

Annual Report for 2022 on Official Controls performed in Great Britain under the OCR Multi- Annual National Control Plan



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs



Food
Standards
Agency
[food.gov.uk](https://www.food.gov.uk)

**Food
Standards
Scotland**

For safe food and
healthy eating



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Contents

Annual Report for 2022 on Official Controls performed in Great Britain under the OCR Multi-Annual National Control Plan	1
Contents	2
Contact point	3
Executive Summary	4
Chapter 1 - Introduction and scope of the report	8
Chapter 2 - Effectiveness of official controls	9
Official controls in the food sector	9
Official controls in the animal feed sector	35
Official controls in the animal health sector	42
Official controls in the animal welfare sector	77
Official controls in the plant health sector	103
Chapter 3 – National systems of audit	119
Audit of local and port health authorities	119
Internal audits conducted by competent authorities	122
Chapter 4 – Resources	129
Number of control staff in Great Britain	129
Chapter 5 – Actions taken to improve performance of competent authorities and food business operators	130
Actions in the feed and food sectors	130
Actions in the plant and plant health sectors	136
Actions in the animal health and welfare sectors	137
Incident management protocols	141
Training delivered by Competent Authorities in 2022/23	142
Abbreviations and acronyms	147

Contact point

All enquiries in relation to this Report should, in the first instance, be directed to:

**OCR Policy and Reporting
SPS Imports Policy Team
Animal and Plant Health and Welfare Directorate
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs**

Email: mancp@defra.gov.uk

Executive Summary

This Annual Report sets out the key official control compliance data and activities for Great Britain in 2022, relating to feed and food safety, animal health and welfare (including aquatics), and plant health.

Production and publication of the Annual Report is a legal transparency requirement for the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, under Article 113 of the [Official Controls Regulation 2019](#).

Introduction

Across Great Britain, official controls for food, animal feed, animal and aquatic health and welfare, and plant health are the ultimate responsibility of the Appropriate Authorities – the respective governments of England, Scotland and Wales. Delivery responsibilities are designated by the Appropriate Authorities (as defined in the OCR 2019 Regulation – the respective Governments of England, Wales and Scotland) to a range of Competent Authorities across Great Britain, including Government Agencies and Local Authorities.

Impact of Avian Influenza

During 2022, Great Britain responded to one of the most widespread and protracted outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in poultry and captive birds. The H5N1 strain of HPAI was brought in by infected wild birds migrating to the UK during late 2021. It then spread rapidly across wild and captive bird populations under the milder climate conditions of this period.

A GB-wide Avian Influenza Protection Zone (AIPZ), with enhanced biosecurity measures (including limiting access to poultry areas, and mandatory housing of farmed birds) came into force in November 2021. The housing requirement was lifted in May 2022, and AIPZ status ended on 16th August 2022 – only to be reinstated at regional level in October 2022, and at national level (including mandatory housing) in November 2022, for the whole of England. Similar measures were reintroduced in Wales and Scotland in late 2022.

During 2022 the unprecedented and extensive outbreak of HPAI across Great Britain had a significant impact, particularly across England (where the vast majority of poultry Food Business Operators were and are still located), on the availability and capacity of qualified APHA personnel, including Official Vets and Animal Health Officers, with the most acute impact being on the delivery of routine operational work for non-avian farm inspections.

While AIPZ biosecurity measures were in force, their monitoring and enforcement was of the highest priority. AIPZ inspection activities included the identification and culling of infected flocks, to help prevent or limit the spread of HPAI in captive and wild birds, including farms, smallholdings, zoo collections, and domestic pets.

Returning to 'business as usual' after the Covid pandemic and EU Exit

Outside of the unprecedented and unexpected impact of HPAI, biosecurity activities, controls and enforcement in 2022 broadly continued to recover from the reduced levels of compliance monitoring in 2020 and 2021, that had arisen from the impact of human movement restrictions imposed during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Activities in 2021 had been further distorted by Great Britain's exit from the European Union on 31st January 2021, and the 2022 outcomes in this Report also reflect a controls landscape developing and adjusting to reflect the changes necessitated by Great Britain's new biosecurity autonomy.

In the **food and feed sectors**, Local Authorities have been working towards restoring the delivery of their official control obligations in line with expectations set out in guidance and advice to Local Authorities. Local Authority Recovery Plans (for England and Wales, and separately for Scotland) had been introduced in response to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2021. Under these Recovery Plans, intervention rates in 2022 improved, increasing steadily across the three nations. This improvement was also mirrored by a significant increase in enforcement actions in the food sector, which reflected the increase in interventions carried out during 2022/23, in line with the expectations in the Recovery Plans.

Animal health outcomes generally continued to make improvements in controls compliance. Of particular note was the continued downwards trend in TB herd incidence and prevalence in England. Scotland continued to maintain its Official TB Free status. The total number of **animal by-products** non-compliance scores reduced by approximately 50% in 2022, returning closer to 2019 levels.

APHA staff investigated 542 reports of suspected **exotic diseases** in Great Britain in 2022.

Controls on **sanitary and phyto-sanitary imports** to Great Britain from non-EU countries continued to be effectively controlled in 2022, in spite of the impact of EU Exit, which introduced controls for the first time on EU imports (under temporary staging measures initially in 2022).

For **animal welfare**, the significant decrease in on farm visits in 2022 was driven, by necessity, by the prioritising of resources and activities in response to the unprecedentedly severe HPAI outbreak, particularly in England, as noted above. Welfare inspections focused on urgent and high-priority visits in this period, including to enterprises with previous recorded incidences of welfare non-compliance.

Significantly increased numbers of inspections of vehicles **transporting animals** in Great Britain in 2022 (following EU Exit) resulted in higher year-on-year volumes of documentary non-compliance - but lower levels of non-compliance for other mandatory checks.

Plant health controls faced ongoing challenges following EU Exit, with new controls on EU plant imports being amongst the earliest required for EU imports to Great Britain. The ongoing process of recruitment and training for the required significant increase in the cohort of qualified plant inspectors continued to place pressure in 2022 on inspections capacity, in particular for lower-risk plants imports.

However, **plant and plant products inspections** increased overall by 9% in 2022, reflecting the increased import controls compliance requirements driven by EU Exit.

Sawn wood imports to Great Britain in 2022 fell by 27%, in part reflecting sanctions on the import of controlled wood from Russia, and the market shift to alternate supply sources across Europe.

National systems of audit

The competent authorities in Great Britain continue to conduct risk-based audits of operational systems, processes, and procedures related to food and feed, animal welfare, and plant health.

Audit findings in 2022 across England, Wales, and Scotland reflect a broadly positive picture of operational delivery. Across all three nations, assurance levels were generally positive, with most audits rated as 'substantial' or 'moderate'. This presents a fairly consistent picture with no significant deterioration in performance from the previous year.

Resourcing

Methodologies for FTE calculations were 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. This makes it difficult to meaningfully compare year-on-year resourcing data for this period for a number of reporting teams and entities.

Actions taken to improve performance

Competent Authorities and Food Business Operators across Great Britain continued to deliver a range of improvements during 2022 to the existing regulatory systems for animal and plant health and welfare, food safety, and incident management processes, including:

- The National Food Crime Unit advanced its recall systems, launched fraud prevention tools, and moved closer to gaining formal investigatory powers.
- The Scottish Government, working in partnership with the Bee Health Improvement Partnership (BHIP), published its second 10-year Honey Bee Health Strategy.
- Cefas and Defra successfully undertook a formal contingency exercise designed to test internal and external communications and reporting procedures of the

Contingency Plan for Exotic Notifiable and Emerging Diseases of Aquatic Animals in England and Wales.

- A revised version of the generic contingency plan for **plant health** in England was published in 2022, alongside two new pest specific contingency plans.
- The Forestry Commission launched a new, simplified, online service for export phytosanitary certificate applications – in time to meet the significant increase in the number of certificates required for the export of GB material to Europe.

Chapter 1 - Introduction and scope of the report

- 1.1 The Official Controls Regulation (OCR [EU 2017/625](#)) sets out the official control systems for monitoring compliance with - and enforcement of – sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) matters, namely feed and food law, animal health and welfare rules, and plant health law.
- 1.2 OCR requires Great Britain to publish and maintain a Multi-Annual National Control Plan (MANCP), detailing the controls systems and the public bodies and processes responsible for delivering them. And to ensure transparency in delivering this Control Plan, OCR requires the Secretary of State for Defra to publish the data and analysis of these OCR controls and enforcement activities. **This Report delivers that requirement for the reporting year 2022.**
- 1.3 The reporting period for the Annual Report is generally by calendar year – the twelve months from 1st January to 31st December. For some reporting areas, data has historically been collected for the twelve months from 1st April – 31 March. As in previous years, this Annual Report therefore includes data from 1st January 2022 to 31 March 2023. Reporting periods and data for each control area are in line with the comparative data for previous years' Reports.
- 1.4 The MANCP and Annual Reports for Great Britain 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)
 - 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)
- 1.5 The Annual Report includes:
- | | |
|------------------|---|
| 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 the performance of Competent Authorities and food business operators |
- 1.6 The 2022 Annual Report, and the Annual Reports for 2021 and 2020, are available on [the Defra website](#).

UK Annual Reports up to 2019 are available on [the FSA website](#).

Chapter 2 - Effectiveness of official controls

- 2.1 This section sets out SPS official controls activities and compliance levels in the reporting year 2022/23, comparing results with those achieved in 2021/22.

Official controls in the food sector

- 2.2 The FSA produced quarterly resource and performance reports for 2022/23, and presented these to the FSA Board. The reports tracked progress against the FSA's corporate objectives. [The Quarter 4 2022/23 update](#) gives the position at the end of 2022/23 FY¹.
- 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 (SPIs). This resulted in a refreshed set of indicators for scrutiny by the Finance and Business Committee, and other relevant Governance groups. The revised SPIs used live data and were first presented to the FSS Board on 15th June 2022. More information is available at: [FSS Board Meetings](#).

GB local authority food law enforcement

- 2.4 Local Authority Recovery Plans (for England / Wales, and for Scotland) were implemented in 2021, for the period up to 31 March 2023. For 2022, FSA and FSS expectations were adjusted in recognition of the challenges LAs were facing in delivering their statutory food functions whilst also still having to prioritise COVID-19 related duties.
- 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 high and medium-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 The Recovery Plan timeline is set out below. It set an expectation for establishments to receive an onsite intervention, and after that to be back in the system for interventions in accordance with the Food Law Code of Practice.

¹ <https://www.food.gov.uk/about-us/fsa-business-committee-meeting-march-2022-agenda-and-papers>

Establishment type	Recovery Plan timeline
All Category A for hygiene	By 31 March 2022
All Category B for hygiene and A for standards	By 30 June 2022
All Category C and less than broadly compliant for hygiene	By 30 September 2022
All Category D and less than broadly compliant for hygiene	By 31 December 2022
All Category C and broadly compliant or better for hygiene	By 31 March 2023

For lower risk establishments not shown in the table above, LAs had the flexibility to defer planned interventions, and to only undertake interventions where information/intelligence suggested that risks had increased/standards had fallen, or if the establishment was otherwise considered a priority for intervention due to the risk posed.

- 2.7 In April 2023 a bespoke return was completed by LAs for the year 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023, 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. It was also used to identify rate of compliance progress and any risks and concerns, to inform our engagement with LAs. The analysis was based on 99% of the expected food hygiene and food standards returns respectively.
- 2.8 Data on the percentage of interventions achieved at these establishments was collected in 2022/23. For the lower risk establishments, LAs were only required to report the number of interventions achieved - 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 percentages of due interventions achieved at Category A and B establishments for food hygiene in England and Wales are set out below.

Percentages of due interventions achieved at higher risk establishments in England and Wales 2019/20 – 2022/23

	2019/20		2020/21		2021/22		2022/23	
	% A	% B	% A	% B	% A	%B	% A	%B
England	99	96	72	48	96	81	99	99
Wales	100	99	67	34	97	74	100	100

- 2.10 The percentages of interventions carried out at both Category A and B establishments in England and Wales have both increased to 99% and 100% respectively. This is now in line with pre-pandemic levels.

Food standards

- 2.11 The reported total percentages of due interventions achieved at Category A establishments for food standards in England and Wales are set out below. In England and Wales, achieved interventions have increased to 87% and 98% respectively. This shows an increase of 12% in England and 31% in Wales when compared with 2021/22.

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

	2019/20		2020/21		2021/22		2022/23	
	% A	% B	% A	% B	% A	% B ²	% A	%B
England	76	30	28	17	75	-	87	-
Wales	91	60	39	16	67	-	98	-

Enforcement actions

- 2.12 Due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, data on enforcement actions carried out during 2020/21 was not collected in England and Wales. This information was reported in 2022/23 and in 2021/22. The 2019/20 data is also provided here as a baseline for comparisons. The decrease in enforcement actions in 2021/22 was a reflection of the fall in interventions carried out at that stage of the recovery period.

Food Hygiene

- 2.13 The number of establishments subject to formal enforcement actions and written warnings in England and Wales is set out in the table below.

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

	2021/22		2022/23	
	Formal enforcement actions	Written warnings	Formal enforcement actions	Written warnings
England	3,607	98,431	5,040	122,232
Wales	263	5,756	468	10,855

² Category A premises for food standards in England and Wales were prioritised for onsite interventions in the LA Recovery Plan. Due interventions achieved at Category B establishments were not reported

- 2.14 In 2022/23, there was an increase of 40% (England) and 78% (Wales) in food establishments subject to formal food hygiene enforcement actions, compared with 2021/22.
- 2.15 At the start of the recovery period, the return to food hygiene inspections in Wales was more gradual. As more interventions have been carried out there has been a marked increase in formal enforcement actions reported in the past year.
- 2.16 LAs in both England and Wales have reported that compliance has fallen in premises since COVID-19, and more enforcement activity has been required. There was also a 24% (England) and 89% (Wales) increase in establishments subject to written warnings, compared with 2021/22 levels.

Food Standards

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

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

	2021/22		2022/23	
	Formal enforcement actions	Written warnings	Formal enforcement actions	Written warnings
England	466	16,235	507	21,685
Wales	19	2,105	32	2,824

- 2.18 In 2022/23 there was an increase of 9% (England) and 68% (Wales) in food establishments subject to formal food standards enforcement actions, when compared with 2021/22.
- 2.19 During the pandemic, 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 Since the start of the Recovery Plan the return to food standards inspections in Wales was more gradual, but as more interventions were carried out in 2022/23, a more marked increase in formal enforcement actions was reported.
- 2.21 Written warnings also increased by 34% and 40% in England and Wales respectively, when compared with 2021/22.

- 2.22 In Scotland during 2022/23, interventions increased from 2021/22, as Local Authorities continued to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. A total of 28,293 interventions were completed - a 74.6% increase on the previous year. Interventions include the following: advice and education, information and intelligence gathering, inspections and audits, revisits and surveillance and sampling visits.
- 2.23 An aggregate total of 237 formal enforcement actions (Hygiene Improvement Notices and Remedial Action Notices) were issued in 2021/22. In 2022/23, the combined total number of HINs (235) and RANs (239) was 474 - a 100% increase on the previous year.
- 2.24 Compliance in Scotland is assessed under the Food Law Rating Scheme (FLRS). Full implementation of this new system was delayed during the pandemic; however, as part of the Local Authority recovery process, there was an expectation that all businesses (where appropriate) would be assigned a rating under FLRS.
- 2.25 The Scheme combines Food Hygiene and Food Standards into a single intervention, with businesses risk rated as such. This differs from the approach taken in England and Wales, where food hygiene and food standards are assessed separately. Scottish data is thus not directly comparable with the rest of GB data in this area.
- 2.26 While the rating schemes used to assess business compliance in Scotland differs from that for the rest of GB, both schemes relate to the assessment of an establishment's adherence to food law during an inspection. The Interventions Code of Practice for Scotland is available [here](#).

Meat hygiene

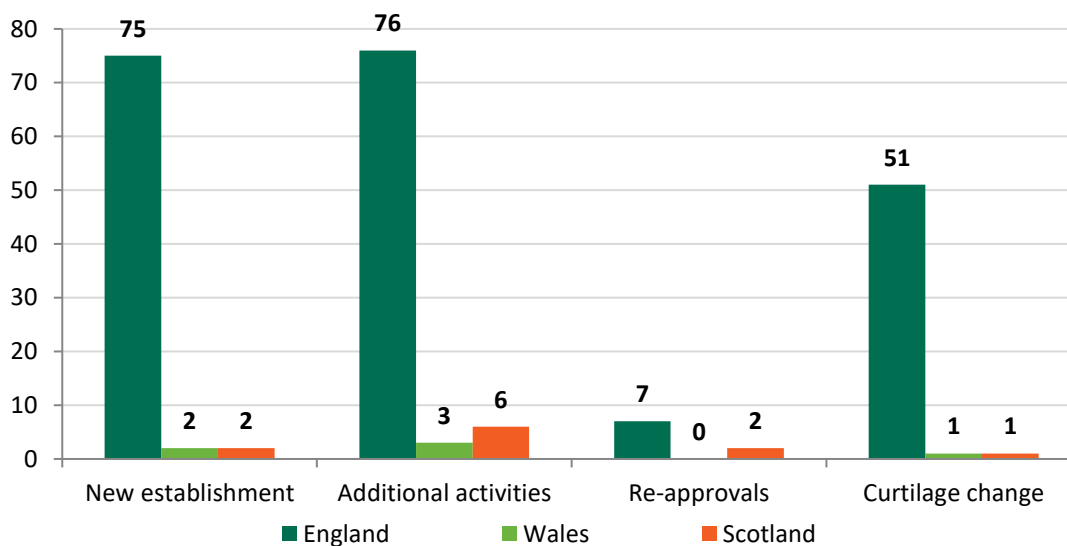
- 2.27 Throughout 2022/23, the FSA delivered official controls in 909 approved meat establishments across England and Wales. As of 31 March 2023, there were 861³ approved meat establishments. Of these establishments, 230 were approved as slaughterhouses, 49 as game handling establishments (stand-alone and co-located), and 783 were approved as cutting plants (stand-alone and co-located, including market stalls).
- 2.28 In 2022/23, FSS delivered official controls in 95 approved meat establishments in Scotland, including 24 slaughterhouses, 12 game handling establishments and 59 cutting plants (including market stalls).

³ An establishment may be approved for more than one activity.

Approval of new meat establishments

2.29 In 2022/23, GB received 226 (Eng & Wales = 215, FSS = 11) applications for approval or approval related activities, compared to 193 (Eng & Wales = 176, FSS = 17) in 2021/22. 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 2022/23



Refusals

2.30 In England & Wales, twelve advisory visits were made in the 2022/23 period, compared to seventeen in 2021/22. In Scotland, two advisory visits took place in 2022/23, compared with three in 2021/22.

2.31 Optional advisory visits are chargeable and aim to help FBOs to identify animal welfare and hygiene requirements which may apply to their proposed activities prior to an FSA approval visit.

2.32 In England and Wales, eleven FBOs were refused approval in 2022/23 compared to nine in 2021/22. In Scotland, all businesses that applied for approval in 2022/23 were found to be compliant and no establishment was refused approval, so no re-submission of applications for approval were made.

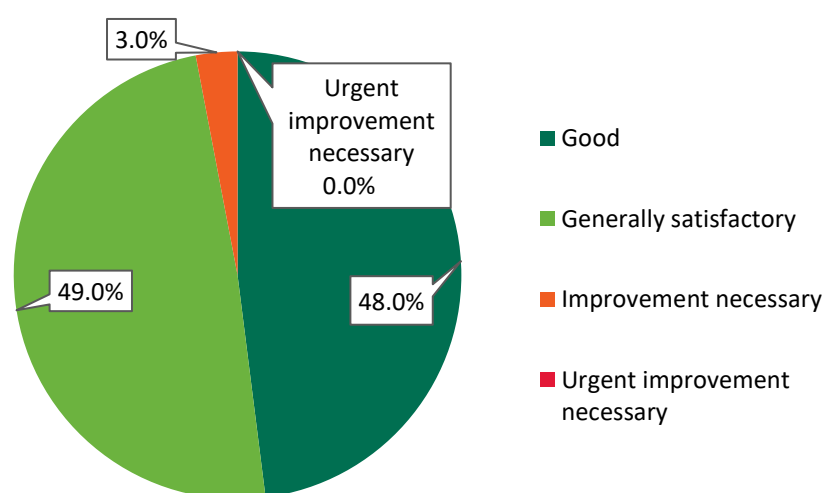
Food business operator audits in meat establishments

2.33 Audit outcomes in Great Britain are based on an overall assessment across all areas audited, 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.⁴

- 2.34 In England and Wales in 2022/23, the FSA continued to conduct full audits and partial audits on approved meat establishments.
- 2.35 FSS's veterinary audit inspection cycle (using OCV methodology), consists of several inspections and/or 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 report.
- 2.36 The charts and tables below provide a breakdown of all approved meat establishments⁵ in England and Wales, as recorded at 31 March 2023. These are 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 provided for FSS, as they operate a slightly different scheme.
- 2.37 The data for England and Wales shows that 99% of premises had been awarded a compliance rating of 'Good', or 'Generally Satisfactory' at the last audit during the 2022/23 year, or rolled forward where audit frequencies spanned more than one financial year.

Figure 2 - Chart showing audit outcomes in England and Wales for 2022/23 by percentage for slaughterhouses with or without co-located cutting plants and game handling



⁴ FSA meat establishment audits data can be accessed at <https://data.food.gov.uk/catalog>

⁵ Figures exclude 29 newly conditionally approved meat establishments and those not operating long term with no score available as at 31 March 2023

Figure 3 - Chart showing audit outcomes in England and Wales for 2022/23 by percentage for standalone cutting plants (including market stalls and co-located game handling)

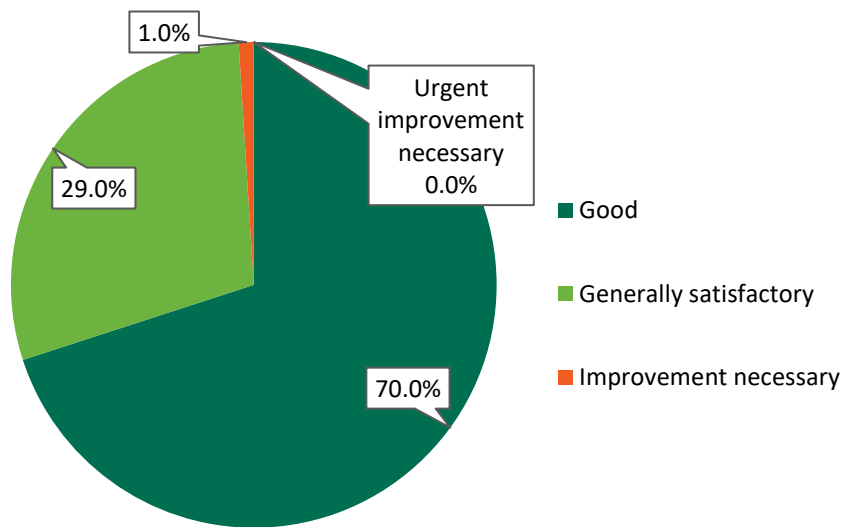
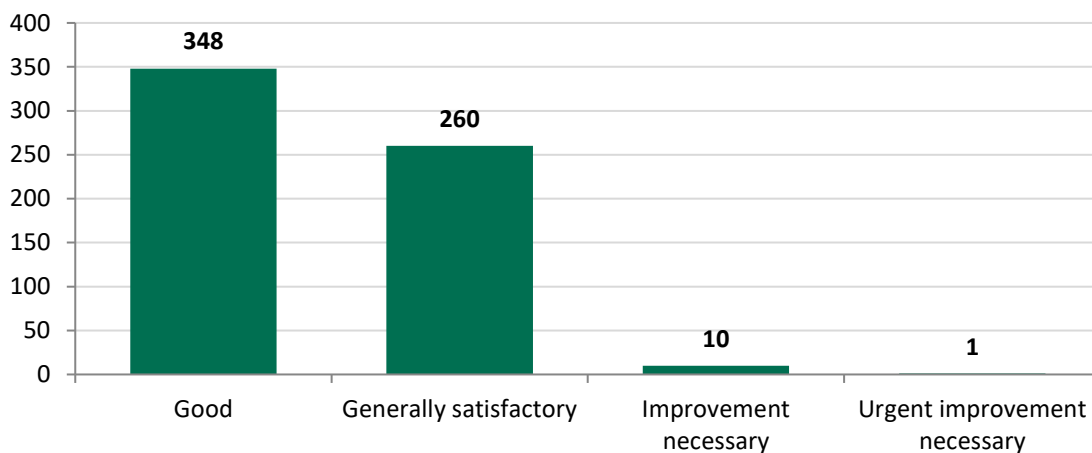


Figure 4 - Chart showing the number of audits completed in England and Wales, by audit outcome during 2022/23



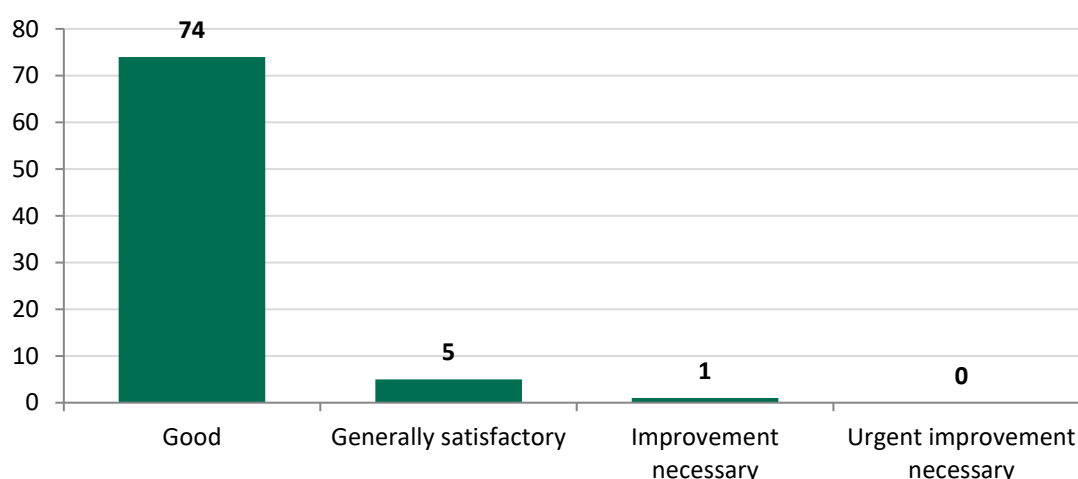
2.38 The table below shows all completed audit scores for England and Wales awarded in 2022/23. During the year, 632 full audits and 284 partial audits were completed. Audit frequency can vary depending on an FBO's previous compliance results. Some approved establishments will be audited multiple times, with others having no audits during the reporting period.

Number and percentage of audits completed during 2022/23, with audit outcomes

	Total	Good	Generally Satisfactory	Improvement Necessary	Urgent Improvement Necessary
England & Wales	632 (100%)	348 (55.1%)	260 (41.1%)	23 (3.6%)	1 (0.2%)

- 2.39 'Good' or 'Generally Satisfactory' outcomes were recorded for 96.2% of establishments – a small increase in compliance when compared with 94.6% in 2021/22.
- 2.40 During 2022/23, the audit team has successfully managed the backlog of audits carried forward due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Since Q2 of 2022/23, the team has achieved its key performance indicator target of 90% audit completions in the month in which they are due. Any audits not completed within the month were completed as soon as possible thereafter.
- 2.41 The following chart shows the number of audits by intermediate audit outcome for 2022/23 in Scotland (FSS), as of 31 March 2023. Note that for any establishments within the approval process, the audit programme would be paused - hence the total below is less than 95.

Figure 5 - Chart showing the number of audits completed in Scotland, by audit outcome during 2022/23



Urgent improvement necessary

- 2.42 Poor performing FBOs failing to address non-compliances may trigger the Intervention Protocol - which seeks to safeguard consumers and improve public health, by improving overall business compliance through education, advice and enforcement action for meat establishments. The Intervention Protocol is triggered by 'urgent improvement necessary' or 'successive improvement necessary' scores, and can result in a review of the establishment's approval, should corrective action on non-compliances not be undertaken by the business operator.
- 2.43 In England and Wales, three approved premises underwent a review of approval under the [Intervention Protocol](#) in 2022/23. In the same period in Scotland, there were no plants with an "urgent improvement necessary" audit outcome.

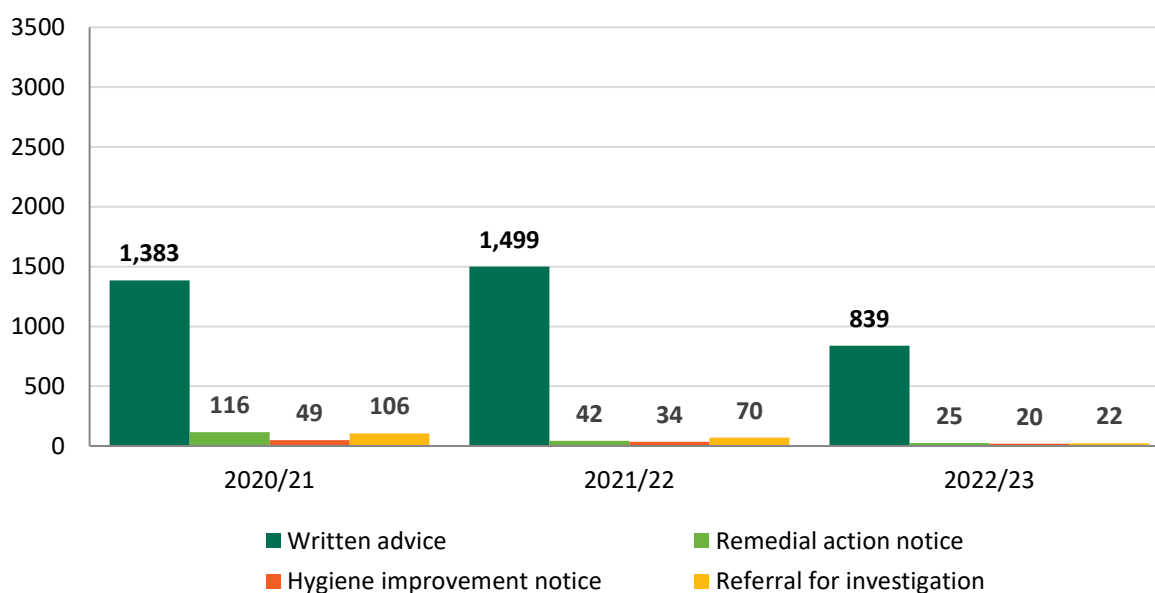
Unannounced inspections in cutting plants

- 2.44 During 2022/23, 792 unannounced inspections were completed in England and Wales, compared to 813 during 2021/22. The programme of unannounced inspections is now operating at 'business as usual' levels, following implementation of the post-pandemic recovery plan in 2021/22.
- 2.45 In Scotland, FSS conducts unannounced inspections (UAs) categorised as either 'classic' (routine annual inspections carried out in all standalone cutting plants), or 'targeted' (specific factor identified or suspected at a plant). During 2022/23, a total number of 25 classic UAs and nine targeted UAs were completed - all as part of the audit process.

Enforcement in meat establishments

- 2.46 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 2020/21 – 2022/23



- 2.47 The enforcement data for 2022/23 cannot be directly compared to previous years, due to a number of changes in the reporting methodology utilised. The FSA introduced a new Enforcement Delivery Model in slaughterhouses in May 2022, which improved consistency of approach and standards. This new approach allows a better understanding of the data, with removal of duplications and consistent information logging. The figures for 2022 will form a new baseline for enforcement action reporting.
- 2.48 In England and Wales, 787 contraventions were addressed in 2022/23 via written advice issued to approved meat establishments (including slaughterhouses, cutting

plants, cold stores and game handling establishments). In Scotland, 52 instances of Written Advice were issued in the same period, reduced from the 70 in 2021/22.

- 2.49 In England and Wales, a total of 22 Remedial Action Notices (RANs) were issued across 12 meat establishments - approximately 1.4% of all meat establishments. In Scotland, three RANs were issued, compared to none in 2021/2022.
- 2.50 A total of 19 Hygiene Improvement Notices (HINs) were issued across 11 meat establishments, equating to approximately 1.3% of all meat establishments. In Scotland, one HIN was issued, the same as for 2021/22.
- 2.51 In England and Wales, 20 Referrals for Investigation were made across 17 meat establishments - less than 2% of all meat establishments. In Scotland, two Referrals for Investigation were made, one more than during 2021/2022.
- 2.52 In Scotland, the level of formal enforcement increased slightly in comparison with previous years. This was linked to the targeted risk-based approach for the regular inspection and audit regimes, which enabled prioritisation of FSS resource where there was evidence of non-compliance, and allowed for timely follow-up and escalation of enforcement, if necessary.

Specified Risk Material (SRM) controls

- 2.53 In England and Wales during 2022/23, 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.
- 2.54 There were 86 TSE breaches in 2022/23. Of these, 74 were tackled by verbal advice and 11 required written advice, whilst one OV served an ABP disposal notice to resolve another case. Nothing was escalated beyond written stage, following legal advice.
- 2.55 In Scotland in 2022/2023, 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 the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions were lifted.

Milk production hygiene

- 2.56 The number of GB milk production holdings as of 31 March 2023 was 8,825, as shown in the table below - which also sets out the number of primary and secondary inspections carried out in 2022/23.

2.57 In England and Wales, 25.3% of visits required follow-up checks - an increase on the 20.3% required in 2021/22. 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 other non-compliances being escalated through the established enforcement hierarchy.

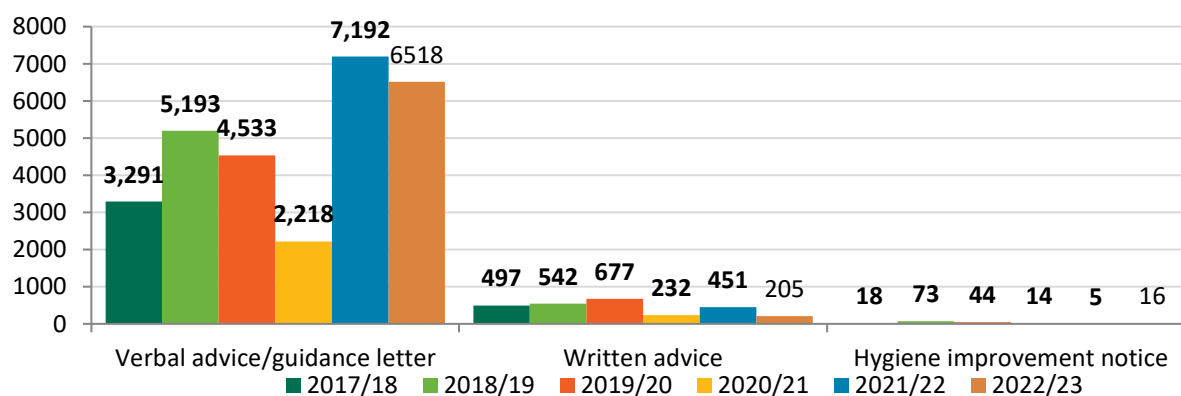
Milk production holdings from 2021/22 – 2022/23

Country	Eng & Wales		Scotland		GB total	
Year	21/22	22/23	21/22	22/23	21/22	22/23
Milk production holdings and processing establishments	8,192	7,940	899	885	9,091	8,825

Milk production inspections from 2021/22 – 2022/23

Country	Eng & Wales		Scotland		GB total	
Year	21/22	22/23	21/22	22/23	21/22	22/23
Primary inspections	1,927	1,790	53	68	1,980	1,858
Secondary inspections (non-compliance highlighted from primary inspections)	392	607	4	5	396	612

Figure 7 - Chart showing milk production hygiene enforcement actions in England and Wales from 2017/18 – 2022/23

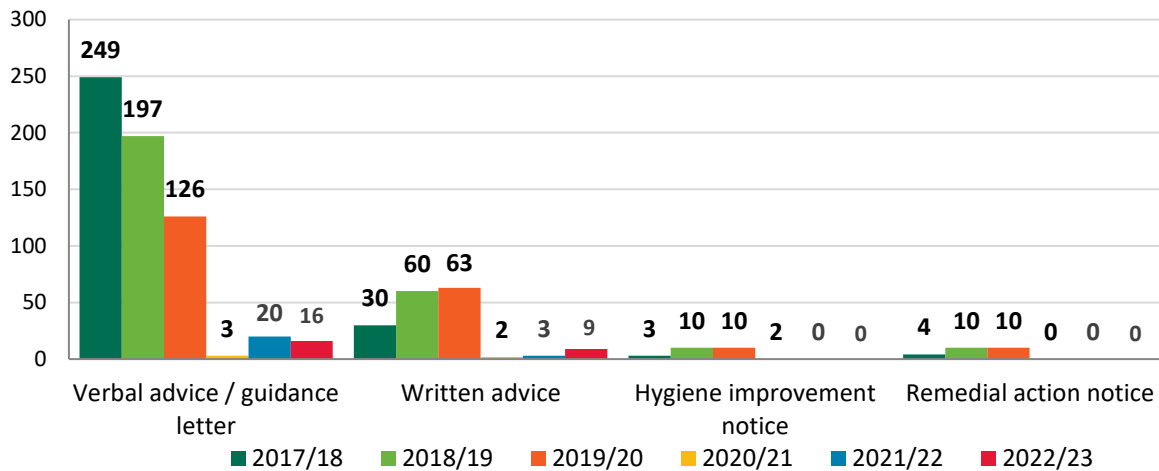


2.58 During 2022/23, enforcement levels decreased by 9.4% when compared to 2021/22. However, it should be noted that levels of enforcement in 2021/22 were atypically high, due to the post-COVID 19 recovery plan. Both inspections levels and total enforcement actions in 2022/23 returned to levels comparable to pre-pandemic periods.

2.59 Of all enforcement action taken, 97% was verbal advice or a guidance letter, which is classed as informal action

2.60 In Scotland, inspections of dairy production holdings are carried out by 32 individual Local Authorities. There is some evidence of the re-establishment of hygiene controls after the pandemic, with an increase in the number of inspections, guidance letters and instances of written advice issued in 2022/23.

Figure 8 - Chart showing milk production hygiene enforcement actions in Scotland from 2017/18 – 2022/23



Egg production hygiene

2.61 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 2022/23.

Figure 9 - Chart showing the number of egg productions sites, inspections and non-compliance in GB in 2022/23

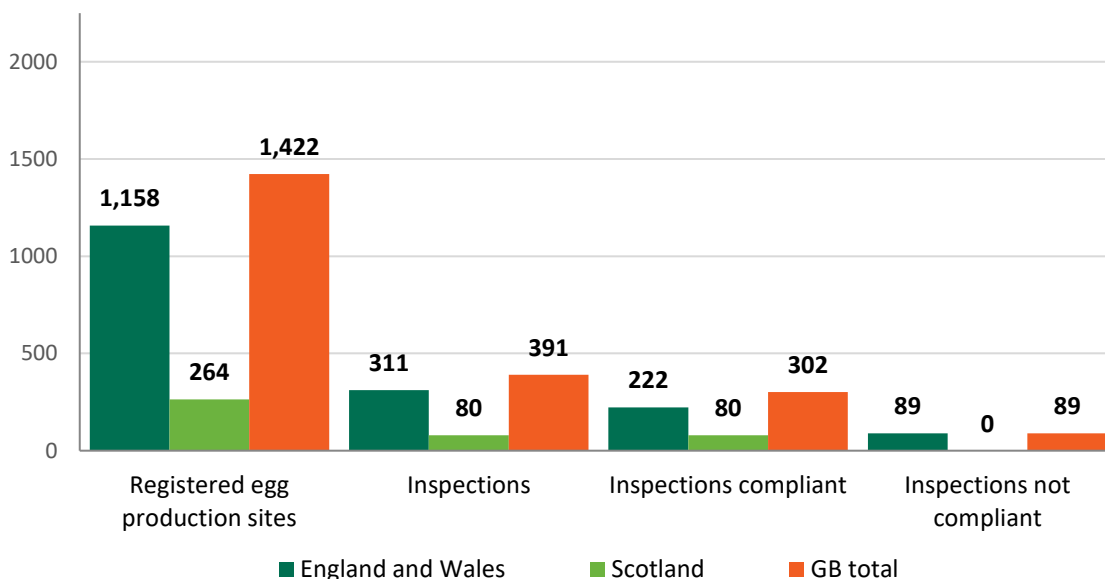
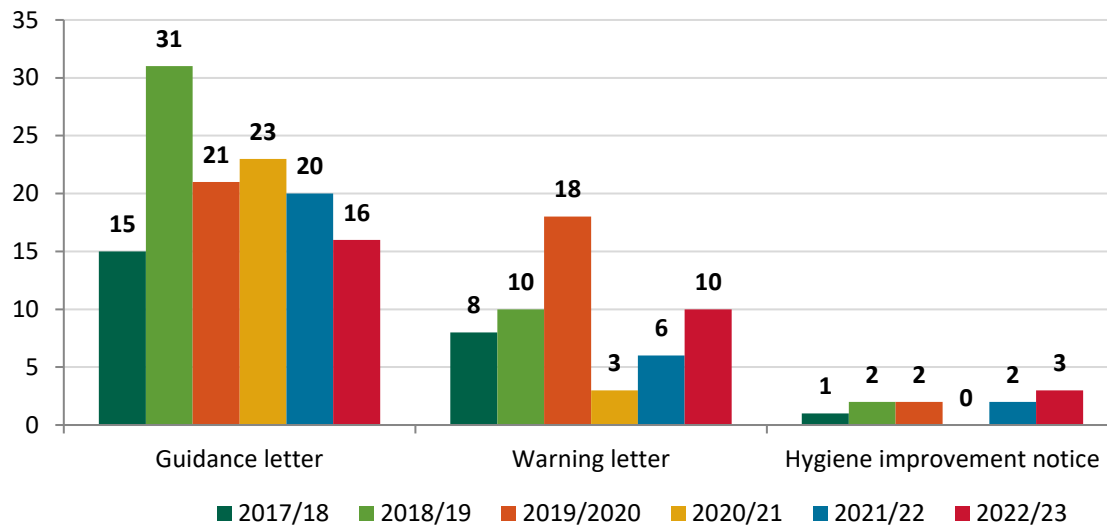


Figure 10 - Chart showing egg production enforcement actions in England and Wales from 2017/18 – 2022/23

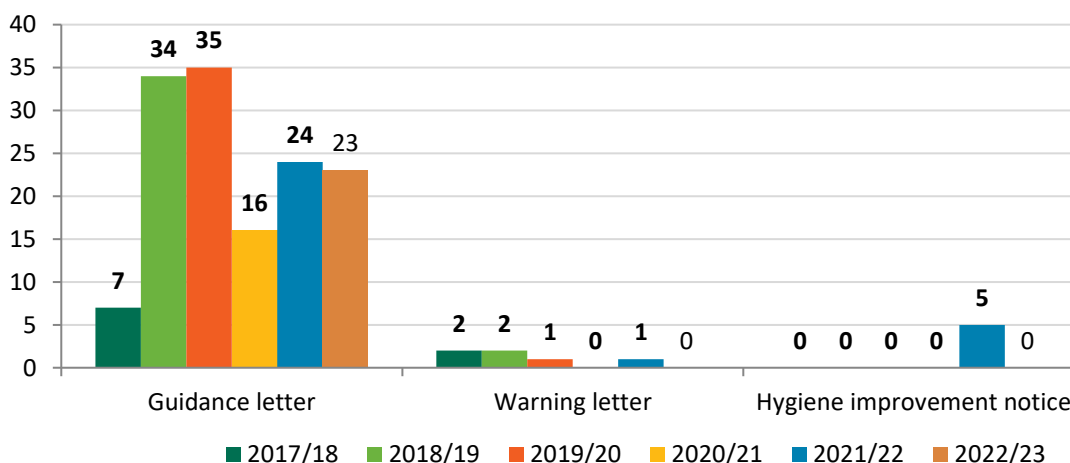


2.62 Egg inspections in England and Wales are prioritised according to risk and historical data, to inform the assessment and frequency. Compliant establishments are those where no improvements were needed.

2.63 In England and Wales, compliance levels increased by 3% overall in 2022/23, compared to 2021/22, rising from 67% to 70%.

2.64 During 2021/22, there was an increase in the issue of warning letters - from six in 2021/22, to ten in 2022/23. The serving of guidance letters has slightly decreased. The increase in warning letters was due to an increase in serious non-compliances, requiring the immediate issue of a warning letter: some of these were connected to the HIN cases recorded in the chart at Figure 10 above.

Figure 11 - Chart showing egg production enforcement actions in Scotland 2017/18 – 2022/23



- 2.65 Egg 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.
- 2.66 A similar number of guidance letters were issued in 2021/22 and 2022/23. No warning letters or HINs were issued - indicating high levels of compliance.

Shellfish hygiene

- 2.67 Shellfish sampling was carried out between 1st January and 31st December 2022, as part of the routine biotoxin monitoring programme. The results of sampling activities are summarised in the tables below.

Annual biotoxin sampling between 2020 and 2022 - England and Wales

	Amnesic Shellfish Poisoning (ASP)	Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning (PSP)	Lipophilic toxins (LTs)	Phyto-plankton (Seawater)
Total samples analysed				
2020	714	776	729	880
2021	769	796	885	937
2022	737	752	884	904
Number of toxins detected				
2020	41	70	15	n/a
2021	31	1	83	n/a
2022	52	0	151	n/a
Samples exceeding max permitted level				
2020	0	0	0	n/a (only trigger levels)
2021	0	0	8	n/a (only trigger levels)
2022	1	0	50	n/a (only trigger levels)

- 2.68 In England and Wales, a total of 3,277 samples were analysed in 2022⁶. There was an increase in detection of LTs, rising from 83 in 2021 to 151 in 2022. Detection of ASPs also increased - from 31 in 2021 to 52 in 2022. Detection of PSP toxins decreased, from one in 2021 to zero in 2022.

⁶ A total of 918 shellfish samples and 904 phytoplankton samples were submitted for analysis in 2022. The total of samples analysed is the sum of samples analysed for each toxin group.

- 2.69 Overall sampling levels decreased by approximately 3% compared to the previous year. This was due to environmental variation of marine biotoxin levels. Enforcement action was taken where sample results exceeded the maximum permitted levels, which resulted in the closure of three production areas.

Annual biotoxin sampling between 2020 and 2022 - Scotland

- 2.70 Shellfish sampling was carried out in Scotland between 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2023, as part of the routine biotoxin monitoring programme. The results of sampling activities are summarised in the tables below.

	Amnesic Shellfish Poisoning (ASP)	Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning (PSP)	Lipophilic toxins (LTs)	Phyto-plankton (Seawater)
Total samples analysed				
2020	963	1,276	2,056	1,316
2021	1,019	1,352	2,146	1,312
2022	1,185	1,621	2,330	1,366
Number of toxins detected				
2020	70	280	813	0
2021	71	332	858	0
2022	94	443	682	0
Samples exceeding max permitted level				
2020	1	11	161	n/a (only trigger levels)
2021	0	13	226	n/a (only trigger levels)
2022	4	20	111	n/a (only trigger levels)

- 2.71 Scotland saw a reduction in detection of LTs and an increase in samples exceeding the Maximum Permitted Level in both ASP and PSP toxins, compared to 2021/22 levels. This resulted in 26 LT, eight PSP and four ASP closures during 2022/23.

First fish sale

- 2.72 In 2022/23, the MMO carried out 1,166 inspections of fishing vessels landing in port, and 1,071 inspections of establishments where first sale fish was handled. It also conducted 252 inspections of transportation of first sale fish.
- 2.73 The level of dedicated fish inspections reduced across all three categories during 2022/23 compared with 2021/22. Emerging from the limitations of Covid restrictions, inspections were increased across the entire remit of MMO functions. The MMO took on a further remit of regulation and inspection of non-fishery related issues, for example, Marine Protected Areas, grants, and wildlife licensing, which impacted on resource availability for first sale fish.

- 2.74 Checks were made to ensure compliance with the traceability requirements of the Fisheries Control Regulation. Inspections at sea were also conducted on 607 vessels and included checks on fish caught and retained.
- 2.75 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, 72 written re-briefs were issued for late submission of sales records, and 190 written re-briefs for late submission of catching data. In addition, with the onset of enforcement of the Catch Recording App (under 10m catch data), 1,832 advisory letters were issued.
- 2.76 Eight offences detected in 2022/23 were significant enough to forward for further investigation. Of these, six resulted in Official Written Warnings, one was referred to prosecution, and one is still under investigation. No financial administration penalties (FAPs) were issued for first sale offences.
- 2.77 During 2022/23, the MMO continued compliance campaigns with the aim of increasing the quality and timeliness of data submitted under Control Regulation requirements. The purpose of these campaigns was to improve the traceability of catches within the UK, as well as to enable continued import and export of catches following EU Exit, alongside the requirements for verification of Catch Certificates. This work - including updates to guidance, industry engagement and enforcement - saw some improvements in industry compliance with submission rates.
- 2.78 In 2022 MMO enforced the submission of catch records (the recording of catches from vessels under 10 metres long) and undertook an assurance campaign to increase the timeliness and quality of data of those vessels actively fishing in the period. This resulted in a high volume of industry engagement, and advisory letters being issued.

Mycotoxins in food and RASFF notifications

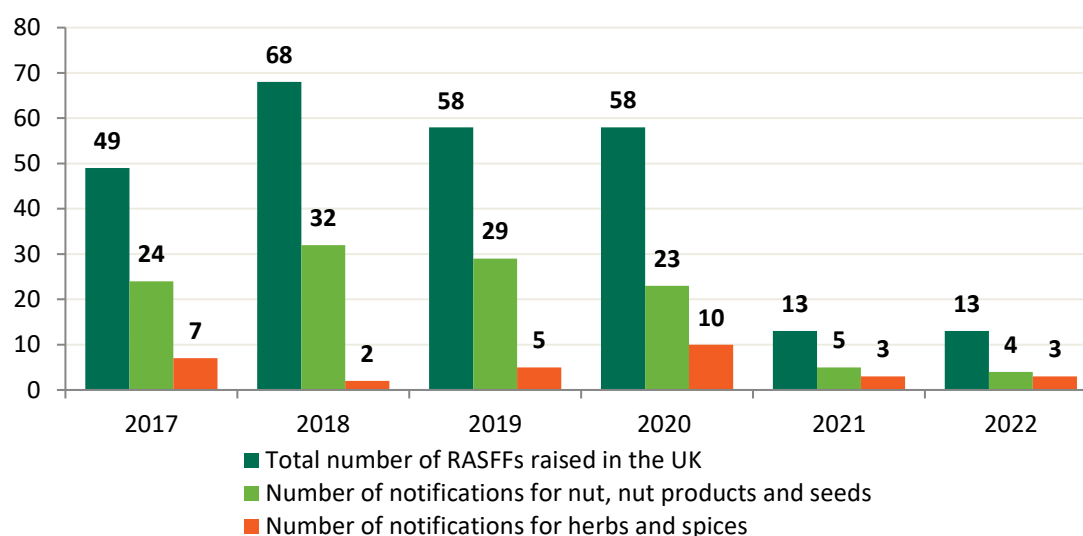
- 2.79 The UK's exit from the EU means that it no longer has full access to the European Commission's Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF) though it continues to receive notifications concerning the UK. The FSA continues to build alternative arrangements with other international partners as well as investing in new surveillance approaches.
- 2.80 The UK⁷ dealt with 13 RASFF notifications out of a total of 55 mycotoxins incidents in 2021/22. The decrease in RASFF notifications from 2018 can be attributed to changes in reporting systems. Since January 2021, the UK continue to receive

⁷ Data for RASFF notifications is only available at a UK level and is therefore reported as a UK figure. From 2017-2020 the figures are UK wide. From 2021 onwards, the figures cover England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

RASFF notifications from EU countries where the UK is affected. All other reporting is done via INFOSAN and the UK Imports management system. 'Cereal and bakery products' and 'fruits and vegetables products' were new entries that were not observed prior to 2020/21. 'Nuts and nut products' were the most common product types reported on.

2.81 The chart below gives the number of RASFF notifications for mycotoxins in food for the five years up to end 2022.

Figure 12 - Chart showing the number of RASFF notifications for mycotoxins in food (nuts, herbs and spices) in the UK from 2017 - 2022



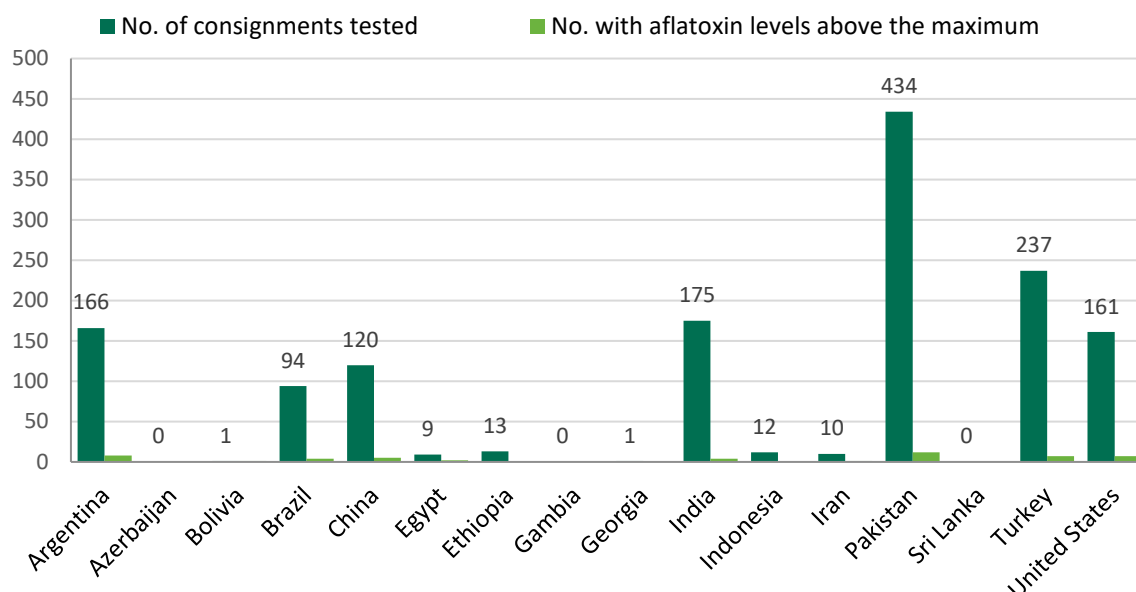
Routine sampling of imported foods

2.82 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 issued⁸.

2.83 The chart below shows the number of samples taken for mycotoxins and the number of non-compliances for 2022. Overall, the level of non-compliance remained low. When compared with 2021, the proportion of non-compliances in 2022 has slightly increased from 3.9% to 4.9%. Given the fluctuating trade patterns of countries that export to Great Britain, it was not possible to identify any one country as being responsible for the increase in non-compliance

⁸ Border Notifications replaced RASFF following Great Britain's exit from the EU in January 2021.

Figure 13 - Chart showing number of GB consignments of imported food from non-EU countries tested for mycotoxins (aflatoxins & ochratoxin) in 2022



Import controls

- 2.84 During 2022, controls on imported feed and food at GB Points of Entry were carried out under Regulation (EU) 2019/1793, together with various EU safeguard measures, which all became UK retained legislation after our exit from the EU in 2021.
- 2.85 Official controls were applied on products under the retained EU safeguard measures listed below. These controls included 100% documentary checks, and the prescribed levels of risk-based checks for identity and physical checks, including sampling and analysis. Under these safeguard measures, 1,870 consignments were tested in 2022.

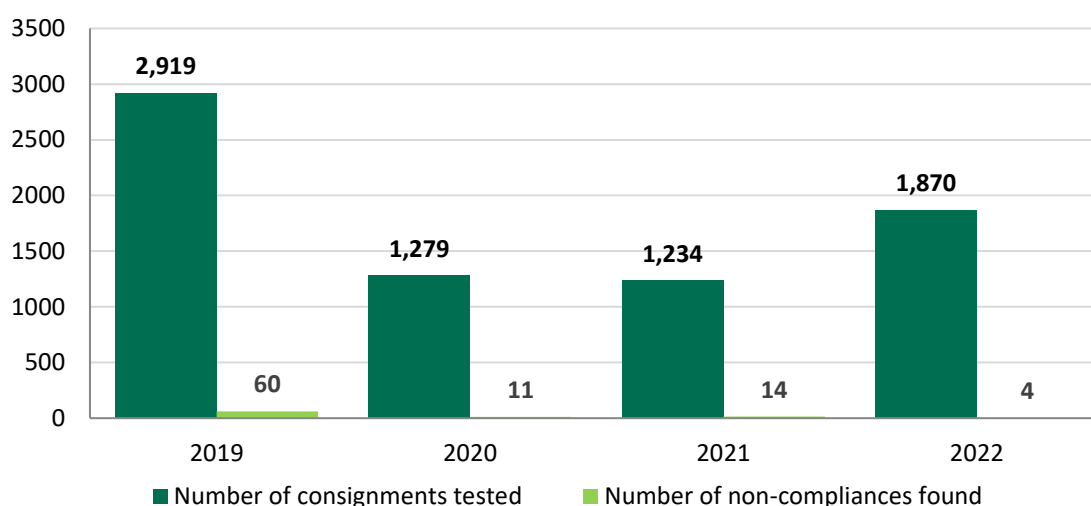
Official controls on food imported from third countries in 2022

Decision / Regulation (UK-retained legislation)	Country	Product	Hazard	Consignments tested	Unsatisfactory tests
(EU) No. 2011/884	China	Rice products	Unauthorised GMOs	86	3
(EU) No. 284/2011	China & Hong Kong	Melamine and polyamide plastic kitchenware	Formaldehyde and primary aromatic amines	987	1
(EU) No. 2016/1774	India	Aquaculture fishery products	Certain pharmaceutically active substances	792	0

Decision / Regulation (UK-retained legislation)	Country	Product	Hazard	Consignments tested	Unsatisfactory tests
(EU) No. 2016/6	Japan	Food & feed	Caesium-134, caesium-137	5	0
Totals				1,870	4

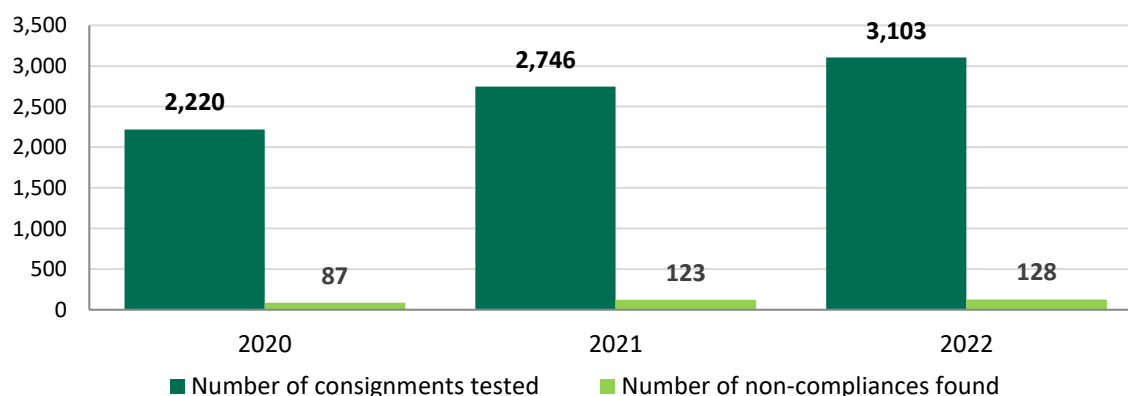
2.86 The chart below shows the number of consignments entering GB that were tested against retained EU safeguard measures requirements, and the number of non-compliances found. Non-compliance levels can vary depending on the level of imports. Levels in 2022 were lower than in the previous year, but this change does not reflect any particular or significant factor.

Figure 14 - Chart showing number of GB consignments tested and non-compliances under EU safeguard measures from 2019 - 2022



2.87 A total of 3,103 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 for the years 2020 to 2022



Novel foods

- 2.88 In 2022, the FSA made the following assessments under retained [Regulation \(EU\) 2015/2283](#). Traditional food notifications assessed were Bambara groundnut and Tetradenia Riparia. Full applications assessed were Barley, Rice Protein, Four Cannabidiol (CBD), Mung Bean Protein, Cetylated Fatty Acids, 3-Fucosyllactose, Calcidol and Magnesium-L-threonate.

Food contact materials

- 2.89 Controls were carried out by First Points of Introduction (FPIs) - specific ports through which melamine and polyamide kitchenware from China and Hong Kong is permitted to enter into GB.
- 2.90 In 2022/23, 98% (929 of 948) of consignments underwent documentary checks in GB. Some 17% (164) were subject to identity and physical checks, compared to 12% (135 of 1082) consignments in 2021/22.
- 2.91 In total, 15 consignments were rejected in GB in 2022/23, compared to 11 in 2021/22. Of these, one was rejected due to a failure identified during physical checks. This represents 0.6% of the total of 156 consignments that were physically checked. The remaining 14 were rejected on the basis of unsatisfactory identity and documentary checks.
- 2.92 Overall, a slightly higher proportion of the 929 consignments undergoing documentary and physical checks were rejected in GB. Only 1.6% (15) of checked consignments were rejected in 2022/23, compared to 1% (11) in 2021/22.
- 2.93 There was a further decrease in the rate of non-compliance for consignments that underwent physical checks: 0.6% in 2022/23, down from 1.5% in 2021/22 and 6% in 2020/21.

Organic products⁹

- 2.94 Inspections of organic operators in 2022 involved physical inspections, documentary checks, and virtual audits. Physical inspections had been severely impeded by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and 2021. From 1 March 2022, the requirement for physical inspections to take place in line with the retained organic regulations was resumed. Almost all UK operators due for an inspection in 2022 were inspected during the annual cycle. Additional visits were announced or unannounced depending on individual visit circumstances.

⁹ Data for organic products is only available at a GB level and is therefore reported as a GB figure throughout this section.

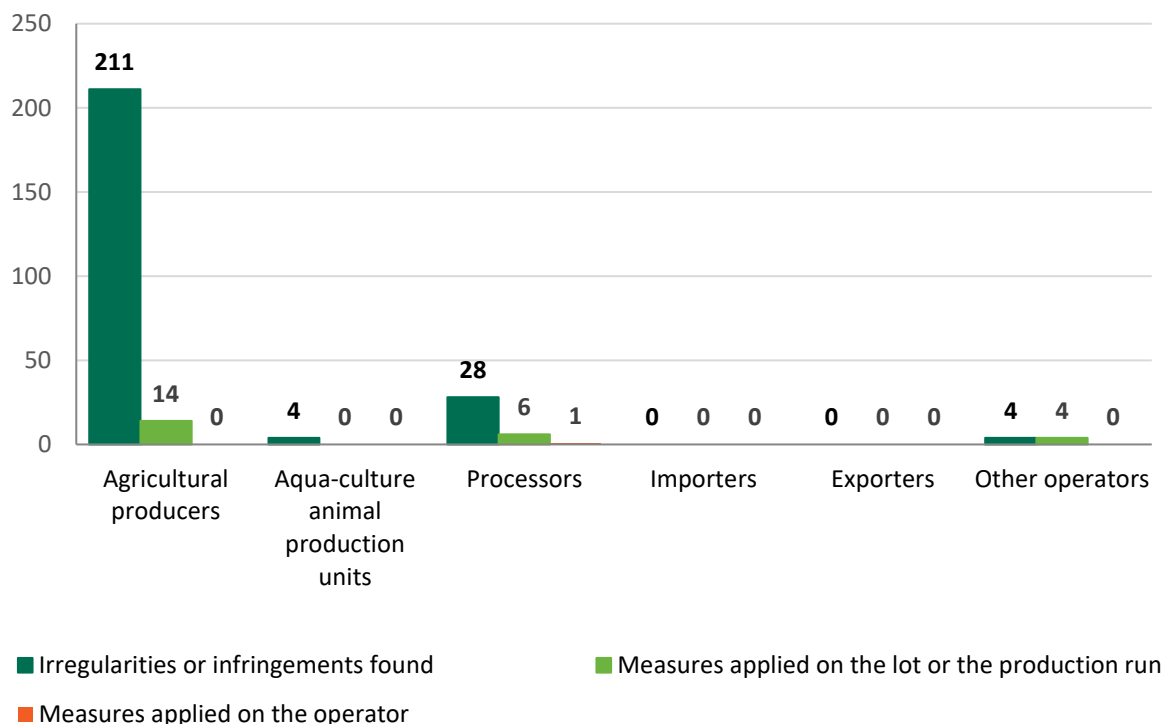
2.95 In 2022, there were 6,361 registered organic operators in the UK. A total of 6,053 announced and 763 unannounced inspections and visits were undertaken.

2.96 The table below shows additional risk-based inspections carried out in 2022. A derogation had been 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 COVID-19 pandemic. This derogation ended on 31 December 2021, so in 2022 the requirement returned to 10%.

Number of additional risk-based inspections of organic operators in UK from 2022/23

Organic operators	GB-ORG-02	GB-ORG-04	GB-ORG-05	GB-ORG-06	GB-ORG-13	GB-ORG-17
Agricultural Products	76	2	215	17	21	28
Aqua-culture animal production units	0	0	2	0	0	0
Processors	22	19	243	9	0	5
Importers	18	16	0	3	0	1
Exporters	1	0	0	0	0	0
Other Operators	32	28	37	3	0	0

Figure 16 - Chart showing organic operator infringements and control measures in the UK for 2022/23



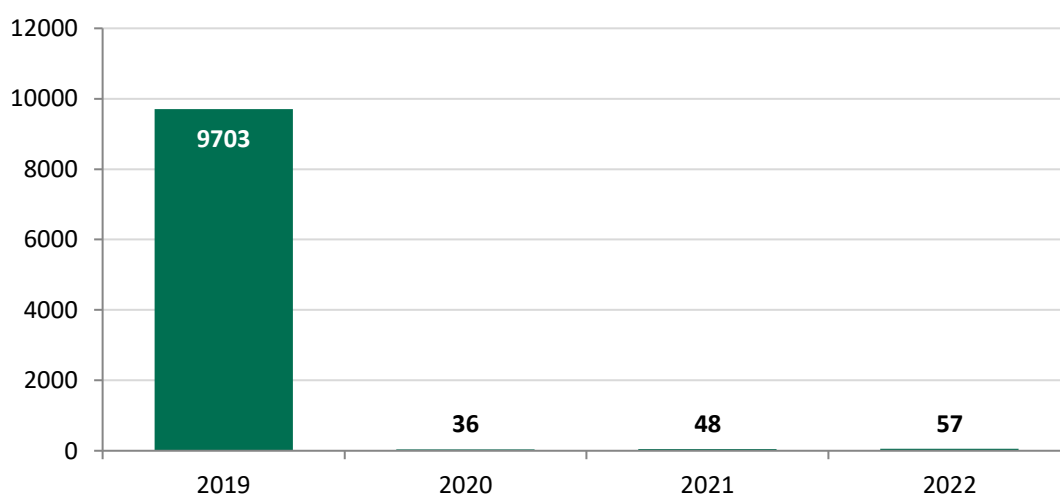
2.97 Infringements in 2022 related primarily to agricultural producers. The majority of these infringements were related to poor or inaccurate record keeping - for example, inputs used on farm, medicinal applications not properly recorded, and producers purchasing non-organic stock without the required prior approval from their control body or from Defra. There were some instances where non-organic feed was fed to organic livestock. In some cases unauthorised substances were found in products, which led to formal investigations.

Agri-food Geographical Indications

2.98 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. The number of inspections increased in 2022, with 57 inspections carried out. No compliance issues were recorded that would result in harm to human or animal wellbeing, or mislead the consumer.

2.99 The data in the chart below covers the 2022 calendar year.

Figure 17 - Chart showing the number of Agri-food Geographical Indications inspections in GB from 2019 - 2022¹⁰



Natural mineral waters

2.100 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

¹⁰ The data covers the 2022 calendar year.

recognition of their products for marketing as natural mineral waters in Great Britain, would come to an end on 7th January 2022.

- 2.101 All natural mineral waters of non-UK origin had to seek recognition from their respective 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 also provided guidance to producers obtaining recognition to market their waters in Great Britain.
- 2.102 From 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022, 30 applications were granted recognition. Details of non-UK natural mineral waters recognised by GB, UK natural mineral waters recognised in the UK, and UK natural mineral waters recognised by the EU and EEA, can be found at [Natural mineral waters: lists of recognised products](#).

Veterinary residues surveillance

- 2.103 Compliance was observed in 99.7% of all samples analysed under the National Surveillance Programme in 2022. Of the 32,825 GB samples analysed under the Programme, residues above the maximum residue level (MRL) or other action limit were detected in 108 samples. This high level of compliance is in line with levels seen in recent years.
- 2.104 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 [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
- 2.105 Investigations into non-compliant samples found no evidence of the misuse or abuse of hormonal growth promoters, thyrostatic, beta-agonists or prohibited substances.
- 2.106 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 human error, either owing to dosing errors when administering veterinary medicinal products, or failure to adhere to withdrawal periods for these veterinary medicinal products, as per the instructions for use.

2.107 Similarly, 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 and 2022 for anthelmintics, antibiotics, avermectin, coccidiostats, heavy metals, and NSAIDs

Animals tested	Residue tested for	2021		2022	
		Number of inspections or samples	Non-compliant residues found	Number of inspections or samples	Non-compliant residues found
Calves	Anti-microbials	343	12	328	4
Pigs	Anti-microbials	1,692	0	1,674	1
Cattle	Anti-microbials	1,264	3	1,255	0
Milk*	Anti-microbials	1,470	1	1,366	0
Sheep	Antimicrobials	2,164	2	2,076	5
Poultry***	Antimicrobials	1,911	1	1,917	0
Cattle	Anthelmintics	571	2	562	1
Sheep	Anthelmintics	1,371	4	1,315	3
Pig	Anthelmintics	285	0	282	1
Sheep	Avermectin	461	2	442	1
Aquaculture**	Avermectin	109	0	105	0
Cattle	Avermectin	310	1	306	0
Milk*	Avermectin	296	1	272	0
Sheep	Coccidiostats	307	0	295	0
Poultry***	Coccidiostats	1,371	0	1,375	3
Game****	Coccidiostats	14	3	14	2
Cattle	Heavy metals	60	3	59	1
Honey	Heavy metals	15	0	14	0
Horses	Heavy metals	1	0	1	1
Sheep	Heavy metals	49	3	47	3
Cattle	NSAIDS	358	1	352	1
Milk*	NSAIDS	147	0	136	1
Horse	NSAIDS	36	0	10	0

*Bovine milk only

**Salmon and trout, combined

***Broilers, layers, breeders, turkeys combined

****Partridge, pheasant, quail combined

Pesticides monitoring

2.108 The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) carried out a monitoring programme in 2022. The table below shows numbers of samples taken and the percentage of samples tested containing residues over the MRL.

Number of samples taken and % of samples tested containing residues over the MRL in the UK / GB¹¹ between 2017 – 2022

Year	Number of samples	Types of food	% containing residues	% with residues above the MRL
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
2022	2,671	27	57.88	2.06

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

2.110 In 2020 the Secretary of State for Defra, 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 official controls to be undertaken across the plant protection products (PPPs) supply chain in Great Britain. Operators placing professional PPPs on the market have been within scope of official controls since autumn 2021, and users of professional PPPs from summer 2022. HSE and LAs undertake official controls on behalf of GB governments.

2.111 During 2021/22 the HSE carried out 53 inspections of distributors of professional PPPs, which resulted in 24 Formal Letters. Between the period of April and December 2021, 57 PPP samples were obtained for formulation analysis. Of the 57 samples obtained, analysis identified that four samples (7% of total obtained) were inconsistent with their authorisation, and a further six samples (10% of total obtained) were not compliant with the physicochemical tests. Between January and March 2022 a further two additional samples were obtained, after the first samples were tested and found to have inconsistencies. Both of these additional samples were again found to be inconsistent with their authorisation. Overall, out of the 57 sample products tested, four have been taken forward for additional action.

2.112 The Chemicals Regulation Division (CRD) of HSE received 87 concerns in 2021 about the marketing and use of PPPs, which resulted in advice or an enforcement notice in two cases. In 2022, one concern was received, which resulted in advice in that case.

2.113 The Field Operations Division (FOD) of HSE investigated 12 PPP cases in 2021/22.

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 in the animal feed sector

2.114 In England in 2021/22¹², 97.1% of planned feed inspections were delivered. All LAs contributed to the planning process for controls to be delivered in 2021/22. The FSA continued to review and make necessary improvements to the feed inspection system.

2.115 In Wales in 2021/22, 83.6% of planned feed inspections were delivered. This was a marked improvement on the previous year's unusually low rate of delivery. The improvement marks a return of resources available for official feed controls, that had been diverted to support the Welsh Government response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

2.116 Data returns for 2021/22 showed a 2.8% 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*	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Farms and primary producers	126,103	129,878	132,290
Feed manufacturers	1,662	1,933	2,215
Food businesses placing co-products and surplus food into the feed chain	6,001	6,299	7,116
Importers, distributors, transporters & stores	3,995	4,545	5,019
Total	137,761	142,655	146,640

*Only main categories listed

2.117 FSS is the competent authority for the delivery of feed official controls in Scotland, and delivery is undertaken either by FSS staff or Local Authorities (under Delegated Service Level Agreements). The table below provides a breakdown of feed establishments for the last six years by business type.

Number of feed businesses in Scotland

Feed businesses by type	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Primary producers	15,423	22,819	22,819	22,288	22,371	23,783
Manufacturers	130	141	141	154	190	204

¹² In both England and Wales, feed statistics are reported 1 year in arrears.

Feed businesses by type	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Food businesses placing co-products into the feed chain	278	329	329	307	295	347
Food businesses placing surplus product into the feed chain	764*	764	764	764	746	846
Importers	6	6	6	6	6	6
Distributors	279	318	318	328	328	372
Stores	169	233	233	225	254	306
Retailers	187	166	166	175	157	207

* New category added in 2017/18

GB feed controls and enforcement

2.118 In England and Wales during 2021/22, there was a 39.5% increase in numbers of inspections undertaken by LAs. The number of feed business operators being given advice increased by 31.3% compared to 2020/21. The number of revisits increased by 73%. These increases in activity were due to the easing of COVID-19 restrictions, enabling LAs to work towards pre-pandemic intervention levels.

2.119 In Scotland in 2021/22, inspection visits took place at 34% of planned premises. With continued COVID-19 restrictions and Delegated Service Level Agreement (DSLA) confirmation, visits were not undertaken until around the end of Quarter 2. There were no visits in LA areas not covered by DSLAs.

Number of interventions undertaken in GB, 2019-2022

Types of control / intervention	2019/20		2020/21		2021/22	
	E & W	Scot	E & W	Scot¹³	E & W	Scot
Number of inspections	5,609	499	3,387	0	4,724	425
Number of revisits	151	5	63	0	109	0
Number of feed business operators given advice	2,991	182	1,957	0	2,570	80
Number of sampling visits	156	54	100	0	105	78

¹³ In 2020/21, no on-site feed inspection activity was undertaken in Scotland due to COVID-19.

Reported use of formal enforcement activity in GB, 2019-2022

	2019/20		2020/21		2021/22	
Enforcement activity	Eng & Wales	Scot	Eng & Wales	Scot ¹⁴	Eng & Wales	Scot
Written warnings for non-compliance identified for the first time + not an immediate threat to feed safety	608	4	399	0	495	115
Improvement notices on issue which required attention or not actioned after written warnings	33	0	44	0	7	0
Other formal actions to address serious feed breaches	26	28	19	0	6	0

2.120 The number of written warnings issued in England and Wales increased by 24% in 2021/22. This increase was due to improved targeting of inspection activity. Improvement notices issued dropped 84.1%, from 44 in 2020/21 to 7 in 2021/22. The use of other formal actions to address serious feed breaches also dropped significantly - by 68.4%, from 19 in 2020/21 to 6 in 2021/22. This suggests that non-compliance is being addressed, primarily using informal enforcement actions (written warnings), whilst the need for formal action has reduced compared to the previous year.

LA and DC animal feed sampling in GB

2.121 According to the Food Standards Agency's UK Food Surveillance System (UKFSS), LAs reported carrying out 434 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% 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.

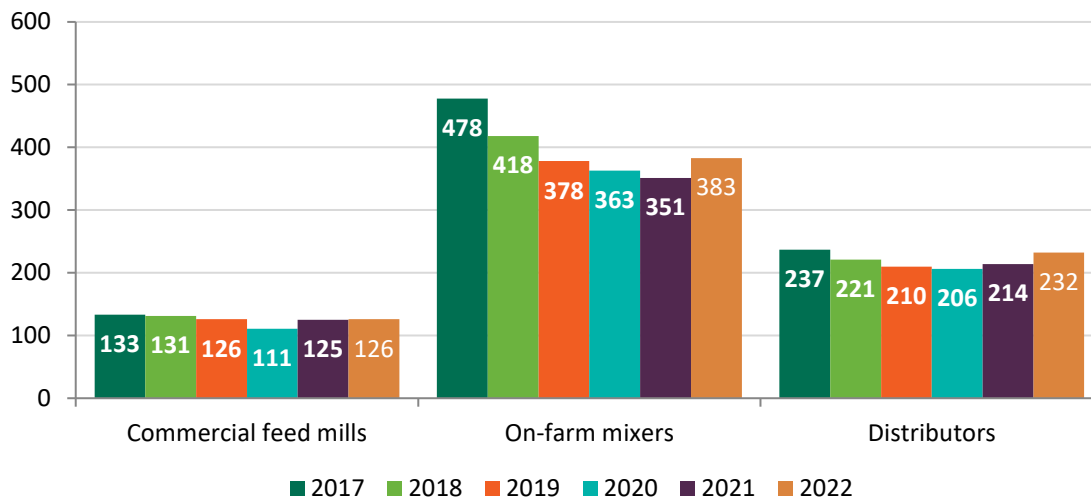
2.122 According to UKFSS, samples in England and Wales were tested for 1,366 analytes including heavy metals, salmonella, and mycotoxins.

Inspection of feed business operators by VMD

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

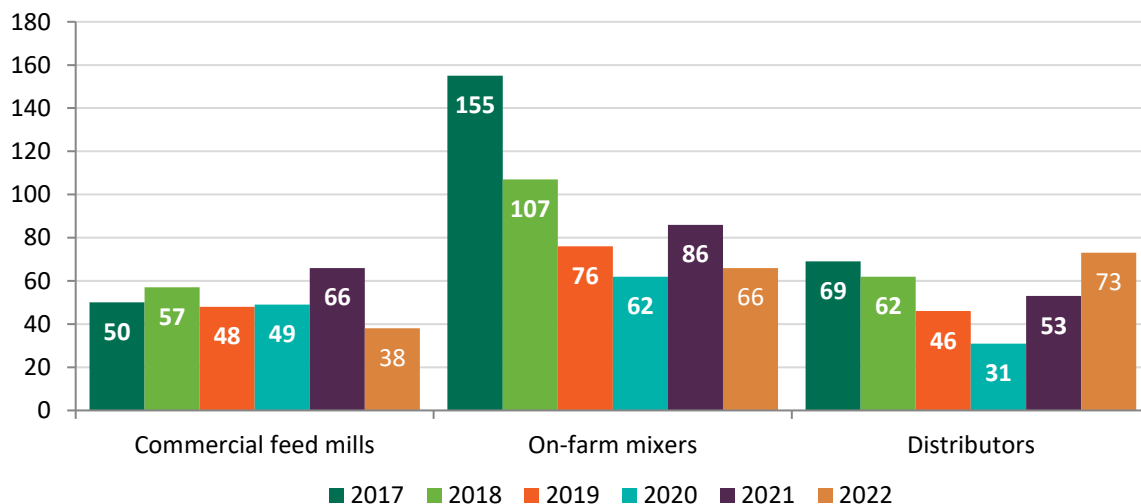
¹⁴ In 2020/21, no on-site feed inspection activity was undertaken in Scotland due to COVID-19.

Figure 18 - Chart showing the number of approved feed establishments in GB from 2017 - 2022



2.124 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 feedingstuffs, or from the unintended feeding of feedingstuffs containing those products.

Figure 19 - Chart showing total feed inspections in GB from 2017 – 2022



2.125 For inspections carried out in 2022, 15.8% of commercial feed mills were fully compliant, compared with 25.8% in 2021. A total of 31.8% of on-farm manufacturers were fully compliant, compared to 44.2% in 2021, and 42.5% of distributors were fully compliant, compared to 43.4% in 2021. This shows a slight decrease in fully compliant feed manufacturers and distributors.

2.126 A total of six 'other' visits were carried out to feed business operators. These were unplanned visits which diverted resources from scheduled inspections. There were

also six visits recorded as 'no inspection carried out', which were either commercial feed mills, or farms where there was no one at the establishments. These six instances have not been included in the figures in the table above.

Table of GB Sampling results for 2022/23

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	18	15	4	3
Premixture or feedingstuff tested for 'carryover'	0	0	0	0
Premixture or feedingstuff tested as part of residue investigation	0	0	27	23
Premixture or feedingstuff tested as part of other investigation	0	0	0	0
Premixture or feedingstuff tested for 10 different AGPs	7	7	0	0

2.127 In summary, feed business operators manufacturing and distributing specified feed additives, premixtures, and medicated feedingstuffs, were generally compliant with legal requirements. Where non-compliance was observed, it was dealt with in accordance with the VMD's enforcement policy.

Protein in animal feed controls

2.128 Information for Great Britain in 2022 on the inspections and sampling programme that monitors for the presence of non-authorised 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 2022

Stage / inspection point	2021	2022
Import of feed materials	28	23
Storage of feed materials	37	33
Feed mills	461	448
Home mixers/mobile mixers	79	67
Intermediaries of feedingstuffs	11	11
Means of transport	10	11
Livestock Farms	1,302	1,124
Total	1,928	1,717

2.129 In Great Britain, no non-compliant samples were taken in 2022.

Number of samples tested for processed animal proteins in GB in 2022

Establishment type	Number of feed materials samples tested	Number of compound feedingstuffs for ruminants samples tested	Number of compound feedingstuffs for non-ruminants samples tested
At import	44	36	2
Feed mills	663	956	298
Intermediaries/ storage	135	24	0
Means of transport	0	2	0
Home mixers/ mobile mixers*	18	59	29
On farm	158	1,227	201
Fats and vegetable oils	0	0	0
Total	1,018	2,304	530

2.130 In 2022, 3,852 samples were collected in GB. There were no non-compliances relating to the presence of banned animal protein in animal feed. The NFA runs from 1st April to 31st March annually: the figures provided correspond to the period from April 2022 to March 2023.

Number of sampling inspection visits and samples collected in GB from 2017 – 2022

Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of inspection visits	2,192	2,303	2,250	2,044	1,928	1,717
Number of collected samples	4,751	5,250	4,818	4,327	4,128	3,852

2.131 Since 2020, various high priority and unpredictable incidents have consumed APHA resource, and also 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

2.132 There were 30 illegal feeding incidents in livestock holdings in the 2022 reporting 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.

FSS

2.133 In 2022, FSS managed a total of four incidents relating to feed including presumptive Salmonella positive in dog food, Salmonella Teshie detected in ground ginger used in feed, outbreak of Salmonella Infantis T5.2132 with links to raw pet food; and a RASFF notification regarding excess Selenium in complete dog food.

Official controls in the animal health sector

Exotic diseases

2.134 APHA staff investigated 542 reports of suspected exotic diseases in GB in 2022. The following diseases were detected:

- Ten cases of European Bat Lyssavirus were reported in England in September
- 237 confirmed infected premises of HPAI in poultry across England, Wales and Scotland
- Two confirmed cases of CEM
- One confirmed case of West Nile virus in a horse which had spent time in an endemic country

2.135 The table below shows the total number of official investigations for 2022.

Animal health Investigations in GB in 2022

Disease (add extra lines as appropriate)	Number of investigations	
	England & Wales	Scotland
African Horse Sickness	0	0
Anthrax	0	0
Aujeszky's	4	1
Avian Notifiable (Avian Influenza/ Newcastle Disease)	383	41
Bat Rabies	12	0
Bluetongue	10	0
Bovine Brucellosis*	44	0
Brucellosis (excl. bovine brucellosis)	3	1
Contagious Equine Metritis	2	0
Dourine	5	0
Enzootic Bovine Leukosis (EBL)**	4	0
Equine Viral Arteritis	4	1
Foot and Mouth Disease	7	0
Glanders	7	0
Rabies	4	1
Swine Fevers	2	0
Swine Vesicular Disease	1	0
West Nile Virus***	1	0
Total	493	44

* This figure does not include samples sent by Ovs for abortion enquiries

** This figure would not include samples submitted from slaughter houses and would have been issued local reference numbers

*** This figure would not include private submissions by vets via the TTE process

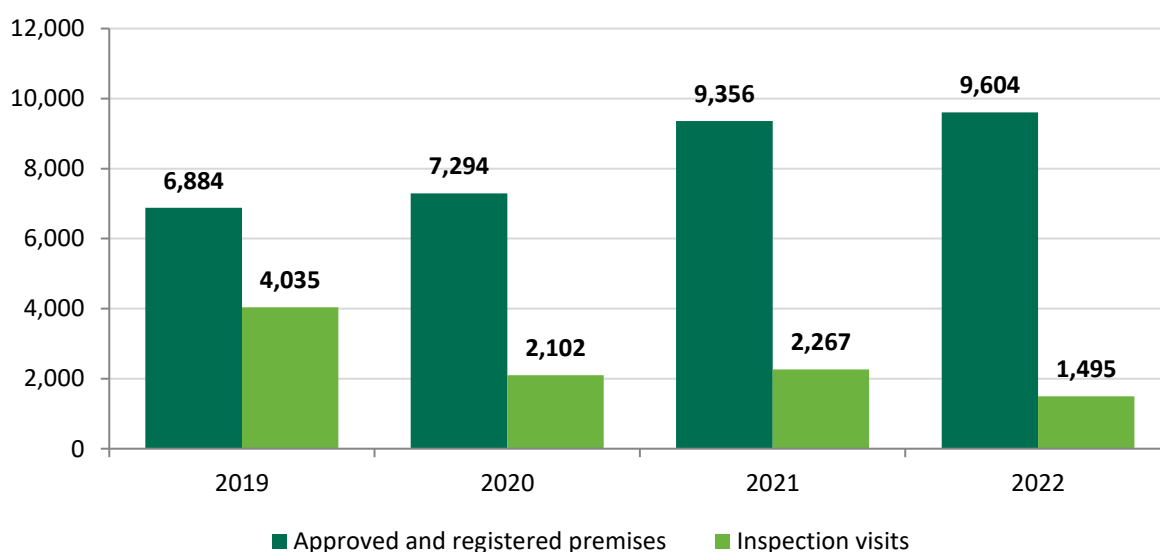
2.136 Under section 80 of the Animal Health Act 1981 (as amended), Defra is required to produce an [Annual Report](#) to Parliament on the enforcement actions (including convictions) of local authorities in England and Wales, and the compensation paid

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 2022 Annual Report was laid before the Scottish Parliament on 31st March 2023.

Animal by-Products (ABP)

- 2.137 During 2022, APHA issued 140 new approvals to ABP establishments in GB, and there were 555 new registrations of ABP establishments. A significant number of these approvals were for operators in the pet food sector, which is a growing market area, especially the raw pet food sector. For new registrations, around one-third related to ABP transporters or hauliers. This industry sector accounted for the largest proportion of new registrations.
- 2.138 The overall number of risk-based visits to ABP establishments remained relatively constant compared with 2021, with a very minimal increase. As can be seen in the chart below, delivery levels in 2022 were still below the pre-pandemic levels of 2020. This was due to continued staff resource pressure - from disease outbreaks, for example Avian Influenza; and from working with operators to prepare for changes in import and export requirements due to be implemented in this period.
- 2.139 A number of ABP operators requiring new approvals/registrations, or changes to their existing approvals, because of these new requirements. These pressures caused some disruption to the delivery of other business-as-usual ABP inspection work, and impeded a return 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 - 2022



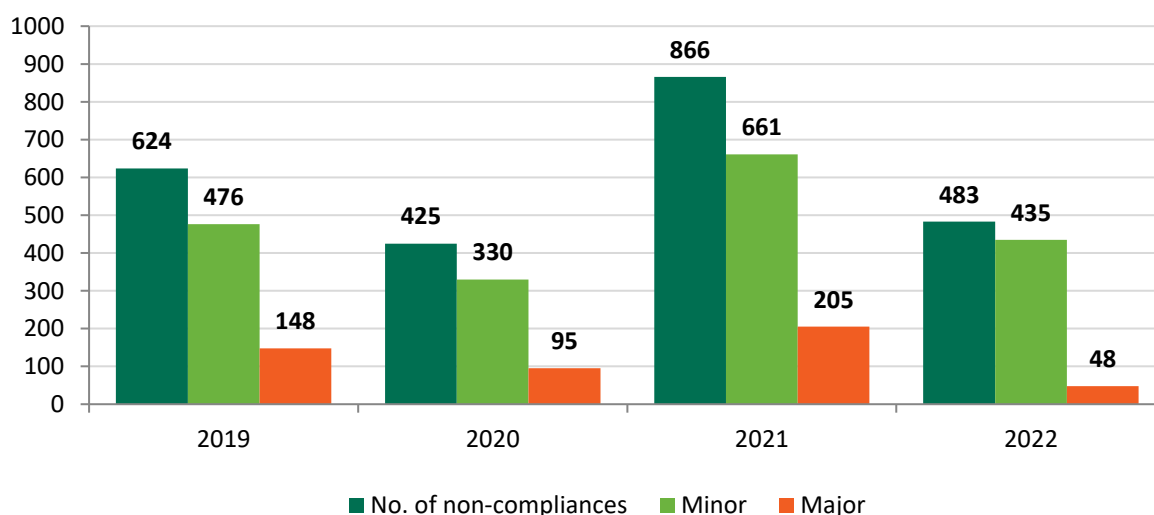
2.140 In 2022, the number of approval (252) and registration (677) requests continued to increase.

2.141 The total number of non-compliances decreased in 2022, as set out in Figure 21 (below). This may reflect the unexpected increase in non-compliance rates in the previous year, which in turn may have arisen due to the limited ability for inspectors to visit premises during the Covid movement restrictions in 2020. The level of non-compliances in 2022 is more comparable to that of 2019, indicating an improvement in compliance due to a more regular APHA presence at ABP premises.

2.142 The pet food sector accounted for a significant percentage of non-compliances, with approximately 37% of inspections identifying a non-compliance. This was nonetheless a slight improvement on the 42% recorded in 2021. There was a similar pattern of non-compliance at ABP storage premises, where the rates reduced slightly from 35% in 2021 to 28% in 2022.

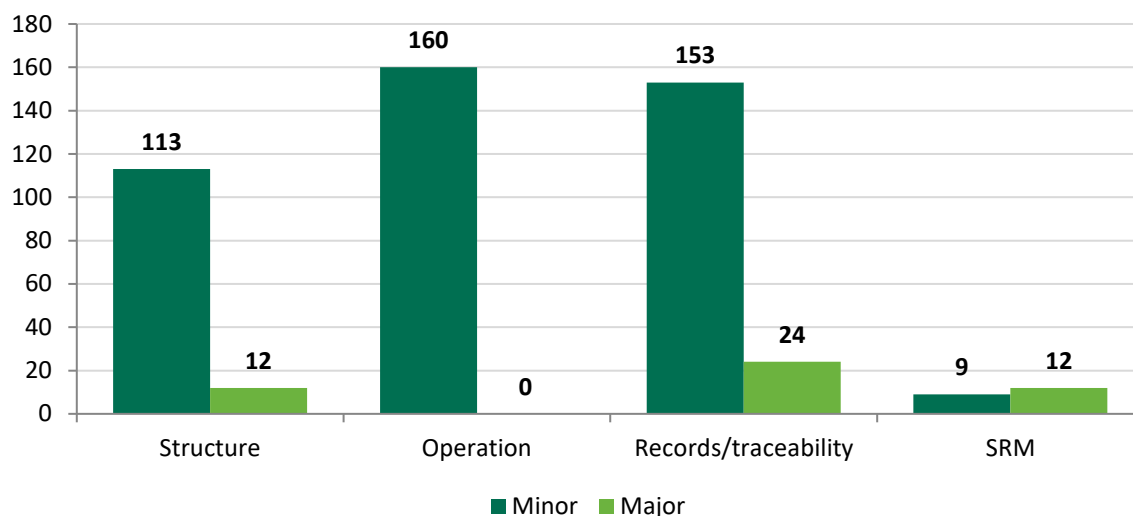
2.143 Non-compliance findings during inspections at ABP processing plants and TSE Sampling Premises - the industry sectors considered to be higher risk in terms of TSE controls - were approximately 16% and 7% respectively. This was also a slight improvement on the non-compliance rates of 19% and 9% for 2021.

Figure 21 - Chart showing overall GB Animal by Product (ABP) non-compliance scores for APHA risk based and follow up visits from 2019 - 2022



2.144 There was no significant pattern to these non-compliances: the most common minor non-compliances continue to be found in records & traceability, and operational issues. Records & traceability account for around 50% of the major non-compliances.

Figure 22 - Chart showing the number of GB ABP non-compliances disclosed at visits in 2022



Bovine Tuberculosis (TB)

2.145 In Great Britain during 2022, as part of its TB eradication (England and Wales) and surveillance (Scotland) programme activities, APHA recorded:

- 72,188 herd tests, with 3,588 herds experiencing a new TB incident (positive herds). Of those herds with a new TB incident, 1,919 had their Officially Tuberculosis Free status Withdrawn (OTFW) following detection of at least one TB test reactor with typical lesions of TB, and/or one animal in which *Mycobacterium bovis* was identified by bacteriological culture or PCR testing of postmortem tissue samples.
- Approximately 10 million TB tests completed in bovine animals (domestic cattle, water buffalo and farmed bison) - including 638,886 statutory pre and post movement tests.
- A total of 32,099 cattle slaughtered for TB control purposes. This included, in decreasing order of frequency; tuberculin skin test reactors, animals positive to ancillary blood tests, direct contacts, and inconclusive skin test reactors slaughtered before their re-test.

2.146 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). For these, 6,732 standalone tracing skin tests were carried out in 2022, and 91% of tracings were initiated within the target time (of 13 days).

2.147 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 2017 – 2022

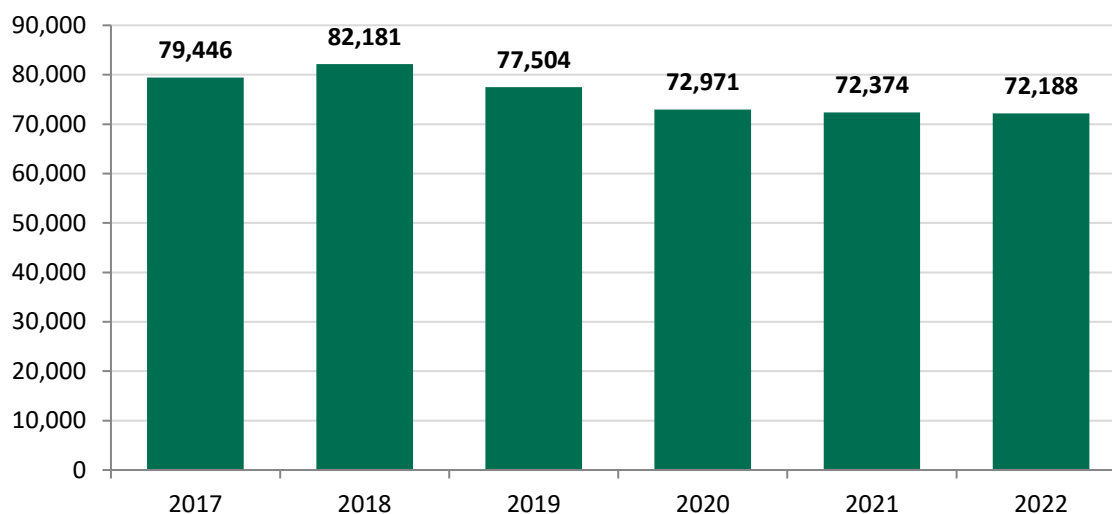
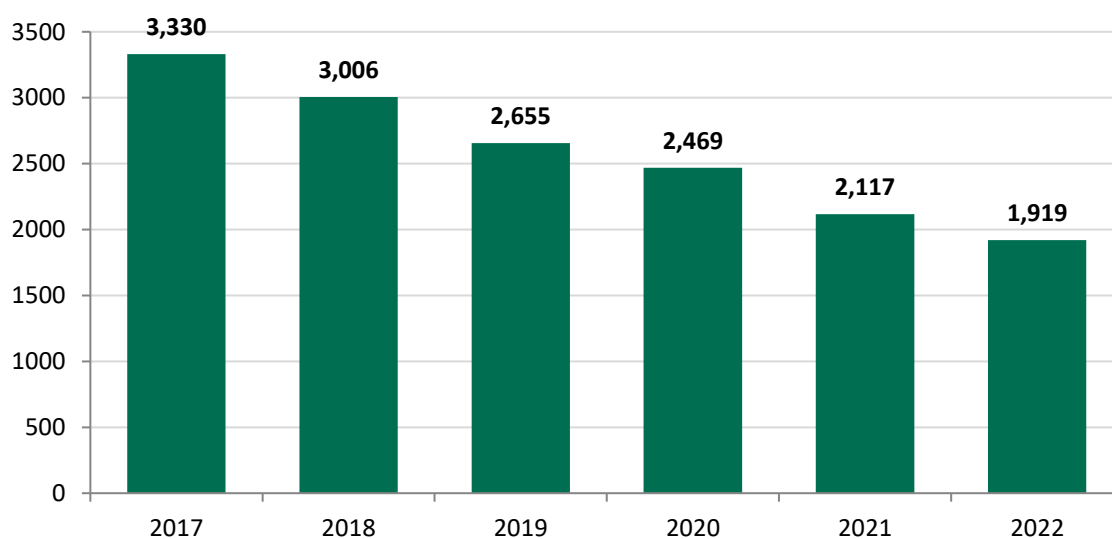


Figure 24 - Chart showing the number of new herd incidents where TB free herd status was withdrawn in GB from 2017 - 2022



England and Wales

2.148 In 2022, for TB surveillance and control purposes, England continued to be divided into three risk areas:

- a High Risk Area (HRA) spanning the South West of England, in which cattle herds are tested every six months
- 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.

- 2.149 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.
- 2.150 Overall, the TB descriptive statistics for 2022 for England point to a continuing general downward trend for the herd incidence rate and herd prevalence of TB. The tighter TB testing regimes and control measures for cattle herds introduced since 2010 resulted initially in the detection of more positive herds and animals.
- 2.151 The percentage of herds officially TB free in England was 95.5% at the end of 2022, a slight increase on 2021. The herd incidence rate for 2022 was 8.4 new herd incidents per 100 herd years at risk¹⁵. The last time it was lower was in the year to March 2011, when it was 8.1. Herd incidence where officially TB free herd status is withdrawn (OTFW) was 3.9 – the lowest rate since 2006.
- 2.152 In 2022, 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 were tested at least once 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 which emerged 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.
- 2.153 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 620 in the 12 months to March 2023 - representing a 53.4% decrease. In 2022, 198 new TB herd breakdowns were recorded in the High TB Area East - an increase of 15.8% on 2021. The new TB breakdowns in the High TB Area West reduced to 186 from 262, a decrease of 29% from 2021. However, progress varied by TB Area, as 2022 saw the highest number of new TB breakdowns in the Intermediate TB Area North (at 132) since the start of the data series in 1996.
- 2.154 In 2021/22 the Welsh Government [consulted on a refreshed TB Eradication Programme](#). The consultation included proposals to:
- Re-introduce Pre-Movement Testing for cattle movements within and from the Low TB Area.
 - Expand Post-Movement Testing for cattle movements into the Intermediate TB Areas from higher disease incidence areas.
 - Change TB compensation arrangements.

¹⁵ 'herd years at risk' – a measure of the total time that herds under surveillance during that period were at risk of infection – as set out in the methodology paper [bovinetb-herdmethod-09dec15.pdf](#)

2.155 The [summary of responses](#) was published in May 2022, and work began on taking forward a number of key changes to inform the development of a refreshed TB Eradication Delivery Plan for 2023.

Scotland

2.156 In 2022 in Scotland there were 17 confirmed TB breakdowns, which was slightly higher than usual. This followed a number of tracings being sourced from a significant TB breakdown: however, the spread of disease was contained. There are no concerns for Scotland's Official TB Free status.

Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSE)

2.157 APHA delivered on all performance indicators within the agreed criteria for the 2022 period. The table below outlines BSE, TSE, and scrapie performance indicators for Great Britain in 2022.

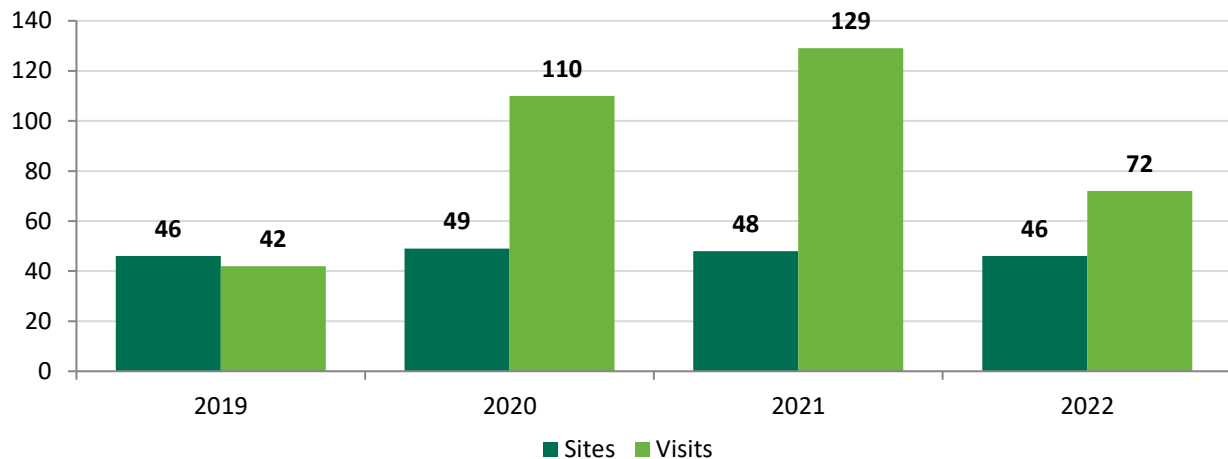
BSE, TSE and Scrapie performance indicators for 2022 in Great Britain

Performance indicator	Number of investigations	% completed within agreed target
Investigation of on-farm suspect BSE reports	1	100
Investigation of on-farm suspect Scrapie reports	1	100
Tracing of confirmed classical and atypical Scrapie cases	0	N/A
Risk-based inspection of approved TSE sampling sites and controlled hide stores	72	N/A
Restriction of eligible BSE offspring and cohorts	2 (eligible offspring & cohorts of the two BSE investigations were restricted as required)	100

2.158 There were two BSE suspects in 2022. One was an on-farm suspect BSE report in Scotland, the other a fallen stock animal in Wales that had a preliminary positive TSE test result from the fallen stock survey - which, following full confirmatory testing in the National Reference Laboratory, produced negative results allowing disease to be negated. The on-farm BSE suspect was a bovine (showing nervous signs which may be consistent with clinical BSE), reported by the farmer. The case was left on observation for a number of days and eventually BSE was ruled out, on the basis of progression of clinical signs which were not consistent with BSE.

2.159 No new cases of classical scrapie were recorded in 2022. All the on-farm investigation Scrapie suspects were restricted immediately and visited according to priorities.

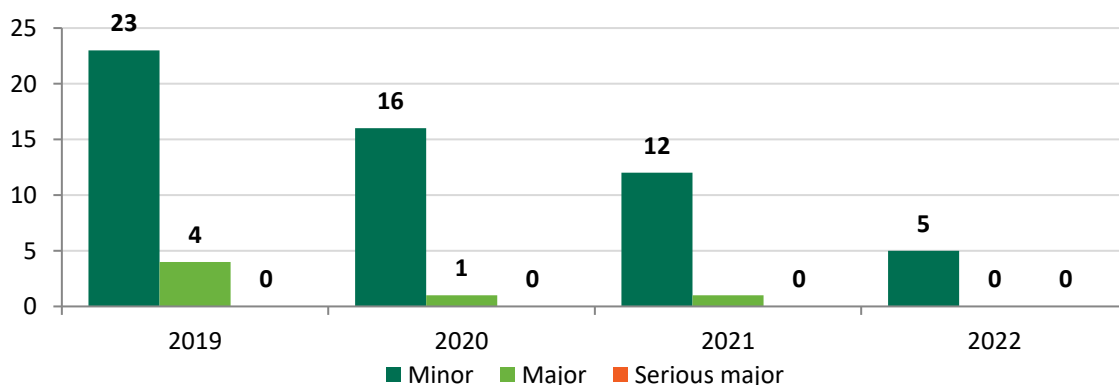
Figure 25 - Chart showing number of TSE approved sampling sites and visits in GB from 2019 – 2022



2.160 The number of TSE approved sampling sites remained stable over the three-year period. The number of risk-based inspections was slightly lower when compared to those carried out in 2021, due to ongoing staff resource pressure created by the number of Avian Influenza cases in 2022. Each site had four scheduled inspections profiled for a year. Even though it was not possible to achieve 100% delivery of those profiled visits, efforts were made to ensure that each premises received at least one inspection during 2022.

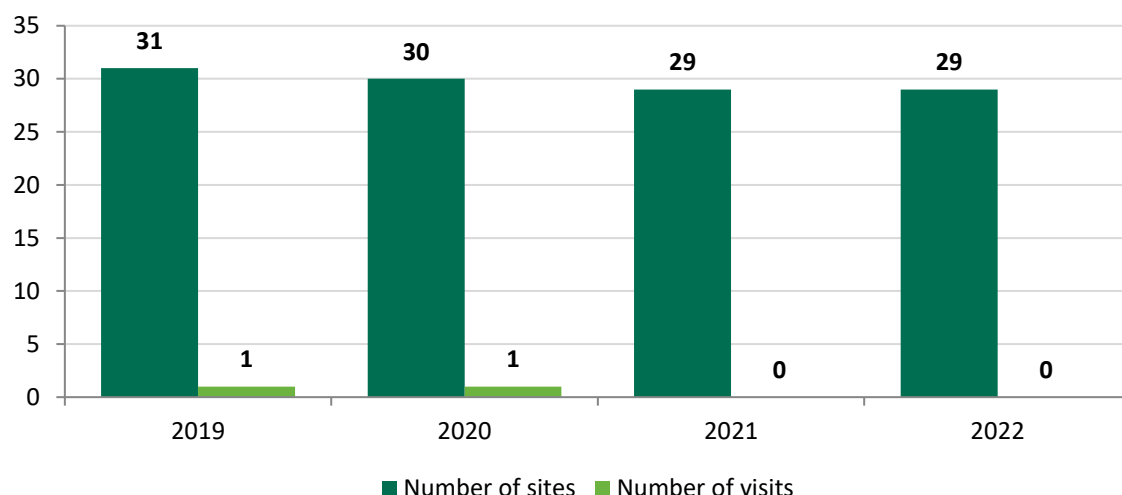
2.161 In Great Britain, five non-compliances were identified at TSE sampling sites during 2022, all being minor non-compliances. The non-compliances mainly related to record keeping issues. No major or serious major non-compliances were identified during 2022.

Figure 26 - Chart showing the number of non-compliances at GB TSE sampling sites from 2019 – 2022



2.162 The number of controlled hide establishments was unchanged in 2022. As a result of ongoing resource pressures and priorities in other work areas, no site visits were carried out in 2022.

Figure 27 - Chart showing the number of GB controlled hide establishments and the number of inspection visits from 2019 - 2022



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

Surveillance for BSE

2.163 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.

2.164 In 2022, 103,521 cattle were tested in Great Britain under the [active surveillance programme](#). No Classical or Atypical BSE cases were detected through active or passive surveillance in 2022. The numbers of confirmed TSE cases in Great Britain remained very low. Published [TSE surveillance statistics](#) provide further information.

2.165 Whilst there were no cases of BSE in GB in 2022, a final report on the 2021 classical BSE case in England is available in the [epidemiological report](#).

Scrapie in sheep in GB

GB surveillance for scrapie from 2020 – 2022

Type of surveillance (Sheep over 18 months in Active Surveillance surveys)	2020	2021	2022
Total slaughtered for human consumption	5,491	5,509	7,603
Total submitted as fallen stock	13,776	13,652	12,005
Total number of sheep tested	19,267	19,161	19,608

Positive Cases from Active and Passive Surveillance	2020	2021	2022
Number of classical scrapie cases	0	0	0
Number of atypical scrapie cases	13	11	11
Total positive scrapie cases	13	11	11

- 2.166 In 2022 in Great Britain, no classical cases of scrapie were identified in sheep through Active or Passive Surveillance. Eleven cases of atypical scrapie were identified in sheep through Active or Passive Surveillance. Eight atypical cases were submitted to the Fallen Stock survey, and two cases were submitted to the Abattoir survey. One case of a typical scrapie was confirmed through Passive surveillance.
- 2.167 [The Fallen Stock survey](#) was the main contributor to the detection of atypical scrapie. Eleven new sheep holdings joined the Atypical Scrapie Monitoring (ASM) scheme in 2022, leaving a total of 41 holdings with monitoring restrictions for confirmed atypical scrapie and none with Classical Scrapie.
- 2.168 During the monitoring period, fallen and healthy slaughtered sheep aged over 18 months were tested for scrapie. In total, 284 fallen stock sheep were submitted from atypical scrapie holdings.
- 2.169 Optional schemes are available for keepers exporting animals to the EU, including the Scrapie Monitoring Scheme provided privately by Scotland's Rural College (SRUC). This provides annual inspections, animal testing and a risk status award.

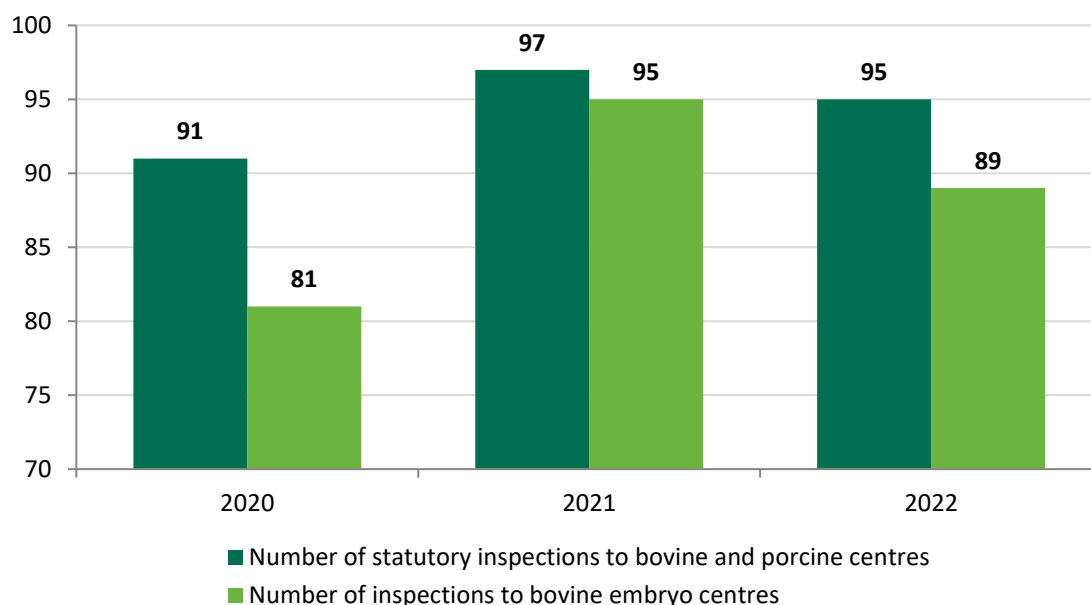
Scrapie in goats in Great Britain

- 2.170 In 2022, no classical or atypical cases of scrapie were identified in goats through Active or Passive Surveillance. There was one goat holding under the Compulsory Scrapie Flocks Scheme (CSFS), and none under the ASM. There were 504 fallen stock goats, 277 CSFS fallen stock goats and 158 CSFS annual cull goats aged over 18 months tested, and no positive case was confirmed from this surveillance route. No new goat holding entered the CSFS or AMS in 2022.

Artificial breeding controls

- 2.171 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, and controls remained broadly consistent for 2022. 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 2020 - 2022



Number of artificial breeding control activities undertaken in GB 2017/18 - 2022/23

Activity	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Number of bovine embryo collection / production / transfer teams approved	10*	3*	4*	9*	7*	4*
Number of bovine and porcine semen collection, processing and storage centres approved	2*	7*	3*	4*	4*	3*
Number of animals licensed for on-farm domestic semen collection	329	262	265	308	355	292
Number of animals approved to move onto approved AI centres	1,950	1,248	1,413	1,687	1,460	1,378
Number of animals licensed for semen export	1,881	1,204	1,366	1,625	1,357	1,326

*Embryo stores and porcine AQU approvals not included.

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

Sheep and goat identification and tracing inspections

2.173 GB Competent Authorities each met the regulatory requirement¹⁶ 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 2017 – 2022

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Total number of MS registered holdings at the start of the reporting period	112,040	114,720	108,212	109,217	136,959	122,241
Total number of holdings checked	3,561	4,216	3,602	3,468	4,350	3,957
Total number of MS registered ovine and caprine animals at the beginning of the reporting period	17,614,132	17,333,838	16,586,206	16,087,152	16,677,987	16,381,371
Total number of ovine and caprine animals in holdings checked during the reporting period	1,785,910	2,430,758	1,965,889	1,809,360	2,294,864	2,371,032

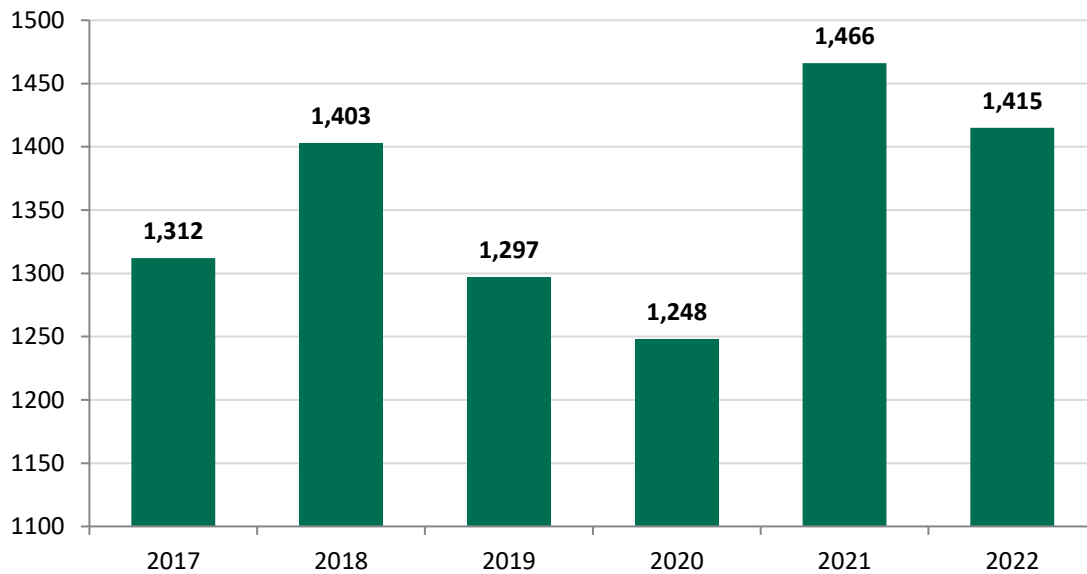
2.174 No significant changes were made to the risk selection criteria and assessment of compliance, which are allied to retained Regulation 1505/2006 and EU Statutory Management Requirement (SMR) 8.

2.175 In 2022 there was a 10.75% decrease in registered sheep and goat holdings in GB. Broken down by country, there was a 5.65% increase in Wales, a 6.2% decrease in Scotland and a 16% decrease in England. The decrease in registered holdings in England is due to a data cleanse performed by APHA in 2021. As the total number of registered holdings is recorded at the start of the reporting period, the data cleanse activity did not impact this figure until 2022.

2.176 There was a 9% decrease in holdings checked in 2022, and a 3.5% decrease in non-compliant holdings. As the percentage decrease in non-compliant holdings is lower than the percentage decrease in holdings checked, the number of non-compliant holdings has slightly increased as a proportion of holdings checked. In 2021, 33.7% of holdings checked were non-compliant: in 2022, 35.76% were non-compliant. The chart below shows the number of non-compliant holdings.

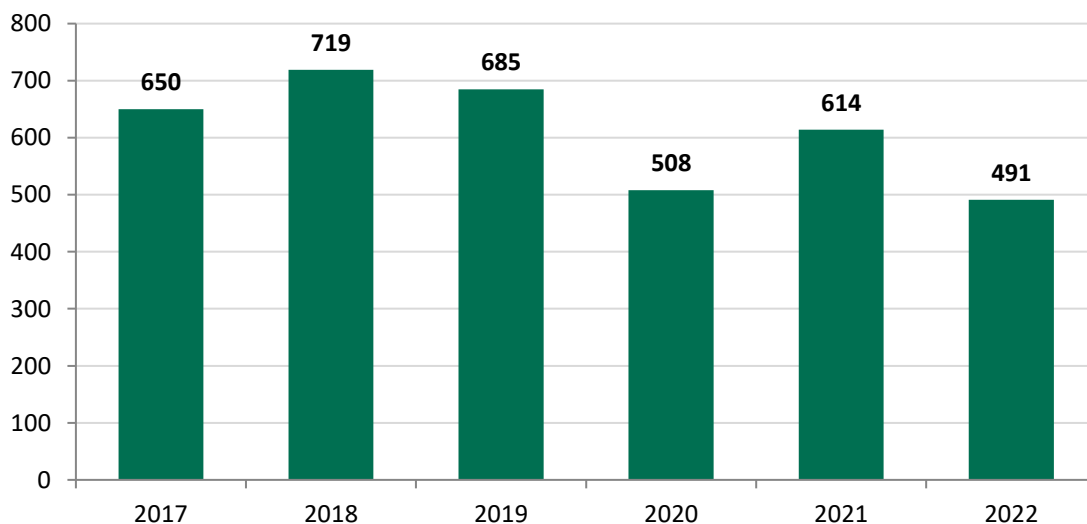
¹⁶ Retained Regulation (EC) No 21/2004, via retained Commission Regulation 1505/2006.

Figure 29 - Chart showing the number of sheep and goat holdings with non-compliances in GB from 2017 - 2022



2.177 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 2017 to 2022.

Figure 30 - Chart showing the number of sheep and goat holdings with penalties imposed in GB from 2017 – 2022



2.178 In 2022 there was a decrease of 20% in the number of holdings with penalties imposed. The proportion of non-compliant holdings to have a penalty imposed in 2022 was 35%, compared with 42% in 2021.

Cattle identification and registration

2.179 3.43% 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.

2.180 In Great Britain¹⁷, 80% of the holdings inspected were selected using a computerised risk analysis. Criteria for this included 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 2017 – 2022

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Total number of holdings registered at the start of the reporting period	72,733	71,946	70,555	68,661	68,488	66,349
Total number of holdings checked during the reporting period	2,975	2,925	2,431	2,345	2,488	2,275
Total number of holding found to be non-compliant	1,412	1,366	1,028	1,027	1,082	1,034
Total number of bovine animals registered at the start of the reporting period	8,108,766	7,964,321	7,984,511	7,781,796	7,699,276	7,703,152
Total number of bovine animals checked during the reporting period	339,633	366,698	265,352	296,518	292,908	257,921
Total number of individual bovine animals found to be non-compliant	29,491	28,115	17,470	22,500	21,358	19,255

2.181 In 2022, the results of the cattle identification inspection annual programme for Great Britain showed a mixed picture of compliance, with the number of non-compliant holdings decreasing from 1,082 to 1,034 - reflecting the slightly smaller number of holdings inspected. There was a significant decrease in the number of bovines found to be non-compliant with identification requirements, from 21,358 in 2021 to 19,255 in 2022 – a drop of 2,103.

¹⁷ Data is taken from the inspection year 2022 and is aggregated across England, Scotland, and Wales

2.182 Breaches were categorised under one of the following four headings:

- Animal identification failure
- Holding register discrepancies
- Failure to notify birth, death, or movement
- Passport anomalies

2.183 The most common types of non-compliance related to late reporting or failure to report births, movements and deaths, which accounted for 798 of the 1,034 non-compliant holdings and 11,784 of the non-compliant animals. Most animals inspected were found to have only one error.

2.184 In 2022, 9,780 bovine animals were subject to movement restrictions in GB. A total of 1,472 animals were subject to individual restrictions, and 8,243 were subject to whole herd movement restrictions. This represented 3.79% of animals subject to inspection. A total of 88 holdings were subject to a whole herd restriction, which equated to 3.87% of all inspected holdings.

2.185 The charts below show holdings with non-compliances and inspections relating to cattle ID and registration from 2020 to 2022.

Figure 31 - Chart showing the number of holdings with non-compliances for cattle identification regulations in GB from 2020 - 2022

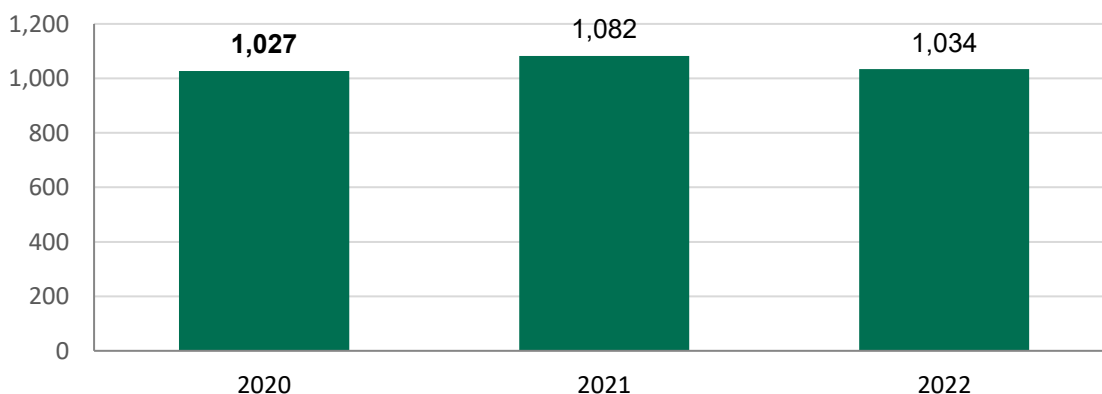
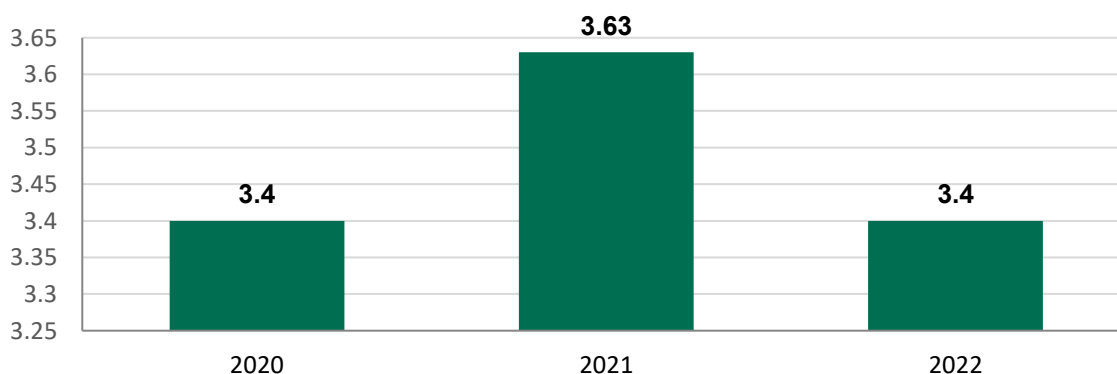


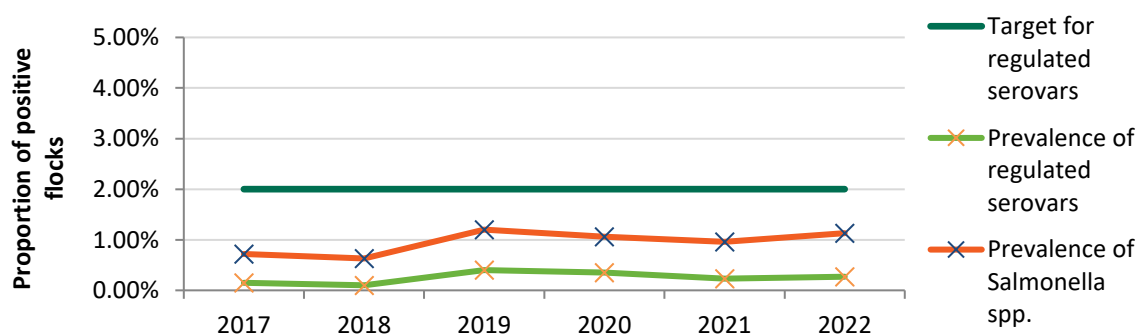
Figure 32 - Chart showing the percentage of cattle holdings inspected under the cattle identification regulations in GB from 2020 – 2022



Zoonoses

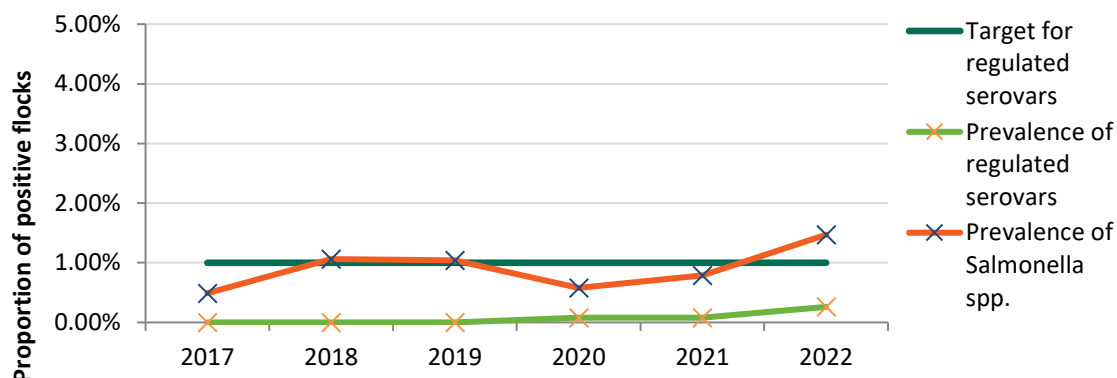
- 2.186 Control of *Salmonella* in all GB poultry sectors was maintained in 2022. England, Scotland and Wales continued to meet or exceed their respective target prevalence for regulated serovars in all five National Control Programmes (NCPs). More detail on salmonella control trends can be found in the reports listed on [Salmonella in animals and feed in Great Britain](#).
- 2.187 The *Salmonella* National Control Programme (NCP), monitoring results for the five NCPs (breeding, laying and broiler chickens and for breeding and fattening turkeys) for 2022, showed that the levels of the regulated (target) *Salmonella* serovars were all below and within the legally designated targets in each country. Following EU Exit, reporting is delivered at a national level rather than for the UK as a whole. England, Scotland and Wales all maintain separate Control Programmes for the five poultry categories, which are implemented consistently across the three nations.
- 2.188 Operator and official sampling (required by legislation) under the *Salmonella* NCPs remained in place for each sector. Defra organised the first *Salmonella* Task Force meeting in December 2021, but these were put on hold in 2022, while Defra commissioned R&D from APHA on test sensitivity.
- 2.189 The estimated prevalence of *S. Enteritidis*, *S. Typhimurium* and/ or monophasic strains of *S. Typhimurium* in adult flocks of laying hens within the NCPs in Great Britain during 2022 was 0.27%. While remaining well below the target of 2%, this is comparable with 0.23% in 2021 and 0.35% in 2020.
- 2.190 A total of 10 adult laying flocks (from eight separate holdings) tested positive for regulated *Salmonella* serovars (*S. Enteritidis* and/ or *S. Typhimurium*, including monophasic strains) in GB in 2022. Five adult flocks from four separate holdings tested positive for *S. Enteritidis* (PT8 (x3), PT14b (x1), PT20 (x1)) in 2022. Five adult flocks from four separate holdings tested positive for *S. Typhimurium* (RDNC (x4), DT75 (x1)) in 2022.

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 2017 – 2022 in Great Britain



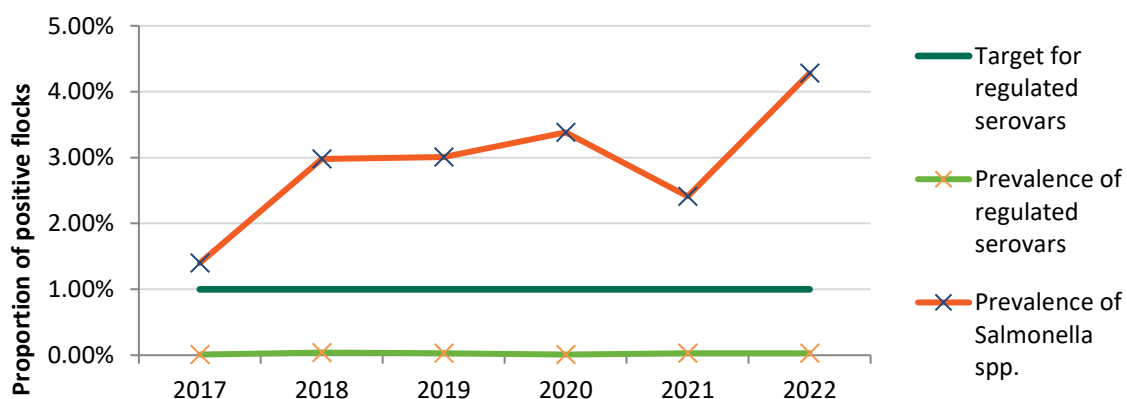
2.191 The GB breeding chicken sector had a reported prevalence for regulated (target) serovars of 0.26% for 2022, comparing favourably with the legal target of less than 1%. Three adult breeding flocks tested positive for a regulated *Salmonella* serovar in 2022. *Salmonella* Typhimurium DT75 was identified in two layer parent breeding flocks (via routine annual official sampling) on the same premises, and *S. Infantis* was identified in a broiler parent breeding flock (via routine annual official 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 2017 - 2022 in Great Britain



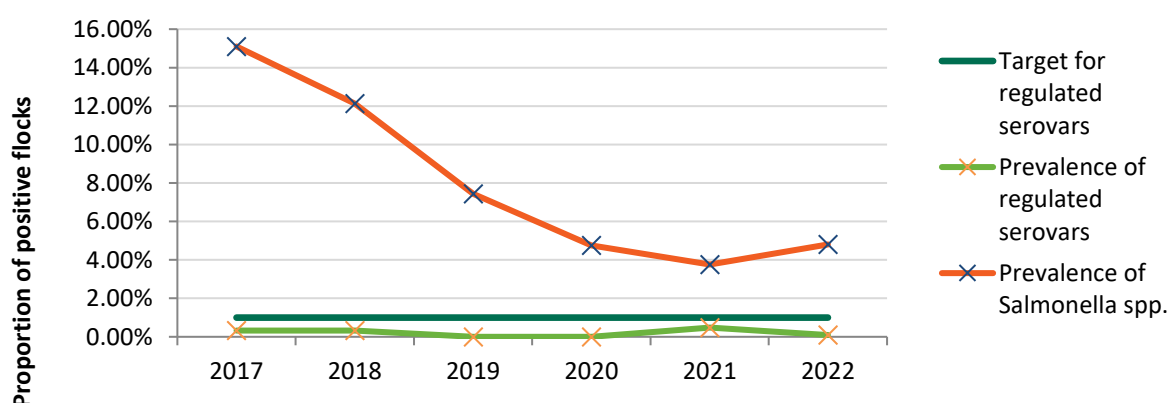
2.192 Fifteen broiler flocks on 11 separate holdings tested positive for regulated serovars in 2022. Four flocks from four separate holdings tested positive for *S. Typhimurium* (DT75 x2, DT99 x1, and DT1 x1) in 2022 - the same as in 2021. Ten flocks from six separate holdings tested positive for monophasic *S. Typhimurium* 4,5,12:i:- (all DT193) in 2022. One flock tested positive for *S. Enteritidis* (PT11) in 2022. Based on the estimated number of broiler flocks in 2022, the estimated prevalence of regulated *Salmonella* serovars in GB was 0.03%. This compares with 0.03% in 2021 and 0.01% in 2020 – 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 2017 – 2022 in Great Britain



2.193 In 2022, one turkey fattening flock tested positive for the monophasic *S. Typhimurium* strain 4,5,12:i:- DT193 (via operator sampling) and one flock tested positive for monophasic *S. Typhimurium* 4,12:i:- DT193 (via operator sampling). The 2022 prevalence of the target serovars was 0.10%, which is below the legislative target of a maximum of 1% of flocks positive for regulated serovars in fattening turkey flocks. This was lower than in 2021, when the prevalence was 0.48% - but higher than both 2019 and 2020, when no regulated serovars were found.

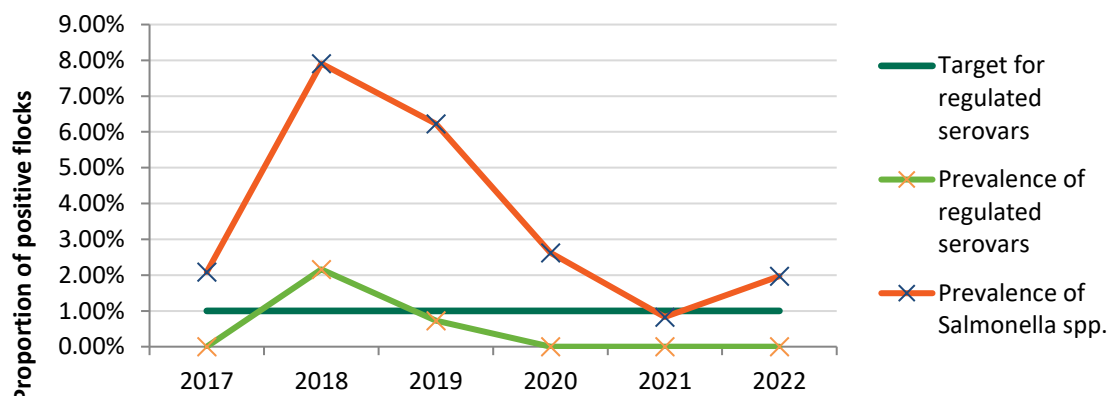
Figure 36 - Chart showing prevalence of *Salmonella* spp. and the regulated serovars relative to the target for fattening turkey flocks in the *Salmonella* National Control Programme from 2017 - 2022 in Great Britain



2.194 In 2022, 203 adult turkey breeding flocks were tested under the National Control Programme by either operators or APHA officials, at farm and hatchery. No adult turkey breeding flocks were positive for regulated serovars. The 2022 prevalence of the target serovars was therefore 0%, which is below the legislative target of 1% of flocks positive for *S. Enteritidis* and *S. Typhimurium*, including monophasic *Salmonella* Typhimurium strains.

2.195 No adult turkey breeding flocks were positive for *S. Enteritidis* in 2022. This has been the case since the introduction of the UK breeding turkey NCP in 2010. Similarly, no adult breeding turkey flocks were positive for *S. Typhimurium*, including monophasic *Salmonella* Typhimurium strains. The last year this regulated serovar was identified in adult breeding turkey flocks in GB 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 2017 - 2022 in Great Britain



2.196 The requirements for official sampling are set out in Regulation 2160/2003 (as amended) and implementing legislation. In total, for all poultry sectors across Great Britain, 1,982 poultry flocks were subject to annual routine official NCP sampling in 2022.

Number of flocks officially sampled in Great Britain per annum 2019-2022

Sector	2019	2020	2021	2022
Breeding chickens	1,246	1,067	1,099	879
Laying chickens	1,187	805	1,044	869
Broilers	125	107	122	73
Fattening turkeys	44	32	37	24
Breeding turkeys	227	187	182	137

2.197 The assessment of FBO compliance with the requirements of the NCPs 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 – 2022

	2019	2020	2021	2022
Non-compliances	83	35	44	39

2.198 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 NCPs. During 2022, 30 case referrals were received and moderated by APHA. As a result, 13 penalty notices were sent out to customers, and 14 warning letters were issued, compared with 18 penalty notices and 15 warning letters issued in 2021. (To note: this financial penalty system is not used in Scotland.)

Salmonella in pigs

2.199 During 2022/23 in England and Wales, sampling was undertaken at abattoirs that slaughter 100,000 pigs per annum. There were 2,301 salmonella tests carried out, of which 37 were positive. For the same period in Scotland, 285 Salmonella samples were collected, with one positive identified.

Border controls – Animals and products of animal origin

2.200 The number of consignments of animal products imported into Great Britain increased from 53,229 in 2021 to 58,109 in 2022. For live animal imports, the consignment numbers continued to increase from 10,395 in 2021 to 11,542 in 2022.

2.201 Compliance remains high for non-EU country imports of animals and animal products. In 2022, the number of consignments rejected was 1,294 (2.23%) compared to 1,093 (2.05%) in 2021.

2.202 The major non-compliances are for animal products, of which 1,011 (78%) were confirmed as documentary errors. For live animals, 124 (1.07%) consignments were rejected in 2022, compared with 183 (1.76%) consignments in 2021. The majority of rejected consignments of live animals were dogs, cats and fish, and 56 rejections (45%) were confirmed as documentary failures.

2.203 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, to allocate the consignment for purposes other than those for which it was originally intended. This action must be undertaken under the control of the relevant competent authority. For live animals, most consignments were re-exported.

2.204 Since 1st January 2021, Great Britain placed 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 were implemented in 2021, which were still in effect in 2022.

GB controls on imported consignments: animal products from 2019 – 2022

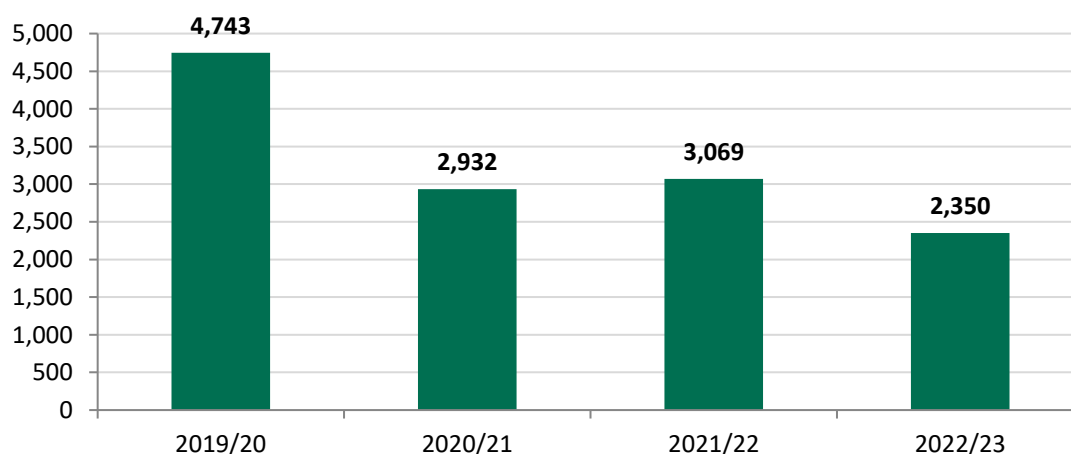
	2019	2020	2021	2022
Total certificates issued	54,826	48,489	53,229	58,109
Number of controlled certificates	54,826	48,489	53,229	58,109
Number of rejections	1,102	965	1,093	1,294
Number of rejections re-exported	376	246	371	421
Number of rejections transformed	1	6	1	0
Number of rejections destroyed	725	713	661	830

GB controls on imported consignments: live animals from 2017 – 2022

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Total certificates	8,820	8,614	8,585	5,829	10,395	11,542
Number of controlled certificates	8,817	8,614	8,585	5,801	10,395	11,542
Number of rejects	61	30	55	103	183	124
Rejects re-exported	50	24	48	102	160	90
Rejects slaughtered	0	1	0	1	0	0
Rejects subject to euthanasia (fish & gastropoda)	10	5	7	0	1	1

2.205 Border Force confirmed a decrease in the number of seizures of illegal imports¹⁸ of products of animal origin (POAO) in 2022/23, compared with the previous year.

Figure 38 - Chart showing the number of seizures of imported products of animal origin in UK from 2019/20 - 2022/23



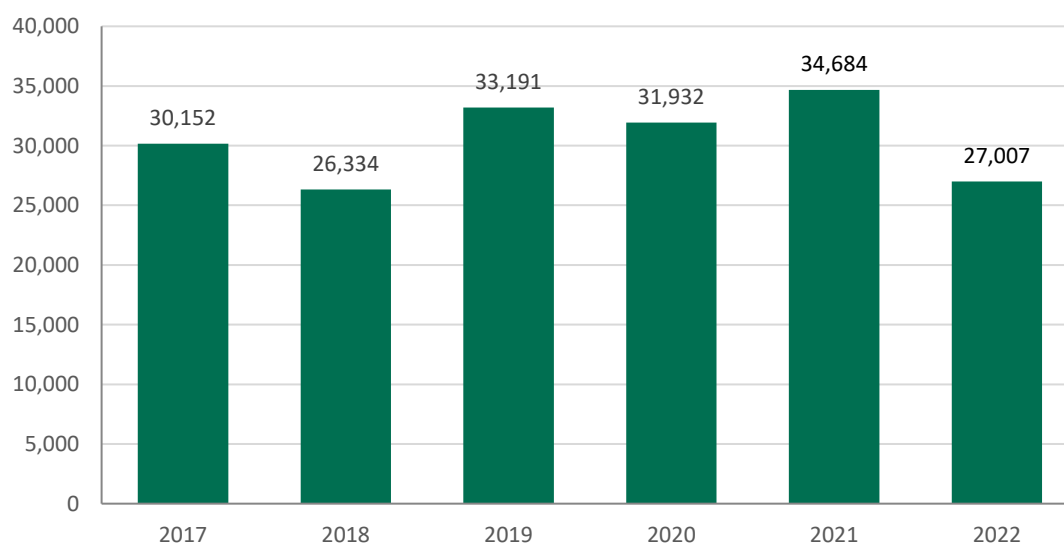
*2019/20 and 2020/21 figures have been amended to correct an error in the previous report.

¹⁸ '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.

Bee health

- 2.206 In England and Wales, the National Bee Unit (NBU) carried out a statutory inspection programme for Defra and the Welsh Government. 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 2022 and in previous years.
- 2.207 The number of colonies infected with American foulbrood (AFB) and European foulbrood (EFB) have 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 or a technique called 'Shook Swarm'.
- 2.208 Honey samples were also collected under contract for the VMD for the National Surveillance Scheme. Approximately 100 samples are collected each year.
- 2.209 A total of 27,007 unique colonies in 4,121 apiaries were inspected across England and Wales in 2022. The chart below shows inspections undertaken from 2017 to 2022.
- 2.210 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, for which a proportion of samples received are analysed, rather than 100% analysis.

Figure 39 - Chart showing the total number of unique colonies inspected in England and Wales from 2017 – 2022



Turnaround times on laboratory diagnosis and control measures on diseased apiaries in England, 2021 and 2022

Type of sample	Target (working days within which 95% of samples should be completed)		% within target		Number of samples analysed	
Year	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022
Statutory Exotics	1	1	n/a	n/a	0	0
Voluntary Exotics	1	1	94	90	185	153
Import Samples	10	4	72	10	33	24
Statutory Foulbrood	1	1	95	97	913	605
Voluntary Foulbrood	1	1	n/a	50	0	2

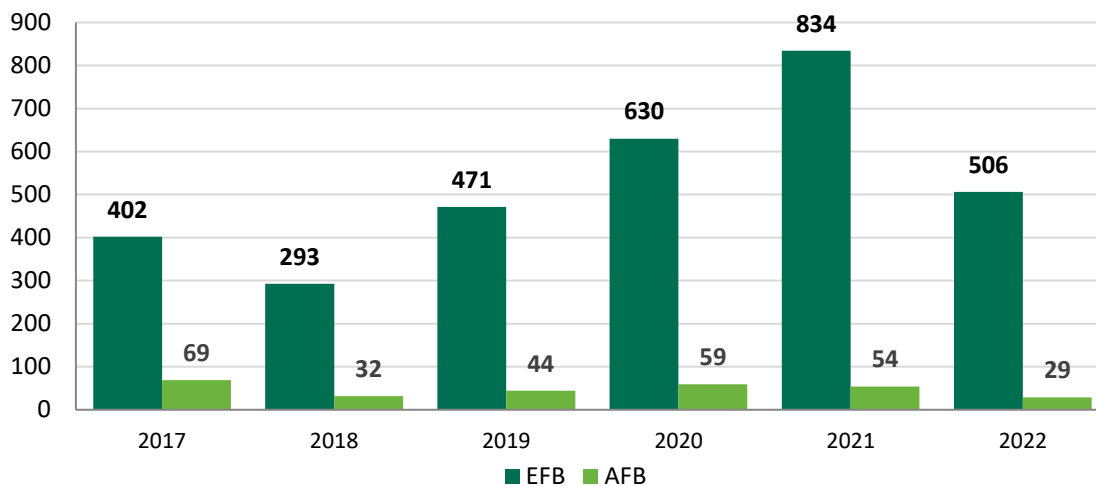
Turnaround times on laboratory diagnosis and control measures on diseased apiaries in Wales, 2021 and 2022

Type of sample	Target (working days within which 95% of samples should be completed)		% within target		Number of samples analysed	
Year	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022
Statutory Exotics	1	1	n/a	n/a	0	0
Voluntary Exotics	1	1	89	94	19	17
Import Samples	10	4	n/a	8	0	2
Statutory Foulbrood	1	1	88	100	49	62
Voluntary Foulbrood	1	1	100	n/a	1	0

2.211 In England and Wales, official controls on colonies infected with foulbrood comprised 180 colonies in 97 separate apiaries, where 88% were treated by shook swarm within 10 days (mean treatment time three days), while 91% of 461 colonies in 301 separate apiaries were controlled by destruction within 10 days (mean treatment time two days).

2.212 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 2022, there were 29 cases of AFB and 506 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 2017 - 2022.

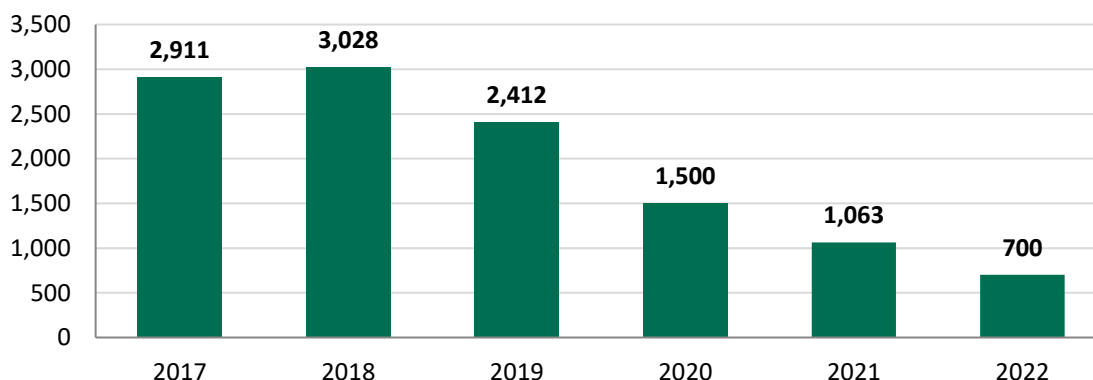
Figure 40 - Chart showing the number of colonies found to be infected with EFB and AFB in England and Wales from 2017 – 2022



2.213 A total of 3,354 colonies in 700 apiaries were specifically examined in England and Wales for the presence of exotic pests. A total of 170 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.

2.214 The risk-based system for prioritising apiary inspections was reviewed in 2020, which 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 2017 to 2022.

Figure 41 - Chart showing the number of apiaries inspected for exotic pests in England and Wales from 2017 – 2022



2.215 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](#).

- 2.216 The number of Scottish 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.
- 2.217 European Foulbrood (EFB) is less prevalent in Scotland compared to England and Wales, with the disease primarily concentrated in the eastern regions of the country. The western, northern and borders areas of Scotland remain largely unaffected. 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.
- 2.218 A total of 11,824 unique colonies in 568 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*).
- 2.219 The numbers of AFB cases over recent years have remained at relatively low levels. In 2022, 10 colonies with six different beekeepers were diagnosed with AFB, and 109 colonies with 16 different beekeepers were diagnosed with EFB.
- 2.220 [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.
- 2.221 Honey samples were also collected under contract for the VMD for the National Surveillance Scheme. Ten samples are collected each year under Council Directive 96/23/EC; none of these samples were non-compliant in 2022.
- 2.222 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 2017 – 2022

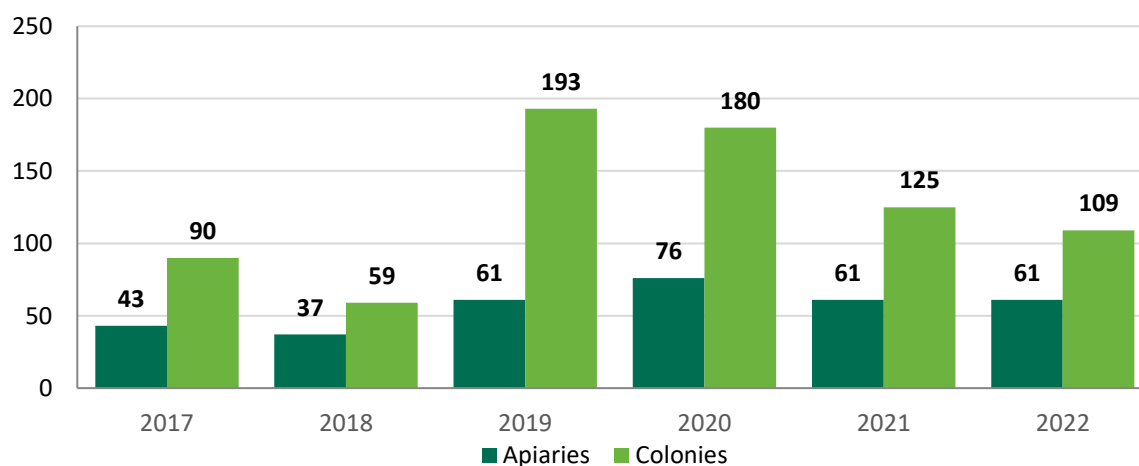


Figure 43 - Chart showing the number of apiaries and colonies inspected in Scotland from 2017 – 2022

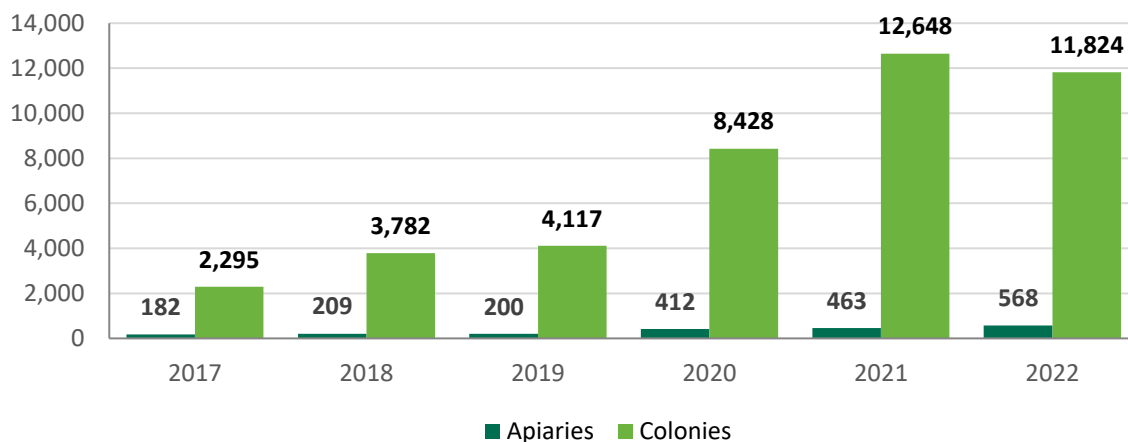
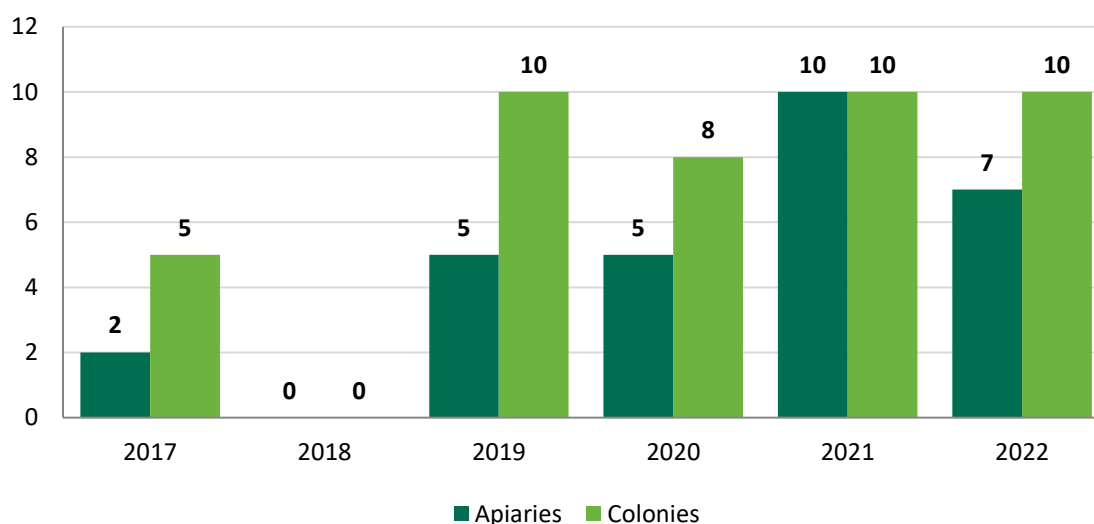


Figure 44 - Chart showing the number of apiaries and colonies infected with AFB in Scotland, from 2017 – 2022



Aquatic animal health (AAH)

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

2.223 The 2022 annual risk-based routine compliance and aquatic animal health (AAH) surveillance inspection programme continued, at 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.

- 2.224 Routine inspections were 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.
- 2.225 The routine programme of inspections was successfully completed for England and Wales in 2022, 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.
- 2.226 In England and Wales, the intensity and type of controls remained consistent in 2022 compared to the previous year, except as applicable to outbreaks of clinical Koi Herpesvirus (KHV) disease outside of approved compartments - which were reviewed and reduced from approximately 12 months, to align with the duration of the clinical KHV disease outbreak season (summer - early autumn). After this, the number of follow-up inspections required on sites under control for outbreaks of clinical KHV disease was also reduced.
- 2.227 In 2022, 78 new APBs were authorised and 72 APBs were deauthorised.

Total number of routine Aquaculture Production Business compliance inspections 2017 – 2022

ABP compliance inspections	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Fish Farms	320	308	310	263	243	230
Mollusc Farms	88	77	75	63	50	60
Crustacean Farms	6	6	4	6	8	11
Purification Centres	53	50	49	40	43	46
Importers (live fish and shellfish)	112	114	79	72	66	65
Exporters (live fish and shellfish - new programme Nov 21)	NA	NA	NA	NA	12	26

- 2.228 In addition, a total of 400 routine disease surveillance programme 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. The reduction in size of the overall routine disease surveillance programme, compared to 2021, was due to a change in approach for routine KHV disease surveillance, with inspections no longer being routinely undertaken on APBs outside of KHV disease-free compartments.
- 2.229 The FHI received 113 disease and mortality reports in 2022. In response to these, and to clinical signs observed during routine inspections, the FHI issued 32 Initial Designation Notices (IDNs - controls on suspicion of notifiable or emerging disease in fish and shellfish), and conducted 87 investigations on suspicion of (or to rule out)

notifiable and emerging disease. In total, 47 diagnostic samples were collected: 43 from fish, four from molluscs, and none from crustaceans. These were submitted for diagnostic testing, to screen for notifiable, new, and emerging diseases.

2.230 In 2022, 18 Confirmed Designation Notices (CDNs) were issued on confirmation of notifiable disease, all for the control of KHV disease outbreaks in recreational carp/coarse fisheries. Although KHV is notifiable, GB is not free of the disease and outbreaks occur routinely in this sector. There were no other outbreaks of notifiable disease in fish or shellfish during 2022.

2.231 To monitor compliance with movement restrictions and biosecurity measures, 68 inspections were carried out on fish and shellfish sites subject to controls (under Confirmed Designation Notices) for notifiable diseases - 47 at molluscan APBs and purification centres, and 21 at registered fisheries (for recreational angling).

Total number of investigations & inspections for disease control, 2017 – 2022

Investigations/inspections	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Disease Investigations	159	168	127	59	118	87
Disease Control Inspections	225	177	145	67	113	68

2.232 The number of disease investigations was lower overall in 2022, as there were significantly fewer cases of KHV disease in the year. KHV outbreaks account for the majority of listed disease investigations and outbreaks in England and Wales - but the numbers of cases each year can vary markedly, as the disease is affected by environmental conditions during the outbreak season, such as a shorter / cooler summer.

2.233 The total number of disease control inspections decreased in 2022, due to a reduction in the length of time sites were subject to controls for KHV, and the number of follow-up inspections required on affected sites.

2.234 Long-standing disease control zones remain unchanged across multiple shellfish harvesting areas for the control of the protozoan parasite *B. ostreae* (affecting native oysters *Ostrea edulis*), and Oyster herpesvirus-1 microvariant (OsHV-1 μ var) in Pacific oysters (*Magallana gigas*). Controls for the protozoan parasite *Marteilia refringens* continue to be limited to a single estuary system, following detection of infection in edible mussels (*Mytilus edulis*) in 2011.

2.235 The position for other notifiable diseases remained stable in 2022, 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 in the guidance on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).

2.236 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 2022, 404 recreational fisheries were registered. By the end of 2022 there were a total of 10,354 registered fisheries and cropping waters in England and Wales.

2.237 The FHI has a contractual agreement with the VMD to undertake sampling of fish on their behalf for veterinary residue testing, and inspection of APB premises holding mixing licences for veterinary medicines. In 2022, 60 residue samples were obtained and submitted to the analytical laboratory FERA (at Sand Hutton, York) for testing, and mixing licence inspections were conducted on 13 fish farms.

2.238 The risk-based import surveillance programme is targeted at sources of live fish posing a higher risk for disease introduction. In 2022, a total of 37 import samples were collected under the risk-based monitoring programme and screened for notifiable diseases.

Total number of fish and shellfish import samples 2017 – 2022

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Rest of the world	32	36	22	6	25	29
EU/EEA	17	10	6	1	9	8
Total import samples	49	46	28	7	34	37

2.239 The level of trade and import/export activity delivered by the FHI in 2022 was high, with the FHI issuing 233 health certificates for the export of live aquatic animals from England and Wales, and undertaking a significant number of documentary checks on consignments of live fish and shellfish imported into GB from the EU.

2.240 The number of controls (Regulation 16 and 23 notices) applied to imports under TARP Regulations 2011 remained largely consistent, and was mainly linked to certificate documentary errors.

Figure 45 – Chart showing the number of import checks and export certificates issued by the FHI (England and Wales) from 2017 – 2022

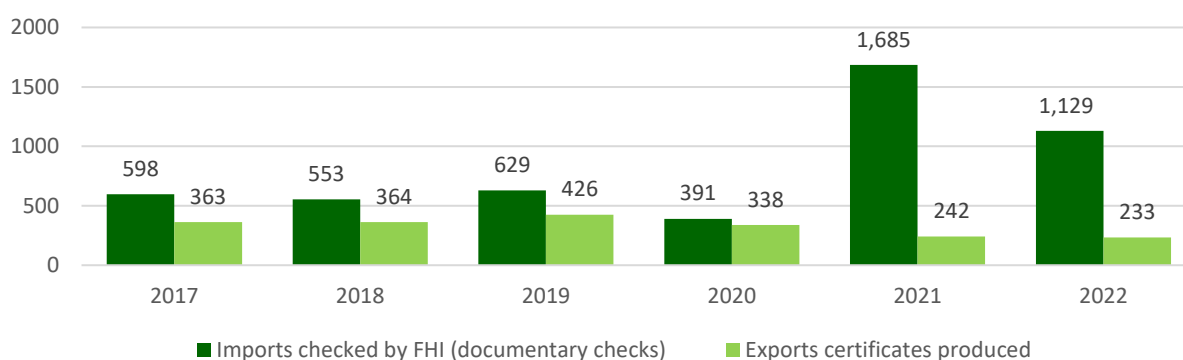


Figure 46 - AAH Non-compliance and Enforcement Summary (England and Wales) from 2017 - 2022

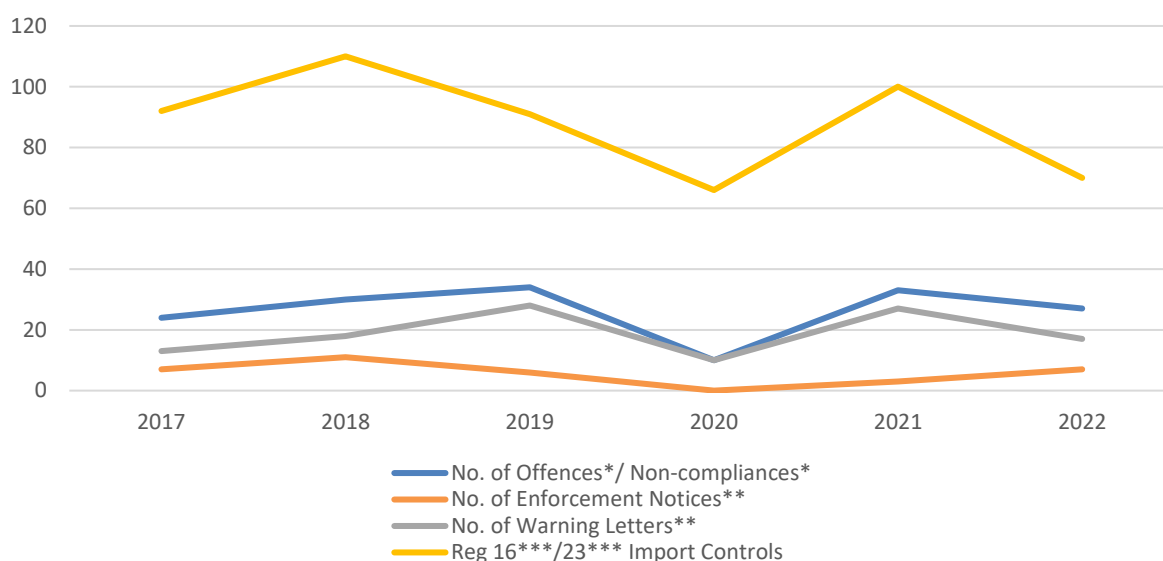


Table showing annotations for AAH Non-compliance and Enforcement Summary data (England and Wales) from 2017 - 2022

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
No. of Offences*/ Non-compliances*	24	30	34	10	33	27
No. of Enforcement Notices**	7	11	6	0	3	7
No. of Warning Letters**	13	18	28	10	27	17
Reg 16***/23*** Import Controls	92	110	91	66	100	70

* 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 – authorise the removal of animals from the BCP
 Regulation 23 notices – to detain and isolate or destroy consignments.

2.241 Details of the 27 offences and non-compliances in 2022 include:

- Warning letters (17) were predominantly for APB non-compliance with one or more conditions of authorisation - such as operating without authorisation for the particular species or activity, or for failure to notify the competent authority of increased mortality. Warning letters are issued where the non-compliance or offence cannot be immediately rectified with the use of an Enforcement Notice.
- Four of the warning letters were specifically for import or export non-compliances, such as failure to supply a health certificate via IPAFFS for imports from the EU. This is a significant decrease from 2021, indicating that

the changes in rules and process brought about by EU Exit were more widely understood and implemented by the trade sector of the industry in 2022.

- Enforcement Notices (seven) were for non-compliance with APB authorisation conditions, such as the keeping of movement and mortality records, operating in accord with an approved Biosecurity Measures Plan.

2.242 The 70 Reg 16/23 controls issued under TARP were largely administrative, due to missing or incomplete health certificates, and were successfully resolved through, for example, re-issuing of missing or inaccurate certificates. Where applicable, advice was given to importers and assurances sought from CAs in exporting countries.

2.243 All offences and non-compliances were dealt with by warning letters or enforcement notices, followed by further inspections to check that 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 of biosecurity and protection of stocks against incursion of disease, and to encourage and facilitate the high standard of compliance with statutory requirements.

2.244 Overall APB compliance with conditions of authorisation continued to be high, reflecting the effectiveness of the inspection programmes, advice given, and prompt and consistent actions taken in the event of non-compliance. During 2022, no APBs had their authorisation suspended or revoked as a result of actions arising from official controls.

Aquatic animal health – Scotland

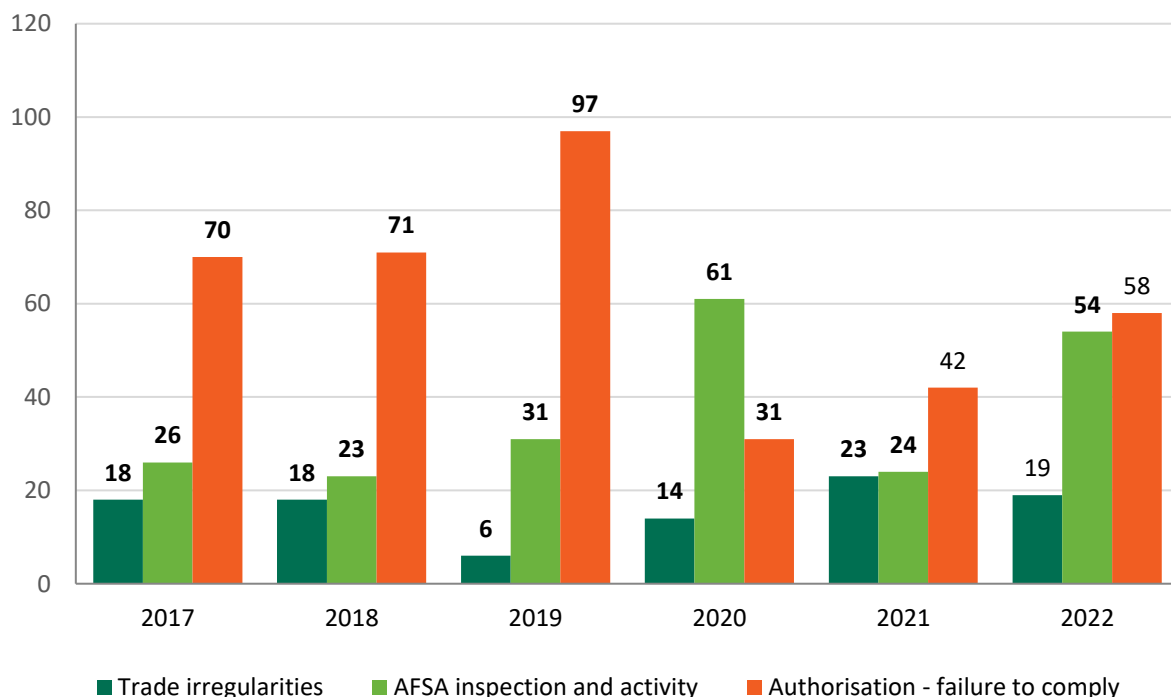
2.245 In Scotland, in accordance with the Risk Based Surveillance scheme (Council Directive 2006/88/), 141 inspections relating to fish farms and 163 inspections relating to shellfish farms were conducted in 2022. During the inspection process, four unannounced inspections were conducted.

2.246 A total of 32 diagnostic samples were taken from fish, 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 available [here](#).

2.247 Through a contractual arrangement with the VMD, a total of 1,670 samples were collected from finfish aquaculture sites. These samples were submitted to Fera Science Limited, for analysis on residues of chemotherapeutants or environmental contamination.

- 2.248 Nine inspections were conducted at fish farm sites approved by the VMD as 'manufacturers of medicated feedingstuffs intended for feeding to their own fish'. All nine facilities inspected rated as Category 5 (with ≤ 3 minor deficiencies).
- 2.249 At the beginning of 2022, three fresh water rainbow trout farm sites had movement restrictions in place for bacterial kidney disease (BKD). 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. One private ornamental facility remained under restriction for KHV, following confirmation of the virus within fish at the facility.
- 2.250 There are presently around 642 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.
- 2.251 Following the restrictions imposed as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact this had on aquatic animal health surveillance, additional surveillance effort was implemented to restore levels of surveillance back to pre-pandemic levels.

Figure 47 - Chart showing the number of non-compliances in Scotland from 2017 - 2022



Outcomes of the non-compliances found in Scotland during 2022

- 2.252 One trade irregularity relating to an issue with an animal health certificate (destination change post issue) was resolved through advice.
- 2.253 Inspection and activity associated with the Aquaculture and Fisheries (Scotland) Act 2007 and 2013 saw a total of 35 non-compliances.
- Five cases related to the Act's enhanced inspection programme
 - Four issues related to farm management statements or agreements
 - Six issues related to sea lice records
 - One issue related to containment
 - Nineteen issues raised due to sea lice reporting
- 2.254 All of these non-compliances were successfully resolved, either through complying with the recommendations made, or (with respect to sea lice reporting) through the issuing of advisory letters in two cases.
- 2.255 There were 58 non-compliances for failure to comply with authorisation conditions. These included 54 issues related to record keeping, and 4 instances where the farm was operating without appropriate authorisation. One warning letter and an enforcement notice were issued in relation to a breach in authorisation conditions (failure to provide records) at a fish farm site following an inspection dating back to 2021. All issues were successfully resolved through addressing recommendations or requirements imposed following inspection.
- 2.256 The main types of non-compliance were administrative in nature, most notably for 'failing to comply with authorisation conditions', and related directly to the maintenance of site records and record keeping. Compliance levels for 2022 increased slightly in comparison to 2021.
- 2.257 It should be noted that the number of non-compliances represents the number of issues detected: 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 – 2022

Visits and non-compliances	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of visits	254	351	292	183	249	325
Number of cases of non-compliance	70	68	89	27	47	58
% of non-compliance	28	19	30	15	19	18

- 2.258 Risk-based enhanced inspections were conducted in accordance with the Aquaculture and Fisheries (Scotland) Act 2007 (as amended) during 2022. Analysis of the number of inspections in comparison to the number of cases involving non-

compliance suggests a significant increase in the level of compliance during 2022, in comparison to previous years. This analysis has not been statistically tested, however, and lower levels of enhanced inspections must be taken into consideration.

Risk based enhanced inspections and non-compliances on fish and shellfish farms from 2017 – 2022

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of inspections	22	7	32	7	16	20
Number of cases of non-compliance	10	4	19	6	13	5
% of non-compliance	45	57	59	86	81	25

2.259 During 2022 no businesses were closed due to actions arising from official controls.

Incidents and outbreaks in the animal health sector

APHA

2.260 In 2022, there was one confirmed incident of Salmonella in a chicken breeder flock that required mandatory slaughter with compensation. There were no cases of Salmonella in adult turkey breeder flocks, but one in a turkey rearing breeder flock that was slaughtered with compensation. Turkey breeder flocks, regardless of age, require slaughter with compensation under NCP legislation

2.261 In 2022, 542 reports of suspected cases of exotic notifiable diseases were investigated, of which 424 were for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI). There were 237 confirmed infected premises of HPAI in poultry across GB (an increase from 75 in 2021), 10 cases of European Bat Lyssavirus reported in England, two cases of Contagious Equine Metritis (CEM), and one of West Nile virus (in a horse which had travelled to an endemic country). All incidents were resolved, although the atypically long Avian Influenza season (October 2021 to August 2022) effectively merged into the 2022/23 season, when controls restarted following new outbreaks in October 2022, due to the migration season and continual cases detected in colony nesting sea birds.

AAH England and Wales – Cefas FHI

2.262 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 2022 there were a total of 18 confirmed outbreaks of Koi herpesvirus (KHV) disease, all of which were in recreational coarse fish fisheries affecting common carp (*Cyprinus carpio*) and varieties. KHV is a listed disease for which GB is not officially declared free. The number of outbreaks in 2022 was as expected, with no change to prevalence or severity. There were no outbreaks in the three KHV approved compartments, which continue to maintain disease-free status for KHV.

AAH Scotland – MD FHI

2.263 There were no new suspected cases or outbreaks of listed disease in aquatic animals in Scotland during 2022.

Scottish Government

2.264 In 2022, there were 22 confirmed cases of HPAI at premises in Scotland, and 216 confirmed cases at premises in England and Wales.

Bee health

2.265 Two outbreaks of the non-native Asian hornet species occurred in 2022 - one in Suffolk and one in Essex. 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

- 2.266 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.
- 2.267 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 the dedicated APHA 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

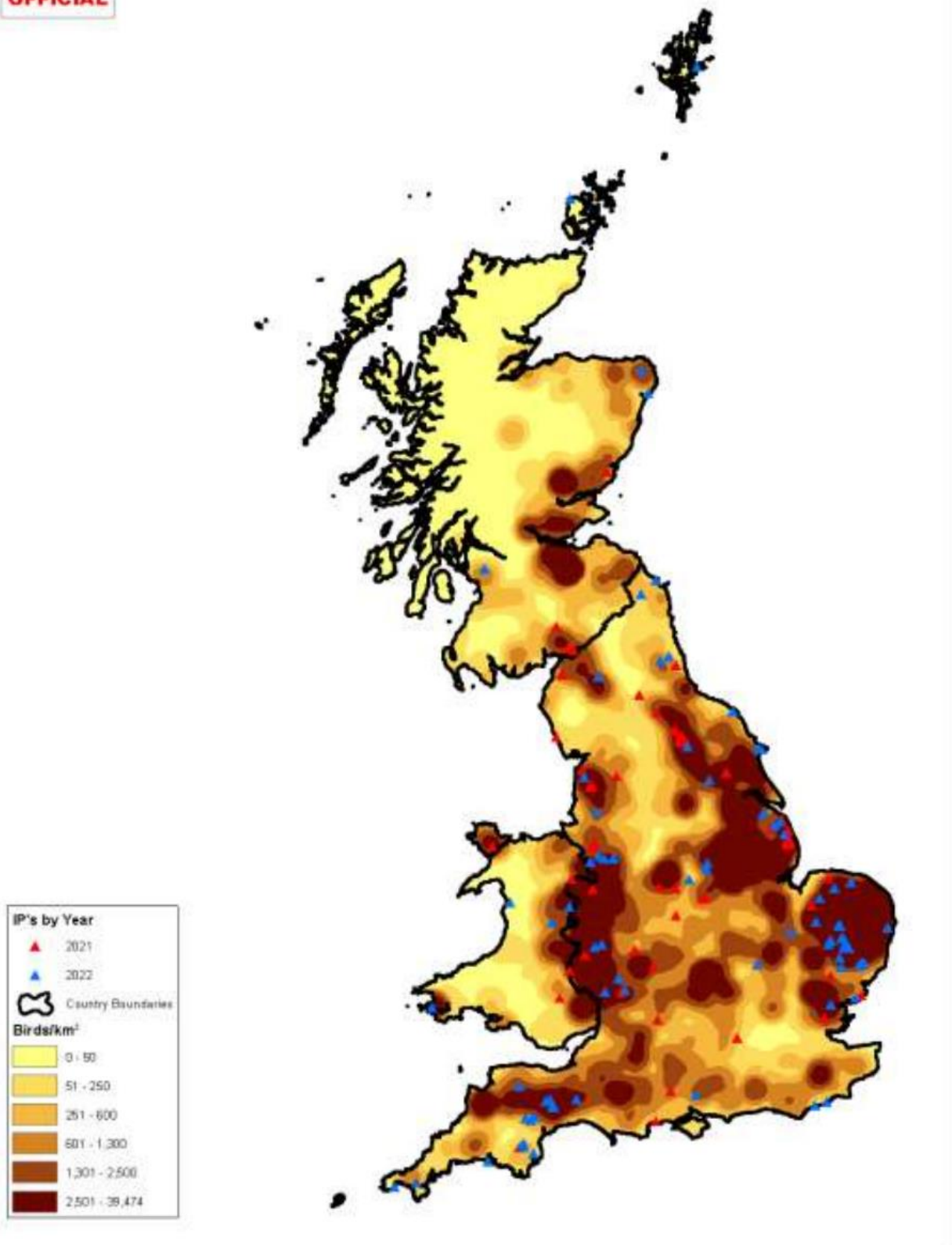
- 2.268 In 2022, the total number of farm visits to individual farms and enterprises decreased by 30% when compared to 2021 figures, with 1,550 visits completed compared to 2,228 in 2021. This was mainly driven by a marked decrease in visits undertaken in England. On a country basis, visit numbers increased by 5% in Wales and decreased by 8% in Scotland and 45% in England, compared to 2021.
- 2.269 During 2022 the unprecedented and extensive outbreak of the H5N1 High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza (HPAI) across GB impacted on the availability of qualified APHA personnel – including Official Vets and Animal Health Officers - to carry out non-avian farm inspections¹⁹. Identification and culling operations of infected flocks were prioritised to help in preventing the spread of HPAI in farmed and wild birds
- 2.270 The disproportionate impact of HPAI on national inspection cohorts reflects the distribution of poultry FBOs across the three nations, with the majority located in England. The map below shows the location of the HPAI H5N1 infected premises between October 2021 and August 2022, with premises infected in 2021 shown with red triangles, and premises infected in 2022 shown with blue triangles. The distribution of infected premises largely reflects the areas of high poultry density²⁰.

¹⁹ Details of the impact of HPAI in 2022 are set out in the APHA Report [Rapid risk assessment on incursion of High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza \(HPAI\) H5N1 into housed or not housed poultry flocks and captive birds](#), published 2 August 2022

²⁰ From the APHA Report [Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza H5N1 outbreaks in Great Britain, October 2021 to September 2022](#), published in 2022

Map to show location of HPAI H5N1 cases by year and density of poultry 2021-2022 Season

OFFICIAL



0 150 Kilometers

Produced By: IMT

At: Worcester

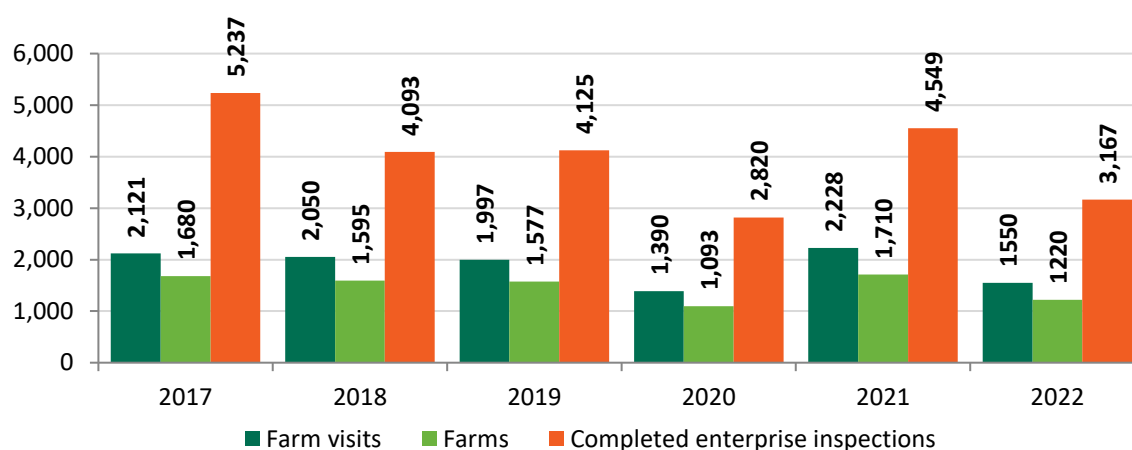
On: 22/05/2023

© Crown copyright and database rights 2013
Ordnance Survey 100001115

OS
OpenStreetMap
Data

- 2.271 Outside of dealing with the HPAI pandemic, on-farm visits continued to be conducted according to a range of drivers. These included 'proactive' (i.e., scheduled) visits, primarily based on risk criteria but with a 20% element of random selection; and 'reactive' visits, triggered directly by third party complaints or referrals.
- 2.272 The number of enterprise types inspected at each visit remained at two enterprises per visit during 2022, consistent with previous years. The number of repeat visits across GB to farms inspected in 2022 comprised 36% of all visits – a higher percentage than in previous years.
- 2.273 The level of repeat visits to the same enterprises, and the correlation of scheduled 'cross compliance' visits²¹ with specific 'triggered' referrals at the same enterprises, both support the view that farms where welfare concerns had been and/or continued to be an issue were being managed and inspected as potentially higher risk in 2022, even in the context of reduced inspection levels in England and Scotland in the period. Wales had higher repeat inspections, comprising 66% of all farm inspections, compared to England (27%) and Scotland (32%).

Figure 48 - Chart showing farm inspections in Great Britain 2017 – 2022



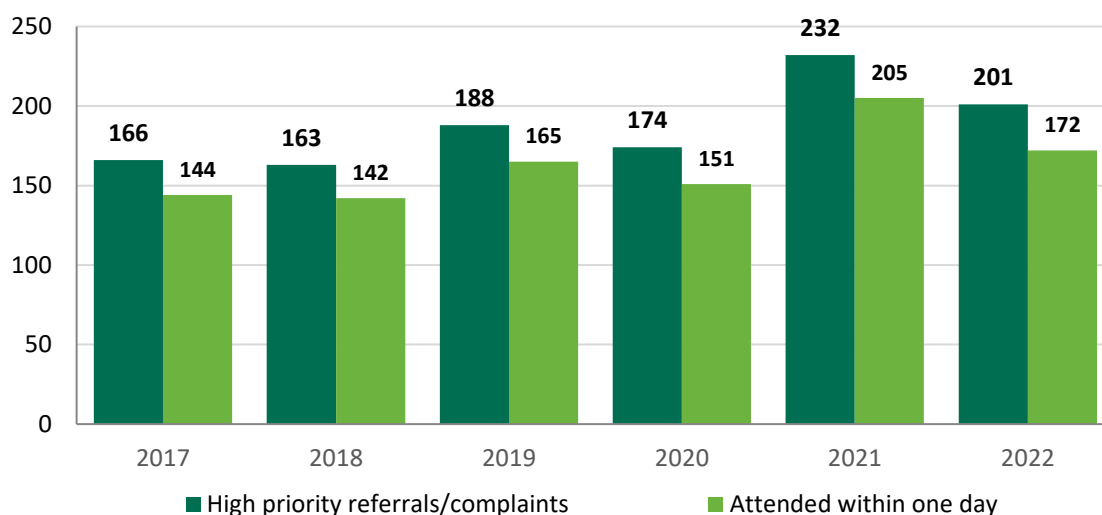
Analysis of GB farm visits by country, 2020 - 2022

	England			Scotland			Wales		
	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022
No. of farm visits	889	1,482	808	238	323	298	263	423	444
No. of farms	729	1,168	676	165	210	211	199	332	333
No. of completed enterprise inspections	1,781	3,070	1,711	481	692	601	558	787	855

²¹ 'cross compliance' describes requirements for farmers to comply with a set of Statutory Management Requirements (SMRs) and keep their land in Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition (GAEC) in order to qualify for certain rural payments. See the [Guide to Cross Compliance in England 2021](#)

Year	Analysis	England	Scotland	Wales	GB
2020	Sites subject to repeated visits	111	46	35	192
	Number of repeat visits	160	62	75	297
	Proportion of total visits (%)	18	26	29	24
2021	Sites subject to repeated visits	221	68	68	357
	Number of repeat visits	314	113	91	518
	Proportion of total visits (%)	21	35	22	23
2022	Sites subject to repeated visits	84	55	85	224
	Number of repeat visits	216	142	196	554
	Proportion of total visits	27	48	44	36

Figure 49 - Chart showing the number of high priority referrals/complaints alleging unnecessary suffering attended by APHA inspectors in Great Britain from 2017 - 2022



2.274 A number of referrals in each year (21 in 2019, 19 in 2020, 16 in 2021 and 20 in 2022) had no assigned CPH and, because of this, could not be recorded as assigned to a specific country. Some inspection sites do not have a CPH - for example, where farmed livestock is kept in private dwellings, there is no statutory obligation to register and be assigned a CPH number.

2.275 Record processes in 2022 ensured that referrals were allocated to inspection teams within the appropriate nation - but national level data, as in the tables above, could only be captured for CPH generated data. The small number of referrals with no CPH number caused the small differences in values between GB totals and the sum of England, Scotland and Wales data, in each reporting year.

2.276 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, 2020 - 2022

	England			Scotland			Wales		
	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022
High priority referrals/complaints*	101	112	87	16	18	13	38	86	81
Number attended within one day	83	97	69	15	16	12	37	78	76
Percentage attended within one day	82.1	86.6	79.3	93.8	88.9	92.3	97.3	90.7	93.8

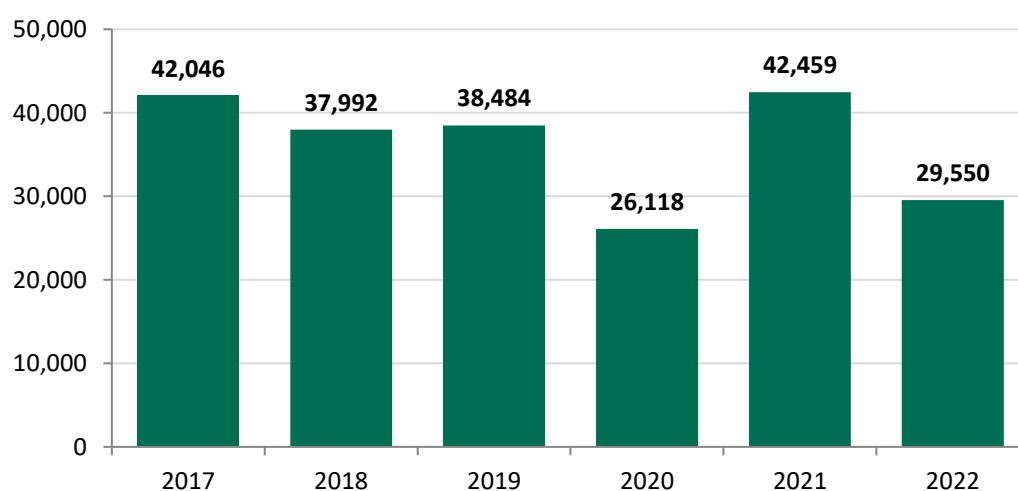
*final reporting priority at local level may not reflect initial prioritisation by central teams.

2.277 All complaints and allegations of poor welfare were risk assessed centrally at national level by a veterinary inspector. High priority referrals/complaints were visited as a matter of urgency. In 2022, the number of these types of complaints and allegations received decreased compared to 2021, though it was still higher than for the previous four years (2017-2020).

2.278 Eighty-five percent of high priority complaints/referrals were attended within 24 hours, a small drop from 88% in 2021. On a country basis, however, there was an increase in the number attended within a day for Scotland (92.3% versus 88.9%) and Wales (93.8% versus 90.7%) and a reduction for England (79.3% versus 86.6%) compared to 2021.

2.279 The reduction in visits in England reflected both the impact (on APHA staff in particular) of managing the protracted Avian Influenza outbreaks in 2022, and the urgent requirement for qualified staff to handle the unprecedented welfare crisis created by the war in Ukraine, for which domestic pets needed to be relocated to GB (primarily England) at exceptionally short notice, while still complying with border biosecurity import controls.

Figure 50 - Chart showing the number of individual welfare criteria assessments in Great Britain from 2017 – 2022



	England			Scotland			Wales		
	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022
Welfare criteria assessments	16,654	28,770	16,140	4,280	6,405	5,394	5,184	7,284	8,016
No. of criteria assessed per enterprise (maximum /11*)	9.4	9.4	9.4	8.9	9.3	8.9	9.3	9.3	9.4

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

2.280 The number of individual welfare criteria assessments decreased by 30% in 2022 compared to 2021, reflecting the decrease in overall farm visit numbers. The level of compliance on farms in Great Britain was comparable to that recorded in previous years, with 96% of individual category assessments indicating compliance in 2022. For all enterprise assessments, 20.6% had at least one non-compliance, and 261 advisory letters were issued to farmers that year.

2.281 To note: an individual farm may comprise more than one 'enterprise' - defined by different production activities on the farm. This may in turn result in individual farms being inspected more than once in a reporting period, as different enterprises on the same farm may be inspected – and there may even be more than one inspection for an individual enterprise on the same farm. Inspection data is evaluated, as below, based on the number of enterprises assessed (rather than the number of farms inspected), as the assessment per enterprise is a more precise non-compliance data measure than assessments recorded at the farm level.

2.282 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 2017 - 2022

Outcomes by year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of non-compliances per 1,000 assessments	48	47	43	51	49	39
Number of enterprises with overall C score	899	796	735	599	909	479
% of enterprises inspected with overall C score	20	19	18	21	20	15
Advisory letters issued	189	212	342	279	398	261

Enterprises with welfare non-compliance only (C score) in England, Scotland & Wales - 2020-2022

	England			Scotland			Wales		
Outcomes by year	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022
Number of non-compliances per 1,000 assessments	60	56	48	36	53	43	34	15	17
Number of enterprises with overall C score	425	707	310	77	143	94	97	59	75
% of enterprises inspected with overall C score	24	23	18	16	21	16	17	8	9
Advisory letters issued	208	271	127	34	85	74	37	42	60

Welfare non-compliance with unnecessary suffering (D score) in GB 2017 – 2022

Outcomes by year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Unnecessary suffering found per 1K assessments	8	8	11	9	9	9
Number of enterprises with overall D score	186	177	206	142	262	176
% of enterprises inspected with overall D score	4.1	4.3	5.0	5.1	5.7	5.6
Average number of days to clear D score	*	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

*Figure not available

Welfare non-compliance with unnecessary suffering (D score) in in England, Scotland & Wales from 2020-2022

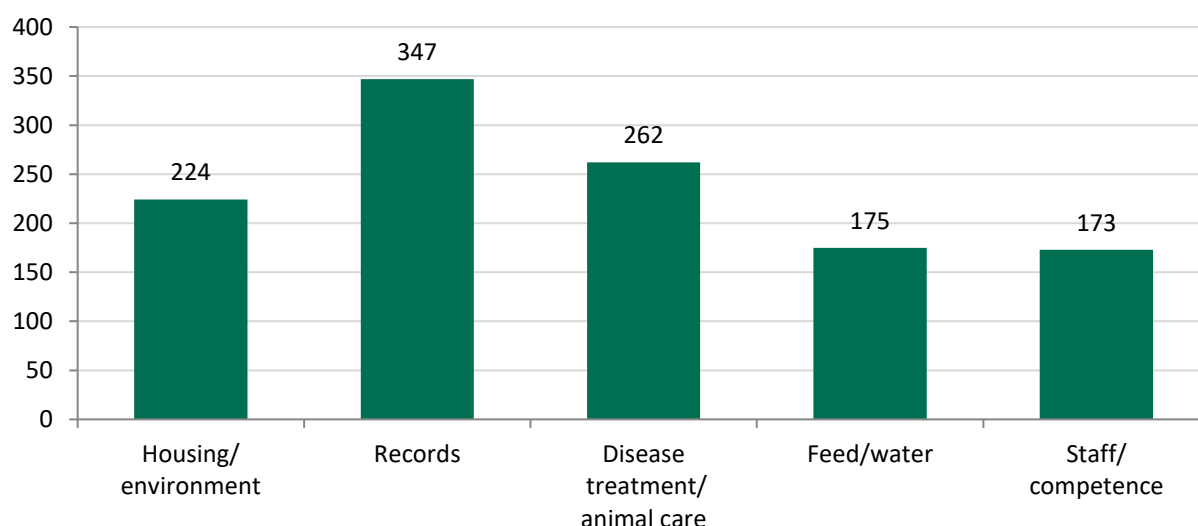
	England			Scotland			Wales		
Outcomes by year	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022
Unnecessary suffering found per 1K assessments	11	7	8	5	20	18	7	7	6
Number of enterprises with overall D score	103	142	73	14	84	69	25	36	34
% of enterprises inspected with overall D score	6	5	4	3	12	11	4	5	4

2.283 Across GB, the percentage of C scores (non-compliances where unnecessary suffering was not detected) at enterprise level was lower for 2022 (15%) than 2021 (20%) - and the lowest level in the last five years.

2.284 The percentage of enterprises receiving a D score (unnecessary suffering detected) in Great Britain in 2022 was similar to 2021, at 5.6%, although incidence

percentage rates in Scotland continued to be significantly higher than in England or Wales.

Figure 51 - Chart showing the most frequently detected non-compliances (for C and D categories) in Great Britain in 2022



GB non-compliances by region, 2020 - 2022

	England			Scotland			Wales		
Outcomes by year	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022
Housing / environment	283	484	134	43	89	54	41	35	36
Records	237	407	204	39	101	84	76	39	59
Disease treatment / animal care	193	249	138	39	104	74	38	43	50
Feed / water	144	229	121	10	46	36	31	20	18
Staff/competence	193	275	116	29	84	43	19	17	14

2.285 The welfare criteria with the most non-compliances related to “records” and “disease treatment”, which includes failure to provide appropriate care, followed by “housing/environment”, which was similar across GB.

2.286 During 2022, APHA provided 20 witness statements to enforcement bodies in support of legal action in respect of seven farms, compared to 72 witness statements for 22 farms in 2021. Overall, this shows a decrease of 72% in witness statement production (79% for England and 55% for Scotland), and corresponding reduction in number of statements for farms. For the second year no witness statements were produced in relation to Welsh holdings.

	2020		2021		2022	
	Statements produced	Number of farms	Statements produced	Number of farms	Statements produced	Number of farms
England	47	18	52	18	11	5
Scotland	1	1	20	4	9	2
Wales	8	3	0	0	0	0

Meat Chicken Directive

- 2.287 In 2022, APHA, FSA and FSS continued to deliver the established system for all ‘eligible’ flocks (i.e., conventionally reared meat chickens). Throughout the year, all flocks were monitored at the slaughterhouse level for specific post-mortem conditions associated with on-farm welfare issues. 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). All farmers received their trigger report results directly from the FSA and FSS, and were required to take action.
- 2.288 In Great Britain, trigger report data collected from 2021 was used to target farm inspections in 2022, using a ranking process combining all-flock cumulative daily mortality rates and total rejections (excluding those relating to mechanical processes). High risk FSA/FSS referrals and complaints were used as the main source of intelligence leading to meat chicken farm inspections for most of 2022.
- 2.289 Multiple outbreaks of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) between October 2021 and August 2022 significantly impacted resources overall in 2022, 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.
- 2.290 A total of 4,421 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 7.5%% decrease in trigger reports compared to 2021. The basis of 49.6% of trigger reports was Process 1 triggers.
- 2.291 When assessing specific conditions associated with Process 1 Trigger reports, there was a reduction in those associated with disease conditions such as cellulitis and joint lesions, and an increase in on farm mortality reports. This could indicate increased culling for disease on farm, as this is included in on-farm cumulative daily mortality calculations.

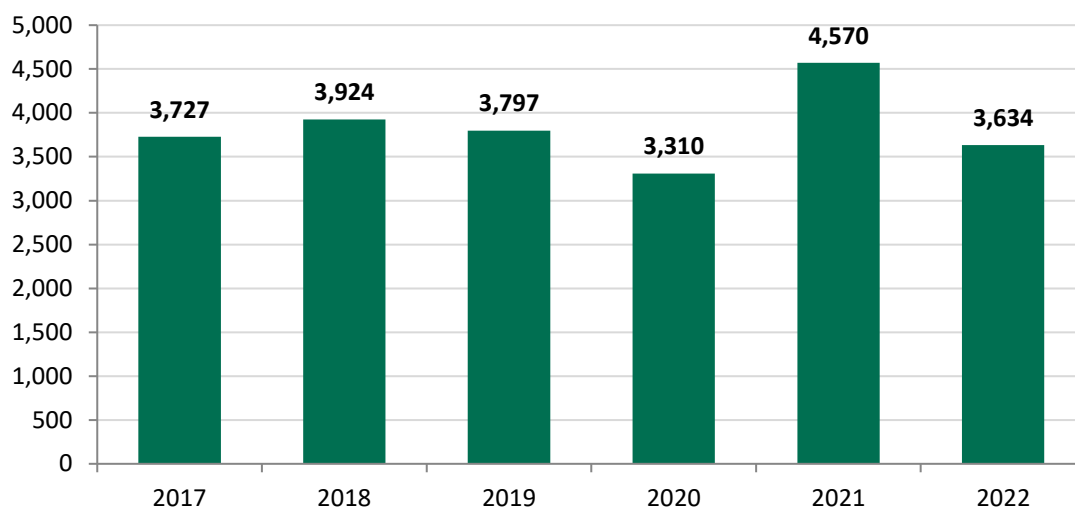
Inspection numbers and carcass conditions of relevance to farm animal welfare in meat chickens in GB 2020 to 2022

	2020		2021		2022	
Birds inspected and conditions recorded	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Total inspected	953,684,560	100	901,874,003	100	891,182,267	100
Ascites/Oedema	3,097,471	0.32	2,644,596	0.29	2,597,979	0.29
Cellulitis/dermatitis	2,939,920	0.31	3,283,354	0.36	3,200,279	0.36
Dead on Arrival	1,014,267	0.11	996,448	0.11	982,193	0.11
Emaciation	195,606	0.02	176,655	0.02	210,637	0.02
Joint lesions	263,278	0.03	176,655	0.02	241,218	0.03
Septicaemia / Respiratory	1,766,299	0.19	268,408	0.03	1,516,837	0.17
Total farm-attributed rejections	13,128,307	1.38	16,439,110	1.8	12,556,780	1.41

Flocks assessed and reported for carcase conditions identified of relevance to farm animal welfare and generation of trigger reports, in meat chickens in Great Britain in 2020-2022

	2020			2021			2022		
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	122,357	100	/	120,881	100	/	119,888	100	/
Ascites/Oedema	326	0.27	9.85	238	0.2	5.2	204	0.17	4.8
Cellulitis/dermatitis	303	0.25	9.15	414	0.34	9.1	298	0.25	7.0
Dead on Arrival	239	0.20	7.22	223	0.18	4.9	210	0.18	5.0
Emaciation	156	0.13	4.71	127	0.11	2.8	210	0.18	5.0
Joint lesions	193	0.16	5.83	272	0.23	6	130	0.11	3.1
Septicaemia/Respiratory	16	0.01	0.48	14	0.01	0.3	8	0.01	0.2
Total farm-attributed rejections	76	0.06	2.3	125	0.1	2.7	84	0.07	2.0
On Farm Mortality rate	515	0.42	15.56	829	0.79	18.1	939	0.88	22.2
Foot Pad Dermatitis	137	0.11	4.14	152	0.37	3.3	156	0.4	3.7
Process 1 report	1,842	1.51	55.65	2,156	1.78	47.2	2,092	1.74	49.6
Process 2 report	1,468	1.2	44.35	2,414	2.00	52.8	2,129	1.78	50.4
Total trigger reports	3,310	2.71	100	4,570	3.78	100	4,221	3.52	100

Figure 52 – Chart showing the number of trigger reports received by APHA in Great Britain from 2017 – 2022



Actions taken in Great Britain on meat chicken welfare from 2017 - 2022

(for example, following inspections for cross compliance²¹, or welfare complaints, or receipt of trigger reports from slaughterhouses)

	Number of actions as a percentage of total notifications by year					
	2017 %	2018 %	2019 %	2020 %	2021 %	2022 %
Farmer/owner notified in writing & requested to take action	3,763 (100%)	3,924 (100%)	3,797 (100%)	3,310 (100%)	4,570 (100%)	3,634 (100%)
Inspection based on historical data to target highest risk farms (from previous year)	15 (0.4%)	29 (0.7%)	17 (0.4%)	8 (0.2%)	16 (0.3%)	2 (0.1%)
Inspections associated with complaints, referrals or other inspections*	20 (0.5%)	31 (0.8%)	55 (1.4%)	19 (0.6%)	24 (0.5%)	32 (0.9%)
Total inspections checked for compliance with 2007/43/EC	35 (0.9%)	60 (1.5%)	68 (1.8%)	27 (0.8%)	40 (0.9%)	34 (1%)
Farms sent warning letters / prosecutions / further enforcement measures in respect of non-compliances detected at inspection	2 (0.1%)	9 (0.2%)	14 (0.4%)	15 (0.5%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)

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

2.292 Due to restrictions imposed by HPAI outbreaks, only 34 meat chicken inspections were carried out in 2022 - a decrease of 13% from 2021 inspections. The majority 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.

2.293 The inspections revealed that most farms were compliant with legislation but not the meat chicken codes. Fourteen inspections (41%) revealed non-compliances with unnecessary suffering identified, related to environmental conditions.

2.294 The table below details outcomes from the inspections of the 34 meat chicken farms inspected under GB meat rules in 2022.

Results of GB combined APHA Inspections by categories A – D, of meat chicken holdings under 2007/43/EC from 2017 – 2022, including as a percentage of the total number of holdings inspected

	2017 (%)	2018 (%)	2019 (%)	2020 (%)	2021 (%)	2022 (%)
Number inspected	35	60	67	28	40	34
A = full compliance with code advice & legislation	29 (83%)	20 (33%*)	20 (30%*)	3 (11%)	6 (15%)	2 (6%)
B = full compliance with legislation, but not with code advice	4 (11%)	22 (36%*)	34 (50.7%)	14 (50%*)	20 (50%)	18 (53%)
C = on-compliance with legislation, no unnecessary animal suffering detected	1 (3%)	16 (27%)	12 (17.9%)	8 (29%*)	9 (22.5%)	0 (0%)
D = Non-compliance with legislation, unnecessary suffering detected (for at least one animal)	1 (3%)	2 (3%)	1 (1.5%)	2 (7%)	5 (12.5%)	14** (41%)

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

** All D scores relate to Environment - which includes litter quality, air quality, temperature control and ventilation

Inspections data by country, for categories A – D, for 2022

	2021			2022		
	Eng	Scot	Wal	Eng	Scot	Wal
Number inspected	31	0	9	28	3	3
Category A	2	0	4	0	0	2
Category B	17	0	3	14	3	1
Category C	7	0	2	0	0	0
Category D	5	0	0	14	0	0

2.295 The most frequent non-compliances in 2022 related to environmental issues where ventilation was insufficient to maintain ambient environmental conditions within the shed.

Fish welfare

2.296 APHA (Scotland) has worked collaboratively with the Fish Health Inspectorate (Scotland) regarding animal welfare issues detected at farmed level. No inspections were carried out in 2022.

Table showing Fish welfare visits (Scotland) 2020 – 2022

Year	Complaints	Routine / Advisory inspections
2020	5	2
2021	1	0
2022	0	0

Gamebird welfare

2.297 In 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.

2.298 APHA also 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.

2.299 In 2022 there were 14 inspections, a decrease from 16 in 2021. Non-compliance rates of 14% were increased compared to 2021. No incidents of unnecessary suffering were detected.

Table showing the number of compliant and non-compliant (Categories A -D) gamebird rearing units, following inspection in GB in 2020 – 2022

	2020			2021			2022		
	Eng	Scot	Wal	Eng	Scot	Wal	Eng	Scot	Wal
Number inspected	8	0	4	9	6	1	9	2	3
Category A	2	0	0	4	5	1	3	0	1
Category B	4	0	1	4	0	0	5	1	2
Category C	2	0	3	1	1	0	1	1	0
Category D	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Animal welfare during transport

2.300 Inspections in 2022 continue to be carried out in Great Britain on a risk basis, and in response to intelligence received. Inspection programmes are planned by APHA and Local Authorities, 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, 2017 – 2022

Year	New applications	New authorised	Refused	Applications for re-authorisations
2017	817	865	8	7,988
2018	168	564	4	930
2019	820	754	0	741
2020	1,000	975	0	471
2021	1,143	1,198	0	1,292
2022	592	523	0	3,959

2.301 2022 saw a decrease in new Transporter Authorisations (TAs) being issued - but an increase in renewals being received. The decrease in new applications was due to the legislative changes following EU Exit in 2021, which required all transporters (whether UK or EU based) to hold UK issued documents for Transporter Authorisations, driver and attendant Certificate of Competences (CoCs), and Vehicle Approval Certificates (VAC). After the initial spike in 2021, which ensured that transporters could continue to operate legally under the new requirements, applications reduced in 2022.

2.302 Transporter Authorisations were issued on a five-year cycle, with 2022 being the next year in that cycle. Because of this, numbers of authorisations renewed in 2022 were greater than in the previous four years: similarly, another spike is anticipated in 2027. Of the 592 new Transporter Authorisation applications received, 50 were from transporters based in the EU. A total of 523 applications were processed in 2022: 38 of these were from transporters based in the EU. All applications from EU nationals were for long journey (Type 2) transporter authorisation.

Figure 53 – Chart showing the number of journey logs (JL) in Great Britain, 2017 – 2022

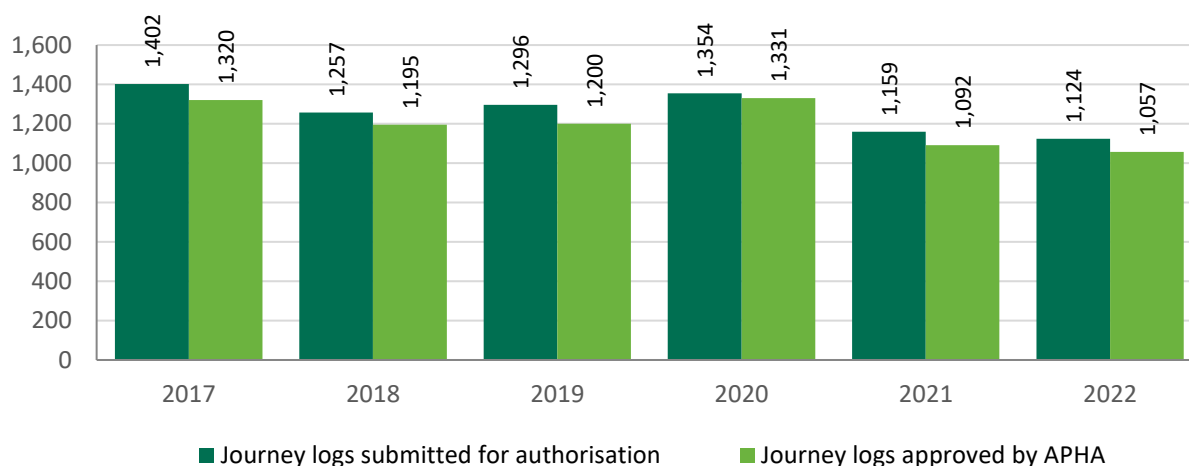


Table showing the breakdown of Journey Log applications

Year	JL Submitted	JL approved	Import JLs	Export JLs	Transit JLs
2021	1,159	1,092	705	365	22
2022	1,124	1,057	524	501	32

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

2.304 All GB to EU live animal exports in 2022 were required to enter the EU via a Border Control Post (BCP). In 2022, no BCP had been designated for live animal exports between Dover to Calais – a key trade route for livestock. Livestock export traders had to use a significantly longer road route via Ireland, or move livestock by air using airports with BCPs designated for the relevant categories of live animals. This impacted on the number of export journey logs issued by APHA in 2022. (To note: horse movements using the short straits were not affected, as a Border Control Post in Calais had been designated for equine controls.)

2.305 In 2022, 1,124 journey logs were submitted to APHA for approval, with 1,057 approved. Of these, 501 were for export (their origin was in GB). This represents a 37% increase on export journey logs issued in 2021.

2.306 A total of 556 journey logs were approved by APHA for import and transit journeys, a 24% decrease from 2021 rates. APHA rejected ten journey logs in 2022,

because the applications as submitted did not meet the requirements of the Welfare in Transport Regulations. A further 57 applications did not proceed to approval, and were deemed 'cancelled by the transporter'. This is likely the result of the transporter being unable to demonstrate compliance with the relevant Regulation, following APHA requests for further information to support the application.

2.307 Overall there was a 3% decrease in the number of journey logs submitted for approval which was driven by the reduction in import JLs.

Number of checks on vehicles transporting animals in GB from 2020 – 2022

Checks and non-compliances	2020	2021	2022
Vehicles inspected (incl. documentary checks)	28,835	41,032	54,889
Non-compliances (excl. documentary non-compliances)	1,899	1,199	1,149
Documentary only checks (vehicles inspected)	1,336	0	51
Non-compliances documentary checks only	507	86	174
APHA checks of vehicles transporting livestock and horses at ports through UK	65	5	7
APHA supervised loading inspections	65	0	0

2.308 The majority of routine checks of animals being transported in 2022 were carried out by Local Authority inspectors in conjunction with APHA in Great Britain. APHA's aim remained to supervise 100% of loadings for animals on export journeys for slaughter purposes. 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.

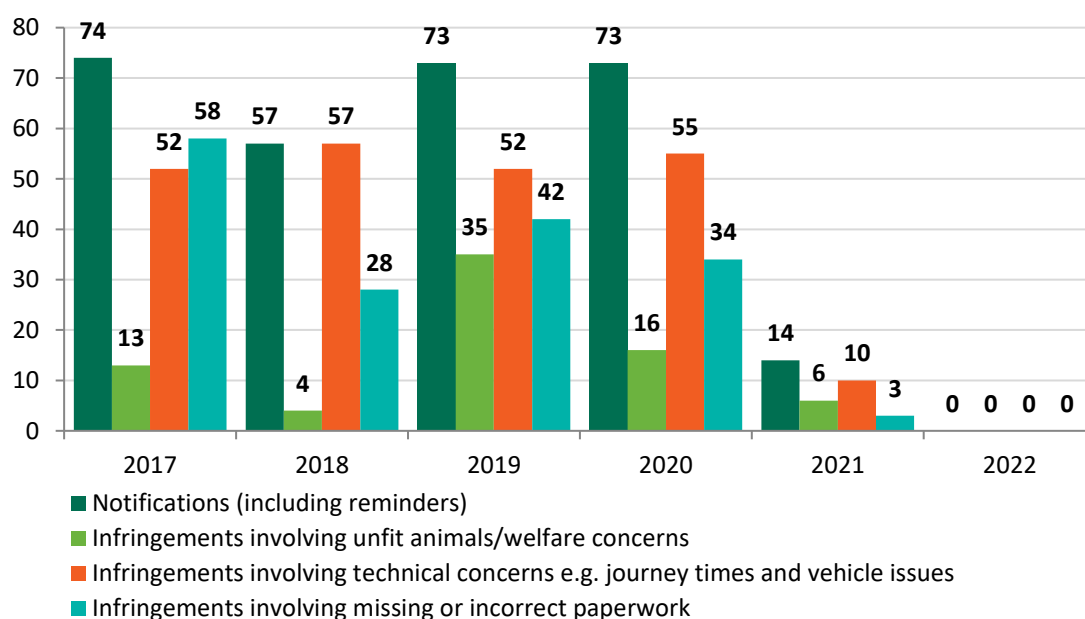
Number of checks of animals and means of transport in GB across England, Wales and Scotland from 2020 – 2022

	England			Scotland			Wales		
	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022
Vehicles inspected (incl. documentary checks)	22,655	31,050	41,247	1,886	2,963	3,108	4,294	7,019	10,534
Non-compliances (excl. documentary non-compliances)	1,770	1,069	1,015	14	45	40	115	85	94
Documentary only checks (vehicles inspected)	1,326	0	49	10	0	2	0	0	0
Non-compliances doc checks only	493	66	161	1	3	2	13	17	11
APHA checks of vehicles transporting livestock and horses at ports through UK	65	5	7	0	0	0	0	0	0
APHA supervised loading inspections	42	0	0	0	0	0	23	0	0

2.309 Inspections of vehicles transporting live animals increased by 42% overall in GB compared with 2021, 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.

2.310 GB inspections resulted in a variety of enforcement actions, ranging from verbal warnings to prosecutions. In 2022 there were six prosecutions. Two involved transport of dogs and puppies without transporter authorisation or required transport documentation, and four were for transport of farmed animals unfit to transport.

Figure 54 – Chart showing the breakdown of types of infringement by non-UK transporters from 2017 – 2022²²



2.311 All notifications made in 2021 related to offences which occurred in 2020, prior to the Regulations changing following EU Exit. Following these changes, no notifications were completed in 2022

Transport on-farm – FSA and FSS referrals

2.312 The following tables provide information on non-urgent referrals received by APHA from the FSA (English and Welsh slaughterhouses) and FSS (Scottish slaughterhouses) for 2022, regarding potential non-compliances associated with animal welfare during transport (including poultry catching), at markets and/or on farm.

²² Data for types of infringement is only available for non-UK transporters.

2.313 Urgent referrals in 2022 were dealt with as complaints by APHA or local authorities, and were accounted for in data sets starting on Page 79 of this Report. 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.

2.314 There was a reduction of 11% in non-urgent referrals in 2022 compared to the previous year, due to a reduction in poultry catching, and late gestation cases. Incidents of Dead On Arrival referrals increased.

Summary data and most common non-urgent welfare referral reasons from FSA/FSS in Great Britain from 2018 – 2022

Referral type	2018*	2019**	2020	2021	2022
Total number received	5,372	5,137	4,679	4,542	4,062
Poultry catching ²³	2,756	2,180	1,829	1,859	1,248
Dead on arrival	1,372	1,333	1,464	1,287	1,448
Late gestation (>90% pregnancy)	384	489	521	426	382
Further triage required	860	1,135	865	970	984

* 2018 includes only 6 months of FSS data

** to note - 2019 data originally published in the 2019 Annual Report has been corrected here.

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 2020	FSS 2020	FSA 2021	FSS 2021	FSA 2022	FSS 2022
Total	4,431	248	4,252	290	3,766	296
Poultry catching ²³	1,815 (41%)	14 (6%)	1,821 (43%)	38 (13%)	1,220 (32%)	28 (9.5%)
Dead on arrival	1,422 (32%)	42 (17%)	1,241 (29%)	46 (16%)	1,405 (37%)	43 (14.5%)
Late gestation (>90% pregnancy)	451 (10%)	70 (28%)	361 (8.5%)	65 (22%)	301 (8%)	81 (27%)
Further triage required	974 (17%)	161 (49%)	829 (9.5%)	141 (49%)	840 (22%)	144 (49%)

2.315 The most frequently reported non-urgent welfare in transport referral type for English and Welsh slaughterhouses (FSA) related to Dead on Arrival (DOA). This

²³ 'Poultry catching' includes a range of welfare-related definitions, including trappings, overstocked crates, poorly maintained equipment and injuries.

was followed by referrals relating to poultry catching. In Scotland, late gestation pregnancies were the most frequent, followed by DOA.

- 2.316 Poultry catching issues were referred to LAs for monitoring and action as appropriate in 2022, including joint actions with APHA. Meat chickens were the only catching referrals for Scottish slaughterhouses. In England and Wales, meat chickens were the most frequent poultry referral, but small numbers of incidents were associated with breeding birds (1.2%) and turkeys (0.6%)
- 2.317 The most common species type referred for DOA from English and Welsh slaughterhouses were pigs (53%), sheep (27%), meat chickens (15%) and cattle (4%), whilst FSS reported most frequently for pigs (60%), sheep (26%) and cattle (12%).
- 2.318 APHA's welfare in transport team issued warning letters with guidance to transporters on late gestation for all cases associated with GB-authorised transporters.
- 2.319 In 2022, 93% (276/296) of referrals from the FSS related to Scottish farms, with 16 referrals to farms in the North of England, one in Western England and three in Wales.
- 2.320 Ninety-six percent of FSA referrals (3,606 of 3,766) related to English and Welsh holdings, with 156 referrals related to Scottish holdings. The FSA referrals comprised 35% of all referrals in respect of Scottish holdings in 2022, similar to the number reported in 2021.
- 2.321 The referrals from FSA regarding Scottish holdings were not equally spread across referral types, with FSA reporting 69% of DOAs and 28% of poultry catching incidents originating from Scottish farms in 2022. This increase is in proportion for poultry catching compared to 2021.
- 2.322 Forty-eight out of 90 of the FSA referred DOAs regarding Scottish holdings related to sheep, which comprised 83% of all sheep DOAs for Scottish holdings. All seven chicken DOA referrals (six breeders and one broiler) for Scottish holdings were reported by the FSA.
- 2.323 The following table splits the referrals by original holding of animals and by country. In 2022, 79%, 11% and 10% of referrals originated from English, Scottish and Welsh holdings, respectively - which was comparable to 2021 figures (79%, 10% and 11% respectively). In spite of the overall drop in referrals, the country of origin spread was similar.
- 2.324 The actual number of incidents relating to DOAs increased again for England and Wales from 2021 levels, and fell slightly for Scotland. Incidence (in actual numbers) of late gestation fell for England and Wales and increased for Scotland for 2022.

Table showing country of origin location for FSA/FSS referrals

Referral type	Number of incidents (% of total in each country of origin)								
Year	2020			2021			2022		
Country	Eng	Scot	Wales	Eng	Scot	Wales	Eng	Scot	Wales
Total	3,801	398	480	3,593	433	498	3,210	432	420
Poultry catching	1,588 (42%)	50 (13%)	191 (40%)	1,585 (44%)	44 (10%)	226 (45%)	1,060 (33%)	39 (9%)	149 (35%)
Dead on arrival	1,236 (33%)	120 (30%)	108 (23%)	1,046 (29%)	133 (31%)	97 (19%)	1,203 (37%)	131 (30%)	114 (27%)
Late gestation (>90% pregnancy)	352 (9%)	80 (20%)	89 (19%)	277 (8%)	77 (18%)	72 (14%)	254 (8%)	91 (21%)	37 (8%)
Further triage required	625 (16%)	148 (37%)	92 (19%)	685 (19%)	179 (41%)	103 (21%)	693 (21%)	171 (39%)	120 (28%)

2.325 Across GB in 2022, 984 incidents were determined for triage – a similar value to 2021.

2.326 The table below shows how these referrals were triaged by APHA. Cases relating to a welfare in transport issue were logged with APHA's welfare in transport (WIT) team, and allocated to the appropriate LA for enforcement action or information, as part of ongoing monitoring. The WIT team also handled monitoring and ongoing regulatory action in relation to authorised transporters associated with any FSA/FSS referrals.

FSA/FSS referrals requiring further triage in Great Britain from 2018 – 2022

Referral type	2018*	2019**	2020	2021	2022
Welfare in transport (WIT)	298	208	173	183	150
Welfare on farm (WOF)	210	343	177	220	97
Welfare in transport and Welfare on farm origin / cause (WIT / WOF)	271	497	459	515	612
Welfare issue could not be determined from evidence	81	35	41	25	17
Other issue / action / DOAs / catching***	-	63	21	28	108
Total	-	1,146	871	971	984

*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.

2.327 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.

- 2.328 Whilst civil cross compliance penalties were usually applied by RPA based on on-farm findings during an inspection, 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 animals with ingrowing horns.

FSS/FSA referred farm inspections and non-compliances in GB 2018 – 2022

	2018*	2019	2020	2021	2022
Total farm inspections following referral	200	321	246	355	199
Non-compliant findings	30	39	33	55	43
Non-compliant findings without unnecessary suffering	17	31	19	29	20
Non-compliant findings with unnecessary suffering detected	13	8	14	26	23

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

- 2.329 The number of incidents/findings involving unnecessary suffering at farm level increased to 11.6% of assessments in 2022, compared to 7.3% in 2021. Ante-mortem and post-mortem findings continued to be considered a key indicator of serious animal welfare issues on farm.
- 2.330 At national level, Scotland reported 14 cases of unnecessary suffering at farm inspections in response to slaughterhouse referrals, compared to nine in 2021 - which was an increase from 14% to 33% of all slaughterhouse referred farm inspections for 2022. England reported 5 cases of unnecessary suffering in 2022 - a decrease from eight in 2021, although a similar proportion of total referrals in England. Wales reported four cases, comprising 14% of all slaughterhouse referred farm inspections in 2022 - a decrease from 22% in 2021.
- 2.331 A total of 199 GB farm inspections were carried out by APHA in 2022 following triage. Inspections decreased across GB - by 49% in England, 35% in Scotland and 28% in Wales.
- 2.332 Of these farm inspections, 22% resulted in a non-compliance being recorded in 2022, greater than recorded in the previous 2 years. Although this could reflect an increase in non-compliance, it does indicate that official controls at the slaughterhouse level are effective in detecting and targeting on farm animal welfare issues.

FSA/FSS referred farm inspections and compliance levels by country for 2020 – 2022

Outcomes by year	2020			2021			2022		
	Eng	Scot	Wal	Eng	Scot	Wal	Eng	Scot	Wal
Farm inspections following referral	145	53	48	249	66	40	127	43	29
Non-compliances recorded*	23	1	9	23	11	13	12	3	5
Non compliances where suffering was determined*	7	0	7	8	9	9	5	14	4

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

Animal welfare at slaughter or killing

- 2.333 Welfare at the time of killing (WATOK) is regulated and enforced through the assimilated Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009 on the protection of animals at the time of killing, 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 in Scotland retained sections of the Welfare of Animals (Slaughter or Killing) Regulations 1995.
- 2.334 In 2022, APHA followed up reports and allegations relating to poor animal welfare during slaughter or killing operations outside of approved slaughterhouses. 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.
- 2.335 The Protection of Animals at the Time of Killing (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2022 came into force on 3rd February 2022. This amends Annex 1 of the assimilated Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009, to permit the use of a non-penetrative captive bolt device as a killing method for piglets of less than 10kg live weight, lambs of less than 6kg live weight and kids of less than 4kg live weight, subject to specified requirements.
- 2.336 In GB all 51 inspections carried out by APHA to regulate compliance with the welfare at killing legislation were conducted alongside a visit for an assessment for a WATOK licence. No non-compliance was found during the inspections. Fifteen visits occurred in the pre-Christmas period associated with seasonal slaughter of poultry
- 2.337 The graph and table below show the numbers of assessments for slaughter and killing outside of an approved slaughterhouse, and for non-compliances detected in GB.

Figure 55 – Chart showing the number of welfare inspection visits during slaughter in Great Britain from 2020-2022*



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

2.338 The tables below set out GB non-compliance data by country for 2022; and the types of non-compliance assessment finding in GB between 2018 and 2022.

	England	Scotland	Wales
Premises visited	40	1	4
Slaughter visits*	44	1	6
Visits for slaughter licence assessment	45	n/a*	6
Species categories assessed**	46	1	6
Non-compliances at visit	0	0	0
Non-compliances recorded where suffering was not determined	0	0	0
Non compliances where suffering was determined	0	0	0

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

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

GB non-compliance assessment finding	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Licensing	17	2	1	0	0
Construction, equipment, maintenance	11	11	4	0	0
Animals awaiting killing	0	0	0	0	0
Handling and restraint	3	0	0	0	0
Stunning and killing	11	5	2	1	0
Bleeding or pithing	4	5	0	1	0

Welfare of Animals at Time of Killing (WATOK) in Great Britain in 2022

Country	Slaughterman Licence		Certificate of Competence (CoC)		Temporary CoC	
	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022
England & Wales	62	66	859	1,060	1,513	1,499
Scotland	N/A	N/A	79	110	153	147

2.339 In England and Wales in 2022, slaughterman licences and CoCs were issued under Welfare of Animals at Time of Killing (WATOK) by the FSA.

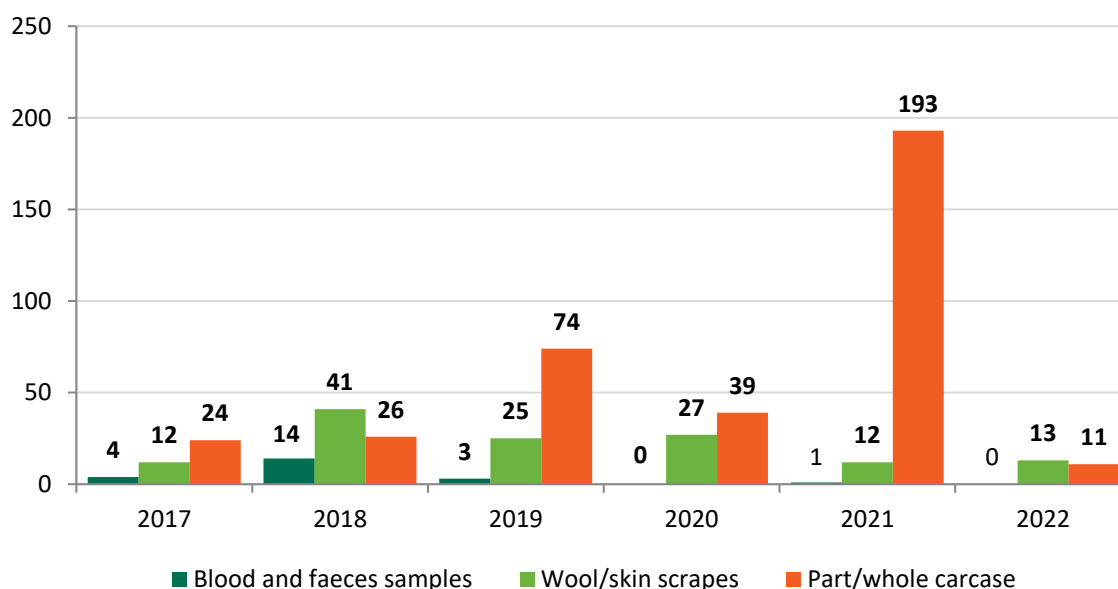
2.340 In Scotland, 110 CoCs were issued by FSS for operatives in slaughterhouses, farms and knackeries, under the WATOK (Scotland) Regulations 2012, between April 2022 and March 2023.

2.341 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

2.342 The chart below shows submission to the regional veterinary laboratories in England and Wales from 2016 to 2022.

Figure 56– Chart showing the number of samples submitted to Regional Veterinary Laboratories in England and Wales from 2017 – 2022



2.343 In 2022, APHA's Regional Laboratories (RLs) received 24 welfare forensic submissions, consisting of 11 whole carcasses and three carcass parts (such as heads or limbs: to note, a submission may comprise parts from more than one carcass).

- 3 carcasses and 2 carcase parts from cattle
- 2 carcasses and 1 leg from sheep
- 1 carcass from goats
- 5 carcasses from pigs

2.344 Four of the submissions were from the same holding, where severe welfare issues were identified - including emaciated animals, excess deaths, ABP breaches and lack of records. Statements were written for all cases where a prosecution was to be progressed. The remainder of the samples (13 in total) were wool or skin samples relating to suspect sheep scab cases. This was similar to the number received in 2021.

2.345 There was a single case with Veterinary Investigation Officer (VIO) involvement, resulting in a guilty verdict for offences under the Animal Welfare Act 2006. The farmer pleaded guilty to failing in duty of care to animals and ABP infringements. He received a ban in owning, keeping, dealing and transporting bovines for a minimum of five years.

Official controls in the plant health sector

Controls on imported plants, plant products and plant material

England and Wales

- 2.346 In 2022, 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.
- 2.347 When including EU material, 38% of the highest risk commodities were inspected at designated inspection sites (PoDs or BCPs). For Rest of World material, a 99% inspection rate was achieved. The target was not met for inspecting other lower risk controlled material, with 46% of material inspected against the required 65% target (up until August 2022). The target of completing 100% of document and identity checks was also not met, with 88% of the checks achieved.
- 2.348 The delivery shortfall resulted from a combination of the challenges arising from delivering controls at PoDs for EU material, and the ongoing resource need for established inspectors to train the influx of new staff recruited to deliver the inspection of EU material. Recruitment pressures continued in 2022.
- 2.349 The pattern from the previous year (of growing numbers of controlled consignments requiring inspection) continued at a slightly slower lower rate. In 2022, there was a 9% increase in the number of consignments declared and requiring control, compared to 2021. The total controlled and declared consignments in 2022 was 266,905, compared to 245,802 in 2021.
- 2.350 For the 126 commodities and trades subject to reduced import checks²⁴, the required levels of inspection were largely met (10 were under the target, and 28 exceeded it). In addition, 5,620 inspections of non-regulated material were carried out, against a target of 7,000.
- 2.351 In 2022, the Forestry Commission (FC) stopped checking the bulk shipments of sawn timber to which its customer service standard target applied. These checks had previously applied to shipments of sawn conifer timber in bulk from Russia. The import of all controlled wood from Russia was replaced by trade in unregulated bark-free sawn conifer, from elsewhere in Europe. The shift in the source of conifer

²⁴ The general rule in 2022 was 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. Plant checks, however, can be carried out at a reduced frequency where this can be justified.

imports into Great Britain coincided with an overall decline in sawn wood imports by 20%²⁵ during 2022.

2.352 FC continued to receive additional Defra funding to support its checks at border checks and its inland activities, and was able to increase its operational staffing from 23 posts to 33 posts. These additional staff:

- Strengthened the inland plant health team, increasing the surveillance level for newly emerging pests and diseases in trees and woodlands
- Responded to an increasing number of harmful pest outbreaks in England including *Ips typographus* and *Phytophthora pluvialis*
- Carried out surveillance of approximately 50 thousand hectares of conifer woodland for *I. typographus* and *P. pluvialis*
- Surveyed 33 thousand hectares of larch for *Phytophthora ramorum*
- Responded to a new outbreak of the Oak processionary moth found within the Pest Free Area between Derby and Nottingham
- Continued to check controlled timber from the EU including sawn ash and ash firewood
- Continue to deliver certain statutory plant health functions on behalf of the Devolved Governments 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 was coordinated and reported on for all three countries.

Plant health surveillance and outbreak management

England and Wales

2.353 In 2022/2023, work continued to monitor and manage a number of plant and tree health pest and disease incidents, as summarised below.

- ***Thaumetopoea pityocampa* (pine processionary moth)** In February 2022 two (originally live, but dead on receipt) caterpillars of *Thaumetopoea pityocampa* (pine processionary moth) were identified on *Pinus sylvestris* originating from France. Entomology estimated that the caterpillars were 3rd or 4th instar. The decision was taken to destroy all pines delivered in 2021/22 at all sites (3 nurseries and 4 landscape sites - 58 trees) during April 2022. All sites had pheromone traps installed and were monitored weekly.
- **Tomato Brown Fruit Rugose Virus (ToBRFV)** A new finding was made at a business in Yorkshire & the Humber, thought to be the result of a late infection. Eradication measures were applied including the removal and destruction of all plants, cleansing and disinfection of the glasshouses, together with

²⁵ [Forestry Statistics 2023](#)

enhancement of biosecurity measures. The decision of the grower was to instigate a break from tomato growing in affected glasshouses. Separately, findings in imported fruit from the Netherlands & Belgium also continued, stressing the importance of separating imported fruit packing activities from UK tomato production. A number of growers initiated geographically separate pack houses and also sent commercial samples for testing.

- ***Phytophthora ramorum* and *Phytophthora kernoviae*** – *P. ramorum* survey and compliance checking flights were completed during the summer of 2022. The *P. ramorum* survey programme surveyed 33,160 ha of larch (16,898 ha private woodland, 16,262 ha public forest). Findings were locally significant - resulting in 364 target sites being identified for ground survey follow-up, of which 201 had clear evidence of infection. In comparison to 2021 these are lower figures - but still significant levels of infection, with 2022 seeing more infection in the south west of England than in previous years.
- ***Phytophthora pluvialis*** – First discovered in a woodland in Cornwall in September 2021, where it was found to be affecting mature western hemlock and Douglas-fir trees. During 2022 there was further extensive surveillance, with outbreaks found at 82 sites across Great Britain (59 in England, 18 in Wales and 5 in Scotland). In England there were findings in Shropshire, Cumbria, Surrey, and the Southwest. Multiple sites were also present in Scotland and Wales.
- In support of findings in forestry, APHA delivered surveillance in Wales and England (Cornwall, Devon, Surrey, Shropshire, Gwynedd, Carmarthenshire, Powys, Monmouthshire, Rhondda Cynon Taf, Caerphilly, Conway, and Denbighshire). Surveys of residential properties were delivered for Western Hemlock, Douglas Fir and pine within 100m of forestry findings, and gardens open to the public within five km of forestry findings.
- The evidence review (led by Defra) facilitated a reduction in area to survey from 5Km to 2.5Km for gardens open to the public. Follow ups in residential properties, or in the 2.5Km demarcated areas, identified no further findings of *P. pluvialis*. Defra policy approval was granted to allow *P. pluvialis* to be included in Countryside Stewardship Woodland Tree Health grants, for both improvement and restoration (from 2023).
- ***Thaumetopoea proccessionea* (Oak processionary moth (OPM))** – The OPM extent survey was completed in November 2022. A major finding was made in an area towards the north of Southampton: this was localised and 50km away from other outbreaks. A pilot aimed at supporting private residents with control in the established area resulted in 2,000 applications, of which 713 were successful. A new Pest Free Area survey was designed (for implementation in 2023), and research was carried out into 'nature based' control methods including pheromone disruption techniques.

- ***Ips typographus* (Spruce bark beetle)** - Fourteen outbreak sites were identified (in Kent and Sussex) and action to complete eradication was taken, led by Forestry Commission England, with the support of two regional APHA surveillance teams. The Demarcated Area position remained unchanged. Combined aerial surveys for symptoms of *P. pluvialis* and *I. typographus* covered 36,669 ha of spruces, 9,908 ha of Douglas fir and 1,355 ha of western hemlock on the public forest estate (inventory figures were not available for private woodlands surveyed). This survey programme identified nine out of the 14 *I. typographus* findings in 2022.
- The numbers of residential properties were less than in 2021, and at a few sites minimal: however, one site had approximately 350 residential properties. Trees of concern were flagged for follow up and/or destruction, as appropriate.

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

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

Annual survey - GB Priority pests

Survey pest	Action taken in 2021/22	Action taken in 2022/23
Epitrix spp, Clavibacter michiganensis (Ring rot), Synchytrium endobioticum (Potato wart disease), Candidatus Liberibacter solanacearum (Zebra chip)*, Ralstonia solanacearum (Brown rot)**, Meloidogyne chitwoodi, Thecaphora solani, Ralstonia pseudosolanacearum, Tectia solanivora & Naupactus leucoloma visual & tuber cutting	180 ware crops	317 ware crops grown from UK/EU seed
Epitrix spp, Clavibacter michiganensis (Ring rot), Synchytrium endobioticum (Potato wart disease), Candidatus Liberibacter solanacearum (Zebra chip)*, Ralstonia solanacearum (Brown rot)**, Meloidogyne chitwoodi, Thecaphora solani, Ralstonia pseudosolanacearum, Tectia solanivora & Naupactus leucoloma visual & tuber coring for latent testing	1,291 crops inspected including all Seed Potato Classification Scheme E&W seed stocks marketed	777 E&W Seed Potato Classification Scheme stocks sampled
<i>Leptinotarsa decemlineata</i> and <i>Candidatus Liberibacter solanacearum</i> (Zebra chip)* - visual inspection of growing crop	48 crops	51 crops
Ceratocystis platani, Thaumatopea processionea, Thaumatopea pityocampa, Agrilus anxius, Anoplophora chinensis, Anoplophora glabripennis, Ips typographus, Elm Yellowings** and Xylella fastidiosa	141 post planting sites inspected following an extensive tracing exercise to identify sites planted within the last 3 years	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.
Xylella fastidiosa		134 inspections at plant passport premises. 140 inspections at managed parks and gardens.
Ceratocystis platani, Thaumatopea processionea, Thaumatopea pityocampa, Agrilus anxius, Anoplophora chinensis, Anoplophora glabripennis, Ips typographus, Elm Yellowings** and Xylella fastidiosa		122 planting sites inspected following tracing exercise to identify sites planted in the last 3 years

*Proxy survey for *Bactericera cockerelli*

**Not a GB Priority pest

Multi -annual surveillance

Survey pest	Action taken in 2021/22	Action taken in 2022/23
<i>Phytophthora ramorum</i> & <i>P. kernoviae</i> – wider environment	365 sites inspected against a min target of 300	244 sites
PCN – Domestic Production	501 Ha sampled from a target area of 424 Ha.	520 Ha
<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	24 water courses
Acleris issikii, Acleris robinsoniana, Aleurocanthus spiniferus, Amauromyza maculosa, Bemisia tabaci, Candidatus Phytoplasma 'ulmi', Candidatus Phytoplasma 'prunorum', Candidatus Phytoplasma 'solani', Candidatus Phytoplasma phoenicium, Citrus exocortis viroid, Conotrachelus nenuphar, Cryphonectria parasitica Davidsoniella virescens, Eotetranychus lewisi, Fusarium circinatum, Hirschmanniella spp., Liriomyza huidobrensis, Liriomyza trifolii, Paysandisia archon, Phytophthora kernoviae, Phytophthora ramorum, Popillia japonica, Rhizoeus hibisci, Rhynchophorus ferrugineus, Rhynchophorus palmarum, Scirtothrips citri Sphaerulina musiva, Trialeurodes abutiloneus, Xanthomonas arboricola pv. Pruni	No set targets per pest. Plant hosts were inspected as part of 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.	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.
Bemisia tabaci, Pepino mosaic virus (PEPMV0), Potato spindle tuber viroid (PSTVD0), Columnea latent viroid (CLVD00), Pepper chat fruit viroid (PCFVD0), Tomato apical stunt viroid (TASVD0), Tomato brown rugose fruit (TOBRFV), Tomato chlorotic dwarf viroid (TCDVD0), Tomato chocolate virus (TOCHVO), Tomato infectious chlorosis (TICV00), Tomato marchitez virus (TOANV0), Tomato mottle mosaic (TOMMV0), Tomato planta macho viroid (TPMVD0), Tomato torrado virus (TOTV00), Tomato yellow leaf curl (Sardinia; TYLCSV), Tomato yellow leaf curl (TYLCV0), Tomato yellow leaf curl New Dehli (TOLCND)		56 tomato & pepper production sites

General quarantine surveillance

England and Wales

2.355 As part of the APHA survey design, inspection visits in England and Wales were determined according to the following risk matrix in 2022/23.

Plant health risk* matrix and achievements against targets in England and Wales in 2022/23

Client plant health risk rating ²⁶	2021/22		2022/23	
	Target No. of Visits	Achievement (%)	Target No. of Visits	Achievement (%)
Very high risk	120	125%	110	100%
High risk	1,084	110%	1,112	100%
Medium risk	3,723	75%	3,792	100%
Low risk	1,986	85%	2,017	100%

*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

2.356 Since the restrictions and uncertainty brought about by Covid-19, the number of flights carrying cargo into Scottish airports started to recover during 2022. However, only a very few imports of plants and plant products were received from non-EU countries. In 2022, there were 94 import notifications and all received documentary, identity and risk based physical checks. No non-compliances were identified.

2.357 With the continuation of checks of EU high priority imports at inland Points of Destination, 392 sites were registered in Scotland, which took 2,761 consignments. All received a documentary check, and 38% of risk based identity and physical checks were completed. The main issues found were missing Phytosanitary Certificates at point of application. However, a marked improvement in compliance was achieved over the year, supported by a combination of trader education and communication.

2.358 Inland surveillance activity within Scotland were carried out by the Scottish Government and Scottish Forestry. Surveys and trade monitoring for quarantine and multi annual pests were completed according to delivery plans.

²⁶ Very High Risk 10-12 visits per year; High Risk 4-6 visits per year; Med Risk 2 visits per year; Low Risk 1 visit every 2 years

2.359 Seed potato export tonnage in 2022 was 77,716, which was down by 5% from 2021. Ware potato export was 38,897 tonnes, an increase of 88% on last year's total, due to the shortage of ware potatoes in both Northern Ireland and Europe.

Number of potato quarantine tests carried out in GB from 2019 – 2022

Type of diagnosis	2019	2020	2021	2022
Viroids	3,043	7,230	3,321	2,745
Virology	244	516	472	355
Bacteriology (incl. brown rot/ring rot)	2,996	2,758	2,809	2,794
Mycology	454	207	441	196
Nematology/Entomology	18,424	20,000	16,954	18,196
Total	25,161	30,711	23,997	24,286

Enforcement activities for Single Market and EU surveillance activities in Scotland in 2022

Disease / pest	Surveillance	Findings
<i>Ditylenchus dipsaci</i> (stem and bulb nematode)	125 stocks (159.94 ha) were inspected primarily for export markets.	Samples submitted for laboratory testing from 2 stocks (5.70 ha) were confirmed to be infested with <i>D. dipsaci</i> . Controls were put in place and infected sections of each stock were destroyed.
Dothistroma Needle Blight	A survey was undertaken of tree producing nurseries of hosts susceptible to <i>Dothistroma pini</i> and <i>D. septosporum</i> . Checks were also undertaken for <i>Fusarium circinatum</i> .	<i>D. septosporum</i> was found at one nursery. Infected plants were destroyed under statutory notice.
<i>Erwinia amylovora</i> (fireblight)	Six nurseries requested Fireblight PFA status and had host plants tested for latent symptoms.	All samples taken from nurseries and the surrounding area were negative. One of the nurseries require a further inspection during the 2023 growing season to attain full PFA status.
<i>Gnomoniopsis idaeicola</i> (causal agent of cane canker)	Following a confirmed finding of <i>Gnomoniopsis idaeicola</i> on a <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> (blackberry) plant which had originated from Scotland, follow up checks were undertaken at the production nursery and the surrounding area. Samples displaying symptoms were submitted laboratory testing.	All samples taken from nurseries and the surrounding area were negative.
<i>Phytophthora</i> spp.	<p><u>Nursery Trade/Garden Centre</u> The nursery trade was largely clear of the regulated <i>Phytophthora</i> spp. Registered nurseries producing susceptible material for <i>P. ramorum</i> and <i>P. kernoviae</i> continued to receive two site inspections a year plus one based on risk. Inspections at nurseries and garden centres also included visual checks of <i>P. austrocedri</i>, <i>P. lateralis</i> and <i>P. pluvialis</i> hosts.</p> <p><u>Gardens/Landscaped Sites</u> The annual <i>P. ramorum</i> / <i>P. kernoviae</i> garden survey covering 50 sites across Scotland was completed by December 2022 and consisted primarily of prominent public</p>	<p><u>Nursery Trade/Garden Centre</u> <i>P. ramorum</i> was detected at one nursery. Controls were put in place and infected plants were destroyed.</p> <p><u>Gardens/Landscaped Sites</u> The 2022 garden survey identified 3 new outbreak sites with <i>P. ramorum</i>. One of these sites also had <i>P. kernoviae</i> and <i>P. pluvialis</i> (first finding outside of a forestry setting). A further site was also identified with <i>P. pluvialis</i>. Control measures were put in place and planned additional monitoring of the sites will take place.</p>

Disease / pest	Surveillance	Findings
	<p>gardens and some 'non-active' sites. It also included <i>P. pluvialis</i> hosts.</p> <p>There were 33 'active' outbreak sites across Scotland consisting of 22 with <i>P. ramorum</i>, 4 with <i>P. kernoviae</i> and 7 with both pathogens. A further 82 gardens had 'non-active' status where controls were lifted following a programme of monitoring and the disease had not been detected for at least 3 years.</p>	

Summary of intensity and type of plant controls in Great Britain

2.360 In GB during 2022, overall official controls compliance improved for commercial cargo, and postal interceptions went down from 1,632 in 2021 to 1,493 in 2022. Import inspection targets were largely met for England and Wales.

2.361 In England and Wales in 2022, there was a decrease in notifications on imported harmful organisms - to 585 findings, compared to 604 findings in 2021, for both controlled and non-controlled material. The tables below show the most common third country import / pest combinations in 2021 and 2022.

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

Pests detected and non-compliances in third country imports during 2022/23

Country of origin	Pest detected	Non-compliance cases
Netherlands	Bemisia tabaci	105
Thailand	Bemisia tabaci	84
Nigeria	Bemisia tabaci	32
Nigeria	Thripidae	22
Bangladesh	Thripidae	17
Israel	Bemisia tabaci	15

2.362 The main reason for non-compliance was documentary issues (lack of or incorrect documentation), which accounted for 1,685 interceptions - of these, 1,463 related to private imports imported by post or courier.

2.363 When harmful organisms or outbreaks were found at ports or inland in GB, 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

2.364 In England and Wales in 2022, 266,905 consignments were subject to import inspection, declared and requiring controls - an increase of 9% over 2021 (245,802). The increase reflects the ongoing impact of Great Britain's exit from the

European Union in 2021, and the inclusion of high-priority commodities from EU countries within the scope of Great Britain's import controls. The increase in 2022 continued the general yearly upward trend in the number of consignments subject to inspection since 2014/15 (with the exception of a very small decrease in 2017/18).

Figure 57 – Chart showing plant import consignments subject to inspections in England and Wales from 2017/18 – 2022/23

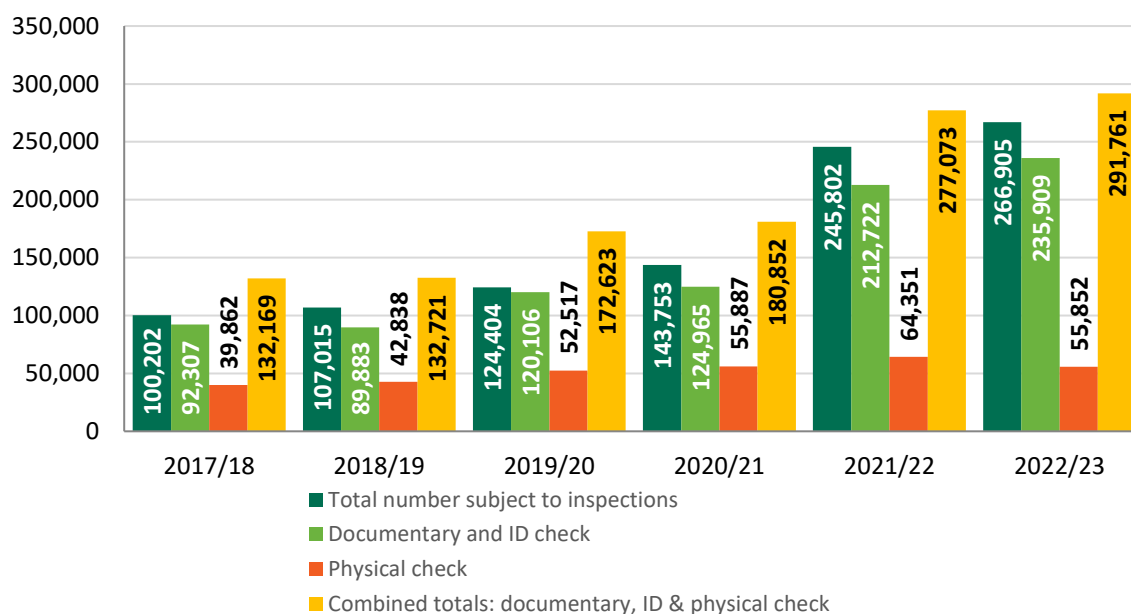
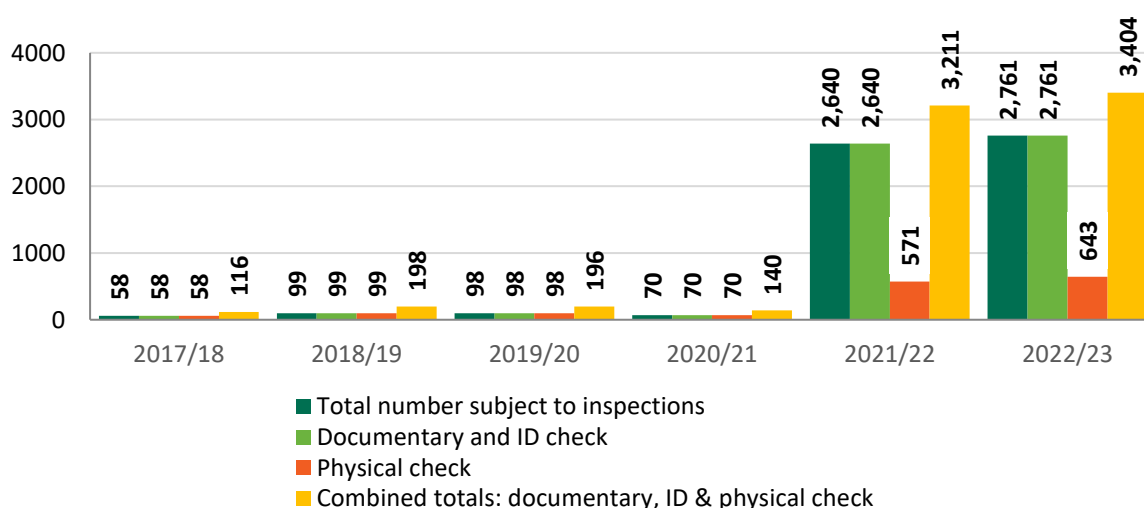


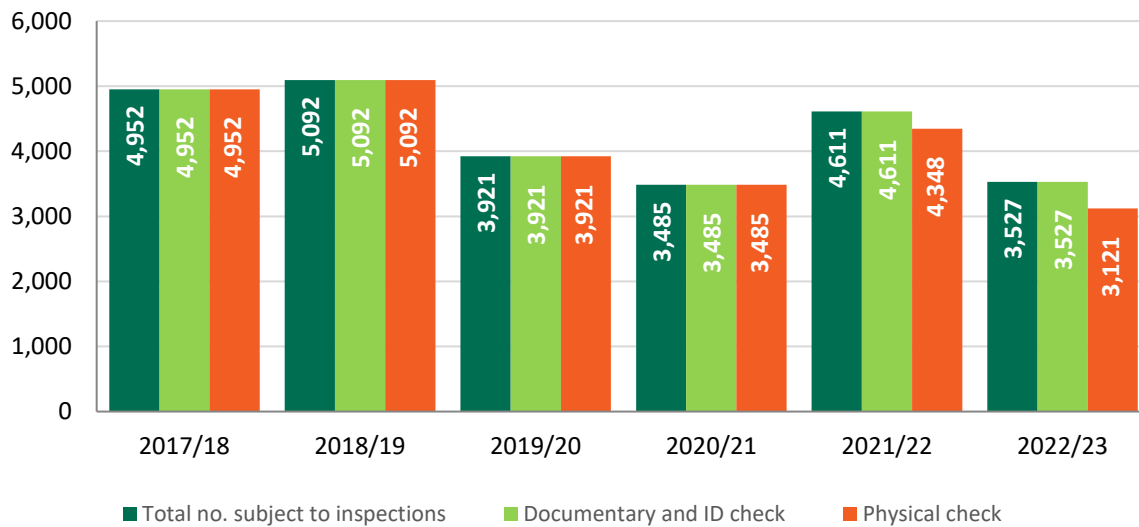
Figure 58 – Chart showing plant import consignments subject to inspections for Scotland from 2017/18 – 2022/23²⁷



*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.

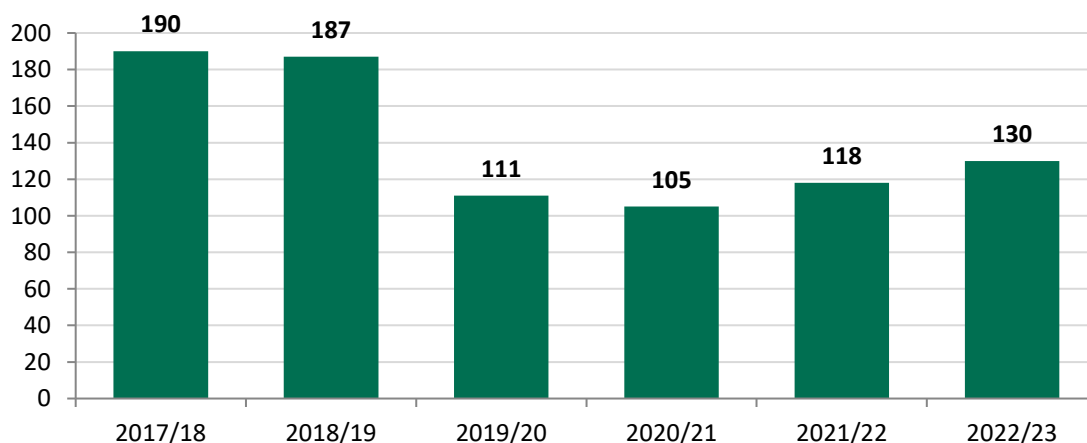
²⁷ Data for combined totals of checks from 2016/17 to 2019/20 corrected due to an error in the 2019 report.

Figure 59 – Chart showing wood and wood products import consignments in GB subject to inspection undertaken by Forestry Commission from 2017/18 – 2022/23²⁸



2.365 The inspection figures included 100% statutory checks on controlled wood, wood products and bark. Risk-based checks on wood packaging material (WPM) were not included in the figures. Checks on WPM were carried out according to an annual monitoring plan under the retained EU Plant Health legislation [Commission Delegated Regulation \(EU\) 2019/2125](#). Statutory checks on third country material were extended to include all wood of ash and other regulated material from the EU. These additional checks on sawn timber and firewood did not fully offset the sanction-driven fall in the number of checks on sawn timber imported from Russia.

Figure 60 – Chart showing imported wood and wood products non-compliances in GB from 2017/18 – 2022/23



²⁸ Data for total number subject to inspections corrected for previous years.

2.366 Under the Forestry Commission's jurisdiction for imported material, the number of non-compliances in 2022/23 was higher than in 2021/22. In FY2022/23 the breakdown of the percentage non-compliance by product type was:

- WPM – 78%
- Dunnage – 12%
- Sawn timber – 5%
- Other – 5% (including solid firewood).

2.367 During 2022/23 the rules for [ISPM15](#)²⁹ were being fully enforced for wood packaging and dunnage from the EU in the same way as from other parts of the world. Interceptions of non-complaint material from the EU represented 25% of the total interceptions.

2.368 The main cause of non-compliances continued to be the failure of wood packaging material manufacturers and treatment providers to comply fully with ISPM15 in the country of export. Most non-compliance was for failing to ensure that the material was:

- clearly marked with a traceable ISPM15 mark
- within the bark tolerance level permitted
- free from pests and signs of live pests

2.369 Where wood packaging failed to meet ISPM15 with any type of commodity, the material was subjected to remedial action. There were no instances where there was any evidence of live life stages of pests associated with the wood packaging.

2.370 In 2022/23, the checks for wood packaging material were associated with a wide range of goods of all kinds. The most intercepted imports of goods with non-compliant wood packaging were from the US, followed by Turkey, India and China.

2.371 There was a downward trend in the volume of controlled timber. The volume of material inspected was approximately half of that seen before the sanctions on Russian imports. Most checks were carried out at BCPs, with only 8% of checks at PoDs inland. The import checks on EU material represented 38% of checks overall, and 60% of controlled timber volume.

2.372 Compliance rates continued to be high for controlled timber commodities, with no findings of live pests, although a number of bulk shipments of isolated conifer bark

²⁹ The requirement for implementation of the standard on imported wood packaging material is also set out as a specific import condition under the assimilated 2016 Plant Health Regulation [Article 43](#)

The requirement for monitoring of WPM with goods of all kinds is set out in secondary legislation [Commission Delegated Regulation \(EU\) 2019/2125](#)

were intercepted with live life forms of nematodes or (non-pest) insects, which suggested a failure of phytosanitary treatment.

Figure 61 – Chart showing the number of phytosanitary export certificates issued in GB from 2017/18 – 2022/23

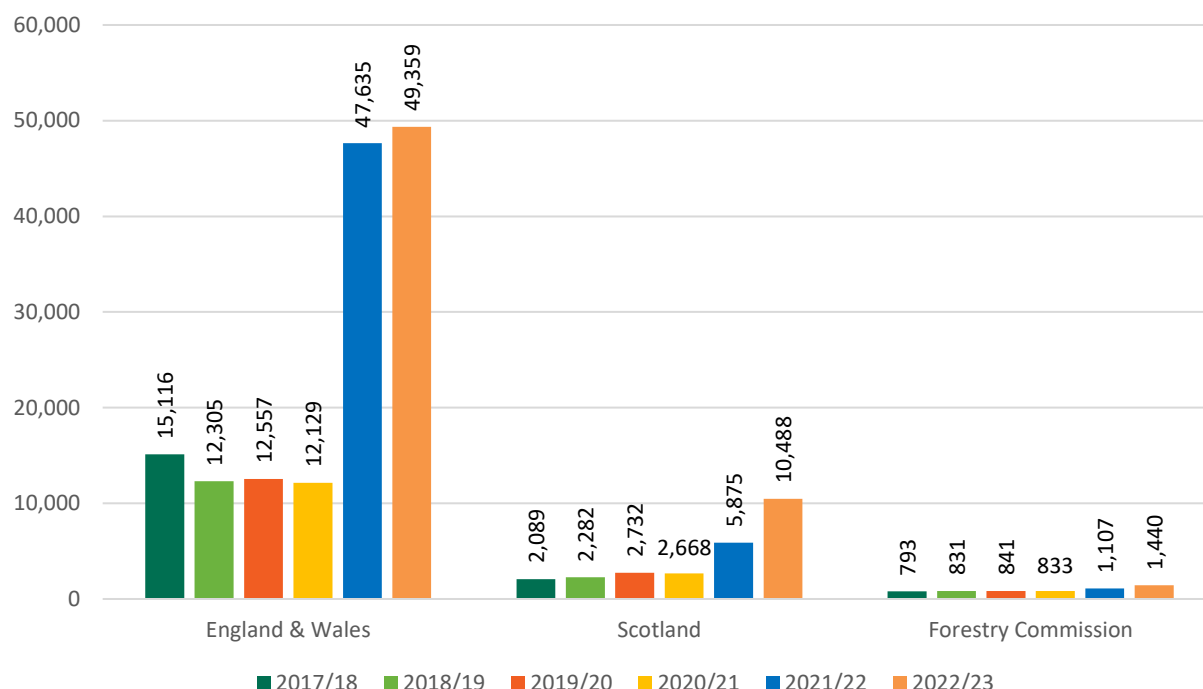
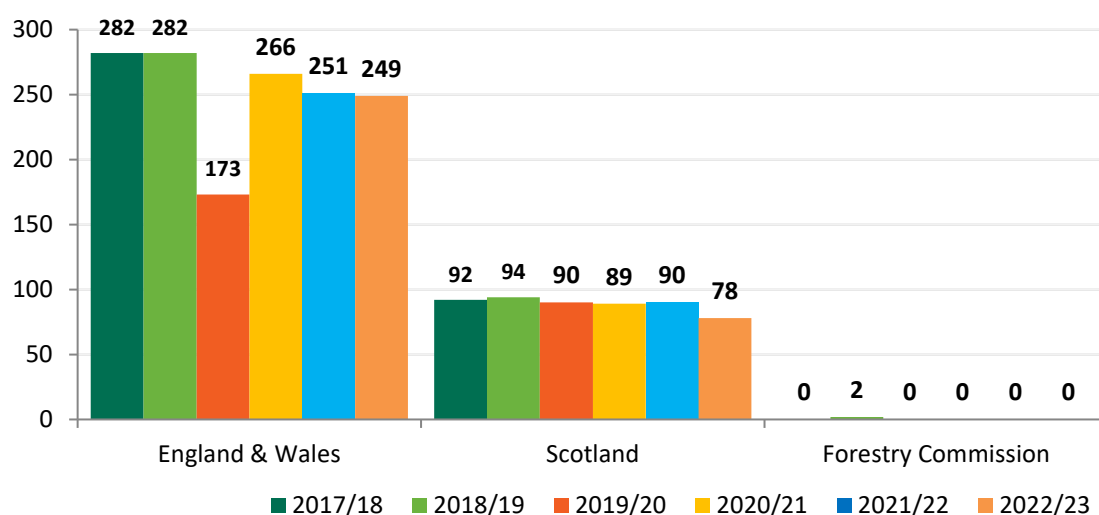


Figure 62 – Chart showing the number of licenses issued for import or holding of prohibited plants and pests in GB from 2017/18 – 2022/23



2.373 The number of phytosanitary certificates for export issued by the FC almost doubled in 2022, to meet demand for regulated exports to the EU. No scientific licences

were issued in 2022 by FC, as the delivery of scientific licensing authorisations was transferred from the FC to APHA on 1 January 2021.

2.374 In England and Wales in 2022/23, 249 licences were issued to allow for the import or to hold prohibited plants and plant pests.

2.375 In Scotland, 78 authorisations (previously known as licences) were issued, including 3 which were new authorisations - a decrease of 15% from 2021/22. All were valid for the duration of the research work, and met the compliance requirements set out under Commission Delegated Regulations (EU) 2019/829

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

2.376 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.

2.377 During 2022 in England and Wales, the number of non-compliant actions for imports decreased from 2,470 in 2021 to 2,270 in 2022. Sustained monitoring of postal and courier packages at postal depots contributed to the discovery of non-compliant consignments.

Chapter 3 – National systems of audit

Audit of local and port health authorities

- 3.1 There were no routine LA audits undertaken by the FSA in England and Wales in 2022/23, 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.
- 3.2 During the period January to March 2022, the FSA started planning for a programme of assurance assessments of LA implementation of the Recovery Plan, which were delivered between April and July 2022.
- 3.3 Due to the number of LAs in England, a second tranche of assessments on the implementation of the Recovery Plan was also carried out between February and March 2023.
- 3.4 In Scotland, the LA audit programme continued - as detailed below:

Scotland 2022/23

Programme topic / policy area	Dates	Number of LAs audited	Number of establishment 'reality checks'	Reporting	Number of recommendations
Capacity and Capability	April 2022 – March 2023	1	0	n/a	11
Interventions Food Law Code of Practice	April 2022 – March 2023	6	11	n/a	51

Summary of audit findings

- 3.5 LA assessments in England and Wales:
- LAs subject to assessment all started from different positions in implementing the Recovery Plan in terms of the impact that COVID-19 had on their service, the challenges faced during the recovery period and the resources they had available.
 - LAs in England were able to benefit from the additional COVID-19 funding made available by central government, which allowed them to retain front line staff and employ additional contractors.

- LAs within Wales were heavily affected by having key staff members seconded to the COVID-19 response and the fact that COVID-19 restrictions that were kept in place for longer than other parts of the UK.
- During the pandemic LAs demonstrated some excellent examples of collaborative working with other council teams and external public health teams, enforcement agencies and emergency services. This enabled them to share intelligence on local food businesses which was used to plan interventions.
- LAs were able to demonstrate good progress implementing Phase 1 of the Recovery Plan prioritising new food businesses for a first inspection and planning their intervention programme taking a risk-based approach.
- The majority of LAs were able to show good progress towards meeting the Phase 2 milestones of the Recovery Plan.
- Most LAs had adopted a risk-based approach to the delivery of their services using their Management Information Systems to help them deliver the Recovery Plan.
- The Recovery Plan was generally well received and understood. LAs made some suggestions for improvements to the Recovery Plan, which have been shared with policy teams within the FSA.
- Some areas for improvement were identified, including a greater focus by LAs on the re-introduction of risk based internal monitoring to ensure the consistency and effectiveness of delivery of official controls and the re-introduction of appropriate food sampling programmes.

LA delivery of official controls at approved establishments in England

- 3.6 In 2022/23, no follow-up audits were undertaken due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the suspension of audit activity. Previous open audits on approved establishments were closed following a review and risk assessment process, due to the time elapsed since the initial audits. A new programme of audits on approved establishments in England is however planned for between April and June 2023.

Scotland

Local Authority Audits

- 3.7 During 2022/23, FSS continued with a risk-based audit programme covering the LA delivery of Official Controls. Audit activity was split between a single intelligence driven Capacity and Capability audit which gave a “reasonable” assurance result, and a series of six audits focussed on the verification of implementation of Scotland’s Food Law (Interventions) Code of Practice 2019.

- 3.8 Of these, two received a rating of “insufficient” Assurance category because of the extent to which they were failing to deliver the full requirements of the Code. This was primarily due to insufficient resources and the resources being diverted to other Environmental Health responsibilities or intelligence led priorities.
- 3.9 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

Internal audits conducted by competent authorities 2022/23

Audit programme topic / policy area audited	Sector	Competent authority	Country	Assurance level	Final report issued	Recommendations
Counter fraud awareness and culture	Animal and Plant Health	APHA	Eng, Scot & Wal	Limited	04/07/22	2
Bovine Tuberculosis – Operational review	Animal Health	APHA	Eng, Scot & Wal	Moderate	06/09/22	3
Third line assurance mapping	Animal and Plant Health	APHA	Eng, Scot & Wal	No opinion	October 2022	0
Line Management capacity and capability	Animal and Plant Health	APHA	Eng, Scot & Wal	Moderate	March 2023	4
Wellbeing	Animal and Plant Health	APHA	Eng, Scot & Wal	Moderate	January 2023	0
Animal, Plant and Bee Outbreak synergies	Animal and Plant Health	APHA	Eng, Scot & Wal	Moderate	February 2023	2
Health and Safety – Staff culture	Animal and Plant Health	APHA	Eng, Scot & Wal	Moderate	March 2023	1
Resilience – Business continuity	Animal and Plant Health	APHA	Eng, Scot & Wal	Moderate	January 2023	4
APHA/Defra - New and re-emerging threats	Animal and Plant Health	APHA / Defra	Eng, Scot & Wal	Substantial	24/08/22	0
OFFC Bovine Tuberculosis	Animal Health	APHA / Defra	Eng, Scot & Wal	Moderate	September 2022	3
OFFC New and Re-emerging Threat End to End Process Review	Animal and Plant Health	APHA / Defra	Eng, Scot & Wal	Substantial	August 2022	0
Northern Ireland Protocol (NIP) (Real Time Assurance)	Animal & Plant Health, Feed & Food	Defra	Eng, Scot & Wal	Moderate	March 2023	1

Audit programme topic / policy area audited	Sector	Competent authority	Country	Assurance level	Final report issued	Recommendations
Livestock Information Transformation Programme	Animal & Feed & Food	Defra	Eng, Scot & Wal	Moderate	April 2023	4
UK Office for SPS Trade Assurance	Animal & Heath, Feed & Food	Defra	Eng, Scot & Wal	Moderate	March 2023	4
Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy (TSE) Sampling and Testing	Approved Establishments	FSA	Eng, Scot & Wal	Moderate	23 Dec 2022	6 (no high risk)
Microbiological Criteria testing	Approved Establishments	FSA	Eng, Scot & Wal	In progress	Final report due June 2023	In progress
Delivery of Feed Official Controls	Food	FSS	Scotland	Insufficient	April 2023	25
Export Health Certification – Fish Hubs	Food	FSS	Scotland	Reasonable	May 2023	9
Animal Identification, Registration and Movement	Animal and Plant Health and Welfare	Scot Govt	Scotland	Substantial	July 2022	4
Veterinary Residues Monitoring	Food	Scot Govt	Scotland	Reasonable	August 2022	2
Crops and Plant Health – Excluding Potatoes	Plant Health	Scot Govt	Scotland	Limited	February 2023	3
Crops and Plant Health – Potatoes	Plant Health	Scot Govt	Scotland	Reasonable	February 2023	5
Review of the Co-operation and Supply Chain Development Scheme	Common Agricultural Policy	Welsh Gov EFAT	Wales	Substantial	October 2022	3

Summary of audit findings

England

- 3.10 Due to a reorganisation of the assurance teams in FSA (England), a smaller number of audits was carried out across England and Wales than was previously planned for the year.
- 3.11 An audit report was issued covering the official controls delivery for Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy (TSE) Sampling and Testing. The outcome was a moderate assurance opinion, and highlighted the need for the FSA to provide improved training and guidance for Official Veterinarians (Ovs)s in plants on official controls delivery in relation to TSE requirements as well as improved record keeping.
- 3.12 An audit of Microbiological Testing Criteria in approved establishments began in Q4 of 2022/23 and is due for completion in Q1 of 2023/24.
- 3.13 Two operational audits relevant to Official Feed and Food Controls (OFFC) regulatory requirements, and three other audits with legislative requirements were carried out.
- 3.14 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:
- There are good controls in place, however the core team is too under-resourced to transform this information into a fresh longer-term strategy and complete outstanding gaps in the LITP (Livestock Information Transformation Programme) governance framework.
 - While good controls have been put in place around setting up the UK Office for SPS Trade Assurance, there is no single central reference record in place that sets out the relationships between all the governance bodies. This would aid in centralising information on roles, responsibilities, and procedures across the UK Office.
 - Also, there is no clear mechanism and audit trail for recording and monitoring emerging operational risks identified at a sub-group level. Issues are routinely escalated where necessary. In addition, whilst risks are RAG rated, they do not contain a specific score, which would allow better understanding of changes to the risks, and better inform discussions.
- 3.15 The proportion of positive opinions in 2022 is in line with last year with all audits being either 'Substantial' or 'Moderate'.

Wales

- 3.16 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.
- 3.17 EFAT undertook a review of the Welsh Government's Co-operation and Supply Chain Development Scheme. The scope of the audit included a review of the processes and procedures in place for the application stage, as well as establishing whether appropriate systems had been applied in respect of the appraisal and approval process.
- 3.18 An audit opinion of *Category 1 – 'Works well. No or only minor improvements needed'* was provided with three '*Merits Attention*' recommendations being raised. The recommendations covered minor revisions to desk instructions, extending management checks and enhancing the post approval checking process.

Scotland

Animal Identification, Registration and Movement

- 3.19 Three medium recommendations and one low were identified. A substantial assurance rating was provided. Risk, governance and control procedures were assessed as being effective in supporting the delivery of any related objectives. Any exposure TB to potential weakness was rated as low and the materiality of any consequent risk is negligible. Internal Audit (IA) found that the controls around the management of Animal Identification, Registration and Movement are working well, and that the team continue to develop and strengthen the controls in place to improve assurance over these processes.
- 3.20 While there were three medium recommendations, sufficient information was provided to enable IA to confirm that Animal Identification, Registration and Movement Official Controls are being delivered effectively and in line with legislation.

Veterinary Residues Monitoring

- 3.21 One high and one medium recommendation were identified. A substantial assurance rating was provided. Risk, governance and control procedures were assessed as effective in supporting the delivery of any related objectives. Any exposure to potential weakness was rated as low and the materiality of any consequent risk is negligible. The Scottish Government (SG) Animal Health and Welfare Division (AHWD) have demonstrated that they are carrying out the collection of veterinary residue samples in line with

the requirements set out in the Service Level Agreement (SLA) with the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD).

- 3.22 Weaknesses were identified in relation to the governance of the Branch Risk Register which may result in the failure to identify and/or take corrective action over risks associated with the collection of veterinary residue samples.

Crops and Plant Health – Excluding Potatoes

- 3.23 One high and two medium recommendations were identified. A limited assurance rating was provided. Weaknesses were noted in the current risk, governance and/or control procedures that either do, or could, affect the delivery of any related objectives. Exposure to the weaknesses identified were moderate and being mitigated.
- 3.24 The team was delivering against a challenging landscape, including Brexit, resourcing challenges, IT availability. IA was unable to confirm that the team was delivering against official control regulations. IA was keen to highlight that this was through no fault of the team, but part of a wider challenging landscape with a number of elements that are outside the control of the delivery team.

Crops and Plant Health – Potatoes

- 3.25 Two high and three medium recommendations were identified. A reasonable assurance rating was provided. Some improvements were required to enhance the adequacy and effectiveness of procedures. The weaknesses in the risk, governance and/or control procedures in place were assessed as not of a significant nature.
- 3.26 SASA (a division of the Scottish Government Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate) has in place an inspection programme, in conjunction with the Scottish Governments (SG) Rural Payments and Inspection Division (RPID), that covers the Official Controls Regulations in respect of Crops and Plant Health – Potatoes.

Food Standards Agency (FSA)

- 3.27 Official controls delivery was found to be generally satisfactory based on the final audit reports issued in 2022/23, with no significant control issues being identified.

Food Standards Scotland (FSS)

- 3.28 The FSS Audit team completed a full programme of four audits in 2022/23. These covered diverse work areas delivered by three FSS

Branches. One “insufficient” outcome was recorded. Within FSS, the level of commitment to the audit process remains high.

Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA)

- 3.29 Nine audits were undertaken by the Government Internal Audit Agency (GIAA) in the 2022 reporting year, all of which were assurance pieces. 100% of the plan was delivered to final report by the end of March 2022

APHA Policies / Operating Procedures

- 3.30 The audit work concluded that overall, APHA work in a controlled manner. APHA has extensive operating procedures in place. They are well documented and clear, and this was well evidenced within the Bovine TB, New and Emerging Threats, Health and Safety and Wellbeing processes.

APHA Quality Assurance and Lessons Learned

- 3.31 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

- 3.32 The Bovine TB audit highlighted the need to make better use of line management resource in relation to quality checks. Enhancing the management information could provide better assessment of root cause and subsequent action to take.
- 3.33 The New and Emerging threats audit highlighted that APHA make good use of specialist fora to capture important surveillance data and that there is adequate management and governance in place to take action on a threat. Likewise within Resilience and Business Continuity (BC), APHA demonstrated control and lessons learned from BC exercises.
- 3.34 The animal, plant and bee health synergies audit identified that an APHA-wide contingency plan to outbreak would be beneficial and for Animal health to learn from the plant and bee health in-field data capture activities.
- 3.35 The recommendation tracking for APHA in this period has been completed. Sixteen actions were cleared by August 2023.

Audit of organic control bodies

- 3.36 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 2022, UKAS concluded that satisfactory evidence had been demonstrated in a number of areas to allow them to recommend continued approval of all control bodies for performing 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 2023.

Authority	Full time equivalents (FTE)		
	at 31 March 2021	at 31 March 2022	at 31 March 2023
FSA	1,727	899	892 ³⁰
FSS	261	111	122 ³¹
Local authorities	1,879 ³²	1,977 ³³	1,946 ³⁴
Defra	372	388	412
Welsh Govt	118	101	82
Scottish Govt	112 ³⁵	122	333
APHA	2,567	2,744	3,045
VMD	32	33	33
HSE	19	19	19
RPA	228	192	10 ³⁶
Forestry Com	47	52	54
Fera Science Ltd	112	133	138
Pirbright Institute	29	28	18 ³⁷
Cefas	35	38	34
MSS	40	40	25
MMO	94	121	113
Total (to nearest whole figure)	7,672	6,998	7,276

³⁰ 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.

³¹ The FTE figure represents only front line staff and operational management who deliver official controls and includes feed controls carried out by LA officers on behalf of FSS.

³² 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.

³³ 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 2022.

³⁴ The LA FTE figure is for the professional food posts occupied and includes FTE diverted to non-food related duties at 31 March 2023.

³⁵ revised from 2020 Annual Report published figure of 78.1.

³⁶ The significant reduction in the figure for RPA in 2023 reflects front-line staff only and not support staff.

³⁷ Figure represents those funded on the Defra surveillance contract in 2023.

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 further consultation was held in England during 2022 on proposed changes to the FLCoP to implement the new food standards delivery model. The consultation closed on the 9 January 2023. The FSA considered the responses and published an updated version of the Food Law Code of Practice and associated Food Law Practice Guidance in June 2023.
- 5.2 In Scotland, due to Covid 19, the Administration and Service Planning – Food Law Code of Practice, and the Penalties and Sanctions – Food Law Code of Practice were postponed as were revisions of the main Food Law Code of Practice and the Interventions Food Law Code of Practice.
- 5.3 Food Standards Scotland is responsible for carrying out official controls (this includes sampling and inspections) and enforcement of feed law. In 25 Local Authority areas in Scotland, FSS has delegated feed official control functions to 16 Local Authorities operating under Delegated Service Level Agreements, with the remaining areas covered by FSS Feed Officers.

Food Hygiene Rating / Food Hygiene Information Schemes

- 5.4 The FSA and FSS continued to work with LAs to deliver the schemes. The Food Hygiene Rating Scheme (FHRS) is operated by all LAs in England on a voluntary basis and participation in Wales is mandatory. All LAs in Scotland operate the Food Hygiene Information Scheme (FHIS).
- 5.5 At the end of 2022/23 (31st March 2023), there were records for approximately 522,000 food businesses in England and Wales published on the FHRS [website](#). In Scotland, FHIS information was available for approximately 55,000 food businesses
- 5.6 The chart below shows a steady improvement in businesses achieving the highest FHRS rating of five in England and Wales.

Figure 63 – Chart showing the percentage distribution of FHRs ratings in England and Wales from 2020/21 – 2022/23



*2020/21 figures have been amended.

5.7 Ninety seven percent of food businesses in England and Wales achieved FHRs ratings of 3 and above, unchanged from 2021/22.

Food fraud and food crime

5.8 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).

5.9 NFCU and SFCIU have continued to develop 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. This is often linked to serious and organised crime operating across complex and diverse networks.

5.10 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.

5.11 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 and EMPACT

enforcement activities, and Europol and Interpol joint operations targeting fake and substandard food and beverages.

- 5.12 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, cost of living crisis and the war in Ukraine.
- 5.13 The NFCU has continued to develop its relationship with industry. The Unit's [Food Fraud Resilience Self-Assessment tool](#) supports food business operators in increasing their resilience to food crime threats and was completed for the 500th time in 2022. The NFCU has also deepened its relationship with the Food Industry Intelligence Network (FIIN), including through the provision of fraud prevention training.
- 5.14 During 2022/23, the National Food Crime Unit (NFCU) completed an intelligence-led review of the Unit's Control Strategy, which focuses the Unit's work, resulting in moderate adjustments to Unit priorities.
- 5.15 The NFCU continued to take significant steps towards obtaining investigative powers. The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 received Royal Assent in April 2022. This Act provides a power for Ministers to confer enhanced investigatory powers to officers of the NFCU, and to lay regulations bringing the use of these powers by food crime officers under the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC).
- 5.16 The NFCU are working towards the secondary legislation required to secure access to these powers. A further primary legislative ask around oversight and governance of the use of these powers by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary, Fire and Rescue Services continues to be pursued.
- 5.17 The NFCU recorded 1,498 new intelligence reports in 2022/23, similar levels to the previous year. Eighty two disruptions were recorded by the NFCU, which is an increase from 2021 (+18), indicating that the NFCU is delivering more impactful results against food crime.
- 5.18 Nine new criminal and financial investigations were launched which covered the sale of dangerous non-food for human consumption, the illegal processing and supply of red meat, and products with non-permitted ingredients. An additional 49 strands of operational activity commenced during the year.
- 5.19 The NFCU received its first tranche of funds from a successful confiscation order, granted against an offender convicted in 2021. These orders remove the criminal's financial means to commit further crimes and likely act as deterrents to others. Substantial progress was also made in disrupting the illegal slaughter, unsafe processing and unlawful distribution of 'smokies'

through the arrest of three suspects. The NFCU also supported a Local Authority in the seizure and destruction of illegally harvested shellfish products. This intervention also had a deterrent effect on offending in this area.

- 5.20 Significant activity has been undertaken by the Unit to reduce the threat of the toxic chemical 2,4-Dinitrophenol (DNP³⁸) to consumers. In 2022/23, 50 websites selling DNP were removed or suspended through NFCU action. The NFCU has also worked with government partners to reclassify DNP under the Poisons Act 1972, making it harder to purchase the product. The NFCU continues to work on the transitional arrangements, due to the reclassification which comes into effect in October 2023, with the Home Office.
- 5.20 Notably, in the first case of its kind to be prosecuted in Scotland, a male pled guilty on indictment to culpably and recklessly supplying the public with 2,4-Dinitrophenol (DNP) for human consumption knowing the substance was unsafe, injurious to health and potentially lethal if ingested, all to the danger of life.
- 5.21 This was a complex, multi-faceted enquiry led by the SFCIU involving many agencies, including Police Scotland and the Local Authority, which ran in conjunction with a far-reaching community impact assessment to mitigate risk to the public and users. This had been a global supply, all across the UK and as far as USA and Australia and the male was believed to be producing/supplying around 10,000 capsules per month.
- 5.22 In 2022, the NFCU was subject to an [external review](#). The review provided a positive assessment of the Unit's direction, capability, and use of resource. The review also identified some areas for improvement and as a result the Unit has developed an action plan to implement these recommendations.
- 5.23 The NFCU remains vigilant to potential drivers of food fraud and continues to closely monitor the impact of price inflation, the legacy of COVID-19, environmental changes and the ongoing Ukraine conflict on criminal behaviour. At present, no obvious signals suggest that these factors are majorly impacting the levels of food fraud, but the Unit remains alert.
- 5.24 In Scotland, the SFCIU currently sits on a number of multi-agency law enforcement (LEA) groups, which has greatly enhanced its capability to receive and provide support and intelligence from LEA partners in respect of

³⁸ DNP is a highly toxic chemical typically used as a pesticide and is a Class 1 explosive, which has historically been used as a diet supplement for weight loss, particularly by bodybuilders and vulnerable people with body image issues.

investigations, in particular with regards to tackling organised crime related to food crime and other associated criminality.

- 5.25 The SFCIU was inspected separately by the Investigatory Powers Commissioners Office (IPCO), in respect of its use of powers under the Investigatory Powers Act 2016 (IPA) for the acquisition of communications data and the Regulation of Investigatory Powers (Scotland) Act 2000 (RIPSA) in the use of Directed Surveillance and Covert Human Intelligence Sources. In both instances, the SFCIU was found to be compliant in its use of the powers.
- 5.26 The SFCIU has developed a webform for LAs and other external partners to submit intelligence or information directly to the SFCIU for assessment and where relevant actioning, regarding suspected criminality or suspicions in the food supply chain covering the 'farm to fork' concept. This has resulted in an increase in numbers and the quality of intelligence reports submitted.
- 5.27 The SFCIU is currently in discussions with Scottish Government, with regards to establishing more investigatory powers in respect of food legislation.

Incident management protocols

- 5.28 During 2022, the FSA delivered and participated in a total of 24 activities that continued to enhance and strengthen our resilience and emergency preparedness. Activities included exercises and training opportunities to develop and further improve agency wide plans and procedures.
- 5.29 FSA were involved in at least eleven 'lessons learned' activities that varied depending on the scope, nature and complexity of the live incident or the emergency exercise being reviewed. These activities involved colleagues from across FSA, including Wales and Northern Ireland, as well as FSS and where appropriate from other government departments.
- 5.30 During 2022/23, FSA and FSS continued to jointly review and develop Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to support crisis management processes.
- 5.31 FSA and FSS jointly commissioned an independent consultant to evaluate the 2016-2020 Efficacy of Withdrawal and Recalls Programme. The evaluation sought to determine how well Programme workstreams were managed and whether the new systems introduced operated successfully in practice. It also aimed to identify if areas for further development were required.
- 5.32 The outcomes of the joint FSA/FSS "[Efficacy of Recalls Evaluation' Report](#)" were presented to stakeholders on 1st December 2022. Overall, the Programme was considered to be a success and there was improved

awareness of the process, with greater consistency across FBOs and local authorities. Some areas for improvement were identified around consumer awareness. External publication of the Report took place on 23 March 2023 to coincide with a planned consumer campaign on social media.

- 5.33 FSA launched a project in early 2022 to build on the recommendations of the 2021 Incident Prevention Discovery, which had engaged with stakeholders to establish their needs, expectations, and the usefulness of sharing Root Cause Analysis (RCA) information in preventing incidents.
- 5.34 The project aimed to design a solution using an iterative framework to solve user needs. The initial phase incorporated the publication of sanitised raw RCA data received from industry during 2021/22. The summary, alongside analysis of RCAs, was used to supplement further engagement with stakeholders (FSA, industry and enforcement authorities) with an aim to determine how the RCA data can be improved to optimise learnings from incidents and reduce the risk of them recurring.
- 5.35 Improvements to the FSA's RCA management process continued in 2022/23, with a view to greater aligned mechanisms across the 4 Nations.
- 5.36 The FSA Receipt and Management team (RAM) receives alerts and proactively scans for incidents & emerging risks affecting the UK using a wide range of international data sources and prioritises signals of interest to determine UK risks, which require action to mitigate.
- 5.37 Signals are processed daily to check for issues which might impact the UK. During 2022/23, the RAM team processed 11,421 signals and as a result identified 38 new incident / product referrals, 104 referrals to LAs and other authorities 'to investigate' and also referred 841 signals 'for information'.
- 5.38 The RAM team have initiated an Incident Signal Forum to ensure the FSA reacts appropriately to protect consumers and mitigate food / feed safety issues associated with signals indicative of an emerging risk, or an existing risk where incident prevention action is required. The Incident Signal Forum evaluate, progress, and agree actions and ownership of the identified issues, with an overall aim of incident detection and prevention.
- 5.39 During 2022/23, 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.
- 5.40 A new version of the FSS's [Incident Management Framework](#) (IMF) was published in August 2022. FSS also supported Scottish LAs and relevant partners in preparation for the 2023 UCI Cycling World Championships.

Actions in the plant and plant health sectors

- 5.41 A revised version of the generic contingency plan for plant health in England was published in 2022. The generic contingency plan and all pest specific contingency plans (aside from *Fusarium circinatum*) are published on the [Plant Health Information Portal](#).
- 5.42 A total of 20 pest specific contingency plans have been published for agricultural and horticultural pests. New contingency plans for *Thrips palmi* and *Rhynchophorus ferrugineus* were published in 2022. Seventeen other contingency plans were reviewed and revised.
- 5.43 There are thirteen tree health contingency plans published on the [Plant Health Information Portal](#).
- 5.44 The Forestry Commission (FC) launched a new, simplified, online service for the submission of export phytosanitary certificate (PC) applications. The service allows GB exporters to supply the information which needs to be included in their PCs for controlled wood and wood products. The launch of the new service coincided with a large increase in the number of PCs required for the export of material to the EU.
- 5.45 The FC also rolled out new personal biosecurity standard training for Forest Services Area Teams and for colleagues delivering field-based activities for the Defra group. The training was provided as virtual or face-to-face learning, with plans to develop an online refresher course.
- 5.46 Scotland has its own generic contingency plan for plant health, and two specific contingency plans to deal with pests of potatoes. These are published on [Plant Health | SASA](#). In the absence of any other pest specific plans, where additional measures over and above those set out in generic contingency plan are required, the pest specific contingency plans published on the UK Plant Health Information Portal will be used.

APHA

- 5.47 Collaboration with the UK Viticulture working group continued, to extend and develop strong relationships with trade (WineGB). This involved creating a biosecurity poster for Xylella for trade, opening conversations about QPD grower guides, and creating and delivering inspectorate training in collaboration with trade.
- 5.48 *Gnomoniopsis idiaeicola* (Cane Wilt) detection survey on Rubus in response of a request from the PHRG to determine disease status in the UK to guide policy decisions.

- 5.49 APHA expanded the Host Pest Index to include the full suite of detection surveys. This provided inspectors with a comprehensive in-field guide to inspection technique and relevant inspection genera for the QPD that were under ongoing surveillance as part of APHA's annual and multi annual surveillance programmes.
- 5.50 APHA continued to build on the implementation of statistical surveillance to embed it as a component part for several multi annual and annual detection surveys. Part of this work implemented risk-based surveillance, trialled in 2022 as part of the orchard and Xylella wider environment detection surveys.
- 5.51 APHA launched four new surveys at vineyards, soft fruit premises, orchards, and ware potato fields.
- 5.52 APHA developed and delivered training courses to inspectors on viticulture and the wider S&A remit. Two onsite training days for inspectors (Sussex & Yorkshire) were organised, to familiarise the inspectors with vineyards & viticulture

Incident management protocols

- 5.53 APHA successfully responded to several pest outbreaks and interceptions, including outbreaks of tomato brown rugose fruit virus.
- 5.54 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

- 5.55 All FSS approved premises within Scotland became fully compliant in 2022 with the mandatory use of Closed Circuit Television in Slaughterhouses (Scotland) Regulations 2020.

Animal Health and Welfare

- 5.56 The Animal Health and Welfare Framework helped local authorities to deliver their statutory duties in relation to the health and welfare of farmed animals.
- 5.57 The Animal Health and Welfare Framework was developed by APHA working in partnership with the National Animal Health and Welfare Panel (NAHWP) supported by the Association of Chief Trading Standards Officers (ACTSO) and Defra.

- 5.58 During the COVID-19 pandemic, the [Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework Group](#) (WAHWFG) met virtually on a bi monthly basis. The majority of 2022 activity included:
- Working in partnership with Welsh Government to take forward and monitor priorities set in the [Wales Animal Health Welfare Implementation Plan](#) which covers remainder of the current ten year Framework (2014-2024)
 - Supporting priorities set out in the five-year [Animal Welfare Plan for Wales 2021-26](#)
 - Supporting the new) [Wales Bovine TB eradication programme: delivery plan 2023 | GOV.WALES](#)
 - Supporting implementation of the [Wales Antimicrobial Resistance Strategy](#)
- 5.59 Topics for inclusion in the next 10-year Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework have also been considered.
- 5.60 The Group resumed quarterly meetings in June 2022 and have continued to meet regularly, either in face to face or hybrid meetings.

Bovine Tuberculosis (TB)

- 5.61 The following actions were undertaken in England in 2022:
- The Bovine TB Partnership in England met six times in 2022 to continue the shared ownership, co-ordination and decision-making surrounding England's 25 year bTB eradication strategy.
 - The first phase of field trials for a new cattle TB vaccine and allied skin test (DIVA -Detect Infected among Vaccinated Animals) were completed in 2022.
 - The rollout of six-monthly routine skin testing of cattle herds became effective across the High Risk Area of England from January 2022, replacing annual testing as the default frequency rate for TB herd surveillance.
 - Defra launched a simplified licence for vaccinating badgers against TB, alongside a smartphone reporting app - reducing the administrative burden.
 - In England a total of 2,434 badgers were vaccinated against TB in 2022, an increase of 55% from the 1,575 badgers vaccinated in 2021.
 - The vaccination work included a Defra-funded project in East Sussex, supporting the farming community to deploy badger TB vaccinations, which completed its second year in 2022, with 562 badgers vaccinated over 256 km².
 - Natural England (NE) licensed 11 new intensive badger culling areas for TB control reasons in 2022. This brought the total number of intensive

culling areas in England to 40, including one in the Low Risk Area. NE also licensed 10 new supplementary badger control areas, bringing the total number of such areas to 29.

- In line with the transition away from culling towards wide-scale badger vaccination, the 11 new intensive culling licences issued in 2022 were the last. As in 2021, new supplementary badger control licences were granted for two years.

5.62 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. Key measures underway in 2022 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.
- continued to apply severe interpretation from the beginning of a TB incident in specified spatial units in North Wales
- continued 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
- continued to apply 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.
- maintenance and improvement of bTB 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 was expanded to all recurrent breakdowns to

a test 6 months after an incident closes in the ITBAN and specified spatial units of North Wales

- Continuation of badger vaccination projects across Wales through Grant provision.
- Continuation of an industry led project on the Gower Peninsula which included badger vaccination and enhanced cattle control measures.
- Continuation of the All Wales Badger Found Dead Survey to increase knowledge on the disease in badgers.
- continued involvement in GB TB Cattle Vaccine Research projects.
- following a change of strain typing from genotyping using spoligotyping / Variable Number Tandem Repeat (VNTR) to Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS), changes were made to our sampling to enable more Visibly Lesioned samples (3 per batch of animals slaughtered) and less Non Visibly Lesioned samples to be PCR / cultured in a TB incident. This aims to maximise chances of WGS to identify strain variation and enhances our ability to identify transmission routes.

Bee health

- 5.63 The Healthy Bees Plan 2030 Implementation Plan containing actions agreed with key stakeholders was published in October 2021. During 2022, the Bee Health Advisory Forum met quarterly to discuss bee health matters and progress on the Implementation Plan.
- 5.64 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. In 2022, the Scottish Government, working in partnership with the Bee Health Improvement Partnership (BHIP), published its second 10-year Honey Bee Health Strategy. An Implementation Plan (to support this Strategy) details the specific actions under each of the Strategy's key pillars, which the BHIP will take in order to achieve the desired outcomes for honey bee health in Scotland.

Aquatic animal health

- 5.65 For Cefas FHI (England and Wales), there were no significant changes to activities in 2022. Advice to industry on trade processes continued to be a busy area of work as the rule and processes changes were implemented following EU-exit. The FHI continued to work closely with the Devolved Governments to ensure trade controls remained effective across the UK. The FHI also continued to develop working relationships with APHA staff at the BCPs and developed guidance documents for imports of live aquatic animals.

- 5.66 There were no significant changes to the activities of Marine Scotland's Fish Health Inspectorate in 2022.

Incident management protocols

Aquatic Animal Health – England and Wales (Cefas FHI)

- 5.67 In August 2022, Cefas and Defra undertook a formal contingency exercise designed to test internal and external communications and reporting procedures of the [Contingency Plan for Exotic Notifiable and Emerging Diseases of Aquatic Animals in England and Wales](#). The exercise was based on a fictional but realistic scenario of an outbreak of the notifiable disease Spring Viraemia of Carp (SVC) on a fish farm. This was a successful exercise with actions and lessons learned taken forward to continue to improve and strengthen preparedness and response for outbreaks of serious disease in aquatic animals with a particular focus on communications.

Aquatic Animal Health – Scotland (SG – MSS FHI)

- 5.68 There were no further updates to the Scottish contingency plans for aquatic animal disease during 2022.

Endemic Zoonotic Disease – England

- 5.69 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.
- 5.70 In 2022/23, the following training programmes, courses and exercises were organised and held across the different CAs.

Training delivered by Competent Authorities in 2022/23

Competent authority	Course provider	Delivery method	Staff trained	Purpose of training
APHA	APHA (National Bee Unit)	Blended (Online & in-person conference)	57	Technical Training at the start of the beekeeping season
APHA	Bond Solon	On-line (webinar)	12 people attended	‘Enforcement Journey Law and Procedure’ 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: Law and Procedure.
APHA	Bond Solon	On-line (webinar)	47 people attended	‘Professional training in Investigative Practice’ Many professionals are required to conduct interviews in situations where the information obtained may become vital evidence in proceedings. This course enables delegates to interview witnesses, obtain witness statements and interview suspects effectively and to best practice standards.
APHA	APHA SMEs	Classroom/field practical	39 people over 3 events	To provide ‘Case Officer’ training to prepare staff to undertake the role in the event of an animal disease outbreak.
APHA	APHA SMEs	Classroom/field practical	36 people over 4 events	To provide ‘Case Officer Refresher’ training to ensure staff remain suitably skilled to undertake the role in the event of an animal disease outbreak.
APHA	APHA SMEs	Classroom/field practical	33 people over 2 events	To provide ‘Poultry Culling Refresher’ training to ensure staff remain suitably skilled to undertake the role in the event of an animal disease outbreak.
APHA	APHA SMEs	Classroom (over 3 events)	18 people confirmed for event 1; unknown for events 2 & 3	To provide ‘Field Operations Manager’ training to ensure staff remain suitably skilled to undertake the role in the event of an animal disease outbreak.

Competent authority	Course provider	Delivery method	Staff trained	Purpose of training
APHA	APHA SMEs	Online (webinar)	21 people over 2 events	To provide ' Allocations Manager ' training to ensure staff remain suitably skilled to undertake the role in the event of an animal disease outbreak.
APHA	APHA SMEs	Classroom	6 people attended 1 event	To provide ' Forward Operating Base Manager ' training to ensure staff remain suitably skilled to undertake the role in the event of an animal disease outbreak.
APHA	APHA SMEs	1 video	265 video views with 75 finishes	To provide ' Gate Officer ' training to ensure staff remain suitably skilled to undertake the role in the event of an animal disease outbreak.
APHA	APHA SMEs	1 classroom event	20 external contractors	To provide ' Gate Officer ' training to ensure staff remain suitably skilled to undertake the role in the event of an animal disease outbreak.
APHA	APHA SMEs	On-line (e-learning)	33 people launched product	To provide ' Witness Statement Refresher ' training ensuring people have the necessary knowledge and skills to prepare and write a witness statement.
APHA	Happy Computers	On-line (e-learning)	79 people requested access to 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)	66 people requested access to 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	Happy Computers	On-line (e-learning)	19 people requested access to 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.
CEFAS FHI	CEFAS FHI (ATTA Team)	Presentation	13	Aquatic Trade and Technical Advice Team training covering processes for: authorisation, registration, imports, exports, customer service, data acceptance, data requests

Competent authority	Course provider	Delivery method	Staff trained	Purpose of training
CEFAS FHI	CEFAS FHI (Internal Leads)	Presentation	All Inspectors	FHI Familiarisation - Listed Diseases Awareness
CEFAS FHI	CEFAS FHI (Internal Leads)	Presentation	All Inspectors	FHI Familiarisation - Contingency and Emergency Response
CEFAS FHI	CEFAS FHI (Internal Leads)	Presentation	All Inspectors	FHI Practical - Annual Team Sampling Workshop
CEFAS FHI	ITS Training	Presentation	Enforcement Lead & Deputy	FHI Enforcement Training
CEFAS FHI	CEFAS FHI (Internal Leads)	Presentation	All Inspectors	FHI Practical - Use of the FHIPad
CEFAS FHI	CEFAS FHI (Internal Leads)	Presentation	5 Inspectors	FHI Database overview – various authorisation, registration, licencing, trade, data management and reporting, inspection action tracking processes, electronic record management.
CEFAS FHI	ITS Training	Presentation	FHI RIPA Authorising Officers (AO)	RIPA Authorising Officer Training
CEFAS FHI	CEFAS FHI (Internal Leads)	Presentation	All Inspectors	FHI Practical - Accompanied VMD/VMX Inspection
CEFAS FHI	ANTEVORTE	Presentation/Practical	5 Inspectors	Covert Enforcement Surveillance Training
FSA	Chartered Trading Standards Institute (CTSI)	Webinar	29	Feed additives labelling and composition and use of the Great Britain register
FSA	CTSI	Webinar	26	Labelling of animal feed
FSA	CTSI	Webinar	21	Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points (HACCP) in Feed Establishments
FSA	CTSI	Webinar	19	Food enforcement and evidence gathering skills.
FSA	Desq	eLearning	2981	Root Cause Analysis
FSA	Desq	eLearning	475	Traceability
FSA	Origin Growth	eLearning	n/a	Vacuum packing

Competent authority	Course provider	Delivery method	Staff trained	Purpose of training
FSS	DM Training	Virtual	3	Training for LA /FSS Authorised officers in HACCP Level 4
FSS	FSS and Scotland's Rural College	Virtual and Practical	28	TSE Sheep sampling
FSS	FSS	E Learning	95	African Swine Fever Awareness Session
FSS	FSS	E Learning	95	Hepatitis E Virus
FSS	Dalriada Ltd	Virtual	80	Training for LA officers in Enforcement Sanctions
FSS	FSS	Virtual	25	MenuCal training for LA Officers
FSS	Apheya Animal Nutrition	Virtual	120	General Feed Legislation
FSS	Apheya Animal Nutrition	Virtual	39	Feed HACCP
FSS	Apheya Animal Nutrition	Virtual	58	On line Theory Feed Sampling
FSS	Apheya Animal Nutrition	Practical	13	Practical Feed Sampling Day 1
FSS	Apheya Animal Nutrition	Practical	11	Practical Feed Sampling Day 2
FSS	Apheya Animal Nutrition	Virtual	40	Feed Labelling
FSS	Maclarenwest	Virtual	30	Scottish Feed Sampling Database
FSS	Future Learn - University of Belfast	Online	5	Animal Feed Production: Feed Safety Training
FSS	Apheya Animal Nutrition	Teams	1	Feed Labelling
FSS	Apheya Animal Nutrition	Teams	3	RSPH Level 3 Award Understanding how to Develop a HACCP Plan
FSS	Verner Wheelock	Online	3	Lead Auditor Training
HSE	Melmerby Training	Face to Face	12	Requirement of legislation for the transport of chemicals.
HSE	Premier FST	Face to Face	12	Training in first aid, chemical spills and fire
HSE	H W Training	Face to Face	6	External qualification for the application of pesticides
HSE	IAM Driving	Face to Face	10	Mandatory driving course for all visiting staff
HSE	Basis	Face to Face	16	External qualification for the management of pesticide stores
HSE	H W Training	Face to Face	12	Training on the safe use of aluminium phosphide
HSE	VMG Associates	Face to Face	14	Influencing skills training for frontline staff

Competent authority	Course provider	Delivery method	Staff trained	Purpose of training
HSE	FLP	Face to Face	14	Training on how to deal with traumatised people for frontline staff
HSE	CSL	Face to Face	6	NEBOSH Certificate
HSE	City of London Police	Face to Face	11	Training on internet investigation

Abbreviations and acronyms

Abbreviation / acronym	Abbreviation / acronym in full
ABP	Animal By-Products
AFB	American Foulbrood
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
DSLA	Delegated Service Level Agreement
EEA	European Economic Area
EFAT	European Funds Audit Team
EFB	European Foulbrood
EBLV	European Bat Lyssavirus
EMFF	European Maritime Fisheries Fund
EU	European Union
FAB	Financial Administrative Penalty
FBO	Food Business Operator (eg farmers)
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
RLs	Regional Laboratories
RPA	Rural Payments Agency
RSPH	Royal Society for Public Health

SASA	Science and Advice for Scottish Agriculture (a division of the Scottish Government Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate)
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	Shiga 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
WPM	Wood Packaging Material - e.g. pallets and dunnage