compliances.
- Thirteen cases related to the Act's enhanced inspection programme
 - Twenty-three issues related to farm management statements or agreements
 - Six issues related to sea lice records
 - One issue related to containment and one to escapes
 - Eleven issues raised due to sea lice reporting
- 2.269 All of these non-compliances were successfully resolved, either through complying with the recommendations made, or - with respect to sea lice reporting - through warning letters requiring no further action (two cases) or advisory letters requiring follow up action (11 cases, two of which were resolved through issuing enforcement notices).
- 2.270 There were 42 non-compliances for failure to comply with authorisation conditions.
- 41 issues related to record keeping requirements
 - One instance of a site holding species/stage without prior authorisation.
- 2.271 All issues were successfully resolved either through addressing recommendations or requirements imposed following inspection, following the issuing of a warning letter (two cases), or complying with the conditions of an enforcement notices (three cases). No further enforcement action was required to be taken..
- 2.272 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 2021 decreased slightly in comparison to 2020. 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. The data also includes mortality reporting which is not strictly an authorisation requirement but a recognised procedure that relevant industry sector areas have agreed to undertake.

Visits and non-compliances on fish and shellfish farms from 2017 – 2021

Visits and non-compliances	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Number of visits	254	351	292	183	249
Number of cases of non-compliance	70	68	89	27	47
% of non-compliance	28	19	30	15	19

- 2.273 Risk-based enhanced inspections continued to be conducted in accordance with the Aquaculture and Fisheries (Scotland) Act 2007 (as amended) during 2021. Analysis of the number of inspections in comparison to the number of cases involving non-compliance suggests a slight increase in the level of compliance during 2021, in comparison to previous years. This analysis has not been statistically tested and lower levels of enhanced inspections must be taken into consideration.

Risk based enhanced inspections and non-compliances on fish and shellfish farms from 2016 – 2021

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Number of inspections	21	22	7	32	7	16
Number of cases of non-compliance	8	10	4	19	6	13
% of non-compliance	38	45	57	59	86	81

2.274 During 2020 the reporting requirements relating to Marine Scotland’s policy on satisfactory measures for the control of sea lice were reviewed. The levels at which fish farm operators report sea lice levels and are required to act were reduced. Details of the current policy are available on the [Scottish Government website](#).

2.275 The level of compliance on trade irregularities in 2021 increased in relation to those reported in 2020. Most of the issues are minor in nature and related to late or missing notifications, and consignments destined for alternative sites to that specified on the health certificate. None of the issues detected presented a significant risk in terms of a biosecurity breach or lowering of health status.

2.276 During 2021 no businesses were closed as a result of actions arising from official controls.

Incidents and outbreaks in the animal health sector

APHA

2.277 In 2021, 255 reports of suspected cases of exotic notifiable diseases were investigated. There were 75 confirmed outbreaks of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) H5N8 and H5N1, 3 confirmed cases of European Bat Lyssavirus (EBLV), and two cases of Contagious equine metritis (CEM). All incidents were successfully resolved.

AAH England and Wales – Cefas FHI

2.278 Cefas FHI has a statutory duty to investigate suspicion of listed (notifiable) and emerging diseases in fish, molluscs and crustacea in England and Wales. In 2021 there were a total of 22 confirmed outbreaks of Koi herpesvirus (KHV) disease (20 in recreational fisheries and 2 in ornamental imported koi carp *Cyprinus carpio*). KHV is a listed disease for which GB is not officially declared free. The number of outbreaks in 2021 was as expected, with no change to prevalence or severity. There were no outbreaks in the 3 KHV approved compartments, which continue to maintain KHV free status.

Bee health

2.279 Two outbreaks of the non-native species Asian hornet occurred in 2021, one in Berkshire and one in Hampshire. In each case a nest was quickly located by National Bee Unit (NBU) inspectors and successfully destroyed by APHA colleagues.

Official controls in the animal welfare sector

2.280 The centralised FSA and FSS 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 urgent referrals to LAs and APHA for immediate investigation and appropriate action.

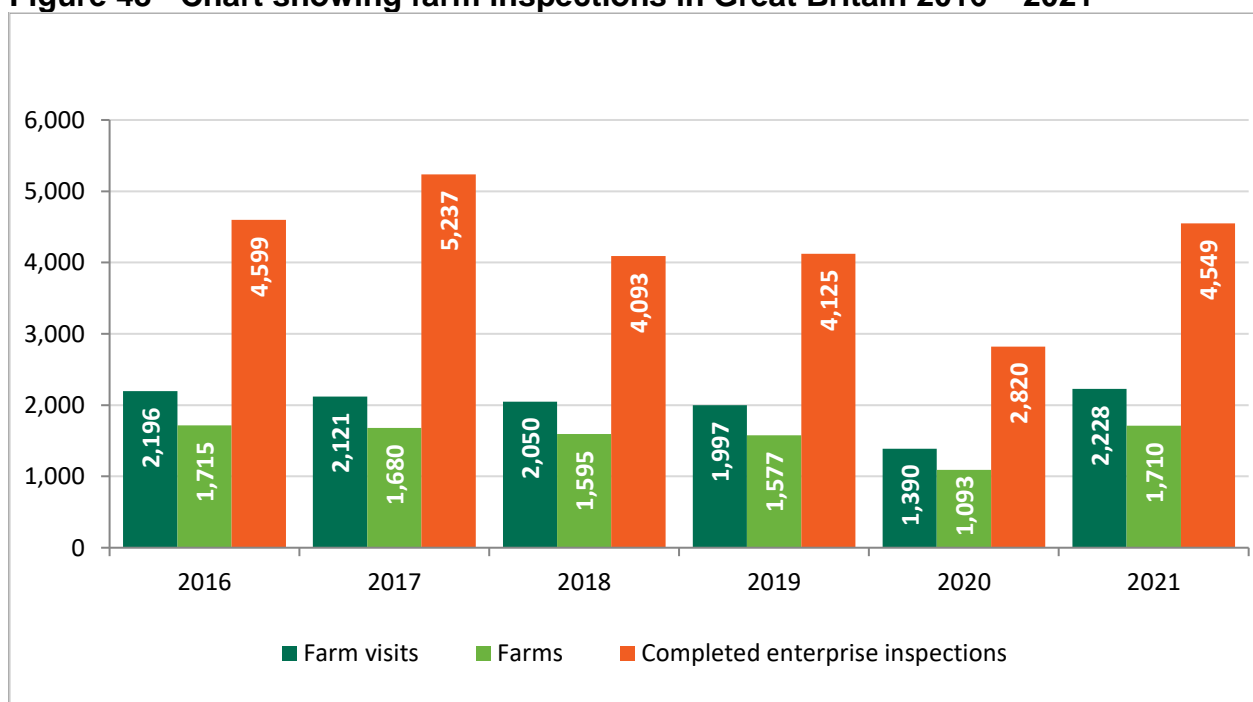
2.281 All other FSA referrals relating to on farm welfare issues or a combined farm and transport issue were triaged by the central APHA administration team. Further action and investigation by both APHA and LAs was guided at a central level by a dedicated central vet team. All other complaints and referrals were assessed in a similar manner at a country-centralised level.

On-farm animal welfare in Great Britain

2.282 In 2021, the total number of farm visits to individual farms and enterprises increased by 60% when compared to 2020 figures. On a country basis, visit numbers increased by 60% in England and Wales and by 36% in Scotland, compared to 2020 when the ability to visit farms was restricted due to SARS-CoV-2 regulations.

2.283 The number of enterprise types inspected at each visit remained at two enterprises per visit during 2021, consistent with previous years. The number of repeat visits in 2020 to farms inspected the same year comprised 23% of all visits, similar to previous years. This suggested that those farms that really needed regular attendance, due to welfare concerns, were still getting inspected. On a country basis, Scotland had higher repeat inspections, comprising 35% of all farm inspections, compared to England (21%) and Wales (22%).

Figure 48 - Chart showing farm inspections in Great Britain 2016 – 2021

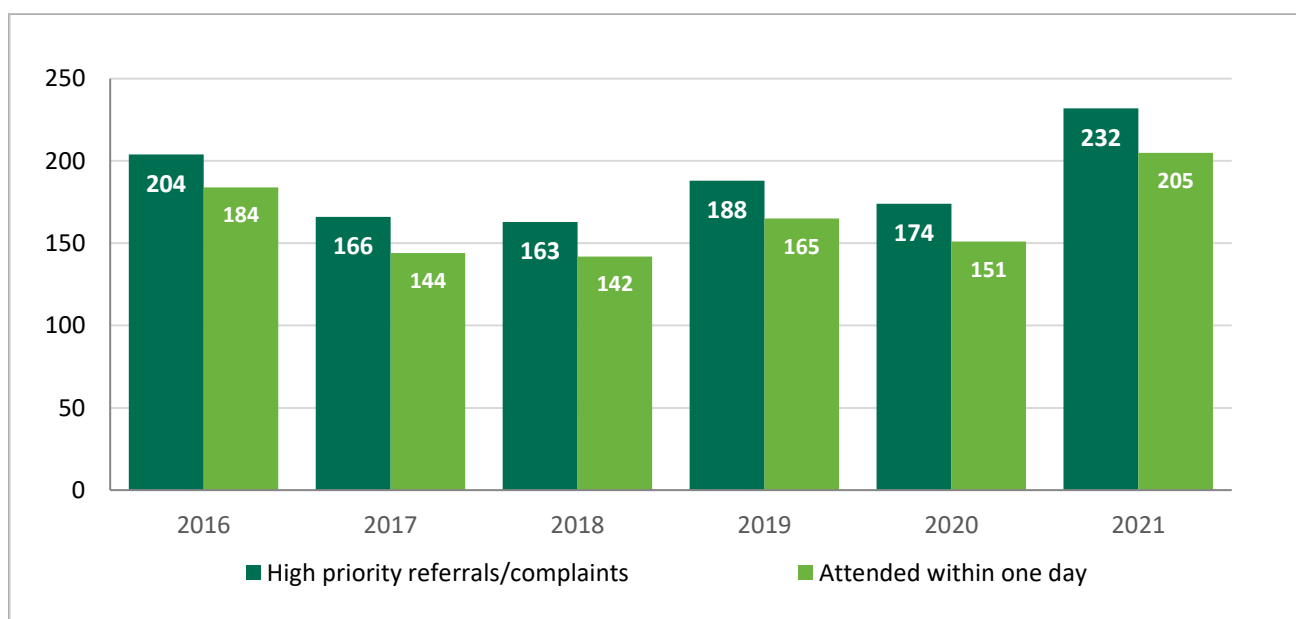


Analysis of GB farm visits by country, 2019 - 2021

	England			Scotland			Wales		
	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
No. of farm visits	1,283	889	1,482	371	238	323	343	263	423
No. of farms	1,031	729	1,168	277	165	210	269	199	332
No. of completed enterprise inspections	2,692	1,781	3,070	788	481	692	645	558	787

	2019			2020			2021		
	Sites subject to repeated visits	Number of repeat visits	Proportion of total visits	Sites subject to repeated visits	Number of repeat visits	Proportion of total visits	Sites subject to repeated visits	Number of repeat visits	Proportion of total visits
England	169	252	20%	111	160	18%	221	314	21%
Wales	66	94	36%	35	75	29%	68	91	22%
Scotland	53	74	20%	46	62	26%	68	113	35%
GB	288	420	25%	192	297	24%	357	518	23%

Figure 49 - Chart showing the number of high priority referrals/complaints alleging unnecessary suffering attended by APHA inspectors in Great Britain from 2016 - 2021



To note: *21 referrals in 2019, **19 referrals in 2020 and ***16 referrals in 2021 had no assigned CPH and therefore could not be assigned to a specific country

2.284 It should therefore be noted that throughout this welfare report, the GB data may not match up to the combined England, Scotland and Wales data. This is because some inspections had no CPH associated (for example farmed livestock kept in private dwellings, with no statutory obligation for registration). These could not be assigned to a country using current IT system downloads. Sites and enterprises with CPHs in different countries were assessed and reported separately, according

to the CPH location. In respect of follow-up or enforcement action, communications would cover all enterprises and CPHs under the same ownership.

Analysis of GB high priority referrals / complaints by country, 2019 - 2021

	England			Scotland			Wales		
	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
High priority referrals/complaints*	99	101	112	23	16	18	45	38	86
Number attended within 1 day	81	83	97	22	15	16	44	37	78
Percentage attended within 1 day	81.8	82.1	86.6	95.7	93.8	88.9	97.8	97.3	90.7

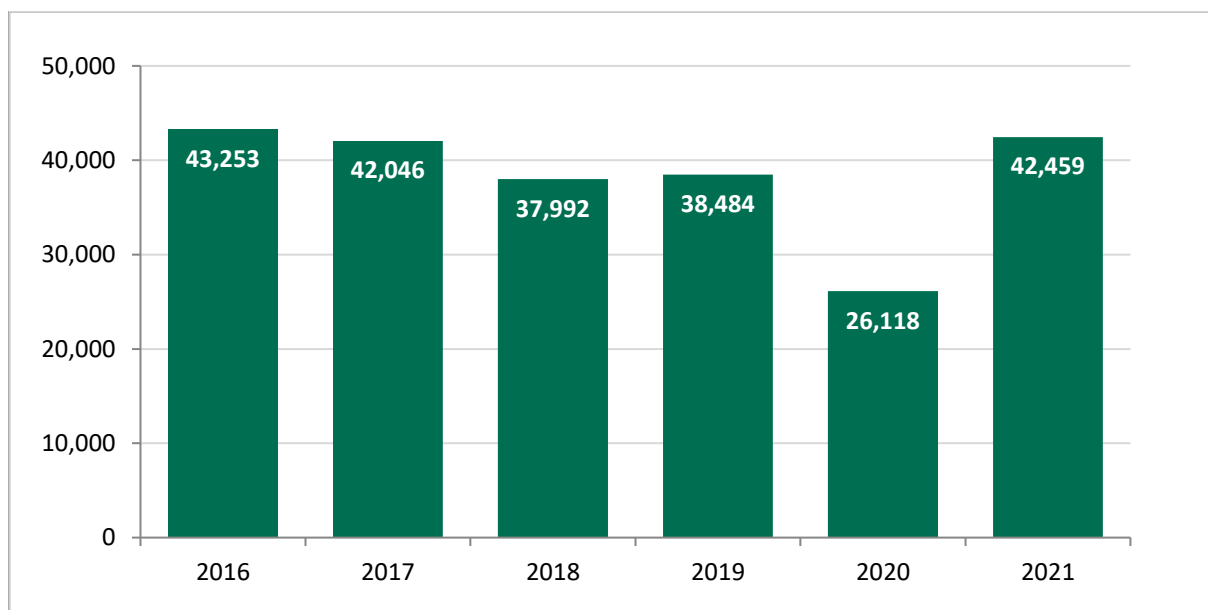
*final reporting priority at local level may not reflect initial prioritisation by central teams.

2.285 All complaints and allegations of poor welfare were risk assessed centrally on a country-basis by a veterinary inspector. High priority referrals/complaints were visited as a matter of urgency. In 2021, there was an increased number of these types of complaints and allegations received compared to 2020.

2.286 Eighty-eight percent of high priority complaints/referrals were attended within 24 hours, similar to previous years. On a country basis, however, there was an increase in the number attended within a day for England (86.5% compared to 82.1%) and a reduction for Scotland and Wales (88.9% compared to 93.8% and 90.7% compared to 97.3% respectively) compared to 2020.

2.287 A new process for monitoring changes to the welfare risk assessment (priority level for inspection) was introduced between central and local level, part-way through 2020. This required evidence that could be fully audited, to explain why the priority was sometimes downgraded or upgraded at local level. This may explain some of the disparities between England, Scotland and Wales in respect of timing of attendance at high priority risk visits, when comparing 2021 to previous years (as shown in the above table).

Figure 50 - Chart showing the number of individual welfare criteria assessments in Great Britain from 2016 – 2021



	England			Scotland			Wales		
	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
Welfare criteria assessments	25,305	16,654	28,770	7,037	4,280	6,405	6,142	5,184	7,284
No. of criteria assessed per enterprise (maximum /11*)	9.4	9.4	9.4	8.9	8.9	9.3	9.5	9.3	9.3

*some enterprises cannot be assessed on all 11 criteria at the time of inspection or due to the nature of the enterprise

2.288 The number of individual welfare criteria assessments increased by 63% in 2021, reflecting the increase in overall farm visit numbers. All countries within GB had a similar number of criteria assessments per enterprise in 2021, averaging 9.3-9.4 for England and Wales, similar to 2020, with an increase from 8.9 to 9.3 for Scotland.

2.289 The level of compliance on farms in Great Britain was comparable to that recorded in previous years, with 95% of individual category assessments indicating compliance in 2021. 25.7% of all enterprise assessments, had at least one non-compliance and 398 advisory letters were issued to farmers.

2.290 The results of inspection visits are classified into four score categories A to D:

- A. Full compliance with legislation and code advice
- B. Full compliance with legislation but not with the code advice
- C. Non-compliance with legislation but no animals have suffered as a result
- D. Non-compliance with legislation and at least one animal has suffered as a result

Enterprises with welfare non-compliance only (C score), Great Britain 2016 - 2021

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Number of non-compliances per 1K assessments	43	48	47	43	51	49
Number of enterprises with overall C score	798	899	796	735	599	909
% of enterprises inspected with overall C score	17%	20%	19%	18%	21%	20%
Advisory letters issued	194	189	212	342	279	398

Enterprises with welfare non-compliance only (C score) in England, Scotland & Wales - 2019-2021

	England			Scotland			Wales		
	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
Number of non-compliances per 1K assessments	52	60	56	28	36	53	21	34	15
Number of enterprises with overall C score	573	425	707	111	77	143	51	97	59
% of enterprises inspected with overall C score	21	24	23	14	16	21	8	17	8
Advisory letters issued	261	208	271	49	34	85	32	37	42

Welfare non-compliance with unnecessary suffering (D score) in GB 2016 – 2021

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Unnecessary suffering found per 1K assessments	6	8	8	11	9	9
Number of enterprises with overall D score	154	186	177	206	142	262
% of enterprises inspected with overall D score	3.3	4.1	4.3	5.0	5.1	5.7
Average number of days to clear D score	14.2	*	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

*Figure not available

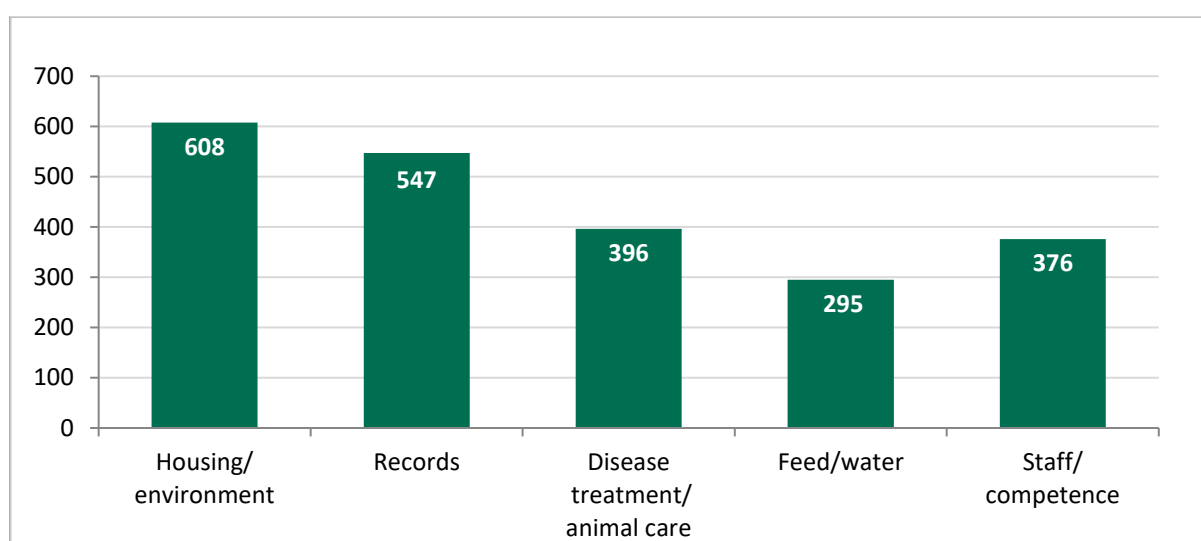
Welfare non-compliance with unnecessary suffering (D score) in England, Scotland & Wales from 2019-2021

	England			Scotland			Wales		
	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
Unnecessary suffering found per 1K assessments	13	11	7	4	5	20	11	7	7
Number of enterprises with overall D score	145	103	142	17	14	84	44	25	36
% of enterprises inspected with overall D score	5%	6%	5%	2%	3%	12%	7%	4%	5%

2.291 The percentage of non-compliances where unnecessary suffering was not detected, a C score, at enterprise level, for 2021 was slightly lower (20%) than 2020 (21%) at 20% but still above that seen in 2018 and 2019.

2.292 The percentage of enterprises receiving a D score, where unnecessary suffering had been detected, increased from the previous year to 5.7%. This was the highest % seen since 2015 when assessed at enterprise level. There was a marked difference at country level: Scotland's D scores increased from 3% to 12%, whereas Wales's D scores increased from 4% to 5%, and England's D scores decreased from 6% to 5%. This could in part explain the increased number of repeat visits to farms in Scotland.

Figure 51 - Chart showing the most frequently detected non-compliances in Great Britain in 2021



GB non-compliances by region, 2019 - 2021

	England			Scotland			Wales		
	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
Housing / environment	479	283	484	49	43	89	47	41	35
Records	288	237	407	54	39	101	48	76	39
Disease treatment / animal care	242	193	249	33	39	104	40	38	43
Feed / water	204	144	229	23	10	46	27	31	20
Staff/competence	256	193	275	40	29	84	23	19	17

2.293 As in previous years, the welfare criteria with the most non-compliances related to 'housing and environment' and 'records followed by 'staffing and competence', 'disease treatment including failure to provide appropriate care', and 'provision of feed and water'. When assessed at country level, there are some differences. England's reporting reflects the overall GB picture in 2021, which is not unexpected

as the majority of the assessments were carried out in England. In Scotland and Wales, the highest non-compliances related to 'disease treatment/animal care' and 'records'.

2.294 During 2021, APHA provided 72 witness statements concerning 22 farms to enforcement bodies in support of legal action, compared to 56 witness statements for 22 farms in 2020. Overall, this shows an increase of 28% in witness statement production, although the total number of farms was static. There was a marked increase in the number of witness statements produced in Scotland, 20 in 2021 compared to a single one in 2020.

	2019		2020		2021	
	Statements produced	Number of farms	Statements produced	Number of farms	Statements produced	Number of farms
England	78	36	47	18	52	18
Scotland	0	0	1	1	20	4
Wales	8	4	8	3	0	0

Meat Chicken Directive

2.295 APHA, FSA and FSS deliver a system for all eligible flocks.

2.296 All trigger reports generated were assessed for further action. All farmers received their trigger report results direct from the FSA and FSS and were required to take action.

2.297 In Great Britain, trigger report data collected from 2020 was used to target farm inspections in 2021. 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 not prioritised for visits until much later in the year in 2021, due to ongoing issues with resource and AI outbreak.

2.298 High risk FSA/FSS referrals and complaints were used as the main source of intelligence leading to meat chicken farm inspections for most of 2021. Throughout the year, all flocks were monitored at the slaughterhouse level for specific post-mortem conditions associated with on-farm welfare issues, and producers were notified if any of these conditions were excessively high (Process 1), or if a combination of at least three conditions on-farm and farm cumulative daily mortality were high (Process 2).

2.299 Multiple outbreaks of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) significantly impacted resources overall, reduced "clean" resources for poultry welfare inspections and generally restricted inspector access to meat chicken units to only those with the highest risk welfare concerns.

2.300 In 2021, 901,874,003 meat chickens were inspected and assessed during the slaughter process in GB slaughterhouses, and it was this data which contributed to meat chicken trigger data for 2021. The number processed were slightly less than 2020 levels and could reflect reduced throughput due to availability of personnel across the sector - from catching teams and lorry drivers, to staff at abattoirs.

2.301 Total farm-attributed rejections increased - at 1.8% in 2021 compared to previous years (such as 1.38% in 2020). The conditions followed a similar pattern in 2020 to previous years. Cellulitis/dermatitis conditions increased slightly on the previous year and there was a significant fall in incidence of septicaemia/respiratory conditions.

Inspection numbers and carcass conditions of relevance to farm animal welfare in meat chickens in GB 2019 to 2021

Birds inspected and conditions recorded	2019		2020		2021	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Total inspected	953,753,501	100	953,684,560	100	901,874,003	100
Ascites/Oedema	2,986,714	0.31	3,097,471	0.32	2,644,596	0.29
Cellulitis/dermatitis	2,608,628	0.27	2,939,920	0.31	3,283,354	0.36
Dead on Arrival	931,478	0.10	1,014,267	0.11	996,448	0.11
Emaciation	153,521	0.02	195,606	0.02	176,655	0.02
Joint lesions	348,025	0.04	263,278	0.03	176,655	0.02
Septicaemia / Respiratory	1,429,874	0.15	1,766,299	0.19	268,408	0.03
Total farm-attributed rejections	14,222,356	1.49	13,128,307	1.38	16,439,110	1.8

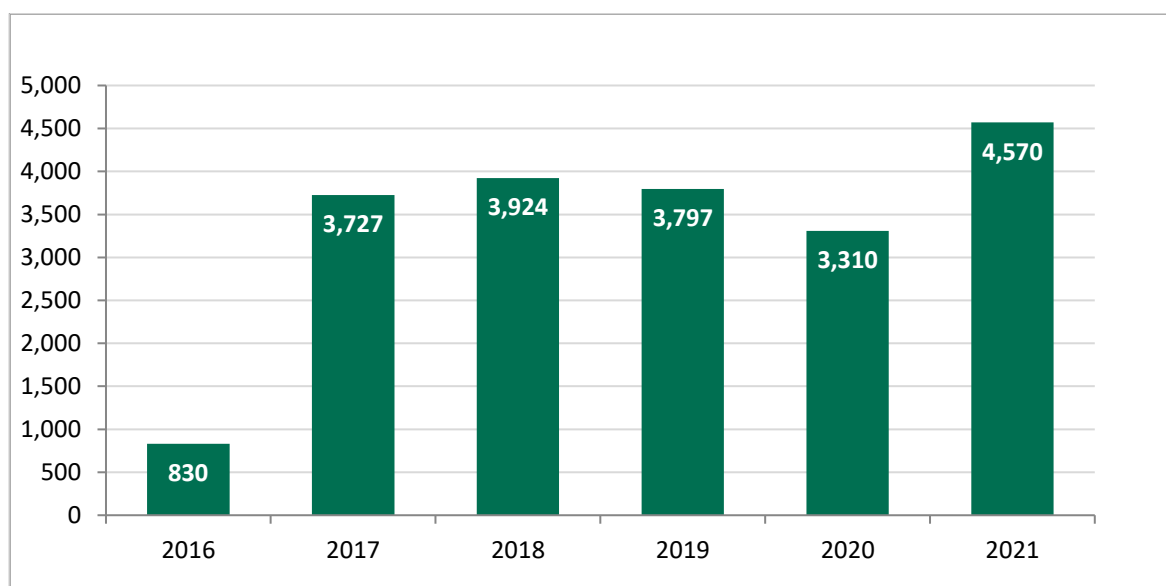
2.302 A total of 4,570 trigger reports, at flock level, were generated in GB and sent to producers, in response to high levels of the specific conditions recorded for meat chicken welfare purposes. This was a 37% increase in trigger reports compared to 2020. 47% of trigger reports were based on Process 1 triggers.

2.303 When assessing specific conditions associated with Process 1 Trigger reports, more than 18% of these reports were associated with high on farm cumulative daily mortality - a further increase on 2020 figures, which is a significant concern. The significant reduction in ascites/oedema, DOA and emaciation in the trigger reports could suggest that the chickens were dying on the farm or being culled, rather than being transported for slaughter.

Flocks assessed and reported for carcase conditions identified of relevance to farm animal welfare and generation of trigger reports, in meat chickens in GB in 2019-2021

	2019			2020			2021		
Flocks assessed and reported for excessive levels of reported Process 1 conditions or Process 2 conditions	flocks	% of flocks	% of trigger reports	flocks	% of flocks	% of trigger reports	flocks	% of flocks	% of trigger reports
Total flocks assessed	122,280	100		122,357	100		120,881	100	
Ascites/Oedema	735	0.60	19.36	326	0.27	9.85	238	0.2	5.2
Cellulitis/dermatitis	317	0.26	8.35	303	0.25	9.15	414	0.34	9.1
Dead on Arrival	274	0.22	7.22	239	0.20	7.22	223	0.18	4.9
Emaciation	122	0.1	3.21	156	0.13	4.71	127	0.11	2.8
Joint lesions	576	0.47	15.17	193	0.16	5.83	272	0.23	6
Septicaemia/Respiratory	6	0	0.16	16	0.01	0.48	14	0.01	0.3
Total farm-attributed rejections	217	0.18	5.72	76	0.06	2.3	125	0.1	2.7
On Farm Mortality rate	391	0.32	10.3	515	0.42	15.56	829	0.79	18.1
Foot Pad Dermatitis	47	0.04	1.24	137	0.11	4.14	152	0.37	3.3
Process 1 report	2,191	1.79	57.7	1,842	1.51	55.65	2,156	1.78	47.2
Process 2 report	1,606	1.31	42.3	1,468	1.2	44.35	2,414	2.00	52.8
Total trigger reports	3,797	3.11	100	3,310	2.71	100	4,570	3.78	100

Figure 52 – Chart showing the number of trigger reports received by APHA in Great Britain from 2016 – 2021



Actions taken in Great Britain on meat chicken welfare from 2016 - 2021

(for example, following inspections for cross compliance or welfare complaints or receipt of trigger reports from slaughterhouses)

	Number of actions as a percentage of total notifications by year					
	2016 %	2017 %	2018 %	2019 %	2020 %	2021 %
Farmer/owner notified in writing & requested to take action	2,946 (100%)	3,763 (100%)	3,924 (100%)	3,797 (100%)	3,310 (100%)	4,570 (100%)
Telephone or virtual meeting or visit with no birds present or not inspected	296 (10%)	25 (0.6%)	47 (1.2%)	4 (0.1%)	4 (0.1%)	0 (0%)
Action plan received	41 (1.4%)	11 (0.3%)	42 (1.1%)	8 (0.2%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Inspection based on historical data to target highest risk farms (from previous year)	5 (0.2%)	15 (0.4%)	29 (0.7%)	17 (0.4%)	8 (0.2%)	16 (0.3%)
Inspections associated with complaints, referrals or other inspections*	20 (0.7%)	20 (0.5%)	31 (0.8%)	55 (1.4%)	19 (0.6%)	24 (0.5%)
Total inspections checked for compliance with 2007/43/EC	25 (0.8%)	35 (0.9%)	60 (1.5%)	68 (1.8%)	27 (0.8%)	40 (0.9%)
Farms sent warning letters / prosecutions / further enforcement measures in respect of non-compliances detected at inspection	4 (0.1%)	2 (0.1%)	9 (0.2%)	14 (0.4%)	15 (0.5%)	0 (0%)

* 2019 figure amended due to an error in the 2019 report.

2.304 Due to restrictions imposed by HPAI outbreaks, only 40 meat chicken inspections were carried out in 2021, an increase of 48% from 2020 inspections but still lower than previous years. Under a third (16) of the 55 risk scored sites based on 2020 data were inspected in 2021. The remainder of the inspections were carried out in response to slaughterhouse referrals. Inspections which revealed no birds present

on the unit, or where birds were not inspected, are not included in the farm inspection data.

2.305 The inspections revealed that most farms were compliant with legislation but not the meat chicken codes. 14 inspections (35%) revealed non-compliances, with five of these revealing unnecessary suffering. This included repeated visits with the LA to one holding where there were ongoing issues with severe FPD.

2.306 The table below details outcomes from the inspections of the 40 meat chicken farms inspected under GB meat rules in 2021.

Results of GB combined APHA Inspections of meat chicken holdings under 2007/43/EC from 2016 – 2021 expressed as a percentage of the total number of holdings inspected

	2016 (%)	2017 (%)	2018 (%)	2019 (%)	2020 (%)	2021 (%)
Number inspected	25	35	60	67	28	40
Compliance with code & legislation (a)	9 (36%)	29 (83%)	20 (33%*)	20 (30%*)	3 (11%)	6 (15%)
Compliance with legislation, but not code (b)	12 (48%)	4 (11%)	22 (36%*)	34 (50.7%)	14 (50%*)	20 (50%)
Non-compliance with legislation, unnecessary suffering not detected (c)	3* (12%)	1 (3%)	16 (27%)	12 (17.9%)	8 (29%*)	9 (22.5%)
Non-compliance with legislation, unnecessary suffering detected (d)	1 (4%)	1 (3%)	2 (3%)	1 (1.5%)	2 (7%)	5 (12.5%)

to note: The results of inspection visits are classified into four score categories (a) to (d):

- a. full compliance with legislation and code advice
- b. full compliance with legislation but not with the code advice
- c. non-compliance with legislation but no animals have suffered as a result
- d. non-compliance with legislation and at least one animal has suffered as a result

* Figures amended due to an error in calculations in previous reports.

2.307 The following table provides the 2021 inspections data on a country basis, with 31 complete meat chicken inspections on sites in England, none in Scotland, and nine in Wales.

2021	England	Scotland	Wales
Number inspected	31	0	9
Compliance with code & legislation	2	0	4
Compliance with legislation, but not code	17	0	3
Non-compliance with legislation, unnecessary suffering not detected	7	0	2
Non-compliance with legislation, unnecessary suffering detected	5	0	0

2.308 The most frequent non-compliances in 2021 related to environmental issues. These included issues relating to lighting patterns as well as insufficient minimum lux. Additional environmental failures included litter quality and humidity issues. Other non-compliances included record-keeping (particularly medicine records, cumulative daily mortality data and lack of detailed site plan when stocking above 33kg/m²), staff training and access to the Welfare Codes. The incidents involving unnecessary suffering related to very poor litter quality, leading to severe pododermatitis (footpad dermatitis).

Fish welfare

2.309 APHA (Scotland) has worked collaboratively with the Fish Health Inspectorate (Scotland) regarding animal welfare issues detected at farmed level. Inspections were carried out by inspectors trained in fish health and welfare. In 2021, there was a single fish welfare inspection carried out compared to 7 in 2020.

Table showing Fish welfare visits (Scotland) 2019 – 2021

Inspections	Complaints	Routine / Advisory
2019	9	2
2020	5	2
2021	1	0

Gamebird welfare

2.310 In more recent years, increased public interest in gamebird welfare has led to increased inspections of commercial gamebird rearing units by APHA and local authorities. “Gamebirds” bred for game purposes, once released, fall outside of APHA and the local authorities’ remit with respect to animal welfare. However, APHA is involved in monitoring animal welfare:

- in breeding birds
- in any birds raised for a farming purpose, and
- in the growing phase, when the birds are considered under the responsibility of humans for their day-to-day care.

2.311 APHA also incidentally records non-compliances with the Animal Welfare Act for any wild birds used in Larsen traps or similar devices, if these are seen during inspections on agricultural land.

2.312 In 2021 there were 16 inspections, an increase from 12 in 2020. Non-compliance rates of 12% were reduced compared to 2020, and no incidents of unnecessary suffering were detected.

Table showing the number of compliant and non-compliant gamebird rearing units following inspection in GB in 2019 – 2021

	2019			2020			2021		
	Eng	Scot	Wal	Eng	Scot	Wal	Eng	Scot	Wal
Number inspected	7	6	2	8	0	4	9	6	1
Compliance with code & legislation	2	1	0	2	0	0	4	5	1
Compliance with legislation, but not code	3	4	2	4	0	1	4	0	0
Non-compliance with legislation, unnecessary suffering not detected	2	1	0	2	0	3	1	1	0
Non-compliance with legislation, unnecessary suffering detected	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Animal welfare during transport

2.313 Inspections are carried out in Great Britain on a risk basis and in response to intelligence received. Inspection programmes are planned by APHA and LAs through local liaison. Findings at these inspections are kept under review and local action taken as appropriate where any major deficiencies (non-compliances) are detected.

Number of applications for transporter authorisations in Great Britain, 2016 – 2021

Year	New applications	New authorised	Refused	Applications for re-authorisations
2016	883	684	0	149
2017	817	865	8	7,988
2018	168	564	4	930
2019	820	754	0	741
2020	1000	975	0	471
2021	1143	1198	0	1292

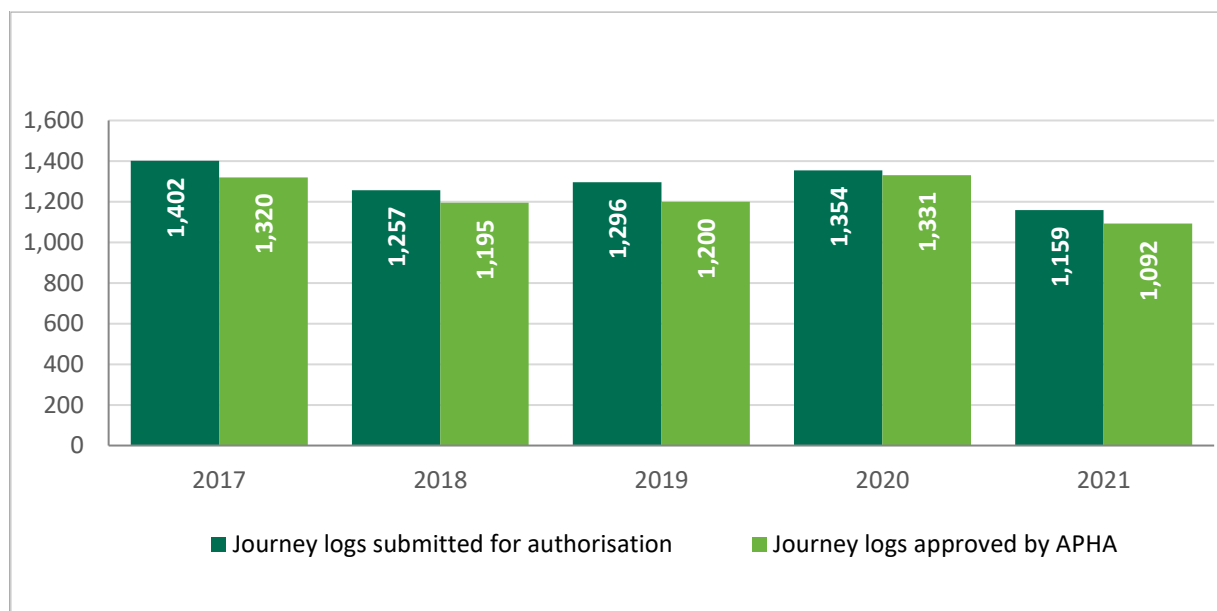
2.314 2021 saw an increase in Transporter Authorisations (TA) being issued. This was due to the legislative changes brought on by EU Exit. Prior to EU Exit, Transporter Authorisations, driver and attendant Certificate of Competence's (CoC) and Vehicle Approval Certificates (VAC) issued in any EU member state, were valid for use within all other EU member states as per the requirements of the EU welfare in transport Regulation; Council Regulation EC No 1/2005.

2.315 From 1 January 2021, the EU legislation was retained into domestic legislation and this rule ceased to exist. All transporters, whether UK or EU based, operating to, from or through Great Britain are now required to hold a UK issued TA, CoC and VAC with EU issued documents no longer valid for use in GB.

2.316 Of the 1143 new applications received for Transporter Authorisation, 214 of these were from transporters based in the EU.

2.317 Of the 1198 applications processed in 2021, 173 were from transporters based in the EU. All of these applications from EU nationals were for long journey (Type 2) transporter authorisation.

Figure 53 – Chart showing the number of journey logs in Great Britain, 2017 – 2021



	JL Submitted	JL approved	Import JLs	Export JLs	Transit JL's
2021	1,159	1,092	705	365	22

2.318 2021 saw an overall decrease in the journey logs approved by APHA. This was due to the legislative changes brought on by EU Exit. Prior to EU Exit, journey logs were issued by the EU Member State of origin (where the animals were starting their journey) and were valid in every other EU Member State. Journey logs issued by APHA prior to 2021 were for animals departing origin addresses in GB. However, from 1 January 2021 this rule ceased to exist. Approved journey logs issued by APHA are no longer valid for use in the EU, and EU approved journey logs are no longer valid for use in GB.

2.319 From 1 January 2021, livestock and un-registered equines being transported into, out of, or transiting through, GB were required to have a journey log approved by APHA (or in some cases Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs in Northern Ireland).

2.320 Since EU Exit, all live animals entering the EU from GB must do so via a Border Control Post. There is currently no portal border control post servicing the main export route between Dover and Calais for livestock. This has limited the export trade to using a significantly longer road route via Ireland, or by flying and thus impacting on the number of export journey logs issued by APHA.

- 2.321 In 2021, 1,159 journey logs were submitted to APHA for approval with 1,092 approved: of these only 365 were for export (their origin was in GB). This represents a 73% decrease on export journey logs issued in 2020. Overall there was a 16% decrease in the number of journey logs submitted for approval which was driven by the reduction in export JLs.
- 2.322 A total of 727 journey logs were approved by APHA for import and transit journeys. These approvals are new for 2021 and were not required in 2020.
- 2.323 No journey logs were rejected by APHA in 2021. Sixty-seven applications did not proceed to approval, and would be deemed cancelled by the transporter. This is likely the result of the transporter being unable to demonstrate compliance with the Regulation, following requests for further information to support the application.

Number of checks on vehicles transporting animals in GB from 2019 – 2021

Checks and non-compliances	2019	2020	2021
Vehicles inspected (incl. documentary checks)	53,378	28,835	41,032
Non-compliances (excl. documentary non-compliances)	738	1,899	1,199
Documentary only checks (vehicles inspected)	361	1,336	0
Non-compliances documentary checks only	363	507	86
APHA checks of vehicles transporting livestock and horses at ports through UK	154	65	5
APHA supervised loading inspections	70	65	0

- 2.324 The majority of routine checks of animals being transported were carried out by LA inspectors in conjunction with APHA in Great Britain. APHA aims to supervise 100% of loadings for animals on export journeys for slaughter purposes.
- 2.325 Since EU Exit, all live animals from GB must enter the EU through a Border Control Post, approved for the relevant species. In 2021, there were no portal border control posts servicing the short straits (Dover/Calais) which would allow entry to the EU for livestock. Consequentially the export trade for livestock was restricted to a road route through Ireland or transport by air.
- 2.326 As such no exports of slaughter or fattening occurred in the period in question to cause a knock-on effect to the number of supervised loadings being carried out. (To note: horse movements using the short straits were not affected as a border control post was available for equine controls,)

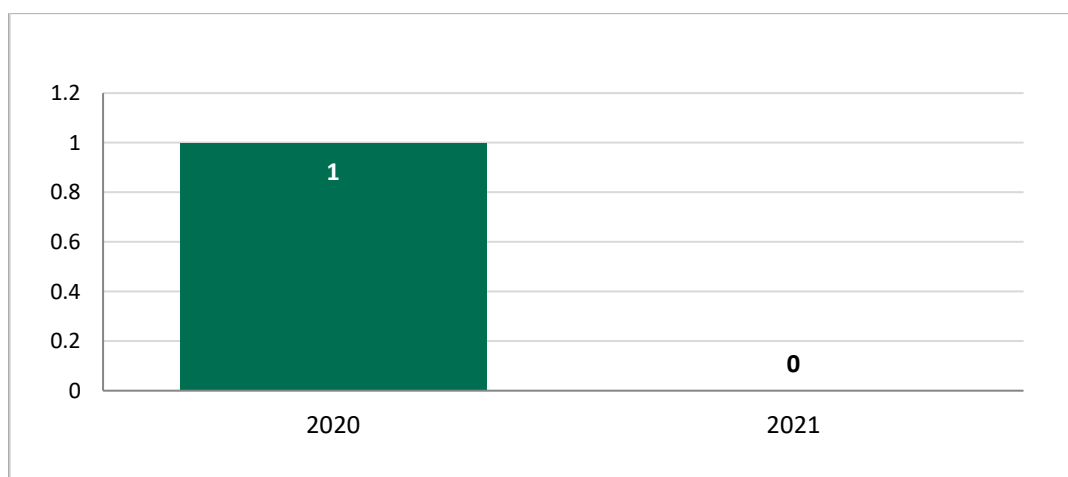
Number of checks of animals and means of transport in GB across England, Wales and Scotland from 2019 – 2021

	England			Scotland			Wales		
	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
Vehicles inspected (incl. documentary checks)	43,522	22,655	31,050	1,648	1,886	2,963	8,208	4,294	7,019
Non-compliances (excl. documentary non-compliances)	506	1,770	1,069	147	14	45	85	115	85
Documentary only checks (vehicles inspected)	355	1,326	0	6	10	0	0	0	0
Non-compliances doc checks only	331	493	66	9	1	3	23	13	17
APHA checks of vehicles transporting livestock and horses at ports through UK	154	65	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
APHA supervised loading inspections	32	42	0	23	0	0	15	23	0

2.327 Inspections of vehicles transporting live animals increased by 42% overall in GB compared with 2020, with increases seen in all countries. However, in spite of the increased numbers of inspections, there was a reduction in the number of non-compliances detected overall, with a wide variation between countries. More than three times the numbers of non-compliances were detected in 2021 for Scottish transporters / means of transport when compared with 2020, whilst Wales and England both saw decreases of 26% and 40% respectively.

2.328 GB inspections resulted in a variety of enforcement action, ranging from verbal warning to prosecutions. In 2021 there were 5 prosecutions: three involved transport of dogs and puppies without transporter authorisation or required transport documentation, and two were transport of farmed animals unfit to transport.

Figure 54 – Chart showing the number of reports of infringements by GB authorised transporters raised by other Member States from 2020 – 2021

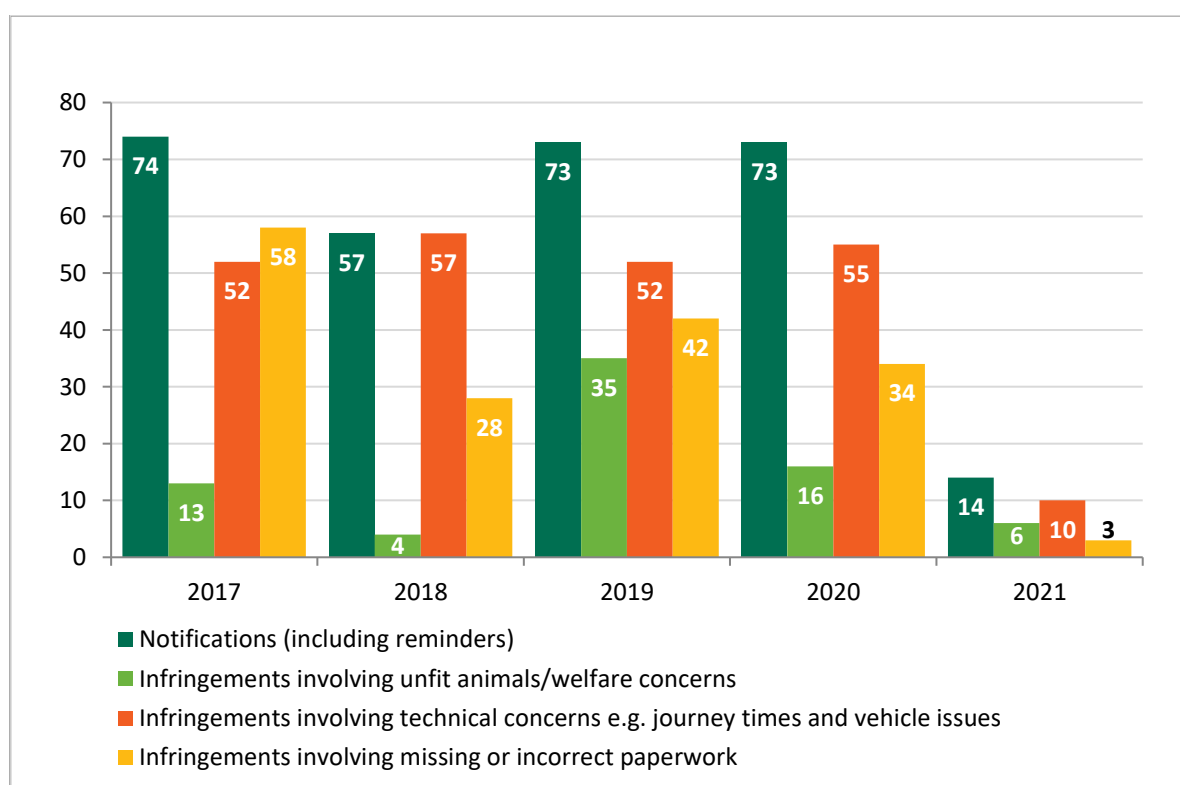


	UK					GB	
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
No of infringements	1	5	1	8	2	1	0

2.329 Under Article 26 of the EU welfare in transport legislation, all member states have an obligation to notify the competent authority who is responsible for issuing the Transporter Authorisation when non-compliance is identified or observed. Since the legislative changes of EU Exit took place, the EU are no longer obligated to advise the competent authority in GB of these non-compliances.

2.330 GB based transporters now have a legal requirement to hold Transporter Authorisation, driver and attendant Certificates of Competence and vehicle approval certificates issued by an EU Member state. This change means that any regulatory action needed to be undertaken when non-compliance is identified, can be done so by the relevant issuing authority in the EU, thus removing the requirements to notify the authority in GB.

Figure 55 – Chart showing the breakdown of types of infringement by non-UK transporters from 2017 – 2021¹⁶



3.331 Under Article 26 of the EU welfare in transport legislation, all member states have an obligation to notify the competent authority who is responsible for issuing the Transporter Authorisation, when a non-compliance is identified or observed. Since

¹⁶ Data for types of infringement is only available at a non-UK level.

the legislative changes of EU Exit took place, GB are no longer under this obligation. To continue to have a constructive relationship with the EU, however, we will continue to share information as necessary.

2.332 Since EU Exit all transporters who transport animals to, from or through GB require an authorisation issued in the UK. This change provided APHA with the ability to undertake regulatory action where non-compliance is identified, and reduced the requirement to notify the relevant EU member states.

2.333 All notifications made in 2021 relate to offences which occurred in 2020, prior to the Regulations changing.

Transport on-farm – FSA and FSS referrals

2.334 The following tables provide information on non-urgent referrals received by APHA from the FSA (English and Welsh slaughterhouses) and FSS (Scottish slaughterhouses) for 2021, regarding potential non-compliances associated with animal welfare during transport (including poultry catching), at markets and/or on farm.

2.335 Urgent referrals would be dealt with as complaints by APHA or local authorities and would be accounted for in other data sets. Enforcement action associated with referrals may also be covered within other data sets. Slaughterhouse location by country does not always reflect the country of origin for farm or market.

2.336 There was a reduction of 3% in non-urgent referrals in 2021 compared to the previous year, due to a reduction in DOA and late gestation cases.

Summary data and most common non-urgent welfare referral reasons from FSA/FSS in Great Britain from 2018 – 2021

Referral type	2018*	2019**	2020	2021
Total number received	5,372	5,137	4,679	4,542
Poultry catching	2,756	2,180	1,829	1859
Dead on arrival	1,372	1,333	1,464	1,287
Late gestation (>90% pregnancy)	384	489	521	426
Further triage required	860	1,135	865	970

*2018 includes only 6 months of FSS data

**Please note - 2019 data are corrected from those published in the 2019 summary report.

Summary data and most common reasons for referral from FSA (English and Welsh slaughterhouses) and FSS (Scottish slaughterhouses)

Referral type	Number of incidents* (% of total)					
	FSA 2019	FSS 2019	FSA 2020	FSS 2020	FSA 2021	FSS 2021
Total	4,844	293	4,431	248	4252	290
Poultry catching	2,149 (44%)	31 (11%)	1,815 (41%)	14 (6%)	1,821 (43%)	38 (13%)
Dead on arrival	1,294 (27%)	39 (13%)	1,422 (32%)	42 (17%)	1,241 (29%)	46 (16%)
Late gestation (>90% pregnancy)	427 (9%)	62 (21%)	451 (10%)	70 (28%)	361 (8.5%)	65 (22%)
Further triage required	974 (20%)	161 (55%)	974 (17%)	161 (49%)	829 (9.5%)	141 (49%)

2.337 As with previous years, the most frequently reported non-urgent welfare in transport referral type for English and Welsh slaughterhouses (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. Less poultry slaughter occurs in Scotland, therefore these referrals were lower in number, with late gestation pregnancies being the most frequent of the top three.

2.338 Poultry catching issues were referred to LAs for monitoring and action as appropriate, including joint actions with APHA. Meat chickens were the only catching referrals for Scottish slaughterhouses in 2021. In England and Wales, meat chickens were the most frequent poultry referral, but small numbers of incidents were associated with breeding birds, turkeys and end-of-lay hens.

2.339 The most common species type referred for DOA from English and Welsh slaughterhouses were pigs (56%), sheep (27%), meat chickens (14%) and cattle (2%), whilst FSS reported most frequently for pigs (56%), sheep (30%) and cattle (9%).

2.340 APHA's welfare in transport team issued warning letters with guidance to transporters on late gestation for all cases associated with GB-authorized transporters.

2.341 In 2021, 95% (275/290) of referrals from the FSS related to Scottish farms, with 12 referrals to farms in the North of England, 1 in Southern England and 2 to Wales.

2.342 Ninety-six percent of FSA referrals (4,094 of 4,252) related to English and Welsh holdings, with 158 referrals to Scottish holdings. The FSA referrals comprised 36%

of all referrals in respect of Scottish holdings in 2021. These figures were similar to 2020, when 40% of all Scottish holding referrals were reported by the FSA.

- 2.343 The referrals from FSA regarding Scottish holdings were not equally spread across referral types, with 68% of DOAs and 18% of poultry catching incidents originating from Scottish farms being reported by the FSA in 2021. These proportions (for DOAs and poultry catching) were similar in 2020.
- 2.344 Forty-four out of 91 of the FSA referred DOAs regarding Scottish holdings related to sheep, which comprised 77% of all sheep DOAs for Scottish holdings. All 5 chicken DOA referrals (3 breeders and 2 broilers) for Scottish holdings were reported by the FSA.
- 2.345 The following table splits the referrals by original holding of animals and by country. In 2021, 79%, 10% and 11% of referrals originated from English, Scottish and Welsh holdings, respectively - which was comparable to 2020 figures (81%, 9% and 10% respectively). So, despite the drop in referrals, the country of origin spread was similar.
- 2.346 The actual number of incidents relating to DOAs further increased for Scotland from 2020 levels, and fell for England and Wales. Incidence of late gestation fell for England and Wales and remained at a similar level in Scotland for 2021.

Table showing country origin location for FSA/FSS referrals

Referral type	Number of incidents (% of total in each country of origin)								
	2019			2020			2021		
Year									
Country	England	Scotland	Wales	England	Scotland	Wales	England	Scotland	Wales
Total	4,261	420	456	3,801	398	480	3,593	433	498
Poultry catching	1,924 (45%)	41 (10%)	215 (47%)	1,588 (42%)	50 (13%)	191 (40%)	1,585 (44%)	44 (10%)	226 (45%)
Dead on arrival	1,123 (26%)	110 (26%)	100 (22%)	1,236 (33%)	120 (30%)	108 (23%)	1,046 (29%)	133 (31%)	97 (19%)
Late gestation (>90% pregnancy)	358 (8%)	70 (17%)	61 (13%)	352 (9%)	80 (20%)	89 (19%)	277 (8%)	77 (18%)	72 (14%)
Further triage required	856 (20%)	199 (47%)	80 (22%)	625 (16%)	148 (37%)	92 (19%)	685 (19%)	179 (41%)	103 (21%)

- 2.347 In addition to the 967 incidents determined for triage, 3 DOAs and 1 late gestation incidents were also selected for immediate triage and evaluation, resulting in 971 triage events in 2021. This was a 11% increase in total incidents selected for triage compared to 2020, where 865 triages plus a further 3 DOA, 2 catching incidents and 1 late gestation incident resulted in 871 total triages.
- 2.348 The table below shows how these referrals were triaged by APHA. Cases relating to a welfare in transport issue were logged with APHA's transport team and allocated to the appropriate LA, for action or information as part of ongoing monitoring.

APHA's Welfare in Transport (WIT) team also handled monitoring and ongoing action in reaction to authorised transporters associated with any FSA/FSS referrals.

FSA/FSS referrals requiring further triage in Great Britain from 2018 – 2021

Referral type	2018*	2019**	2020	2021
Welfare in transport (WIT)	298	208	173	183
Welfare on farm (WOF)	210	343	177	220
Welfare in transport and a Welfare on farm origin / cause (WIT / WOF)	271	497	459	515
Welfare issue could not be determined from evidence	81	35	41	25
Other issue / action / DOAs / catching***	-	63	21	28
Total	-	1,146	871	971

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

**Figures amended due to an error in the 2019 report.

***Data only available since 2019.

2.349 Cases relating to welfare on farm, markets & collection centre 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 'further action not required' included referrals where the action taken by the OV was considered sufficient, or where further investigation revealed that a potential non-compliance was determined to be unavoidable - for example, injury caused by an emergency stop. However, such data would still be collated and recorded, to monitor repeat referrals for transporters, markets or farms of origin.

2.350 Whilst civil cross compliance penalties are usually applied by inspectors for on-farm findings, certain slaughterhouse findings were reported as a breach to the relevant paying agency for any farmer that was a claimant, where the non-compliance was clearly something that had occurred on farm. These included animals with chronic untreated disease conditions, animals in very poor condition, and ingrowing horns.

FSS/FSA referred farm inspections and non-compliances in GB 2018 – 2021

	2018*	2019	2020	2021
Total farm inspections following referral	200	321	246	355
Non-compliant findings	30	39	33	55
Non-compliant findings without unnecessary suffering	17	31	19	29
Non-compliant findings with unnecessary suffering detected	13	8	14	26

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

2.351 The number of incidents/findings involving unnecessary suffering at farm level increased to 7.3% of assessments in 2021, compared to 5% in 2020. Therefore,

ante-mortem and post-mortem findings should continue to be considered a key indicator of serious animal welfare issues on farm.

2.352 When assessed at the country level, Scotland reported 9 cases of unnecessary suffering at farm inspections in response to slaughterhouse referrals, compared to none in the previous two years. England reported 8 cases of unnecessary suffering in 2021 - a similar figure to 2020 - but a reduced proportion of total cases due to increased inspections. Wales reported 9 cases, comprising 22% of all slaughterhouse referred farm inspections in 2021, and an increase on 2020.

2.353 A total of 355 GB farm inspections were carried out by APHA in 2021 following triage. Inspections increased by 71% in England, 24% in Scotland and reduced by 17% in Wales.

2.354 15% of inspections resulted in a non-compliance being recorded in 2021, greater than recorded in 2020. This continues to demonstrate official controls at the slaughterhouse level are effective in detecting and targeting on farm animal welfare issues.

2.355 There is a disparity between Scotland figures for 2020 and 2021, with non - compliant findings following 17% of inspections compared to 2% in 2020. England recorded 9% compared to 16% in 2020, with Wales increasing from 9% to 32% non-compliant.

FSA/FSS referred farm inspections and compliance levels by country from 2019 – 2021

	2019			2020			2021		
	England	Scotland	Wales	England	Scotland	Wales	England	Scotland	Wales
Farm inspections following referral	191	84	46	145	53	48	249	66	40
Non-compliances recorded*	35	3	4	23	1	9	23	11	13
Non compliances where suffering was determined*	6	0	2	7	0	7	8	9	9

* to note: these may be associated with the slaughterhouse finding only in Wales and England

Animal welfare at slaughter or killing

2.356 Welfare at the time of killing was enforced through the Welfare of Animals at Time of Killing (England) Regulation 2015, the Welfare of Animals at Time of Killing (Wales) Regulation 2014, and for Scotland the Welfare of Animals at the Time of

Killing (Scotland) Regulations 2012, and the Welfare of Animals (Slaughter or Killing) Regulations 1995.

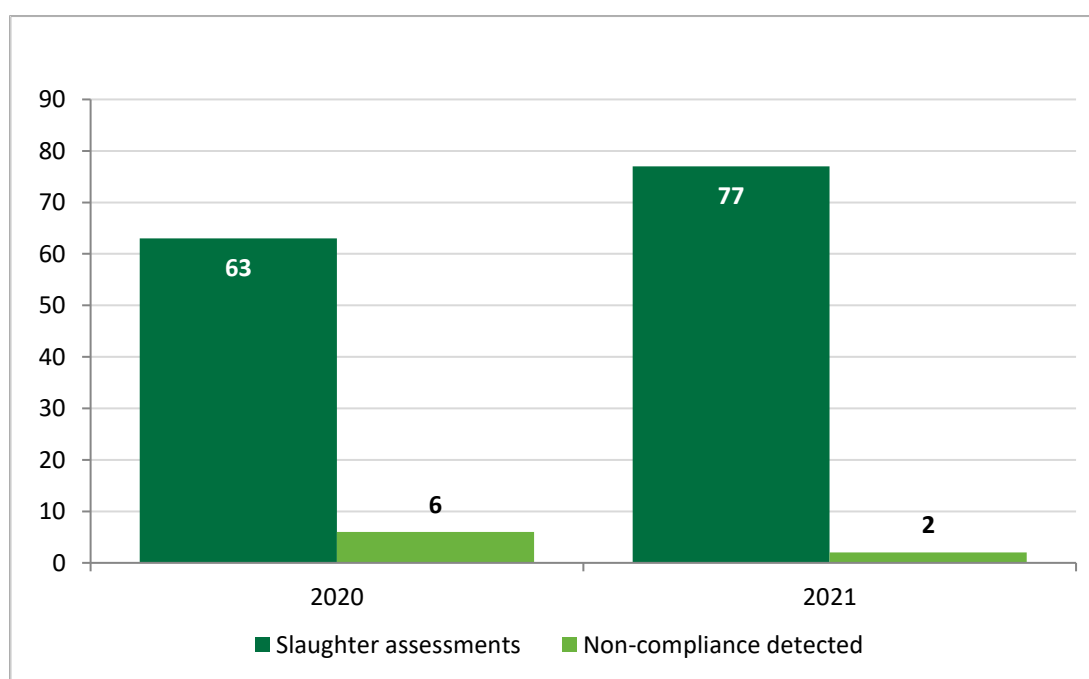
2.357 In 2021, APHA followed up reports and allegations relating to poor animal welfare during slaughter or killing operations. This also applied to locations outside of approved slaughterhouses in Great Britain, as such APHA also assessed slaughter operations during the licensing of slaughtermen in locations outside of slaughterhouses.

2.358 APHA field staff and LAs continued to raise 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.

2.359 Defra published a Post Implementation Review of the Welfare of Animals at the Time of Killing (England) Regulations 2015 in January 2021¹⁷ and amended WATOK in 2022 to add a new method of killing for piglets, kids and lambs..

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

Figure 56 – Chart showing the number of slaughter assessment* and the number of non-compliances in Great Britain from 2020-2021



*Slaughter visit data assessed method was changed from 2020 - so not comparable to previous years

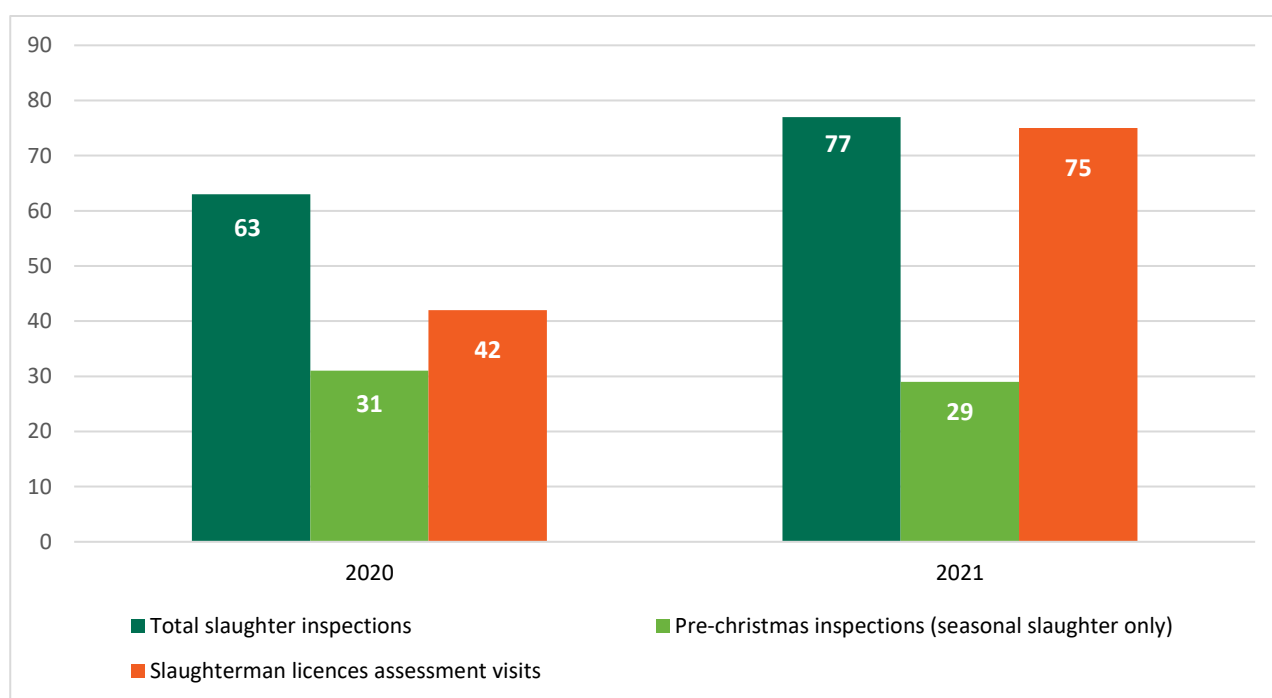
¹⁷ [Review of the Welfare of Animals at the Time of Killing \(England\) Regulations 2015 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/review-of-the-welfare-of-animals-at-the-time-of-killing-england-regulations-2015)

2.361 In Great Britain, 75 (97%) of the 77 visits carried out by APHA were undertaken as part of a licensing assessment of staff intending to kill animals on farm. Slaughter assessments at each visit could involve multiple personnel assessed for individual licences, for different types of slaughter process, and/or species-type slaughtered on the day of assessment.

2.362 Most assessments, however, involved one species type, one type of equipment and one or more individuals assessed for the same species and equipment. Thirty eight percent of the visits occurred in the immediate pre-Christmas period involving seasonal slaughter of poultry. A total of two slaughter assessments detected non-compliances

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

Figure 57 – Chart showing the number of welfare inspection visits during slaughter in Great Britain from 2020-2021*



*data calculation methodology has changed since 2020 and cannot be compared with previous years

2.364 Inspectors assessed the slaughter or killing of horses, growing and adult cattle, deer, sheep, pigs, goats, calves, ducks, geese, quail, turkeys and chickens during 2021. Actions included enforcement letters and planned follow-up visits.

2.365 The table below sets out where non-compliances were disclosed.

Disclosure of non-compliances in Great Britain from 2018 – 2021

Assessment finding	2018	2019	2020	2021
Licensing	17	2	1	0
Construction, equipment, maintenance	11	11	4	0
Animals awaiting killing	0	0	0	0
Handling and restraint	3	0	0	0
Stunning and killing	11	5	2	1
Bleeding or pithing	4	5	0	1

*more than one non-compliance may be detected at a non-compliant assessment

2.366 The table below provides the data on a country-wide basis for 2021. There was a single incidence of non-compliance at slaughter where suffering was determined in England.

Disclosure of GB non-compliances by country, 2021

	England	Scotland	Wales
Premises visited	70	0	5
Slaughter visits*	72	0	5
Visits for slaughter licence assessment	70	NA**	5
Species categories assessed***	104	0	9
Non-compliances at visit	1	0	0
Non-compliances recorded where suffering was not determined	0	0	0
Non compliances where suffering was determined	1	0	0

*in Wales and England, more than one visit during the year was made to a single premises

**Assessment and Certificates of Competence for on farm / knackeries issued by FSS

***In England some slaughter assessments involved more than one species

Welfare of Animals at Time of Killing (WATOK) in Great Britain in 2021

Country	Slaughterman license	Certificate of Competence (CoC)	Temporary CoC
England & Wales	62	859	1,513
Scotland	N/A	79	153

2.367 In 2021, 62 slaughterman licenses were issued to the fallen stock industry and small producers killing under 10,000 units a year, by the FSA in England and Wales, under Welfare of Animals at Time of Killing (WATOK) Regulations.

2.368 In Scotland, 79 CoCs were issued for operatives in slaughterhouses, farms and knacker companies, under the WATOK (Scotland) Regulations 2012, between April

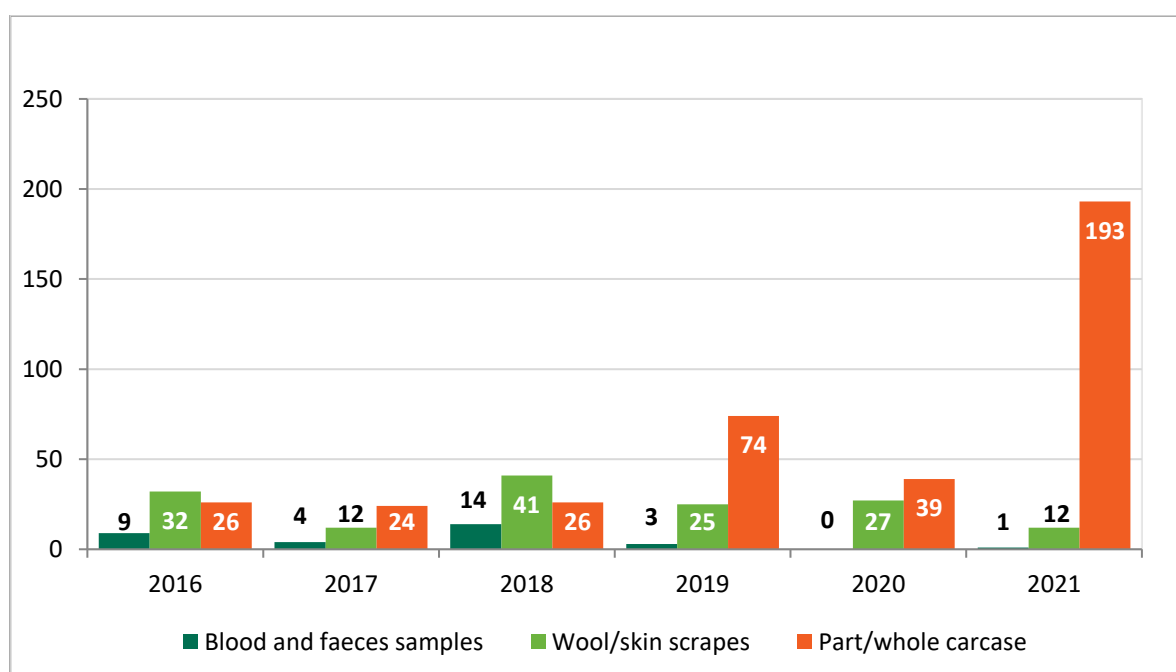
2021 and April 2022. Thirteen existing CoCs were amended to withdraw units, and three were amended to include new activities.

2.369 The FSA publishes [quarterly reports showing welfare non-compliances in each area of the slaughterhouse](#). The reports are set out by species. FSS publishes [animal welfare data](#) on a monthly basis.

Welfare forensic pathology and advice

2.370 The chart below shows submission to the regional veterinary laboratories in England and Wales from 2015 to 2021.

Figure 58 – Chart showing the number of samples submitted to Regional Veterinary Laboratories in England and Wales from 2016 – 2021



2.371 In 2021, APHA's Regional Laboratories (RLs) received 35 welfare forensic submissions consisting of 15 whole carcasses and 178 carcass parts such as heads or limbs.

- 3 carcasses and 3 carcass parts from cattle
- 7 carcasses and 1 of carcass fragments from sheep
- 5 carcasses and 1 carcass part from pigs
- 173 feet from broiler chickens.

2.372 Examples of findings included: septic arthritis and tail biting in pigs, starvation in young lambs, parasite issues in adult sheep including severe sheep scab, bacterial pneumonia, head injury and horn fracture in cattle. The feet from broiler chickens are an ongoing investigation with AH and TS into severe extensive bacterial pododermatitis in several houses and repeat batches. Statements have been written for this case and others.

- 2.373 Of the remainder of the samples - 13 in total - 12 were wool or skin samples relating to suspect sheep scab cases, and a single faeces sample. This was the lowest numbers of submissions for suspect sheep scab since 2017, and could reflect the increased awareness on farms due to RDP sheep scab initiatives.
- 2.374 In addition to the above, a routine scanning surveillance post-mortem examination of neonatal calves identified issues, with large numbers of calf losses and sub optimal care. The case was referred to AH field services and the local authority for additional on farm investigation.
- 2.375 There were cases with VIO involvement resulting in guilty verdicts for offences under the Animal Welfare Act 2006. For one case going back to 2019, the farmer was found guilty of allowing unnecessary suffering, by failing to meet the needs of animals. He received a custodial sentence as well as a ban on keeping livestock for two years.
- 2.376 At one dealer's premises in the south west, multiple submissions were received by VIC over a 12-15 month period, resulting in the farmer signing a formal caution for causing unnecessary suffering to a ewe with an ingrown horn, and acting as a transporter without authorisation.

Official controls in the plant health sector

Controls on imported plants, plant products and plant material

England and Wales

2.377 In 2021, targets for the inspection of the majority of [controlled plant health](#) material imported into England and Wales from countries other than the EU were met. Prohibited material imported or held under scientific licence was subject to the required level of inspection.

2.378 When including EU material, 45% of required mandatory inspections were completed at designated inspection sites (PoDs or BCPs), while a 99% inspection rate was achieved if EU material is excluded. The target was not met for inspecting other low risk controlled material, with 55% of material inspected against the required 65% target. The target of completing 100% of document and identity checks was not met, with 84% of the checks achieved.

2.379 The delivery shortfall resulted from:

- working to new COVID-19 restrictions
- delivery of the UK's withdrawal from the European Union; and
- implementation of the new GB plant health regime.

2.380 In addition, many established Inspectors were diverted to train the influx of new inspectors recruited to deliver the inspection of EU material. This period of recruitment was extended owing to retirements and other opportunities within the DEFRA family, which resulted in a high rate of resignations and transfers from the workforce.

2.381 In keeping with previous years' pattern of growing numbers of controlled consignments requiring inspection, 2021 saw a 42% increase in the number of consignments declared and requiring control, compared to 2020. The total controlled and declared consignments in 2021 was 245,802, compared to 143,753 in 2020.

2.382 For the 137 commodities and trades subject to reduced import checks¹⁸, the required levels of inspection were largely met (7 were under the target and 31 exceeded). Additionally, 6,219 inspections of non-regulated material were carried out, against a target of 7,000.

¹⁸ The general rule is that all consignments of material listed in Schedule 2 in the Plant Health (Amendment etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020 must be inspected on arrival in Great Britain; however, plant health checks can be carried out at a reduced frequency where this can be justified. See <https://planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk/imports/reduced-frequency-checks>

2.383 In 2021, 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. The standard response time was achieved in over 97% of cases in 2021, and the annual target was therefore met.

2.384 FC received additional Defra funding to increase its border checks and inland activity, and was able to:

- Appoint a new manager to coordinate activities at the border and inland
- Continue to employ two Regional Plant Health Officers with two support staff to support checks at the border
- Employ an Assistant Economist to assist with monitoring the additional inspection programmes, reviewing fees and undertaking financial impact assessments
- Take on additional field staff to strengthen the inland plant health team, increasing the surveillance level for newly emerging pests and diseases in trees and woodlands
- Respond to an increasing number of harmful pest outbreaks in England including *Ips typographus* and *Phytophthora pluvialis*
- Increase inspections of wood packaging material associated with known high-risk commodities at ports, leading to increased detection of non-compliant wood packaging material
- Extend its import checks to include controlled timber from the EU - which now includes sawn ash and ash firewood
- Continue to deliver 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 for all three countries.

Plant health surveillance and outbreak management

England and Wales

2.385 In 2021/2022, work has continued to monitor and manage a number of plant and tree health pest and disease incidents, as summarised below.

2.386 **Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus (ToBRFV)** - This virus was found in GB for the first time in 2019 at a tomato production site where, following statutory measures, it has now been eradicated. Additional surveillance was performed by the PHSI. As a result, five new outbreaks of ToBRFV were detected in 2020, plus 38 interceptions on imports of tomato and pepper seed. Statutory action was taken where the virus was found, to eradicate the pest and prevent further introductions.

2.387 ***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.

- 2.388 ***Phytophthora pluvialis*** – In September 2021 this pathogen was identified on western hemlock and Douglas-fir trees in woodland in Cornwall. Subsequently findings of the pathogen have been identified at multiple sites in England, Scotland and Wales. Robust action continues to ensure control measures are undertaken and to prevent any spread. Demarcated areas have been introduced in parts of England, Scotland, and Wales, to restrict the movement of susceptible materials. UK-wide aerial surveillance and extensive ground surveys have been conducted at over 1,900 sites across the UK. Comprehensive research and modelling is being undertaken by Forestry Commission and Forest Research, alongside a Pest Risk Analysis, to determine the risk from the pathogen and direct our future management strategies.
- 2.389 ***Dryocosmus kuriphilus* (Oriental chestnut gall wasp)** – The application to release a non-native biocontrol agent, *Torymus sinensis*, was approved in early 2021. Subsequently the agent has been released across 10 sites in England in spring 2021 and 2022.
- 2.390 ***Hymenoscyphus fraxineus* (ash dieback)** – All counties of the UK are experiencing ash tree decline due to ash dieback. Since ash dieback was first detected in the UK, government has invested more than £8 million to advance our scientific understanding of this disease. FC conducted the world's largest screening trials for tolerant trees in 2020, and planted 3,000 trees in the first UK archive of tolerant ash. The trees in this archive are now undergoing monitoring for tolerance levels, and new methods for screening and propagation are being developed. The archive will be screened and additional tolerant trees added in 2024. This will provide the basis for a breeding programme of tolerant ash, and is a major step towards landscape recovery.
- 2.391 ***Cryphonectria parasitica* (Sweet Chestnut blight)** – No outbreaks of the pathogen were identified from spring 2021 to 2022. An annual surveillance programme is in place, and outbreak sites from previous years are being monitored. Research is ongoing to investigate whether we can develop an effective treatment for Sweet Chestnut Blight, including exploring the potential to use biological control with hypovirulence.
- 2.392 ***Thaumetopoea processionea* (Oak processionary moth (OPM))** -- A Government programme to manage OPM has been in place since 2012. OPM is only known to be established in a relatively small geographical area of the country across London and surrounding areas. In this area the Forestry Commission, Local Authorities and land managers work together to tackle the pest.
- 2.393 As a result of interceptions in 2019, increased surveillance was put in place in the pest free area in 2021/22, to help stop the spread of OPM. In 2021/22 there were no findings of OPM in the pest free area. In March 2022 we further strengthened legislation - and OPM is now a GB quarantine pest known to be present in GB. This legal change enables import measures to be strengthened on high-risk oak, to mitigate the risk of trade-based introductions.

- 2.394 Movements of high-risk oak trees within GB were also restricted. To coincide with this legislative change, the boundary of the pest free area was also changed, to better reflect the known distribution of the pest and ensure there is a sufficient buffer area between the known area of infestation and the pest free area. In March 2021 the pest specific contingency plan was updated.
- 2.395 ***Ips typographus* (Spruce bark beetle)** – In 2021 the UK Chief Plant Health Officer confirmed several findings of the pest in areas of woodland in Kent and East Sussex. These findings were confirmed following enhanced Forestry Commission plant health surveillance activity. A wide-ranging programme of surveillance is in place (including enhanced trapping and surveillance measures in the wider environment), and a demarcated area restricting movement of material to reduce the risk of spread within the UK is in place in the South East of England, and was updated in 2021.
- 2.396 ***Xylella fastidiosa* (bacterial disease in olive trees)** – In 2021, research from a major BBSRC / Defra funded project Brigit concluded provided evidence for the UK's response to *Xylella*. This outcomes of this research were shared with key stakeholders. We have reviewed and published an updated contingency plan laying out the plant health response for *Xylella fastidiosa*.

Surveillance surveys required under EU legislation carried out during 2021/22 in England and Wales

2.397 In line with EU member states, and adopted whilst UK was in the transition period following our exit from the EU, we are required to undertake annual surveillance for all GB priority pests and to survey for all other listed pests over a 5 year period.

Annual survey - GB Priority pest

Survey pest	Action taken in 2021/22
<i>Epitrix</i> spp, <i>Clavibacter michiganensis</i> (Ring rot), <i>Synchytrium endobioticum</i> (Potato wart disease), <i>Candidatus Liberibacter solanacearum</i> (Zebra chip)* and <i>Ralstonia solanacearum</i> (Brown rot)** - visual & tuber cutting	180 ware crops
<i>Epitrix</i> spp, <i>Clavibacter michiganensis</i> (Ring rot), <i>Synchytrium endobioticum</i> (Potato wart disease), and <i>Ralstonia solanacearum</i> (Brown rot)** - visual & tuber coring	1,291 crops inspected including all Seed Potato Classification Scheme E&W seed stocks marketed
<i>Leptinotarsa decemlineata</i> and <i>Candidatus Liberibacter solanacearum</i> (Zebra chip)* - visual inspection of growing crop	48 crops
<i>Ceratocystis platani</i> (Plane wilt)	141 post planting sites inspected following an extensive tracing exercise to identify sites planted within the last 3 years
<i>Anoplophora chinensis</i> , <i>Aromia bungii</i> , <i>Ceratocystis platani</i> , <i>Thaumatopea processionea</i> , <i>Thaumatopea pityocampa</i> , <i>Fusarium circinatum</i> , <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> , Rose Rosette virus, <i>Thrips palmi</i>	No set targets per pest. Plant hosts were inspected as part of a programme of visits to clients. Frequency is determined by PHSI established risk matrix.
*Proxy survey for <i>Bactericera cockerelli</i> **Not a GB Priority pest	

Additional annual survey based on GB priorities

Survey pest	Action taken in 2021/22
<i>Phytophthora ramorum</i> & <i>P. kernoviae</i> – wider environment	365 sites inspected against a minimum target of 300
PCN – Domestic Production	501 Ha sampled from a target area of 424 Ha.
<i>Spodoptera frugiperda</i>	2 sites involved with imported produce
Tomato brown rugose fruit virus (ToBRFV)	54 sites inspected from an estimated 63 commercial tomato and pepper growers in E&W
<i>Ralstonia solanacearum</i> (Brown rot) - water course	The Brown Rot river survey was completed during August/September 2021, involving approximately 200 samples from 24 water courses and 48 sampling points. One river returned positive samples (the River Jubilee in Berkshire). This was effectively our +ve control and is already designated within the existing notice and demarcated area
<i>Phytophthora ramorum</i> , <i>P. kernoviae</i> , <i>Bemisia tabaci</i> & <i>Cryphonectria parasitica</i>	No set targets per pest. Plant hosts were inspected as part of a programme of visits to clients. Frequency is determined by PHSI established risk matrix.

Multi-annual surveys***

Survey pest	Action taken in 2021/22
<i>Tilletia indica</i>	90 samples taken from 80 winter wheat crops across E&W
<i>Rhynchosporium secalis</i> , <i>Puccinia striiformis</i> , <i>Xanthomonas arboricola</i> pv. <i>Pruni</i> & <i>Candidatus Phytoplasma 'ulmi'</i>	No set targets per pest. Plant hosts were inspected as part of a programme of visits to clients. Frequency is determined by PHSI established risk matrix.

***Pilot surveys for multi-annual programme

General quarantine surveillance

England and Wales

2.398 As part of our survey design, inspection visits in England and Wales were determined according to the following risk matrix in 2021/22.

Plant health risk matrix and achievements against targets in England and Wales in 2020/21

Client plant health risk rating*	2020/21		2021/22	
	Minimum and maximum achievement	Achievement (%)	Minimum and maximum achievement	Achievement (%)
Very high risk (10 to 12 visits per year)	210 visits (100% of required visits)	188 – (90%)	120 visits (100% of required visits)	149 – (125%)
High risk (4 to 6 visits per year)	1,300 visits (100% of required visits)	1,090 (84%)	1,084 visits (100% of required visits)	1,197 – (110%)
Medium risk (2 visits per year)	Min = 2,296 visits (50%) Max = 4,592 visits (100%) Target = 3,444 visits (75%)	3,110 (68%)	Min = 2,482 visits (50%) Max = 4,964 visits (100%) Target = 3,723 visits (75%)	3,735 – (75%)
Low risk (once every two years)	Min = 1,598 visits (50%) Max = 3,196 visits (100%) Target = 2,396 visits (75%)	1,675 (52%)	Min = 1,324 visits (50%) Max = 2,648 visits (100%) Target = 1,986 visits (75%)	2,247 – (85%)

*A client's business is reviewed throughout the year and could result in target changes between quarters. Clients are assessed against business activity, source material and scale of production.

Scotland

2.399 In Scotland in 2021, the number of import consignment from third countries was 2640 - an increase in comparison to imports in 2020, reflecting the full impact of the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union and the inclusion of high-priority commodities from EU countries within the scope of Great Britain's import controls. Operational targets for inspections, documentary and identification checks were all achieved.

2.400 Seed potato export tonnages in 2021 (82,495 tonnes) saw a minor decrease to those in 2020 (82,617 tonnes). Ware potato exports increased from 8,716 tonnes to 20,676 tonnes; an increase of 132%. This is largely due to movements of ware potatoes to Northern Ireland being recorded in these figures.

Number of potato quarantine tests carried out in GB from 2019 – 2021

Type of diagnosis	2019	2020	2021
Viroids	3,043	7,230	3,321
Virology	244	516	472
Bacteriology (incl. brown rot/ring rot)	2,996	2,758	2,809
Mycology	454	207	441
Nematology/Entomology	18,424	20,000	16,954
Total	25,161	30,711	23,997

2.401 The 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 - continues.

Enforcement activities for Single Market and EU surveillance activities in Scotland in 2021

Disease / pest	Surveillance	Findings
<i>Erwinia amylovora</i> Fireblight	Five nurseries requested Fireblight PFA status and had host plants tested for latent symptoms.	All samples taken from nurseries and the surrounding area were negative. Two of the nurseries require a further inspection during the 2022 growing season to attain full PFA status.
Oak Processionary Moth:	Follow up surveillance visits were made between June and August to 30 oak planting sites which were notified in 2019. These included the 6 former infested sites located at various locations within Scotland. along with sites receiving 10 or more trees. Pheromone traps were also installed at the 5 former infested sites and one large planting site near Livingston from July to the end of October. These were installed and monitored by Forest Research, and no moths were caught.	No evidence of OPM was observed.

<p><i>Phytophthora</i>-</p>	<p><u>Nursery Trade/Garden Centre</u></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 a year plus one based on risk. Inspections at nurseries and garden centres have also included visual checks of <i>P. austrocedri</i> and <i>P. lateralis</i> hosts.</p> <p><u>Gardens/Landscaped Sites</u></p> <p>There are currently 37 'active' outbreak sites across Scotland consisting of 27 with <i>P. ramorum</i>, 4 with <i>P. kernoviae</i> and 6 with both pathogens. There are also 74 gardens which have 'non-active' status where controls have been lifted following a programme of monitoring and the disease has not been detected for at least 3 years.</p> <p>The annual garden survey covering 50 sites across Scotland was completed by December 2021 and consisted primarily of prominent public gardens and some 'non-active' sites.</p>	<p>No new outbreaks were identified.</p>
<p><i>Thekopsora minima</i> (Blueberry rust):</p>	<p>Following APHA notification of <i>T. minima</i> finding on plants received from a Scottish supplier located in Perthshire, inspections were undertaken at the nursery concerned.</p> <p>Additional surveillance of the blueberry fruit production sector was also undertaken during November and December. In Scotland, 248 Ha of open and protected blueberries are grown for fruit. Four farms (totalling 110 Ha) were selected which were either in close proximity to the nursery or had large scale production. Despite the time of the year and the start of leaf drop, 142 samples were collected.</p>	<p>Further findings of the disease were identified on other blueberry stocks which had been sourced from European and UK suppliers, and had been held on the nursery for varying lengths of time.</p> <p>Following laboratory testing, of the 142 samples, all were found to be negative.</p>
<p><i>Xanthomonas arboricola</i> pv <i>pruni</i>:</p>	<p>Notification of a number of interceptions of <i>X. arboricola</i> pv <i>pruni</i> on <i>Prunus laurocerasus</i> in trade were received from APHA. A further consignment sent to a landscaper had been planted out.</p>	<p>Those sent to Scottish retailers were destroyed.</p> <p>Following laboratory testing of the planted out consignment, these were also destroyed under Notice and ongoing surveillance of the planting site is planned.</p>

Summary of intensity and type of plant controls in Great Britain

2.402 In GB during 2020, overall official controls compliance improved for commercial cargo: however, the growing trend for detections of non-compliances in postal imports continued. Import inspection targets were largely met for England and Wales.

2.403 In England and Wales in 2021, there was an increase in notifications on imported harmful organisms to 604 findings, compared to 341 findings in 2020 for both controlled and non-controlled material. The increase in commercial pest interceptions has principally been due to High Priority EU material becoming subject to phytosanitary control. The table below shows the most common third country import / pest combinations in 2021.

Pests detected and non-compliances in third country imports during 2021

Country of origin	Pest detected	Non-compliance cases
Netherlands	Bemisia tabaci	65
Thailand	Bemisia tabaci	64
Colombia	Liriomyza sp.	27
Rwanda	Potato virus Y	23
China	Potato spindle tuber viroid	20
Uganda	Potato virus Y	18

2.404 The main reason for no compliance was documentary issues (lack of or incorrect documentation), which accounted for 1,867 interceptions - of these, 1,148 related to private imports imported by post or courier. The increase in interceptions was the result of cooperation with the UK Border Force, where exports from countries with known issues of non-compliance were targeted.

2.405 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

2.406 In England and Wales in 2021, the number of consignments subject to import inspection, declared and requiring controls was 245,802 - an increase of 42% over 2020 (143,753). The increase reflects the full impact of the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union, and the inclusion of high-priority commodities from EU countries within the scope of Great Britain's import controls. The increase in 2021 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.

Figure 59 – Chart showing plant import consignments subject to inspections in England and Wales from 2017/18 – 2021/22

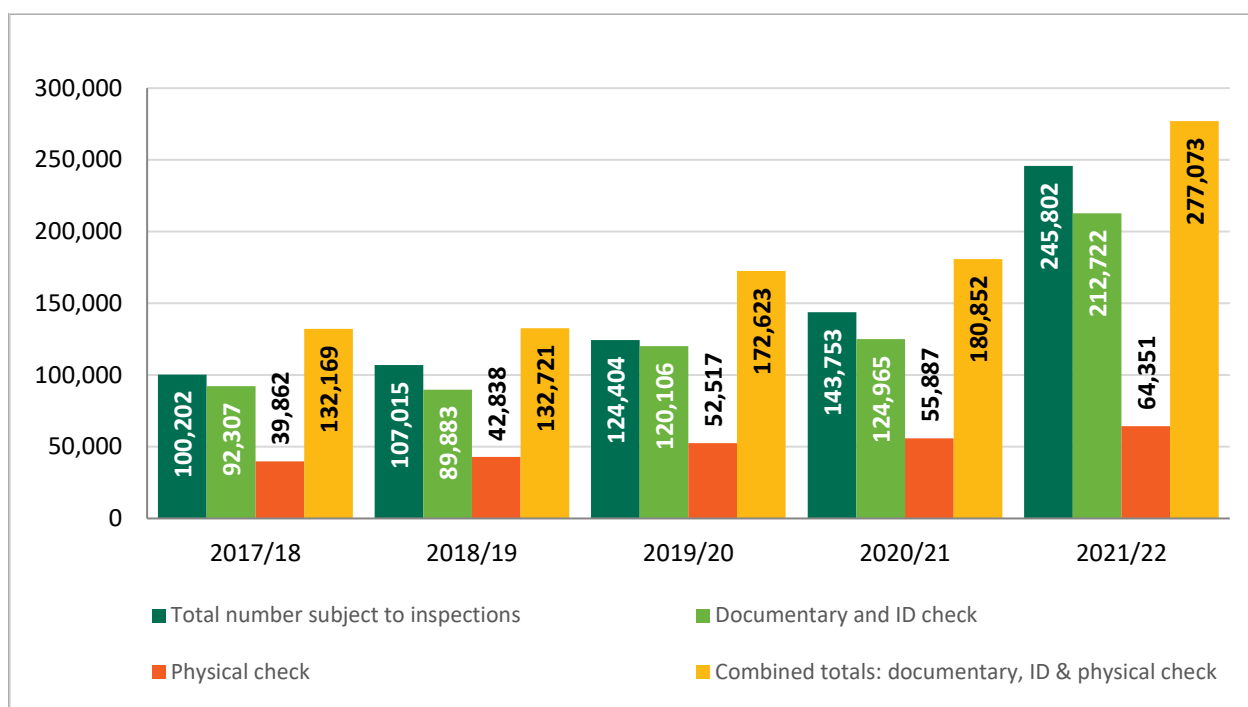
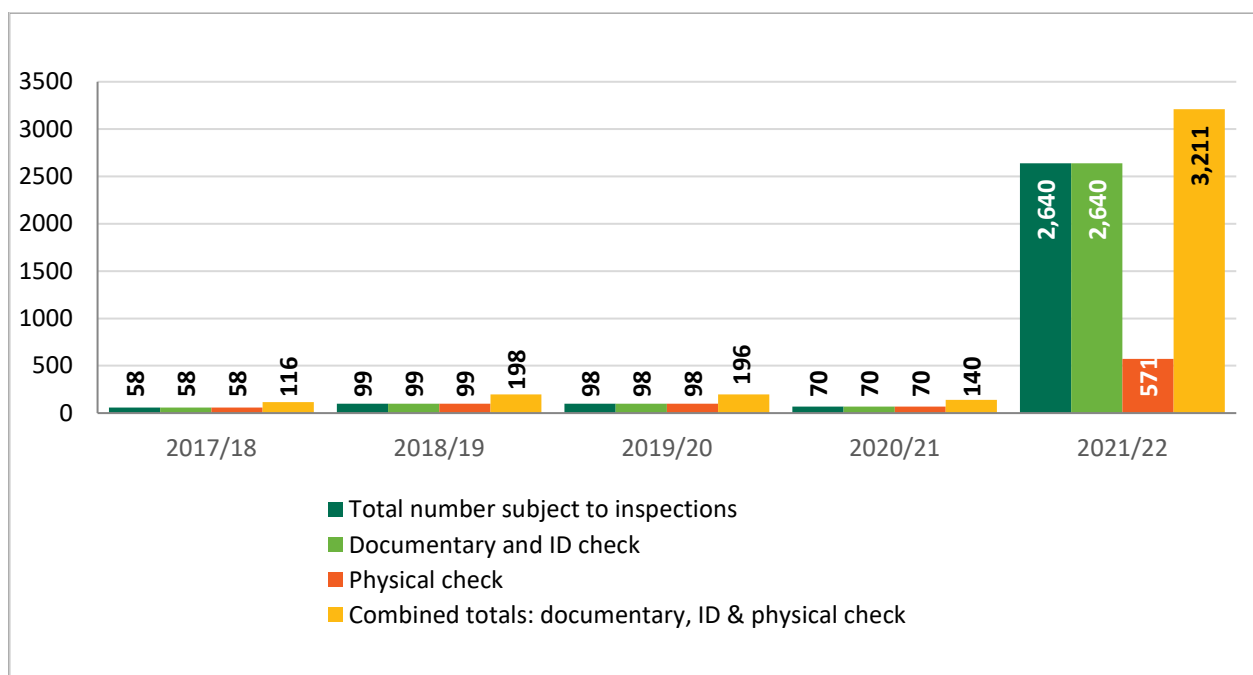


Figure 60 – Chart showing plant import consignments subject to inspections for Scotland from 2017/18 – 2021/22¹⁹

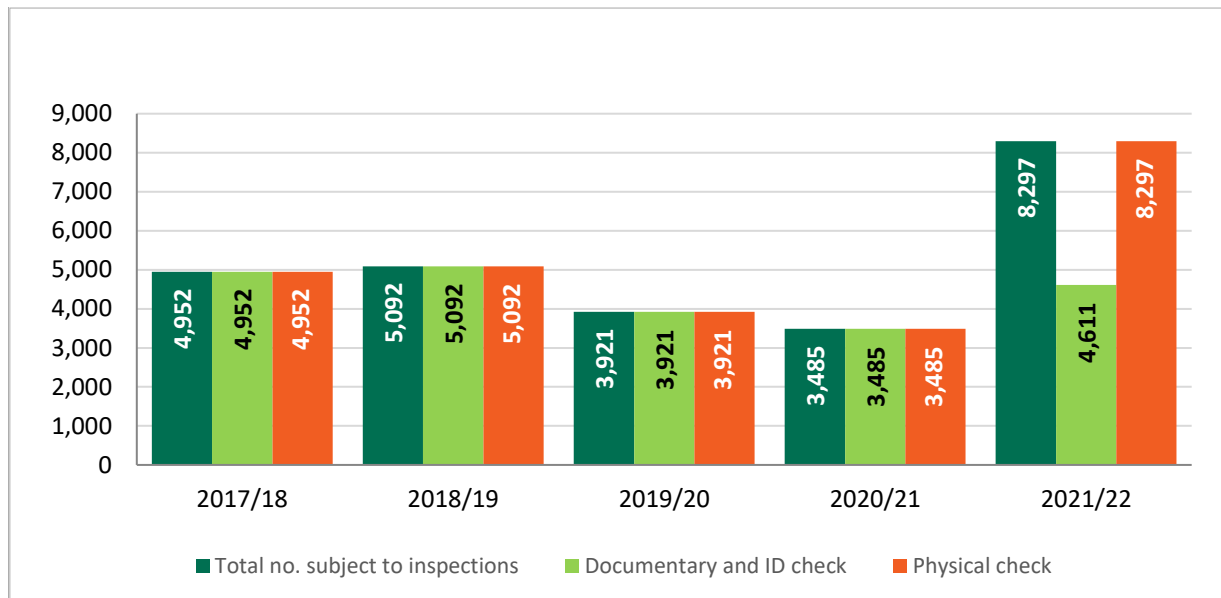


*Figures higher in 2021/22 due to the transitional period following EU Exit ended on 1st Jan 2021 and inspections started on imports of high risk plants from the EU.

¹⁹ Data for combined totals of checks from 2016/17 to 2019/20 corrected due to an error in the 2019 report.

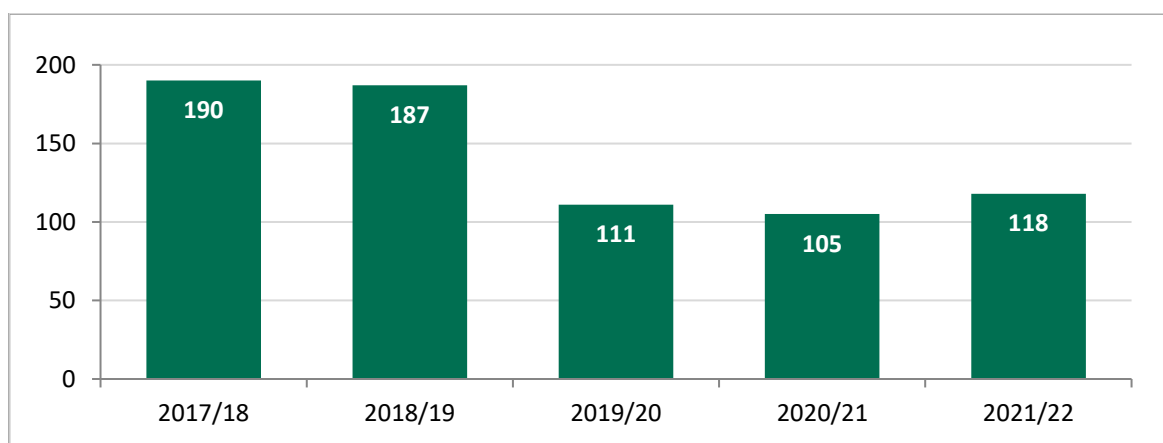
2.407 *Bemisia tabaci* was identified in 40 Dutch consignments. All consignments were destroyed.

Figure 61 – Chart showing wood and wood products import consignments in GB subject to inspection undertaken by Forestry Commission from 2017/18 – 2021/22²⁰



2.408 The inspection figures include 100% checks on controlled wood, wood products and bark, as well as risk-based checks on wood packaging material (WPM). Checks on WPM are carried out according to an annual monitoring plan under the retained EU Plant Health legislation [Commission Delegated Regulation \(EU\) 2019/2125](#). 2021/22 was the first year of monitoring under this plan for WPM, so the number of inspections is not comparable with previous years. The number of controlled timber imports has increased by approximately 30% compared with previous years.

Figure 62 – Chart showing imported wood and wood products non-compliances in GB from 2017/18 – 2021/22



²⁰ Data for total number subject to inspections corrected for previous years.

- 2.409 Under the FC's jurisdiction for imported material, the number of non-compliances in 2021/22 was higher than in 2020/21. In FY2021/22 the breakdown of the percentage non-compliance by product type was:
- WPM – 50%
 - Dunnage – 40%
 - Sawn timber – 5%
 - Other – 5% (including solid firewood).
- 2.410 A more gradual approach to the enforcement of ISPM15 rules than we have adopted in previous years has been agreed with Defra. This has led to at least two cases of repeated low-risk infringements by importers involving WPM from the US with consignments of sweet potatoes, and from the Netherlands with bulk brick shipments. We are now reviewing whether an increase in enforcement action is desirable to improve compliance.
- 2.411 The main cause of non-compliances was the failure of wood packaging material manufacturers and treatment providers in the country of export (to note: the most significant consequence of such non-compliances is that a quarantine pest such as Asian Longhorn beetle could be introduced into GB). Most non-compliance was 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
- 2.412 Where these were found with any type of commodity, the material was subjected to remedial action. The number of cases where there was evidence of live life stages of pests found was very low.
- 2.413 In 2021/22, the focus on inspections of wood packaging material associated with stone and iron materials from China and Belarus decreased, due to the lapsing of Commission Implementing Decision 2018/1137 (which was not carried over into retained EU law).
- 2.414 There was an upward trend in controlled timber, including significant volumes of previously un-regulated material from the EU. The level of trade has increased compared to previous years: 647 checks were on EU material at BCPs and at PoDs inland, comprising 71 thousand cubic metres. The import checks on EU material represent 15% of checks overall and 13% of controlled timber volume.
- 2.415 Compliance rates continue to be high for controlled timber commodities, with two notable exceptions from the US.
- Adult cerambycid beetles were found in one container out of a consignment of 18 containers containing sawn and kiln dried pine. The whole consignment was fumigated prior to landing.
 - The second case involved a breach of the derogation for sawn ash imports from the US. Evidence of live insect infestation was determined from exit holes and

fine frass being present on outer boards (although not consistent with Emerald ash borer infestation). As the boards were not freshly sawn, it is presumed that infestation occurred post-treatment, most likely by powder-post beetles.

2.416 A bulk shipment of isolated bark from Spain was intercepted containing conifer wood: no live insects were found in these larger pieces of wood.

Figure 63 – Chart showing the number of phytosanitary export certificates issued in GB from 2017/18 – 2021/22

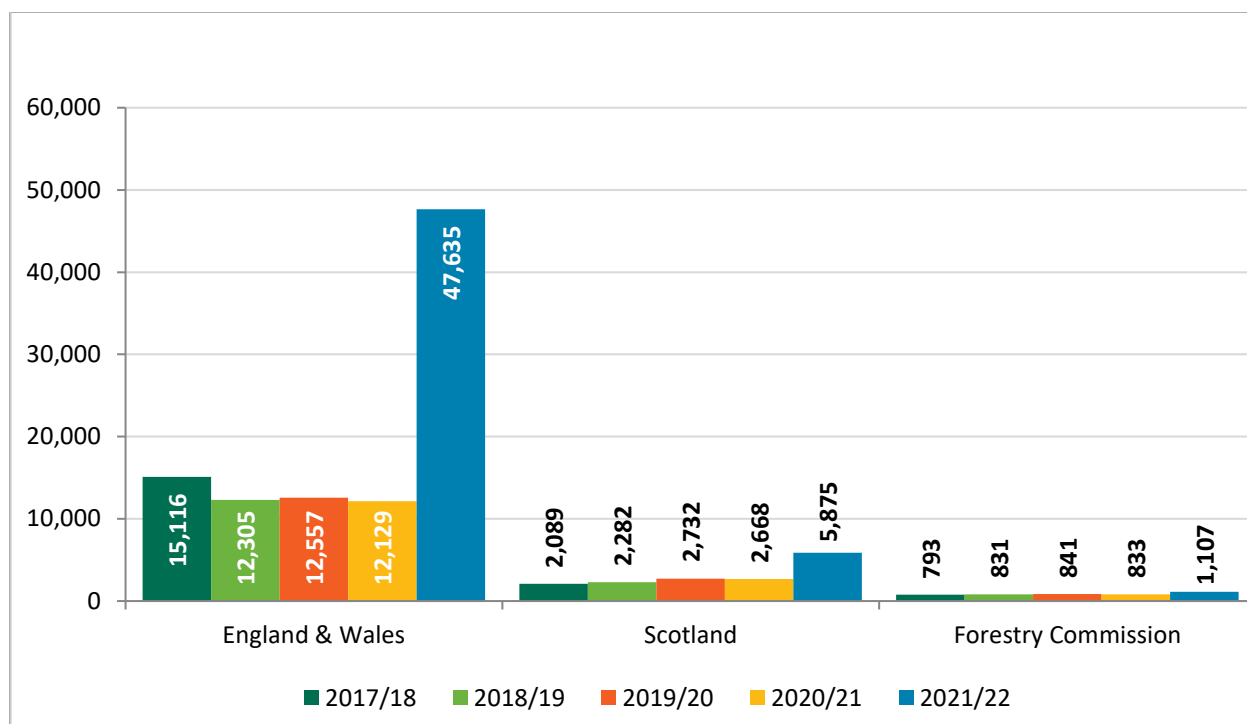
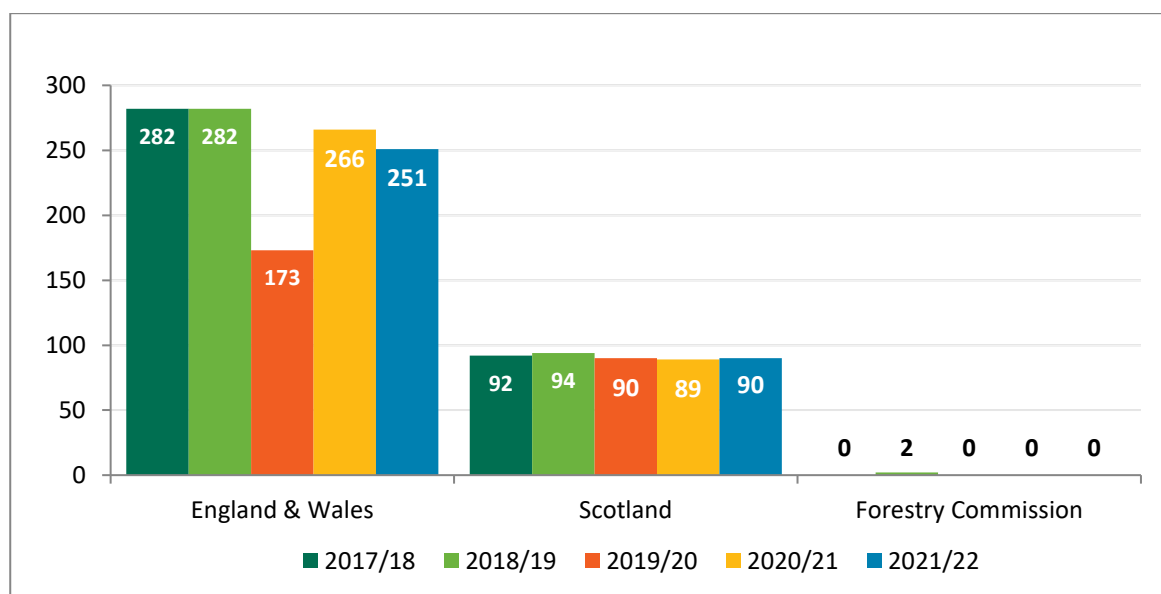


Figure 64 – Chart showing the number of licenses issued for import or holding of prohibited plants and pests in GB from 2017/18 – 2021/22



2.417 The number of phytosanitary certificates for export issued by the FC in 2021 increased, to meet demand for regulated exports to the EU. No scientific licences were issued in 2021 by FC, as the delivery of scientific licensing authorisations was transferred from the FC to APHA on 1 January 2021.

2.418 In England and Wales in 2020/21, 251 licences were issued to allow for the import or to hold prohibited plants and plant pests. The implementation of the Smarter Rules for Safer Foods package combined Forestry and Plant Health pests under one piece of legislation, which has allowed consolidation of the licensing regime in England and Wales²¹.

2.419 In Scotland, there was a small increase in the number of scientific licences issued compared to 2020/21.

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

2.420 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.

2.421 During 2021 in England and Wales, the number of non-compliant actions for imports increased from 1,522 in 2020/21 to 2471 in 2021. Sustained monitoring of postal and courier packages at Langley's postal depot contributed to the discovery of non-compliant consignments.

2.422 The number of actions was higher in comparison to the period 2011 to 2015, during which there was a relatively consistent level of non-compliance actions of between 1,100 and 1,400 actions per year.

Incidents and outbreaks in the plant health sector

2.423 ***Phytophthora pluvialis* (Pp)** – 36 outbreak sites (13 infected sites in England, 18 in Wales and 5 in Scotland). In England there are findings in Shropshire, Cumbria, Surrey, and the Southwest. The demarcated areas for all findings are in place. Initial observations from onsite sawmilling research are showing minimal impacts on timber quality (ongoing). Rainwater/Water bait passive trapping is ongoing. Policy discussions in relations to findings and operational requirements are ongoing and will influence the nature of SPHNs issued.

²¹ Additional legislative requirements in relation to licensing have also supported a move to a unified approach, such that from January 1 2021, APHA has taken 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 No routine LA audits were undertaken by the FSA in England and Wales in 2021/22, following the decision by the FSA in March 2020 to avoid non-urgent contact with LAs during the pandemic. The FSA implemented a recovery plan to support LAs' return to routine inspection of food businesses by 31 March 2023. The FSA started planning for a programme of assessments of LA implementation of the recovery plan in Q4 of 2021/22.

3.2 In Scotland, the LA audit programme resumed, remotely - as detailed below:

Programme topic / policy area	Dates	Number of LAs audited	Number of establishment 'reality checks'	Reporting	Number of recommendations
Capacity and Capability	April 2021 – March 2022	3	0	N/A	33

Summary of audit findings

England and Wales

LA delivery of official controls at approved establishments in England

3.3 In 2021/22, no audits or follow-up audits were undertaken due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It has not been possible to draw any conclusions due to the suspension of audit activity.

3.4 A focused audit programme to assess the extent to which the six regional feed services in Wales were meeting requirements commenced in 2019/20. Four services, covering the responsibilities of 16 LAs, received an audit in 2019/20, and the services of nine of those LAs received an audit visit. The remaining audits were cancelled during 2021/22, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The focussed feed audit programme is now complete.

Scotland

Local Authority Audits

3.5 Over the course of the 2021/22 period, FSS have taken forward a risk-based audit programme covering the LA delivery of Official Controls. The focus has been split between intelligence driven capacity and capability Audits and the continued use of "temperature check" surveys to monitor and measure performance as interventions recommenced following Covid. The end of year survey was also used as a data gathering, and reconciliation, exercise. A total of three individual LA Audits and three surveys were completed. Two of the three audits received an "insufficient" Assurance rating.

Internal audits conducted by competent authorities

3.6 GB 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 6 of [Regulation \(EU\) 2017/625](#) are met.

Internal audits conducted by competent authorities 2021/22

Audit programme topic / policy area audited	Sector	Competent authority	Country	Assurance level	Final report issued	Recommendations
Assurance of Plant Health Exports Audited Trader Scheme	Plant Health	APHA	England, Scotland & Wales	Moderate	March 2022	3 (inc. 1 high)
ISO and other independent assurance reviews	Animal & Plant Health	APHA	England,	Not Provided	May 2021	0
Movement Assistance Scheme	Animal Health	APHA/Defra	England, Scotland & Wales	Limited	December 2021	12 (inc. 1 high)
OFFC - 3rd Country Imports - Review of Balai Arrangements	Animal Health	APHA/Defra	England, Scotland & Wales	Moderate	February 2022	8
OFFC - Plant & Bee Incident and outbreak response.	Plant Health	APHA/Defra	England, Scotland & Wales	Substantial	April 2022	2
OFFC - Plant passport	Plant Health	APHA/Defra	England, Scotland & Wales	Moderate	September 2021	7

Audit programme topic / policy area audited	Sector	Competent authority	Country	Assurance level	Final report issued	Recommendations
OFFC – Salmonella	Feed & Food	APHA/Defra	England, Scotland & Wales	Substantial	September 2021	4
Northern Ireland Protocol	Animal & Plant Health, Feed & Food	Defra	England, Scotland & Wales	Substantial	April 2022	2
Approvals	Meat Hygiene	FSA	England and Wales	Substantial	Sept 2021	3
Signalling System	Routine Incidents	FSA	England and Wales	Substantial	March 2022	4
FCI/CCIR Follow-up audit	Meat Hygiene	FSA	England and Wales	Limited	March 2022	N/A
Post Mortem Inspection	Meat Hygiene	FSA	England and Wales	Limited	March 2022	6
Business Agreements	Food	FSS	Scotland	Reasonable	October 2021	10
Shellfish Sampling	Food	FSS	Scotland	Reasonable	February 2022	7
Official Veterinarian and Meat Hygiene Inspector Training	Food	FSS	Scotland	Limited	April 2022	15
FBO Audits	Food	FSS	Scotland	Reasonable	May 2022	10
Bee health – apiculture programme	Animal and Plant Health and Welfare	RPA	England	Satisfactory	December 2021	1 minor error noted
Follow-up audit of the management & control system for fisheries projects in Wales	Aquatic animal health	Welsh Gov EFAT	Wales	Substantial	November 2021	0

Summary of audit findings

England

- 3.7 Four operational audits relevant to Official Feed and Food Controls (OFFC) regulatory requirements, and four other audits with legislative requirements were carried out.
- 3.8 The OFFC related controls generally operated effectively, and no significant issues were identified. However, regarding the non-OFFC related audits, which relate to less established areas/controls, it was found that:
- While there are good controls in place, development of these controls is required - in capability to detect fraud (highlighted through the recent fraud investigation), and also through development of systems which will allow greater use of data analytics (Movement Assistance Scheme audit).
 - A comprehensive compliance audit regime is being effectively delivered, but the handling of non-conformities needs more formality to ensure timely action by scheme members and avoid subsequent challenge. Also, there is no routine management monitoring of scheme workflow and processing efficiency. As systems contain the relevant data that should now be explored with the aim of delivering reports that provide an accurate picture of resourcing need and scheme cost savings (Assurance of Plant Health Exports Audited Trader Scheme audit).
- 3.9 The proportion of positive opinions in 2021 is in line with last year with all but one audit (which was 'Limited') being either 'Substantial' or 'Moderate'.

Wales

- 3.10 The European Funds Audit Team (EFAT) is responsible for undertaking audit work focusing on the areas where Welsh Government has responsibility, as well as some audit work looking at the arrangements in place for oversight of delegated functions.
- 3.11 EFAT undertook a follow-up audit on the controls and processes in place in regard to the management of fisheries projects, which are part funded under the European Maritime Fisheries Fund (EMFF).
- 3.12 The original report initially raised 28 recommendations (14 Significant and 14 Merits Attention). The follow-up exercise reviewed the status of each finding and EFAT were able to close all outstanding recommendations, resulting in a revised audit opinion of *Category 1 – Works well. No or only minor improvements needed.*

Scotland

- 3.13 Official Control reviews of Artificial Breeding Controls and Import Controls of Animals both resulted in 'Limited' Assurance ratings. Internal Audit's key concern on both reviews, is that where work is being undertaken by delivery partners on behalf of the Scottish government (SG) that insufficient assurance was being requested and/or provided to the SG.
- 3.14 Internal Audit also undertook a high level assurance mapping process over the Official Control (OC) delivery teams. Where the OC work was being delivered by SG teams, IA were content that sufficient assurance was being provided over the work undertaken. However, in terms of teams where the work is undertaken by delivery partners, we found similar issues around ensuring sufficient quality assurance was being taken/provided by the delivery partners.
- 3.15 All issues raised as part of this review were recognised and accepted by the Scottish Government. An action plan has been agreed and monthly meetings between SG Internal Audit and Animal Health and Welfare team are currently in place to support and monitor progress.
- 3.16 An Official Control Delivery Committee has also been set up as part of the governance processes within the SG. This takes place quarterly and part of its aim is to provide further oversight of delivery. Risk registers and internal audit reports and findings are presented at this meeting, which is chaired by the Chief Veterinary Officer.

Food Standards Agency (FSA)

- 3.17 An audit report was issued covering the official controls delivery for Food Chain Information and Post Mortem Inspection. The report awarded a 'limited' assurance opinion and highlighted the need for the FSA to strengthen arrangements in place for collecting and communicating approved establishment inspection results to farmers. The same was true of quality assurance, in relation to post-mortem inspection processes.
- 3.18 The audit of the Approvals and the Signalling System was awarded a 'substantial assurance' opinion. The results for approved meat establishments were – overall - satisfactory.

Food Standards Scotland (FSS)

- 3.19 The FSS Audit team completed a full programme of four audits in 2021/22. No "insufficient" outcomes were recorded. There is a continuing need to strengthen processes and controls to ensure compliance with, and effective application of, those arrangements. FSS Operations Division's

demonstration of engagement with the audit process, and commitment to continuous improvement, has been significant in the progress made in action planning and audit closure. This resulted in the closure, following action plan completion, of all audits carried out prior to Q2 of 2021/22.

Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA)

- 3.20 2021 was a year fraught with challenges for APHA, not only from the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic restrictions and impacts, but also from the changing landscape associated with APHA's new role at GB borders following our exit from the EU. During this period, APHA also had to respond to the most significant avian influenza outbreak the UK has ever experienced. As such there were significant resourcing challenges and associated impacts on staff. Despite this difficult operating environment, the audit plan was fully delivered.
- 3.21 Ten audits were undertaken in the 2021 reporting year, all of which were assurance pieces. 28% of the plan was delivered to draft report by the end of March, and 100% to final by the end of April 2022.

APHA Policies / Operating Procedures

- 3.22 The audit work concluded that overall APHA work in a controlled manner, and this is supported by a strengthening control environment. APHA has extensive operating procedures in place. They are well documented and clear, and this was well evidenced for the Key Performance Indicators (KPI), Service Level Agreements (SLAs), Plant Health Exports Audited Trader Scheme (PHEATS) and Points of Destination (POD) processes.

APHA Quality Assurance and Lessons Learned

- 3.23 APHA has a number of controls to ensure quality and continuous improvement, including ISO accreditation and certification, quality checks and a high number of external audits and internal quality reviews. APHA also has an effective risk management process in place, where business risk registers are regularly reviewed and updated and management at all levels have good oversight and input.

APHA - Specific Audit Findings

- 3.24 The follow Up audit for the Review of Balai Arrangement demonstrated strong evidence of continuous improvement with the recommendations being actioned within a month of the report being finalised. Similarly, the strong positive culture around the implementation of recommendations, as commented on elsewhere in this report, also support this.

- 3.25 The Salmonella audit highlighted non-compliance reports needs to be produced to ensure delivery problems and issues are known and investigated so lessons can be learned. In the PHEATS review there were examples of non-conformities requiring a more formal approach to ensure timely action of them when identified. Where lessons learned exercises had been carried out actions from some activities had not been completed.
- 3.26 Opportunities were also identified for improvements. The PoDs audit suggested MI be enhanced to provide more details on reasons for non-compliance as current reports do not provide this information. It could also support fraud prevention, if MI could be shared across government for data analytics (per the MAS review), and used to inform risk based/prioritised approaches - to ensure resources are used appropriately, in particular for PHEATS. Additionally, Plant Health Export System (PHES) MI could be exploited to provide an accurate picture of resourcing need and scheme cost savings for PHEATS.
- 3.27 The recommendation tracking for APHA in this period has been excellent. Twenty-nine actions have been cleared: a further ten are not yet due. At the time of reporting for this Annual Report, there were no overdue recommendations based on the revised dates.

Audit of organic control bodies

- 3.28 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 2021, 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.

Chapter 4 – Resources

Number of control staff in Great Britain

- 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 Great Britain as of 31 March 2022.

Authority	Full time equivalents (FTE) at 31 March 2021	Full time equivalents (FTE) at 31 March 2022
FSA	1,727.2	899.2 ²²
FSS	260.5	111.2 ²³
Local authorities	1,878.6 ²⁴	1976.84 ²⁵
Defra	372.49	387.86
Welsh Government	117.5	100.65
Scottish Government	111.8*	122
APHA	2,567.18	2,743.77
VMD	32	33
HSE	19	19
RPA	228.4	192.1
Forestry Commission	47	52
Fera Science Ltd	111.65	132.51
Pirbright Institute	29	28
Cefas	34.81	37.59
MSS	40	40
MMO	94	121
Total (to nearest whole figure)	7,630	6,998

* revised from 2020 Annual Report published figure of 78.1

²² Figure for 2020/21 included policy, admin and support staff. This has now been removed, so the FTE figure represents only front line staff who deliver official controls. The revised 2020/21 FTE figure is 889.5 excluding admin and support staff.

²³ The FTE figure represents only front line staff who deliver official controls and does not include feed controls carried out by LA officers on behalf of FSS. The 2020/21 figure included other staff such as support staff.

²⁴ The LA FTE figure is for the professional food posts occupied even if officers were temporarily redeployed/diverted to COVID-19 or other non-food activities at 31 March 2021. Reported data suggests around 50% of the occupied resource was redeployed/diverted at that time.

²⁵ The LA FTE figure is for the professional food posts occupied even if officers were temporarily redeployed/diverted to COVID-19 or other non-food activities at 31 March.

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

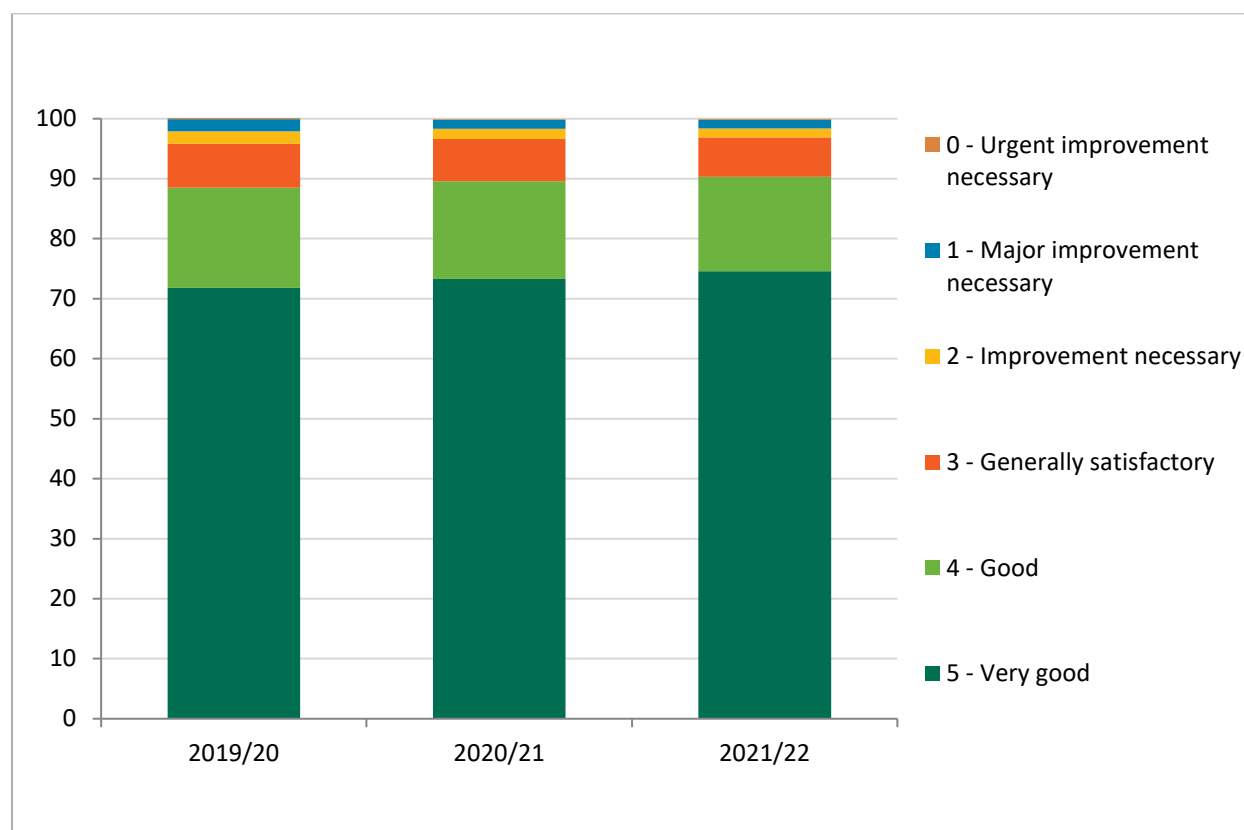
- 5.1 Following consultation and revisions to the Food Law Code of Practice (FLCoP) in England, a consultation was held in Wales in December 2020 on proposed changes to the FLCoP and associated Food Law Practice Guidance. The consultation closed on 25th March 2021, and the FSA Wales considered the responses and published an updated version of the Food Law Code of Practice and associated Food Law Practice Guidance in July 2021.
- 5.2 Due to Covid 19, the timelines for the completion of the Administration and Service Planning – Food Law Code of Practice, and the Penalties and Sanctions – Food Law Code of Practice, were extended, both items are in progress. FSS are also working towards publishing updated versions of the overarching and interventions' codes with updated legislative references following EU Exit.
- 5.3 In Scotland, a new Feed Delivery Model has been implemented on 1st April 2021, transferring competence to FSS. Some LAs continue to deliver feed official controls, under Delegated Service Level Agreements.
- 5.4 Following suspension of the audit programme in 2020 (in light of the Covid pandemic), in 2021/22 FSS introduced a new methodology for auditing food businesses, by applying a more structured and risk-based process, based on the Official Controls Verification principles. This led to significant improvements in compliance levels, allowing flexibility in directing FSS resource to where concerns existed.

Food Hygiene Rating / Food Hygiene Information Schemes

- 5.4 The FSA and FSS continued to work with LAs to deliver these schemes. The Food Hygiene Rating Scheme (FHRS) is operated by all LAs in England on a voluntary basis and participation in Wales is mandatory. All LAs in Scotland operate the Food Hygiene Information Scheme (FHIS).
- 5.5 At the end of 2021/22 (31st March 2022), records for approximately 529,000 food businesses in England and Wales published on the FHRS [website](#). FHIS information was available for approximately 53,000 food businesses.

5.6 The chart below shows a steady improvement in businesses achieving an FHRs rating of three and above in England and Wales.

Figure 65 – Chart showing the percentage distribution of FHRs ratings in England and Wales from 2019/20 – 2021/22



*2019/20 and 2020/21 figures have been amended.

5.7 In England and Wales, 97% of food businesses achieved FHRs ratings of 3 and above, unchanged from 2020/21.

Allergen labelling

5.8 New legislative requirements for the labelling of 'prepacked for direct sale' (PPDS) food came into effect from 1 October 2021. This applies in all four nations of the UK. These new requirements specify that PPDS food must be labelled with a full ingredient list, with the allergens emphasised. The FSA and FSS produced a range of resources for food businesses and local authorities ahead of the implementation date, to support them to prepare for the changes.

5.9 These resources included a dedicated '[PPDS Hub](#)' on the FSA website with guides for specific sectors, as well as specific guidance for LAs on the FSA's Smarter Communications platform. The FSA also hosted two webinars, one aimed at food businesses, and one aimed at local authorities, in August 2021.

Recordings of these were made available afterwards as an ongoing resource. The FSA also spoke at a significant number of industry events throughout 2021 to promote the changes. Targeted online advertising, and engagement work through industry networks, was also undertaken - to reach smaller businesses ahead of October 2021.

- 5.10 In early 2021, following approval from the FSS Board and Scottish Ministers, legislation was made which required foods sold prepacked for direct sale (PPDS) to be labelled with the name of the food and a full ingredients list, with allergen information emphasised within the list. This legislation came into force in Scotland and across the rest of the UK on 1st October 2021. To support officers and Food Business with the changes, FSS has produced several [resources](#) which can be found on the PPDS Hub on the FSS website.

Food fraud and food crime

- 5.11 The UK's approach to the investigation of food crime is co-ordinated and led by the National Food Crime Unit (NFCU) at the Food Standards Agency (FSA) for England, Northern Ireland and Wales and the Scottish Food Crime & Incidents Unit (SFCIU) at Food Standards Scotland (FSS).
- 5.12 Both units work very closely together to ensure food is safe and authentic and consumers and food businesses are protected from the threats and risks of food crime. In furtherance of this, the latest Food Crime Strategic Assessment was jointly produced and published in September 2020.
- 5.13 The NFCU and SFCIU have increasingly developed capacity and capabilities around the collection, analysis and development of intelligence, prevention strategies, information sharing with partners and the investigation of criminality within the food supply chain.
- 5.14 Crucial to this has been the work undertaken to develop relationships in the UK with key law enforcement partners, industry, government agencies, local authorities and the multi-agency approach the Units support in that regard.
- 5.15 This engagement has also taken place with global partners, including Europol, Interpol, the Global Alliance on Food Crime (Australia, Canada, New Zealand, UK and USA) and European Food Fraud networks. In particular, in the UK the Units lead and co-ordinate the annual Operation OPSON, the Europol and Interpol joint operation targeting fake and substandard food and beverages.
- 5.16 These links have greatly enhanced the Units' analytical teams with their internal and external horizon scanning and production of analytical products, more recently including assessments of risks and vulnerabilities linked to EU Exit, the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine.

- 5.17 In early 2022, the NFCU conducted an intelligence led review resulting in modest adjustments to its 'Control Strategy'(a set of priorities which direct the Unit's work).
- 5.18 Significant progress has been achieved towards obtaining investigative powers for the NFCU that will allow it to operate with autonomy and maximum effectiveness. Further primary legislation is likely to be required before secondary legislation can be laid and a public consultation can be launched.
- 5.19 The NFCU also worked with the Home Office to ensure the FSA was included on the Covert Human Intelligence (Criminal Conduct) Act 2021. The FSA is one of only five public bodies outside mainstream law enforcement which can issue criminal conduct authorisations under the Act.
- 5.20 In 2021/22, the NFCU recorded over 1,500 new intelligence reports, with a proportionate number of intelligence reports shared with internal and external partners. This is a similar volume to the preceding year. The NFCU registered 64 disruptions to food criminality compared to 43 in the previous year, showing improvement in recording successful outcomes from the work of the NFCU.
- 5.21 Twelve new criminal and financial investigations were initiated, covering offences including fraud involving misrepresentation of country of origin and status, and fraud through diversion of animal by-product. A further 77 strands of operational activity were initiated, including intelligence development and operational coordination.
- 5.22 The NFCU achieved its first conviction following an NFCU-led investigation. The conviction related to the sale of 2,4-Dinitrophenol (DNP) for human consumption alongside other offences, and resulted in a 28 month prison sentence. Two investigations supported by the NFCU but led by others resulted in convictions for offences under the Food Safety Act 1990.
- 5.23 Substantial work has continued to reduce the threat posed to consumers from DNP (2,4-dinitrophenol). This included working with partners across government to ensure a joint approach to tackling DNP, which will help to make clear the illegality and harmfulness of DNP supply and provide further legal routes to tackle its illicit sale.
- 5.24 The NFCU continues to identify and remove websites, social media content and online market place listings selling DNP. In 2021/22 NFCU efforts resulted in the closure of 20 websites listing DNP for sale and six specific online marketplace listings.
- 5.25 The NFCU has continued to monitor for any food crime risks generated by the UK's exit from the European Union and the COVID-19 pandemic. The unit has

also continued to work with others in the agency to understand the impacts of the war in Ukraine and any emerging food crime threats from related supply chain disruption. While vigilance continues there is no evidence of substantial food crime resulting from these factors.

- 5.26 At the end of 2021/22, FSS worked with the providers of their case management system to develop a bespoke management information module, allowing for more accurate and efficient recording of information. This enabled FSS to quickly and easily report on performance, identify performance issues and more efficiently and effectively identify trends across Scotland and wider GB. This was an innovative approach, now seen as gold standard by the system provider.

Incident management protocols

- 5.27 During 2021, the FSA delivered a total of 16 activities that continued to strengthen our incident response capacity, capability and organisation-wide resilience. Lessons learned from the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, winter planning activity, and live incidents informed a review and updates to FSA's incident management plans and procedures. This also fed into the cross-agency incident response training and exercise programme.
- 5.28 During 2021/22, FSS participated in 10 external exercises and activities to continue to strengthen its incident response capability. Internal training was delivered to continue to build the organisation's incident response resilience and capacity.
- 5.29 FSS's [Incident Management Framework](#) (IMF) was updated to incorporate lessons learned from the response to the COVID-19 pandemic and an organisational restructure. A Business Incident Management Framework aligned with the IMF was also developed to respond to business continuity incidents. FSS also supported Scottish Government, Scottish Local Authorities and relevant partners at COP26 with catering planning in relation to food safety and diet and nutrition recommendations.
- 5.30 During 2021/22, the FSA and FSS continued to jointly review and develop Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to support crisis management processes. In addition, the FSA and FSS worked together to deliver the UK Global Food Safety Incidents and Emergency Response Conference in October 2021.
- 5.31 The FSA and FSS developed [e-learning courses](#) to help businesses and enforcement authorities to understand the theory and practice of root cause analysis (RCA), explaining how it aids in reducing the number of recurring food safety incidents. Several 'Single Point Lessons' were published to supplement learning and promote the benefits of using RCA. 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.

- 5.32 An Incident Prevention Discovery was initiated in February 2021 to help FSA understand the best way to utilise RCA and, through engagement with industry, to ensure the data is exploited to maximum benefit to prevent future incidents. The Discovery identified improvements to FSA's usage of RCA data, providing a clear picture on engagement strategies to ensure improved two-way information exchange with the food industry and recommended an Alpha development of the mechanisms proposed
- 5.33 The FSA Receipt and Management (RAM) team was established in 2019 to mitigate the loss of access to EU incidents system, and has established a signalling system to monitor key data sources including trusted media sources for potential risks to the UK.
- 5.34 Signals are processed daily to check for issues which might impact the UK. During 2021/22, the RAM team processed 12,376 signals and as a result identified 27 new incidents, 99 referrals to LAs and other authorities 'to investigate' - and also referred 371 signals 'for information'. During 2021/22 the RAM team have continued to develop Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to provide guidance and support the receipt and management process.

Actions in the plant and plant health sectors

- 5.35 A revised version of the generic contingency plan for plant health was drafted in 2021. The generic contingency plan and all pest specific contingency plans are published on the plant health portal.
- 5.36 A total of 19 pest specific contingency plans have been published for agricultural and horticultural pests. A revised version of the pest specific contingency plan for *Xylella fastidiosa* was published in 2021 as well as new pest specific contingency plants for Karnal bunt, rose rosette virus and Japanese beetle.
- 5.37 There are 16 published tree health contingency plans. An updated contingency plan for emerald ash borer was published in 2021.

Incident management protocols

- 5.38 APHA successfully responded to several incidents and disease/pest outbreaks outside Business as Usual, as detailed below (paragraph 5.53). Regular interceptions of viruses continue to be found in legally imported seed,

and many non-declared consignments are routinely picked up entering the UK via postal / courier hubs.

- 5.39 Plant health assistance has also been provided to Forestry Commission in dealing with outbreaks of *Ips typographus*, *Thaumetopoea processionea* and *Phytophthora pluvialis*.

Actions in the animal health and welfare sectors

Animal Welfare

- 5.40 The Mandatory use of Closed Circuit Television in Slaughterhouses (Scotland) Regulations 2020 came into force in July 2021. Of the FSS approved premises within Scotland, 4 are still to become fully compliant and enforcement action has been undertaken as necessary.

Animal Health and Welfare Frameworks

- 5.41 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.
- 5.42 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.
- 5.43 Discussions around priority setting using MoRiLE had not been finalised at the time of this Annual Report (2022) due to being superseded by COVID-19 pressures. Rather, the framework was used to discuss priorities and projects for the coming year.
- 5.44 During the COVID-19 pandemic, the [Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework Group](#) (WAHWFG) met virtually on a bi monthly basis. The majority of 2021 activity included:
- Publishing the [Wales Animal Health Welfare Implementation Plan](#) which includes Animal Health and Welfare priorities for the remainder of the current ten year Framework (2014-2024)
 - Identifying priorities for inclusion in the five-year [Animal Welfare Plan for Wales 2021-26](#)
 - Advising on a refreshed TB Strategy (to be published 2022/23)
 - Developing the [Wales Antimicrobial Resistance Strategy](#)

Topics for inclusion in the next 10-year Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework have also been considered.

- 5.45 The Group resumed quarterly meetings in June 2022 and are planning to hold the first face to face meeting since the Pandemic in Sept 2022.

Bee health

- 5.46 Following on from the publication in 2020 of the Healthy Bees Plan 2030, an implementation plan containing actions agreed with key stakeholders was published in October 2021.

Aquatic animal health

- 5.47 For Cefas FHI (England and Wales), there were no significant changes to activities in 2021, aside from a massive and sustained increase in the volume of documentary import checks continuing to be delivered by the FHI on consignments of live aquatic animals imported from the EU, pending full implementation of border control and SPS checks. Advice to industry on trade processes also continued to be a busy area of work as the rule and processes changes were implemented and subsequently continued to change through 2021.
- 5.48 There were no significant changes to the activities of Marine Scotland's Fish Health Inspectorate in 2021. Some limitations were placed over aquatic animal health surveillance due to the restrictions imposed as a result of Covid-19. The programme of inspections was resumed with appropriate risk mitigation measures being enforced.
- 5.49 Throughout the year the appropriate staff cadre was maintained to allow the satisfactory delivery of official controls.

Incident management protocols

Aquatic Animal Health – England and Wales (Cefas FHI)

- 5.50 In 2021, Cefas Epidemiologists working with the FHI ran a contingency exercise in conjunction with the Environment Agency (EA) to test the effectiveness of the field response in a joint agency outbreak scenario affecting wild salmonids. This was a successful exercise which resulted in continued improved joint working on emergency response and contingency planning between both the EA and Cefas.

Aquatic Animal Health – Scotland (SG – MSS FHI)

- 5.51 No further updates to the Scottish contingency plans for aquatic animal disease were made during 2021.
- 5.52 Contingency plans and procedures for dealing with serious listed diseases were enacted in relation to the two cases involving the suspicion of ISAv (subsequently identified as the non-pathogenic strain HPR0) as referenced within Chapter 2 of this report.

APHA

- 5.53 Throughout 2021, APHA continued to deliver a full and effective service, adhering to the restrictions put in place due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Much of the Agency's work was completed via virtual platforms, with details of APHA's major Incident responses being given below:
- APHA successfully responded to 2 outbreaks of Avian Influenza. Having commenced in October 2020, the first outbreak continued through to the end of March 2021, with a second outbreak commencing in October 2021. The latter has continued into 2022.
 - The outbreak at the start of 2021 included multiple strains of Avian Influenza, with 2 confirmed H5N1 cases, 1 case each of H5N2 and H5N3, and 19 of H5N8. 42 cases were negated.
 - On 18th October 2021, the first positive test results were received, which signalled the beginning of a further outbreak of Avian Influenza in the UK.
 - This outbreak has been far larger in scale, with 66 Premises confirmed to be infected with the H5N1 strain of Avian Influenza, with 37 premises having been reported, investigated and infection negated, and a further 8 premises remaining under investigation at 31st December 2021.
 - 307 Wild Birds across 71 locations were found to be positive for H5 Avian Influenza, with all birds tested between October and December being confirmed as infected with H5N1 High Path Avian Influenza.
 - APHA worked extensively with Ports and Customs to address issues with changes in regulations/legislations following final withdrawal from the EU on December 31st, 2021, to ensure the continuing flow of perishable goods, fish and meat products into and out of the UK.

Endemic Zoonotic Disease – England

- 5.54 The [Contingency plan for managing certain animal related endemic zoonotic disease incidents in England](#) was reviewed and updated by Defra and published in June 2021 following the recommendations of an internal audit on Notifiable Diseases.

Training delivered by competent authorities

5.55 In 2021/22, the following training programmes, courses and exercises were organised and held across the different CAs.

Training delivered by competent authorities 2021/22

Competent authority	Course provider	Delivery method	Staff trained	Purpose of training
APHA	APHA (National Bee Unit)	Online – webinar	63	Technical Training at the start of the beekeeping season
APHA	Livestock Wise in partnership with APHA SHaW	Blended (webinar followed by on-site assessment)	140 places offered	‘Cattle Handling’ is designed for APHA veterinary and technical staff covers the characteristics and behaviours of cattle as well as how to handle them in a safe manner in the correct environment
APHA	First Response	Blended (e-learning and webinar)	252 places offered	‘Conflict Resolution.’ This training is designed for field staff who deal with face-to-face conflict as part of their duties.
APHA	Happy Computers	On-line (e-learning)	25 accessed this learning	‘Enforcement Refresher.’ This training designed for APHA veterinary and technical staff covers creating witness statements, delivering statements in a courtroom environment as well as the legislation surrounding enforcement, and acts as a learning resource as well as refresher training for previous recipients of core learning.

Competent authority	Course provider	Delivery method	Staff trained	Purpose of training
APHA	Happy Computers	On-line (e-learning)	75 accessed this learning	‘Core Animal Welfare’ e-learning Module, ‘Core Animal Welfare’, which provides people with basic training on animal welfare and covers the theory and legislation involved.
APHA	Happy Computers	On-line (e-learning)	70 accessed this learning	‘Cross Compliance’ outlines the principles of cross compliance and enables people to inspect the welfare of livestock and report their findings in a considered, fair and consistent manner.
APHA	Bond Solon	On-line (webinar)	72 offered	‘Enforcement Journey’ modular learning, covers creation of witness statements, regulatory engagement, delivering statements in a courtroom environment as well as the legislation surrounding enforcement. Modules available to the identified delegates during the period in question, were: Witness Statement, Regulatory Engagement and Law and Procedure.
APHA	Bond Solon	On-line (webinar)	12 offered	‘Expert Witness’ learning provides learners with the skills to present evidence in a professional, robust and clear manner – critical in influencing decisions of a court or tribunal.

Competent authority	Course provider	Delivery method	Staff trained	Purpose of training
APHA	Internal via Gomo	On-line (e-learning)	32 accessed	‘Witness Statement Refresher’ Learning is intended to refresh delegates’ knowledge and the necessary skills to prepare and write a witness statement.
APHA	APHA SME’s	Classroom/field practical	27 in total over 3 events 22-23 Sep 21 12-14 Oct 21 10-11 Nov 21	To provide ‘Case Officer’ training to prepare staff to undertake the role in the event of an animal disease outbreak.
APHA	APHA SME’s	Online via Microsoft Teams	16 during 1 event 29 Sep 2021	To provide ‘Field Operations Manager’ training to prepare staff to undertake the role in the event of an animal disease outbreak.
APHA	APHA SME’s	Online via Microsoft Teams	13 in total over 2 events 5 Oct 21 21 Oct 21	To provide ‘Forward Operating Base Manager’ training to prepare staff to undertake the role in the event of an animal disease outbreak.
APHA	APHA SME’s	Online via Microsoft Teams	30 in total over 2 events 5-6 Oct 21 16-17 Nov 21	To provide ‘Allocations Manager’ training to prepare staff to undertake the role in the event of an animal disease outbreak.
APHA	APHA SME’s	Online via Microsoft Teams	47 in total over 2 events 19 Oct 21 20 Oct 21	To provide ‘Management of Samples System’ training to prepare staff to undertake the role in the event of an animal disease outbreak.
APHA	APHA SME’s	Classroom/field practical	16 during 1 event 3-4 Nov 21	To provide ‘Poultry Culling Officer’ training to prepare staff to undertake the

Competent authority	Course provider	Delivery method	Staff trained	Purpose of training
				role in the event of an animal disease outbreak.
FSA	Campden Bri	Face to Face	48	Shelf-life of meats, assessment of FBO FSMS verification.
FSA	Desq	eLearning	2,720	Food Labelling
FSA	Desq	eLearning	1,791	Traceability
FSA	Desq	eLearning	463	Root Cause Analysis
FSA	Origin Growth	eLearning	Not reported	Vacuum packing
FSA	Indegu	eLearning	12,353	Food allergy and intolerance online training
FSA	FSA	Webinar	800	To provide guidance to LAs implementing the new prepacked for direct sale (PPDS) legislation
SGS	SG – Honey Bee Health Team	Face to face and practical	10	Technical on-the-job training for current and new members of staff
Cefas – FHI	Cefas – FHI (ATTA Team)	Virtual and Face to face	13	Aquatic Trade and Technical Advice Team training covering processes for: authorisation, registration, imports, exports, customer service, data acceptance, data requests
Cefas – FHI	Cefas-FHI (Internal Leads)	Presentation/ Practical	All inspectors	Refresher training for VMD sample and paperwork
Cefas – FHI	Cefas-FHI (Internal Leads)	Presentation/ Practical	All inspectors	Refresher training for VMX inspection and paperwork
Cefas – FHI	Cefas-FHI (Internal Leads)	Presentation/ Practical	All inspectors	Refresher training for Fish sample and data submission
Cefas – FHI	Cefas-FHI (Internal Leads)	Presentation/ Practical	All inspectors	Refresher training for Mollusc sample and data submission
Cefas – FHI	Cefas-FHI (Internal Leads)	Presentation	All FHI	Exports - changes from 21 st August – Operational Process

Competent authority	Course provider	Delivery method	Staff trained	Purpose of training
Cefas – FHI	Cefas-FHI (Internal Leads)	Presentation	All FHI	Exports - changes from 15 th Jan 2022 – Operational Process
Cefas – FHI	Cefas-FHI (Internal Leads)	Presentation	All inspectors	Export Health Certification – Signing updates and refresher
Cefas – FHI	External Provider	Virtual Course and Exam	All inspectors	RIPA – Regulation of Investigation Powers Act - Training
Cefas – FHI	Cefas-FHI (Internal Leads)	Presentation	All inspectors	Enforcement (internal) – Refresher Training
Cefas – FHI	Cefas-FHI (Internal Leads)	Presentation	All inspectors	Sample/ Inspection record submission - Refresher training
HSE	IAM Driving	Face to Face	7	Mandatory driving course for all visiting staff
HSE	Basis	Virtual	7	External qualification for the management of pesticide stores
HSE	H W Training	Face to Face	8	External qualification for the application of pesticides
HSE	Melmerby Training	Face to Face	14	Requirement of legislation for the transport of chemicals.
HSE	VMG Associates	Face to Face	7	Influencing skills training for frontline staff
HSE	HSE	Virtual	7	Training on in-house records system
HSE	Premier FST	Face to Face	11	Training in first aid, chemical spills and fire
HSE	HSE	Face to Face	7	Technical training on PPP legislation.
HSE	BPCA	Face to Face	11	External qualification on the safe use of aluminium phosphide
FSS	FSS	E-Learning	104	CCTV in slaughterhouses Scotland Regulations
FSS	FSS	E-Learning	104	Foodborne Parasites in meat
FSS	FSS	E-Learning	104	Listeria Persistence in Processing Environment

Competent authority	Course provider	Delivery method	Staff trained	Purpose of training
FSS	FSS	E-Learning	104	Micro Sampling as Part of Official Control Verification
FSS	FSS	E-Learning	104	Tuberculosis sampling process
FSS	FSS	Online Webinar	7	HACCP Level 4
FSS	Apheya Animal Nutrition Ltd	Virtual	45	Raw Pet Food and Suppliers of ABP Pet Food
FSS	Apheya Animal Nutrition Ltd	Virtual	46	Primary Production of Feed
FSS	Apheya Animal Nutrition Ltd	Virtual	46	Imported Feed and Requirements for Ports
FSS	Apheya Animal Nutrition Ltd	Virtual	43	Contaminants in Feed Products that need HACCP
FSS	Apheya Animal Nutrition Ltd	Virtual	43	Feed Hygiene for Co-product manufacture
FSS	Apheya Animal Nutrition Ltd	Virtual	47	Sampling of Feed
FSS	FSS	Virtual	94	Training for LA officers on Food Law Rating Scheme (FLRS)
FSS	FSS	Virtual	32	Training for LAs on Scottish National Database.
FSS	FSS	Virtual	48	Advanced HACCP to LA/FSS authorised officers
FSS	FSS	Virtual	155	Training for LAs/FSS Authorised officers on Official Control Verification
FSS	FSS	Online webinar	156	PPDS Allergen Labelling Webinar

Abbreviations and acronyms

Abbreviation / acronym	Abbreviation / acronym in full
ABP	Animal By-Products
AFB	American Foul Brood
AIC	Agricultural Industries Confederation
APB	Aquaculture Production Business
APHA	Animal and Plant Health Agency
ASMS	Atypical Scrapie Monitoring Scheme
ASP	Amnesic Shellfish Poisoning
AO	Authorised Officer
BF	Border Force
BKD	Bacterial Kidney Disease
BSE	Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy
bTB	Bovine TB
CA	Competent Authority
Cefas	Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science
CO	Certifying Officer
CFO	Certifying Support Officer
CPC	Commonwealth Potato Collection
CPH	County Parish Holding
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
FC	Forestry Commission
FHI	Fish Health Inspectorate
FHIS	Food Hygiene Information Scheme
FHRS	Food Hygiene Rating Scheme
FLRS	Food Law Rating Scheme
FSA	Food Standards Agency
FSS	Food Standards Scotland
FTE	Full Time Equivalent
GB	Great Britain
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
KHV	Koi Herpesvirus
LA	Local Authority
LPAI	Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza
LT	Lipophilic Toxins
MANCP	Multi-Annual National Control Plan
MMO	Marine Management Organisation
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MPL	Maximum Permitted Level
MRL	Maximum Residue Level
MSS	Marine Scotland Science
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
OCV	Official Control Verification
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
PHSI	Plant Health and Seeds Inspectorate
PoD	Point of Destination
PPP	Plant Protection Products
PRiF	Pesticide Residues in Food
PSP	Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning
RAN	Remedial Action Notice
RASFF	Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed
RDM	Raw drinking milk
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 Honey Bee Health Strategy
SMR	Statutory Management Requirement
SNCP	Salmonella National Control Programme
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
SPCS	Seed Potato Classification Scheme
SRM	Specified Risk Material
STEC	Shinga Toxin-Producing Escherichia Coli
TB	Tuberculosis
TSE	Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy
UAI	Unannounced Inspection
UK	United Kingdom
UKAS	United Kingdom Accreditation Service
UKFSS	Food Standards Agency's UK Food Surveillance System
VMD	Veterinary Medicines Directorate
VMP	Veterinary Medicinal Products
WATOK	Welfare of Animals at Time of Killing
WG	Welsh Government
WG EERA	Welsh Government Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs