Department
for Environment,
Food & Rural Affairs

Multi-Annual National Control Plan Annual Report 2025

Annual report for 2025 on official controls performed in Great Britain under the Official Controls Regulation Multi-Annual National Control Plan

November 2026

Food Standards Agency
food.gov.uk

Food Standards Scotland
For safe food and healthy eating

Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

We are responsible for improving and protecting the environment. We aim to grow a green economy and sustain thriving rural communities. We also support our world-leading food, farming and fishing industries.

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Executive summary

This annual report sets out the key compliance data on official controls and related activities for Great Britain in 2025, in the areas of food and feed safety, animal health and welfare (including aquatics), and plant health.

Production and publication of the annual report is a legal transparency requirement for Defra, under Article 113 of the Regulation (EU) 2017/625 on official controls and other official activities (the Official Controls Regulation).

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 Secretary of State in England and relevant Ministers in Scotland and Wales. Delivery responsibilities are designated by the Appropriate Authorities to a range of Competent Authorities across Great Britain, including government departments, agencies and local authorities.

Strengthening control systems

During the 2025 reporting period, authorities across Great Britain have continued to work jointly to deliver effective biosecurity and official controls. Activity was focused on protecting public, animal, and plant health, supporting compliance throughout the food and feed chain.

For food and feed controls, increased inspection and sampling activity was accompanied by overall positive compliance results. Feed hygiene inspections in England and Wales increased by more than 18% compared with the 2024 reporting year, and feed sampling also rose. At the same time, written warnings for non-compliance decreased, indicating improving levels of compliance among businesses. Formal action continued to be taken where serious breaches were identified. In Scotland, 100% of all planned feed hygiene on-farm visits took place, with compliance satisfactory in 99% of cases.

Food hygiene performance has also continued to improve, with the percentage of food businesses achieving the highest Food Hygiene Rating Scheme scores increased. Within the meat sector, official audit results remained consistently strong. Nearly all approved slaughterhouses and cutting plants achieved ‘good’ or ‘satisfactory’ ratings, improving on the 2024 reporting year. Compliance levels in the egg sector remained high and enforcement activity remained low.

There was also progress relating to animal health and welfare outcomes. Animal disease investigations and surveillance activity increased, facilitating early detection and strengthening response capabilities. Welfare assessments demonstrated continued reduction in non-compliance, while repeat visits and high-priority welfare complaints declined. Bee health outcomes improved, with substantial reductions in confirmed disease cases, despite maintaining high levels of inspection activity.

For plant and aquatic animal health controls, regulatory authorities increased their surveillance capability, expanded their digital tools, and enhanced their preparedness arrangements. In Scotland, aquatic animal health inspections identified fewer non-compliances than in the previous reporting year, while plant health controls continued to deliver rapid responses to outbreaks and interceptions.

Performance improvement

Competent Authorities across Great Britain continued to deliver a range of improvements during the 2025 reporting year.

Examples within the food and feed sector:

- The FSA published revised Food Law Codes of Practice in October 2025, providing updated regulatory frameworks and supporting more consistent risk-based regulation.
- In the dairy sector, follow-up actions required after dairy hygiene inspections fell from 22.7% to 11.5%, indicating improved compliance by milk producers.
- The Food Standards Agency introduced the new Probabilistic Implementation of Soils, Plants, Animals Dynamic Evaluation Models (PRISM) incident management and intelligence system, which improved the identification, triage and management of food safety risks. The Scottish Food Crime and Incidents Unit (SFCIU) has introduced a streamlined reporting mechanism via a digital webform with QR code access.

Improvements to animal health include:

- Progress in bovine tuberculosis (TB) control, with new TB incidents falling by 12% compared with 2024, and incidence rates continuing to decline in England and Wales.
- Cases of American foulbrood and European foulbrood affecting honey bee health were down by 67% and 15% respectively.
- For aquatic animal health, Cefas launched the FHI Hub to provide improved data management, inspection recording and regulatory oversight.

Animal welfare improvements include:

- Animal welfare inspections increased by 32%, rising to 2,751 farm inspections from 2,077 in the previous year.
- Repeat farm visits fell from 712 to 556, indicating that previously identified issues are being resolved more effectively.

Improvements within plant health include:

- Defra, APHA and Forestry Commission developed and updated multiple pest-specific contingency plans, bringing the total to 42 pest-specific contingency plans.

Chapter 1 - Introduction and scope of the report

The Official Controls Regulation EU 2017/625 (OCR) 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.

The 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. To ensure transparency in delivering this control plan, the OCR requires that appropriate authorities designate a person to publish the data and analysis of these OCR controls and enforcement activities. Defra has been designated for this purpose. This report delivers that requirement for the reporting year 2025.

The reporting period for the annual report is generally by calendar year – the 12 months from 1 January to 31 December. For some reporting areas, data has historically been collected for the 12 months from 1 April to 31 March. As in previous years, this annual report therefore includes data from 1 January 2025 to 31 March 2026. Reporting periods and data for each control area are in line with the comparative data for previous years' Reports.

The MANCP and annual reports for Great Britain are produced by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) with contributions from:

- Defra 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 - Local Government, Housing, Climate Change and Rural Affairs (WG LGHCCRA)

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

The MANCP annual reports from 2020 onwards are available. Earlier annual reports are available on the National Archives website.

Chapter 2 - Effectiveness of official controls

This section sets out SPS official controls activities and compliance levels in the reporting year 2025 to 2026, comparing results with those achieved in 2024 to 2025.

Official controls in the food sector

The FSA produced quarterly performance dashboards for 2025/26. These were presented to the FSA Board's Business Committee and tracked progress against the FSA's corporate objectives. The Performance and Resources Report Q4 2025/26 gives the position at the end of the 2025/26 financial year.

FSS produced quarterly performance dashboards for 2025/26. These were presented to the Executive Management Team. FSS also produced Bi-annual Strategic Performance Indicators which are presented to the Strategy Forum and Finance and Business Committee. Both of these help FSS to monitor progress against key performance indicators.

UK local authority food law enforcement

The COVID Recovery Plan came to an end on 1 April 2023. The FSA expected LAs in England and Wales to return to business as usual and to realign with the Food Law Code of Practice (FLCoP) for the delivery of official food controls. Since then, LAs have been required to submit biannual data returns (October for Q1 and Q2 and April for Q3 and Q4) so delivery can be monitored against these expectations.

By the end of the recovery period, all LAs were expected to be back on track for high and medium risk establishments for food hygiene (rated A, B, C and less than broadly compliant[1] D) and high risk for food standards (rated A). The data indicated that they had broadly managed to deliver against the milestones in the recovery plan by then.

However, there are a larger number of establishments in the lower risk categories and many LAs began the year with significant backlogs of interventions at establishments rated D and E for food hygiene and B and C for food standards (in Wales).

[1] In England and Wales, the FSA tracks the proportion of food establishments that are "broadly compliant" with food hygiene legal standards, meaning that the food establishment achieved a score of 10 or less for compliance in each category - hygiene, structure, and confidence in management.

From April 2025, the expectation was for LAs in England to have transitioned to the new Food Standards Delivery Model (FSDM) and to apply the new controls regime set out in the Food Law Code of Practice (FLCoP). During this transition period, England were exempt from submitting Food Standards returns in October 2025. Food Standards data in England from April 2026, when available, will be aligned to the new decision matrix as opposed to using A-C establishment ratings. LAs in Wales have recently begun implementing the new FSDM, so this has not yet affected their Food Standards data collection.

Interventions achieved

Food hygiene

The reported percentage of due interventions achieved at establishments in categories A to E for food hygiene in England and Wales are given in Table 1. Data for some of the risk categories are missing from the table for some years, as the LAs were only expected to report on the number of interventions achieved for the higher risk categories during the recovery period. This was because there were no milestones for interventions to be carried out at lower risk categories (broadly compliant D-rated and E-rated establishments).

Table 1: Percentage of due interventions achieved at establishments in England and Wales 2021 to 2026

Notes:

October 2025 refers to the first half year of the reporting period (1 April 2025 to 30 September 2025) and April 2026 refers to 1 October 2025 to 31 March 2026).

Data cannot be added from Oct and April to calculate the annual % interventions achieved as the number due reported each return includes those due and outstanding from the previous period.

Data was not collected for C, D and E-rated establishments in 2021/22 or for D and E rated establishments in 2022/23.

Data for April 2026 represent 97% of returns.

Country and year	A-rated	B-rated	C-rated	D-rated	E-rated
England (2021 to 2022)	96	81	0	0	0

Country and year	A-rated	B-rated	C-rated	D-rated	E-rated
Wales (2021 to 2022)	97	74	0	0	0
England (2022 to 2023)	99	99	91	0	0
Wales (2022 to 2023)	100	100	77	0	0
England (October 2023)	83	86	68	41	18
Wales (October 2023)	91	89	63	26	12
England (April 2024)	99	98	84	58	26
Wales (April 2024)	99	100	91	44	25
England (October 2024)	93	91	76	58	29
Wales (October 2024)	99	97	85	50	24
England (April 2025)	99	97	85	67	42
Wales (April 2025)	100	99	89	55	29
England (October 2025) see note	96	93	79	65	39
Wales (October 2025) see note	95	96	80	59	30
England (April 2026) see note	98	98	88	73	51
Wales (April 2026) see note	98	100	91	65	32

Between April 2025 and April 2026, the percentage of interventions carried out for England and Wales were 98% respectively for A-rated establishments, 98% and 100% respectively for B-rated establishments and 88% and 91% respectively for C-rated establishments.

This is largely in line with pre-COVID levels for A and C-rated establishments and exceeding B-rated establishments in 2019/20. Though remaining notably below pre-COVID levels, the percentage of D-rated and E-rated due interventions achieved has gradually increased to their highest levels since pre-COVID. D rated establishments increased between April 2024 and April 2025 from 67% to 73% in England and 55% to 65% in Wales. E-rated establishments, increased from 26% to 51% in England and 29% to 32% in Wales. Whilst LAs are clearly tackling backlogs according to risk, the improvements in lower risk rated establishments remain positive.

Food standards

The reported total percentage of due interventions achieved at Category A, B and C-rated establishments for food standards in England and Wales are given in the Table 2.

Table 2: Percentage of food standards due interventions achieved at establishments in England and Wales 2021 to 2026.

Notes:

October 2025 refers to the first half year of the reporting period (1 April 2025 to 30 September 2025) and April 2026 refers to 1 October 2025 to 31 March 2026).

Data cannot be added from October and April to calculate the annual % interventions achieved as the number reported due each return includes those due and outstanding from the previous period.

Data was not collected for B and C-rated establishments in 2021/22 and 2022/23.

Data for April 2026 represents 95% of returns.

Country and year	A-rated	B-rated	C-rated
England (2021 to 2022)	75	0	0
Wales (2021 to 2022)	67	0	0
England (2022 to 2023)	87	0	0
Wales (2022 to 2023)	98	0	0

Country and year	A-rated	B-rated	C-rated
England (October 2023)	54	12	15
Wales (October 2023)	76	19	20
England (April 2024)	83	12	12
Wales (April 2024)	92	33	35
England (October 2024)	71	20	16
Wales (October 2024)	83	33	26
England (April 2025)	90	18	16
Wales (April 2025)	89	43	34
England (October 2025) see note	N/A	N/A	N/A
Wales (October 2025) see note	89	46	33
England (April 2026) see note	N/A	N/A	N/A
Wales (April 2026) see note	97	49	33

In England, from April 2025, the expectation was for LAs in England to have transitioned to the new Food Standards Delivery Model (FSDM) and to apply the new controls regime set out in the Food Law Code of Practice (FLCoP). During this transition period England were exempt from submitting Food Standards returns in October 2025.

In Wales, the percentage of interventions achieved at category A-rated establishments increased to 97%, compared with 95% in April 2025. B-rated establishments saw a more notable increase from 46% to 49% over this period, whilst C-rated establishments saw a minor 1% decrease to 33%. This data continues to show that LAs are prioritising interventions according to risk.

In Scotland during 2025/26, a total of 26,642 interventions were completed: a 1% decrease from 2024/25. Interventions include providing advice and education, information and intelligence gathering, inspections and audits, revisits and surveillance and sampling visits.

Within Scotland, compliance is assessed under the Food Law Rating System (FLRS), provided in the Interventions Code of Practice. The System combines Food Hygiene and Food Standards into a single food law intervention, with businesses risk rated as such. This is different from England and Wales where food hygiene and food standards are separate meaning the Scottish data is not directly comparable with the other two nations. While the rating systems used to assess business compliance in Scotland and the other countries are different, both relate to the assessment of an establishment's adherence to food law during an inspection.

Enforcement actions

From October 2023 onwards, data was collected for the previous six months, rather than 12 months, as returns are now operated on a six-monthly basis.

Food Hygiene

The number of establishments subject to formal enforcement actions and written warnings in England and Wales are set out in Table 3.

Table 3: Number of establishments subject to food hygiene enforcement actions in England and Wales 2021 to 2026.

Notes:

October 2025 refers to the first half year of the reporting period (1 April 2025 to 30 September 2025) and April 2026 refers to 1 October 2025 to 31 March 2026).

Due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, data on enforcement actions carried out during 2020/21 were not collected in England and Wales.

Data for April 2026 represents 97% of returns.

Country and year	Formal enforcement actions	Written warnings
England (2021 to 2022)	3,607	98,431
Wales (2021 to 2022)	263	5,756
England (2022 to 2023)	4,923	122,504
Wales (2022 to 2023)	456	10,855
England (October 2023)	2,455	62,514
Wales (October 2023)	257	5,851
England (April 2024)	2,842	75,584
Wales (April 2024)	222	6,671
England (October 2024)	2,568	70,707
Wales (October 2024)	243	5,937
England (April 2025)	3,037	81,300

Country and year	Formal enforcement actions	Written warnings
Wales (April 2025)	230	6,522
England (October 2025) see note	2,707	74,119
Wales (October 2025) see note	198	6,399
England (April 2026) see note	2,900	86,741
Wales (April 2026) see note	227	6,865

England saw a 4.5% decrease in their formal enforcement actions between April 2025 and April 2026, though when compared to the proportion of submitted returns the change is marginal. Wales recorded a 1.3% decrease for the same period.

The number of written warnings issued between April 2025 and April 2026 increased in England by a further 6.7%, whilst Wales saw a 5.3% increase, their largest yearly increase since 2022/23.

Food Standards

The number of establishments subject to formal enforcement actions and written warnings in England and Wales are given in Table 4.

Table 4: Number of establishments subject to food standards enforcement actions in England and Wales 2021 to 2026.

Notes:

October 2025 refers to the first half year of the reporting period (1 April 2025 to 30 September 2025) and April 2026 refers to 1 October 2025 to 31 March 2026.

Due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, data on enforcement actions carried out during 2020/21 were not collected in England and Wales.

Data for April 2025 represents 95% of returns.

Country and year	Formal enforcement actions	Written warnings
England (2021 to 2022)	466	16,235
Wales (2021 to 2022)	19	2,015
England (2022 to 2023)	482	21,685
Wales (2022 to 2023)	25	2,824
England (October 2023)	241	11,652
Wales (October 2023)	26	1,467
England (April 2024)	335	13,648
Wales (April 2024)	23	2,162
England (October 2024)	287	13,656
Wales (October 2024)	20	1,946
England (April 2025)	309	15,468

Country and year	Formal enforcement actions	Written warnings
Wales (April 2025)	30	2,111
England (October 2025) see note	N/A	N/A
Wales (October 2025) see note	26	1,632
England (April 2026) see note	N/A	N/A
Wales (April 2026) see note	12	2,010

From April 2025, the expectation was for LAs in England to have transitioned to the new Food Standards Delivery Model (FSDM) and to apply the new controls regime set out in FLCoP. During this transition period England were exempt from submitting Food Standards returns in October 2025.

In Wales, the number of formal food standards enforcement actions recorded in April 2026 decreased by 53.8%, compared to April 2025.

Written warnings decreased in Wales by 4.8% from April 2025.

In Scotland, formal enforcement actions (Hygiene Improvement Notices and Remedial Action Notices) increased. During 2025/26, the combined total number of HINs (203) and RANs (311) was 514, compared with 488 in the previous year.

Meat hygiene

Throughout 2025/26, the FSA delivered official controls in approved meat establishments across England and Wales. As of 31 March 2026, there were 807[2] approved meat establishments. Of these, 200 were approved as slaughterhouses, 46 game handling establishments (stand-alone and co-located) and 745 approved as cutting plants (stand-alone and co-located including market stalls).

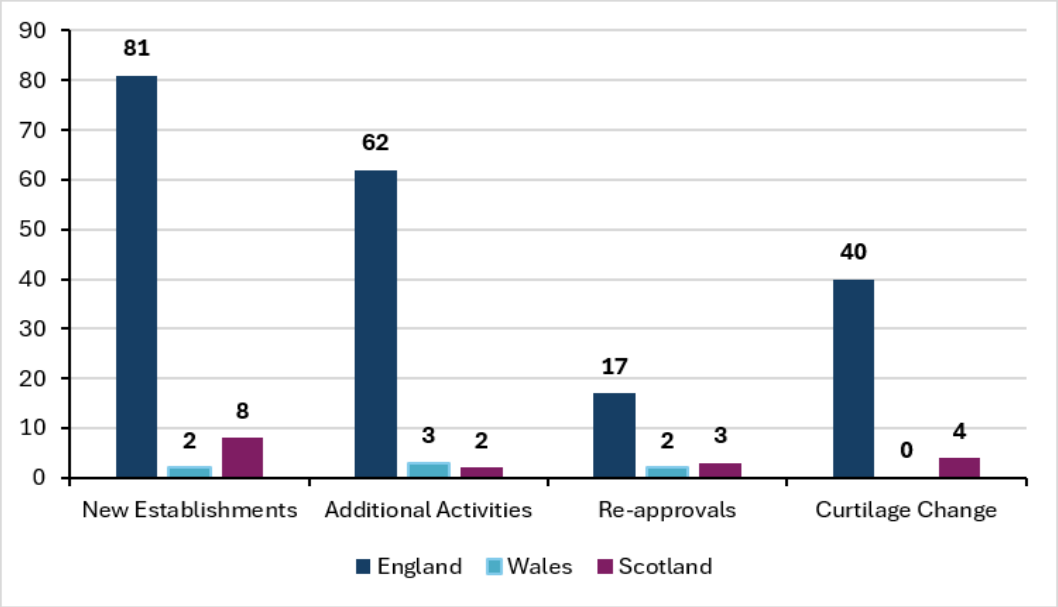
[2] An establishment may be approved for more than one activity.

In 2025/26, FSS delivered official controls in 92 approved meat establishments in Scotland. This included 25 slaughterhouses (5 of which were also approved as game handling establishments), 9 game handling establishments and 58 cutting plants including market stalls.

Approval of new meat establishments

In 2025 to 2026, Great Britain received 224 (207 England & Wales, FSS: 17) applications for approval or approval related activities, compared to 253 in 2024 to 2025. Figure 1 shows a breakdown of approval applications received by type and region.

Figure 1: Chart showing number of meat establishment approval applications received in Great Britain from 2025 to 2026



Refusals

There were 16 advisory visits during the 2025/26 financial year, compared to 19 in 2024/25. Advisory visits are optional and chargeable. They aim to help FBOs identify animal welfare and hygiene requirements for proposed activities. These visits take place prior to an FSA approval visit.

In England and Wales, nine FBOs were refused approval in 2025/26, compared to six in 2024/25.

In Scotland, during 2025/26, four applications were terminated and one was refused on the grounds of critical deficiencies. Of the four terminated applications, three were terminated by FSS due to a lack of communication/progress from the FBO. The remaining termination was at the request of the FBO, who wished to re-apply at a later date.

Food business operator audits in meat establishments

In 2025/26, in England and Wales the FSA continued to conduct full and partial audits on approved meat establishments. Audit outcomes 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.

Figures 2 and 3 provide a breakdown of all approved meat establishments in England and Wales, as recorded at, 31 March 2026. These are summarised by audit outcome following the most recent full FBO audit, irrespective of the year in which the audit was completed.

The data shows that 99.7% of premises had been awarded a compliance rating of ‘Good’ or ‘Generally Satisfactory’. This was based on the last audit during the 2025/26 year or rolled forward where audit frequencies spanned more than one financial year.

FSA meat establishment audits data can be accessed here: Food Standards Agency Data.

Figure 2: Chart showing audit outcomes in England and Wales as recorded on 31 March 2026 for slaughterhouses with or without co-located cutting plants and game handling (GH)

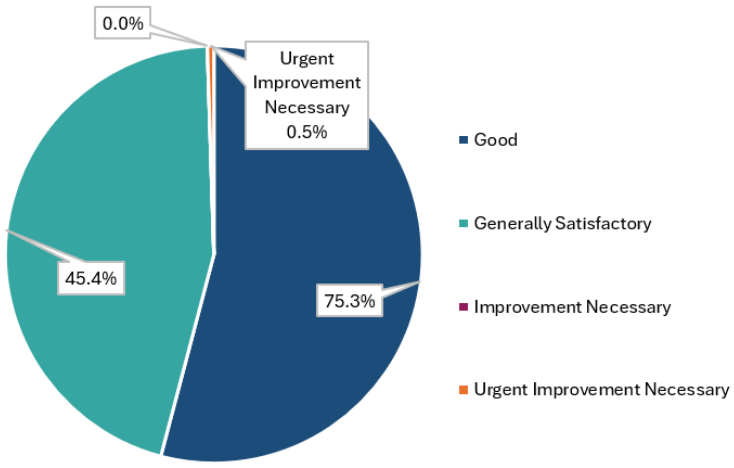


Figure 3: Chart showing audit outcomes in England and Wales as recorded on 31 March 2026 by percentage, for standalone cutting plants (including market stalls and co-located game handling)

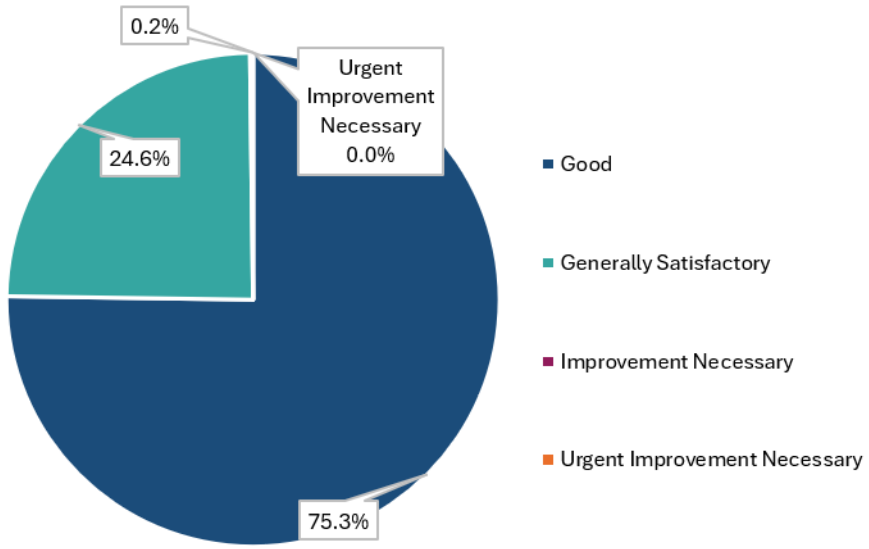
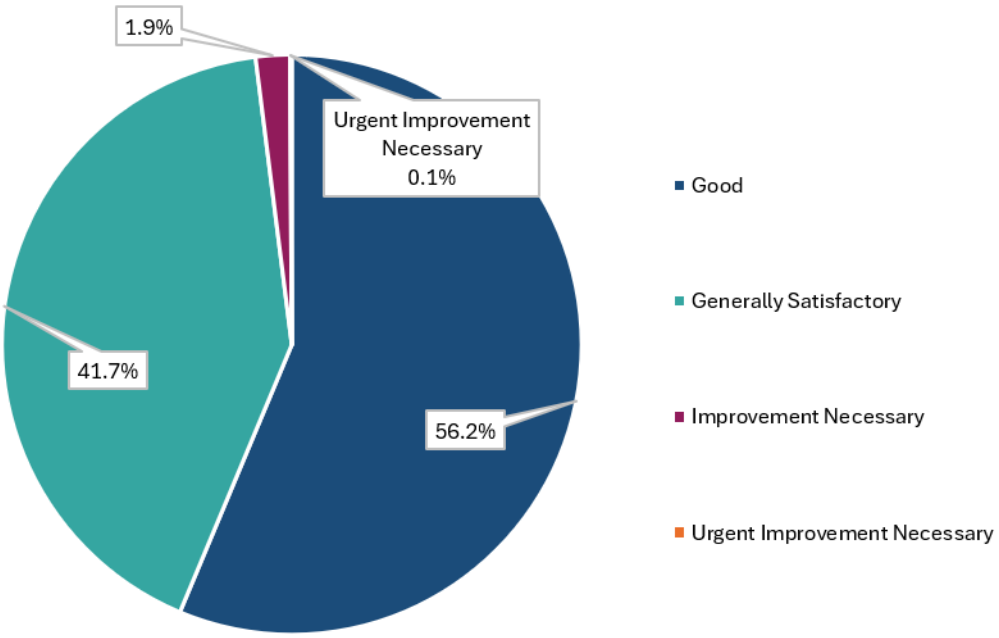


Figure 4 below shows all completed audit scores for England and Wales awarded in 2025/26. There were 555 full audits and 177 partial audits completed during the period. Audit frequency can vary depending on an FBO's previous compliance results. Some approved establishments will be audited multiple times, with others having no audits during the reporting period.

Figure 4: Chart showing the number of audits completed in England and Wales, and as a percentage of total audits, by audit outcome from 2025 to 2026



Of the 555 full audits completed, 97.8% of establishments were awarded a ‘Good’ or ‘Generally Satisfactory’ outcome. Compliance levels having risen marginally since 2024/25 which was 95.4%.

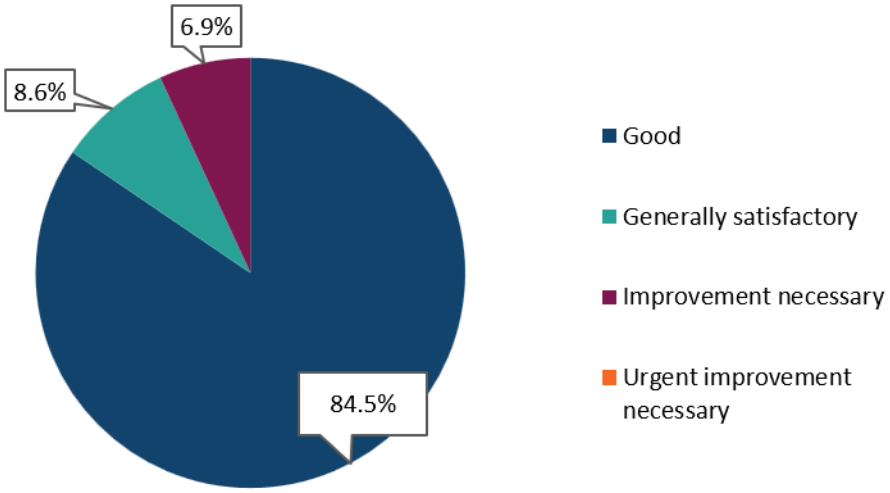
Throughout 2025/26, the FSA team has exceeded its key performance indicator target of 90% audit completions in the month in which they are due achieving an average of 98%. Any audits not completed within the month were completed as soon as possible thereafter.

The inspection cycle in Scotland deploys Official Control Verification (OCV) methodology. This consists of several inspections, assessments and interventions, both announced and unannounced, in every approved establishment. Each intervention triggers a written report and an intermediate audit outcome. Following completion of the 15 months inspection cycle, plants receive a final audit report.

Due to the move to OCV methodology, Scottish data is not directly comparable with the other two nations, nor with previous years data.

Figure 5 presents the number of audits by intermediate audit outcome for 2025/26 in Scotland (FSS), as of 31 March 2026. Note that for any establishment within the approval process, the audit programme would be paused, hence the total below may be less than 92.

Figure 5: Chart showing the number of audits completed in Scotland, by audit outcome from 2025 to 2026



Urgent improvement necessary

FBOs who fail to address non-compliances may trigger the Intervention Protocol. The Intervention Protocol 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 establishments approval, if corrective action on non-compliances is not taken by the FBO.

In 2025/26, in England and Wales, nine approved premises underwent a review of approval under the Intervention Protocol, compared with 10 in 2024/25 and nine in 2023 to 2024. During the same period in Scotland, there were no plants with an ‘urgent improvement necessary’ audit outcome.

Unannounced inspections in cutting plants

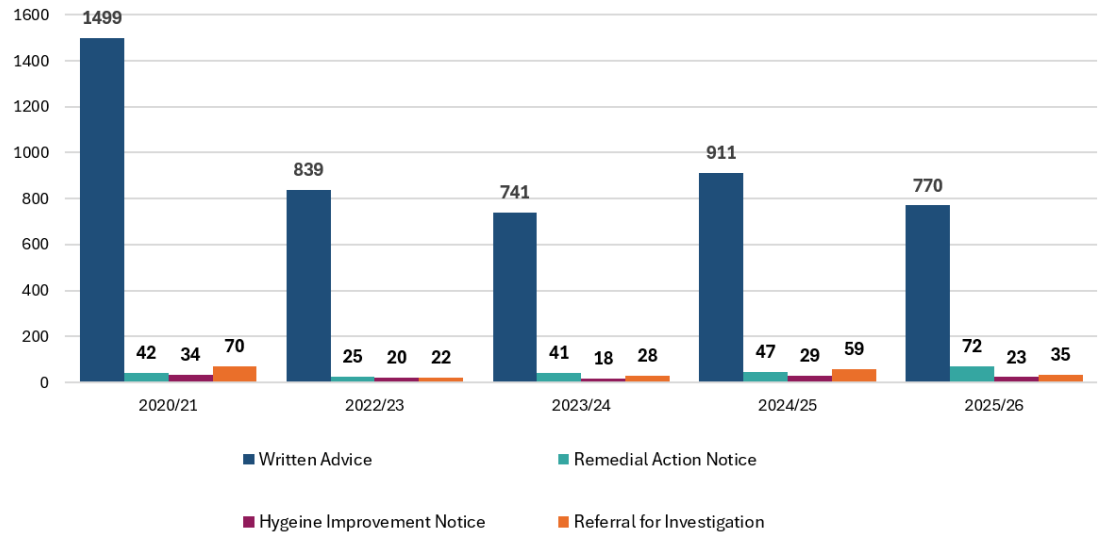
During 2025/26, 728 unannounced inspections were completed in England and Wales, compared to 798 during 2024/25.

In Scotland, FSS conducts ‘classic’ (routine annual inspections carried out in all standalone Cutting Plants) and ‘targeted’ (specific factor identified or suspected at a plant) unannounced inspections (UAIs). During 2025/26, a total number of 35 classic UAIs and four targeted UAIs were completed, all part of the audit process.

Enforcement in meat establishments

Figure 6 shows the numbers and types of enforcement action taken by the FSA and FSS in meat establishments over the last five years.

Figure 6: Chart showing number of enforcement actions in Great Britain meat establishments from 2021 to 2026



The FSA introduced a new Enforcement Delivery Model in slaughterhouses in May 2022, which has further improved consistency of approach and standards. The new approach allows a better understanding of the data, with removal of duplications and consistent information logging. Please note that the enforcement data from 2022 to 2023 onwards cannot be directly compared with 2021 to 2022 and earlier, due to the changes in the reporting methodology.

In England and Wales, in 2025 to 2026 there were:

- 721 contraventions addressed via written advice, issued to approved meat establishments including slaughterhouses, cutting plants, cold stores, and game handling establishments. This is a 15.6% decrease in contraventions addressed via written advice compared to 854 in 2024/25.
- 68 Remedial Action Notices (RANs) were issued across meat establishments representing a 44.8% rise in RANs issued, compared to 47 in 2024/25.
- 19 Hygiene Improvement Notices (HINs) were issued which was a 32.1% decrease compared to 28 in 2024/25.
- 34 referrals for investigation were made across 18 meat establishments. This is a 42% decrease, down from 59 referrals for investigation issued in 2024/25.

There was no one specific reason for the increase in notices served and this can fluctuate from year to year. As enforcement actions escalate, it is normal to see an increase in the number of notices being served.

In Scotland, the level of formal enforcement has increased in comparison with previous years. However, it remained at a comparatively low level. This is considered to be an outcome of a more targeted inspection and audit regime. This approach allocates FSS resource according to business risk, intelligence and compliance history and mandates timely follow-up of written advice, preventing escalation of enforcement.

Specified Risk Material (SRM) controls

In 2025 to 2026, 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. There were 58 TSE breaches in 2024/25, compared to 58 in 2024/25. All breaches were resolved by verbal advice and none required written advice to resolve.

In Scotland, during 2025/26, 100% of inspections of 391,799 bovine and 996,328 ovine/caprine 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 approved slaughterhouses and cutting plants, on a risk-based frequency. There were 15 TSE breaches in 2025/26 compared to 7 in 2024/25, all resolved with informal enforcement. Of the 15 breaches, four were enforced by written advice, three by intervention and eight by verbal advice.

Milk production hygiene

The number of Great Britain milk production holdings as of 31 March 2026 was 8,152 as shown in Table 5, which also sets out the number of primary and secondary inspections carried out in 2025/26.

The FSA has direct responsibility for delivery of dairy hygiene inspections in milk production holdings in England and Wales.

In England and Wales, 11.5% of visits required follow-up inspections, which shows a decrease when compared to 22.7% in 2024/25. Most non-compliances are related to minor hygiene and maintenance issues, and are resolved within agreed timescales, with any other non-compliances being escalated through the established enforcement hierarchy.

Table 5: Milk production holdings and processing establishments from 2022 to 2026

Year	England and Wales holdings	Scotland holdings	Great Britain total holdings
2022 to 2023	7,940	885	8,825
2023 to 2024	7,763	833	8,596
2024 to 2025	7,477	857	8,334
2025 to 2026	7,277	875	8,152

Table 6: Milk production inspections from 2022 to 2026

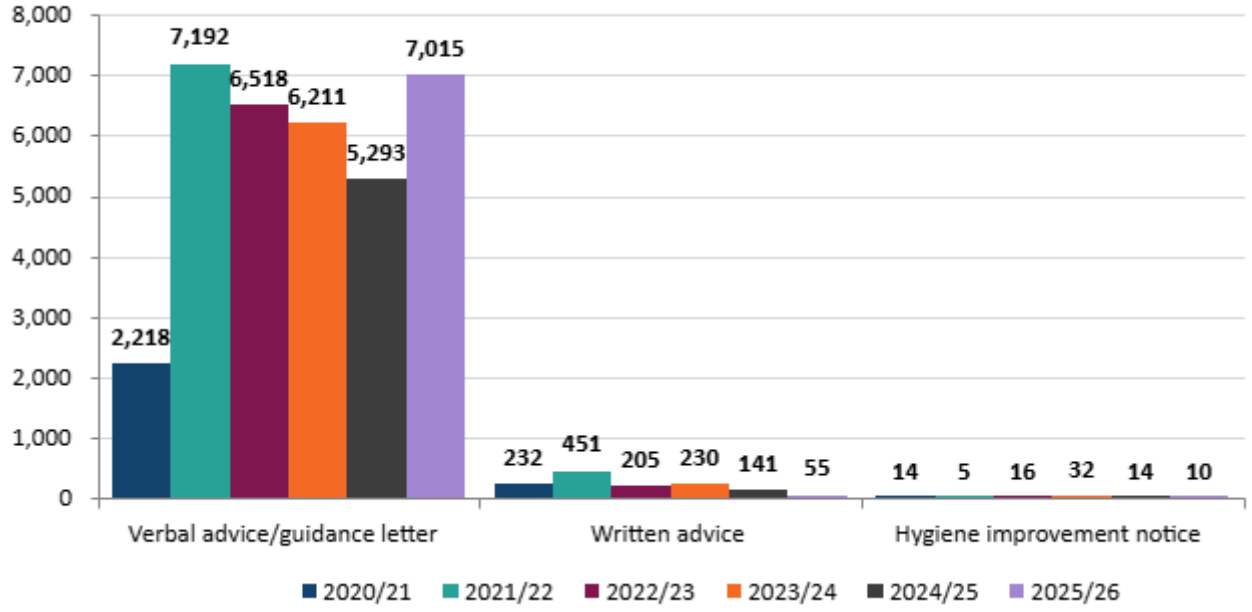
Note: Secondary inspections are carried out when non-compliance is highlighted from primary inspections

Inspection type and financial year	England and Wales	Scotland	Great Britain total
Primary inspections, 2022 to 2023	1,790	68	1,858

Inspection type and financial year	England and Wales	Scotland	Great Britain total
Primary inspections, 2023 to 2024	1,376	233	1,609
Primary inspections, 2024 to 2025	1,543	98	1,641
Primary inspections, 2025 to 2026	2,278	59	2,337
Secondary inspections, 2022 to 2023 (see note)	607	5	612
Secondary inspections, 2023 to 2024 (see note)	578	0	578
Secondary inspections, 2024 to 2025 (see note)	452	0	452
Secondary inspections, 2025 to 2026 (see note)	263	1	264
Total inspections completed, 2022 to 2023	2,397	73	2,470
Total inspections completed, 2023 to 2024	1,954	233	2,187
Total inspections completed, 2024 to 2025	1,995	98	2,093
Total inspections completed, 2025 to 2026	2,541	60	2,601

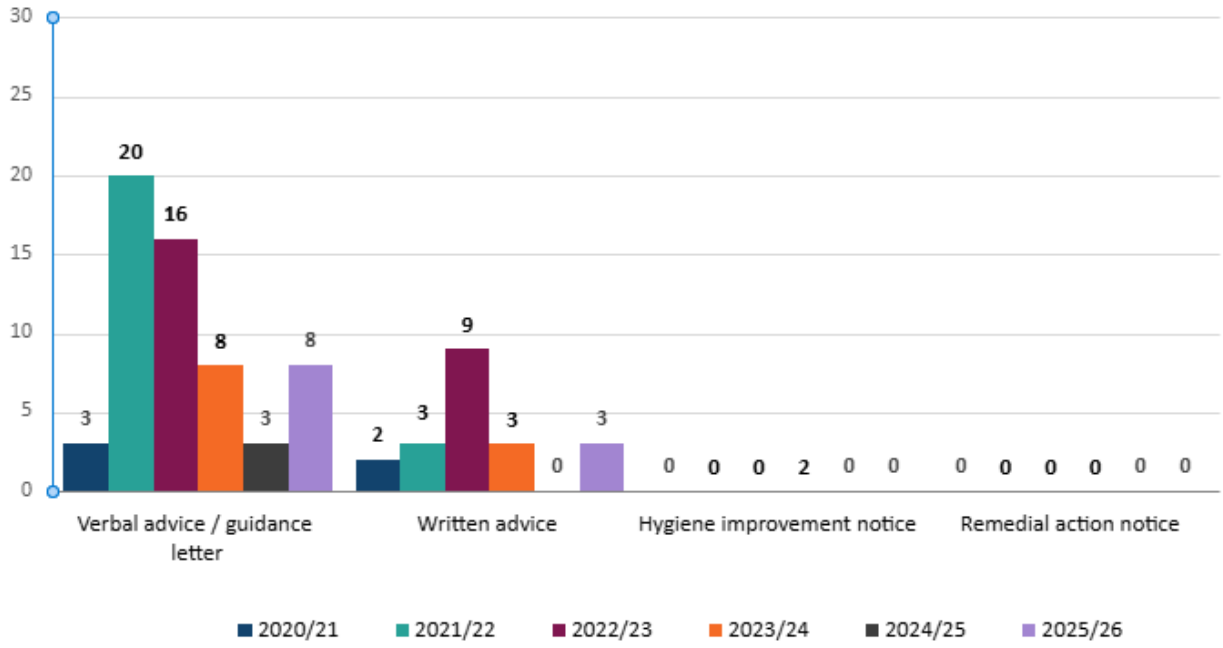
In Scotland, inspections of dairy production holdings are carried out by the individual LAs as part of their intervention programme. Local authority feedback indicated that under current resourcing, official controls are being prioritised based on risk.

Figure 7: Chart showing milk production hygiene enforcement actions in England and Wales from 2020 to 2026



In England and Wales, during 2025 to 2026, total enforcement levels increased by 30% when compared to the previous year. In total, 99% of all enforcement action taken was verbal advice, which is classed as informal action. This remained largely in line with the previous year.

Figure 8: Chart showing milk production hygiene enforcement actions in Scotland from 2020 to 2026



Egg production hygiene

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 carry out inspections on behalf of FSS. Figures 9 and 10 show the total number of registered egg production sites and inspection visits for 2025/26.

Figure 9: Chart showing the number of egg productions sites, inspections and non-compliance in Great Britain from 2025 to 2026

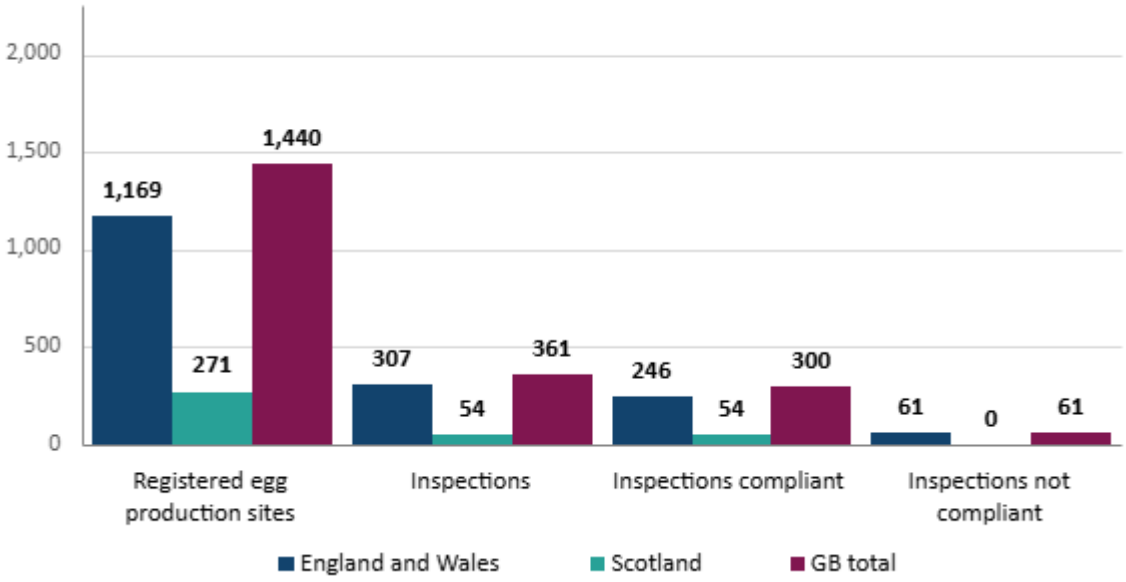
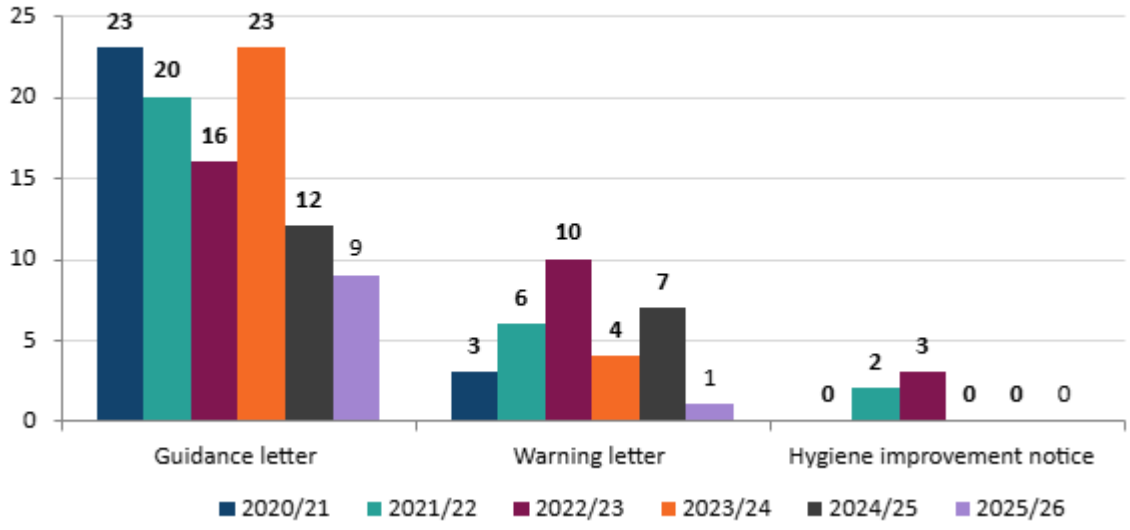


Figure 10: Chart showing egg production enforcement actions in England and Wales from 2020 to 2026

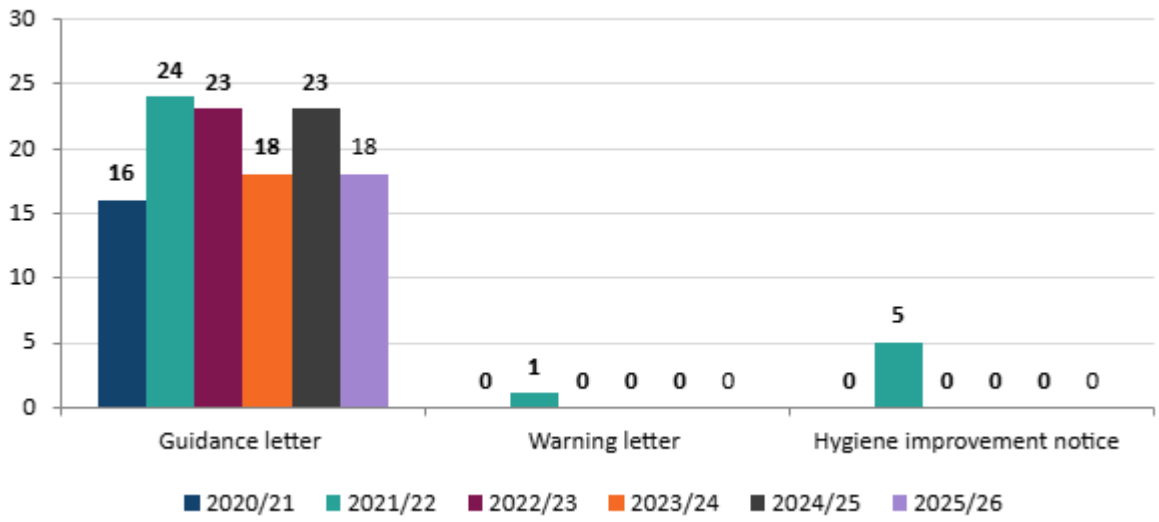


Egg inspections in England and Wales are prioritised according to risk and historical data to inform the assessment and frequency. Compliant establishments are those where no improvements were needed.

In England and Wales, non-compliance levels have decreased by 2% overall this year compared to 2025, from 82% to 80%.

In England and Wales, during 2025 to 2026, there was a decrease in the issue of warning letters, from seven in 2024 to 2025 to one in 2025 to 2026. The serving of guidance letters has also slightly decreased. Twenty-one premises have received advice and guidance, with follow-up action undertaken where appropriate.

Figure 11: Chart showing egg production enforcement actions in Scotland from 2019 to 2026



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.

For 2025/26 the number of guidance letters was slightly down on the previous year. There were no warning letters or HINs issued, indicating high levels of compliance.

Shellfish hygiene

Annual biotoxin sampling between 2020 and 2025 - England and Wales

Shellfish sampling was carried out by LAs between 1 January and 31 December 2025 as part of the routine biotoxin monitoring programme. The results of sampling activities are summarised in Tables 7 to 9.

Table 7: Total samples analysed in England and Wales

Year	Amnesic Shellfish Poisoning (ASP)	Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning (PSP)	Lipophilic toxins (LTs)	Phyto-plankton (Seawater)
2021	769	796	885	937
2022	737	752	884	904
2023	765	758	907	964
2024	806	756	871	871
2025	734	757	855	944

Table 8: Number of toxins detected in England and Wales

Year	Amnesic Shellfish Poisoning (ASP)	Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning (PSP)	Lipophilic toxins (LTs)	Phyto-plankton (Seawater)
2021	31	1	83	Not applicable
2022	52	0	151	Not applicable
2023	45	31	143	Not applicable
2024	22	46	57	Not applicable
2025	8	86	89	Not applicable

Table 9: Samples exceeding max permitted level in England and Wales

Year	Amnesic Shellfish Poisoning (ASP)	Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning (PSP)	Lipophilic toxins (LTs)	Phyto-plankton (Seawater)
2021	0	0	8	Not applicable (only trigger levels)
2022	1	0	50	Not applicable (only trigger levels)
2023	1	0	5	Not applicable (only trigger levels)
2024	0	0	0	Not applicable (only trigger levels)
2025	0	4	15	Not applicable (only trigger levels)

In England and Wales, a total of 3,290 samples were analysed in 2025. There was an increase in detection of LTs from 57 in 2024 to 89 in 2025; 15 of the 2025 results exceeded regulatory limits. Detection of PSP toxins also increased from 46 in 2024 (with no exceedances of regulatory limit) to 86 in 2025; 4 of the 2025 results exceeded regulatory limits. There was a decrease in the detection of ASP toxins, falling from 22 to eight, when compared to 2024 (with no results exceeding regulatory limit). This was due to environmental variation of marine biotoxin levels.

Overall sampling volumes were consistent with the previous year. Nineteen sample results exceeded maximum permitted levels, leading to enforcement action and production area closures were required.

Annual biotoxin sampling between 2020 and 2025 - Scotland

Shellfish sampling was carried out between 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026 as part of the routine official control (OC) biotoxin monitoring programme. The results of sampling activities are summarised in Tables 10 to 12.

Table 10: Total samples analysed in Scotland

Year	Amnesic Shellfish Poisoning (ASP)	Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning (PSP)	Lipophilic toxins (LTs)	Phyto-plankton (Seawater)
2021	1,019	1,352	2,146	1,312
2022	1,185	1,621	2,330	1,366
2023	1,060	1,512	2,100	1,330
2024	1,083	1,519	2,021	1,307
2025	1069	1464	1993	1329

Table 11: Number of toxins detected in Scotland

Year	Amnesic Shellfish Poisoning (ASP)	Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning (PSP)	Lipophilic toxins (LTs)	Phyto-plankton (Seawater)
2021	71	332	858	0
2022	94	443	682	0
2023	58	295	858	0
2024	45	296	664	0
2025	54	251	743	0

Table 12: Samples exceeding max permitted level in Scotland

Year	Amnesic Shellfish Poisoning (ASP)	Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning (PSP)	Lipophilic toxins (LTs)	Phyto-plankton (Seawater)
2021	0	13	226	Not applicable (only trigger levels)
2022	4	20	111	Not applicable (only trigger levels)
2023	1	3	109	Not applicable (only trigger levels)
2024	4	12	114	Not applicable (only trigger levels)
2025	1	12	148	Not applicable (only alert levels)

The Scottish OC biotoxin programme saw an increase in the number of both LTs and ASP toxins detected. Results that exceeded the maximum permitted level (MPL) decreased for ASP yet increased for LTs. The number of PSP toxins detected highlighted a decrease on the previous year, whilst showing the same number of samples exceeding the MPL. Where thresholds were exceeded, this resulted in a total of 32 LT, 2 PSP and 14 ASP closures during 2025/26.

First sale fish

In England and Wales, during 2025 to 2026, the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) carried out 1,556 inspections of fishing vessels landing in port, and 1,140 inspections of establishments where first sale fish was handled. It also conducted 408 inspections of transportation of first sale fish.

The level of dedicated fish inspections decreased slightly across all three categories during 2025 to 2026 compared with the previous year. This decrease was due to recruitment freezes reducing staff capacity. The MMO undertook educational work on labelling with the intent of increasing data through the traceability chain between catchers and merchants and exporters.

Checks were made to ensure compliance with the traceability requirements of the Fisheries Control Regulation. Inspections at sea were also conducted on 664 vessels and included checks on fish caught and retained.

Of these inspections, where first sale fish was handled and non-compliance with regulations was detected, the MMO issued several sanctions. In the reporting period, 86 written re-briefs were issued for late submission of sales records. The sanctions were mostly a result of sales note data checking moving to a centralised function allowing for consistent enforcement.

From March 2024, there have been issues with the catch recording application being used by fishermen and the decision was taken to move from a compliance role to a more supportive role, whereby enforcement action was not taken against late or non-submission due to technical faults, but data was captured through other mechanisms such as sales notes or transport documentation. Therefore, the number of sanctions applied to industry significantly dropped.

Six offences detected in 2025 to 2026 were significant enough to forward for further investigation. Of these, five resulted in Official Written Warnings, and one case was dropped. No financial administration penalties (FAPs) were issued for first sale offences.

During 2025 to 2026, the MMO continued compliance campaigns with the aim of increasing the quality and timeliness of data submitted under OCR 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.

There were significant changes to EU IUU regulations in January 2026. In the 2025 to 2026, period the MMO undertook educational campaigns to improve compliance with UK traceability requirements and prepare industry for EU changes. This included targeted work on the quay side to ensure labelling requirements were being met from landing. And a series of industry webinars to explain the importance of traceability, the responsibilities of each stage of the supply chain, and explain to exporters the changes they needed to make.

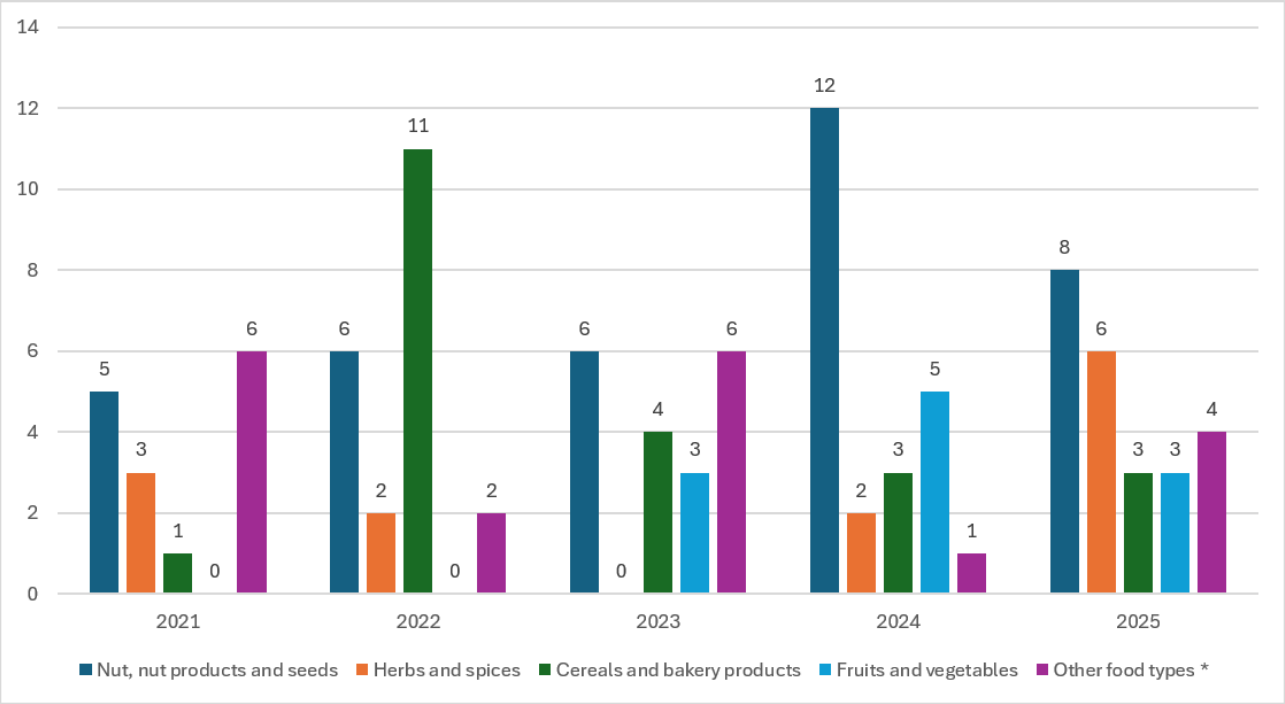
Mycotoxins in food and Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF) notifications

The UK continues to receive RASFF notifications concerning the UK and provides responses via the International Food Safety Authority Network (INFOSAN), Emergency Contact Points, (ECPs). The FSA has built alternative arrangements with other international partners as well as investing in new surveillance approaches. In 2025, the UK received 24 mycotoxin RASFF notifications.

Figure 12 gives the number of RASFF notifications for mycotoxins in food for the 5 years up to the end of 2025.

Figure 12: Chart showing the number of RASFF notifications for mycotoxins in food (nuts, herbs and spices) in the UK from 2021 to 2025

Note: Other food types of category includes prepared dishes, prepared snacks, and prepared fruits and vegetables.



In 2025, England, Wales and Northern Ireland (EWNI) recorded a total of 22 EU RASFF notifications for mycotoxins. These figures cannot be split out, so are reported on an EWNI basis. These were included in a total of 61 mycotoxin incidents, which were reported via various sources. This increase compared to 2024 was largely driven by a rise in herbs and spices cases, which increased from 2 to 7.

Fruits and vegetables data was not available for 2021 and 2022. From 2023 onwards, cases increased steadily from three to six by 2025, indicating a rising trend. Several product categories showed clear declines. Nut, nut products and seeds showed the largest reduction, dropping sharply from eight incidents in 2024 to 3 in 2025. This is particularly significant as 2025 is the first year in the last five years where mycotoxin incidents in nuts have decreased, after a steady or rising pattern from 2021 to 2024. Cereals and bakery products continued a downward trend, decreasing from 3 to 2, consistent with the longer-term decline since the 2022 peak. Other food types increased from one to four, with three of the four cases linked to hot drinks (cocoa, coffee and tea).

Since January 2021, the UK has continued to receive RASFF notifications from EU countries only where the UK is directly affected.

In 2025/2026 FSS dealt with a total of three incidents relating to mycotoxins, two of which were notified from RASFF. These related to nut, nut products and seeds; and fruits and vegetables. This is a decrease in the number of notifications received in 2024/2025, where FSS dealt with 4 EU RASFF notifications for mycotoxins in nuts, nut products and seeds.

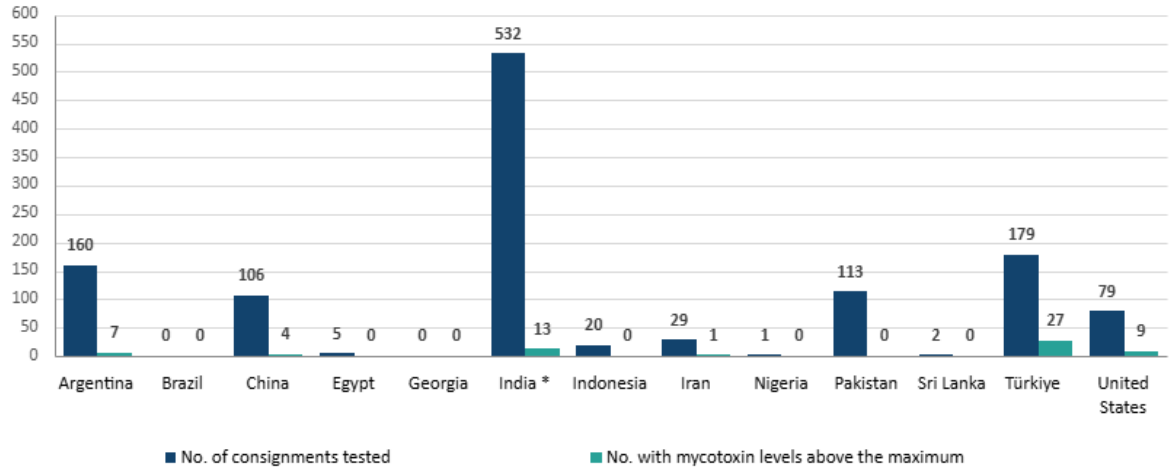
Routine checks of imported foods

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) would be issued.

Figure 13 shows the number of samples taken for mycotoxins and the number of non-compliances for 2025. Overall, the level of non-compliance remained low. When compared with 2024 the proportion of non-compliances in 2025 has slightly increased from 4% to 5%. A contributor to this increase in non-compliance can be identified as imports from Türkiye compared to the previous year.

Figure 13: Chart showing number of GB consignments of imported food from non-EU countries tested for mycotoxins (aflatoxins & ochratoxin) in 2025

Note: Imported food refers to various products including groundnuts, hazelnuts, pistachios, nutmeg, dried fruits, dried spices, egusi seeds.



Import controls

During 2025, controls on imported feed and food at points of entry were carried out under assimilated Regulation (EU) 2019/1793 and various EU safeguard measures.

Official controls were applied on products under the below listed assimilated EU safeguard measures. This included 100% documentary checks and the prescribed levels for identity and physical checks, including sampling and analysis. Under these safeguard measures, 964 consignments were tested in 2025.

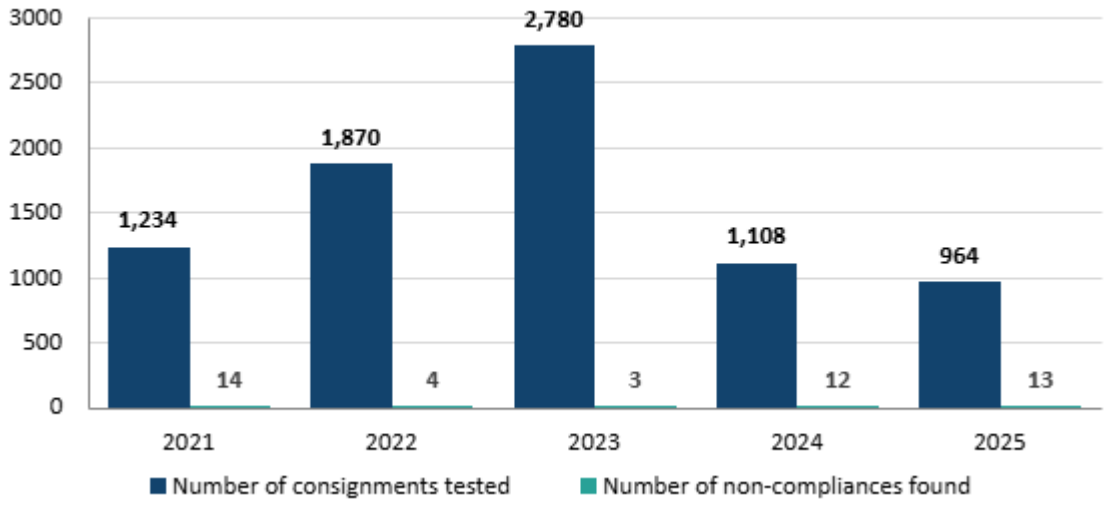
Table 13: Official controls on food imported from third countries in 2025

Decision / Regulation (UK-retained legislation)	Country	Product	Hazard	Consignments tested	Unsatisfactory tests
(EU) No. 2011/884	China	Rice products	Unauthorised GMOs	136	2

(EU) No. 284/2011	China and Hong Kong	Melamine and polyamide plastic kitchenware	Formaldehyde and primary aromatic amines	131	11
(EU) No. 2016/1774	India	Aquaculture fishery products	Certain pharmaceutically active substances	697	0
Totals	No data	No data	No data	964	13

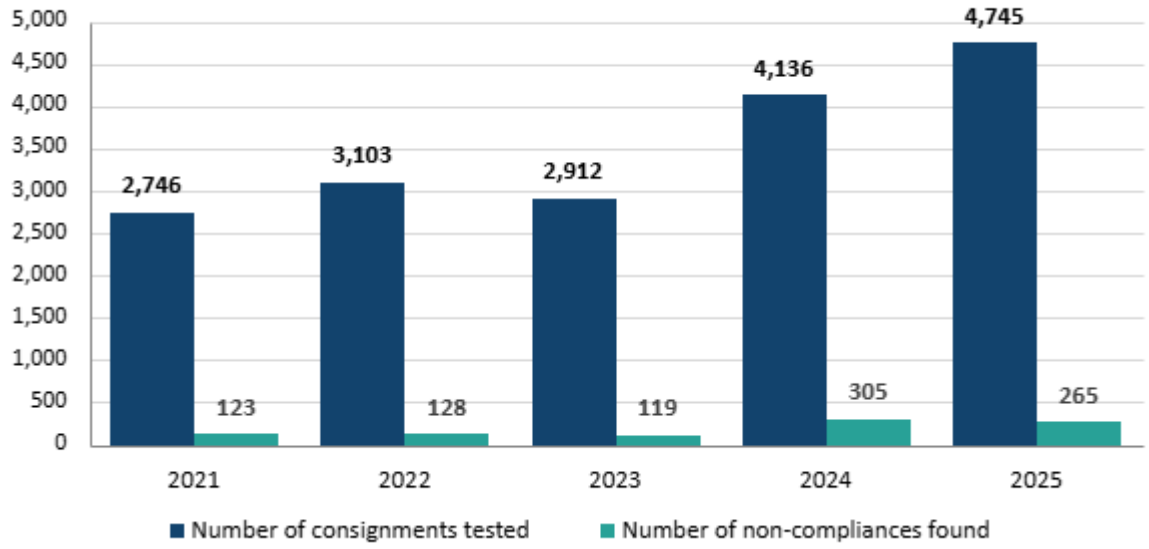
Figure 14 shows the number of consignments entering Great Britain that were tested against assimilated EU safeguard measures requirements and the number of non-compliances found. Non-compliance levels in 2025 are consistent with the previous year. A smaller number of consignments were tested, most of the non-compliance were associated with imported plastic kitchenware from China and Hong Kong, and GMO rice from China.

Figure 14: Chart showing number of Great Britain consignments tested and non-compliances under EU safeguard measures from 2021 to 2025



A total of 13 non-compliances were identified in 2025 (1.3%) compared to 12 in 2024 (1.1%), although the difference is marginal compared to earlier years, in particular 2023 (0.1%) and 2022 (0.2%)

Figure 15: Chart showing number of consignments tested in Great Britain and non-compliances under Regulation EC Number 2019/1793 from 2021 to 2025



A total of 4,745 consignments entering Great Britain were tested for compliance under assimilated Regulation (EU) No. 2019/1793 for Annex I and Annex II.

A total of 265 non-compliances were identified in 2025, which is 5.6% of consignments tested. This is a decrease in the number of failures compared to 2024, where 305 non-compliances were found. This 2025 result is more aligned with earlier years, 2023 (4.1% non-compliances), 2022 (4.1% non-compliances) and 2021 (4.5% non-compliances).

Novel foods

The FSA considered the following assessments under assimilated Regulation (EU) 2015/2283: *Cannabidiol* (CBD); Barley rice protein; 2'-Fucosyllactose produced by a derivative strain of *Escherichia coli* BL21; Mung bean protein; Pea and rice protein fermented by shiitake (*Lentinula edodes*) mycelia; Astaxanthin-rich oleoresin from *Haematococcus pluvialis,* and; *Schizochytrium* sp. Oil.

Food contact materials

All checks were carried out at the First Points of Introduction (FPIs). These are designated ports where melamine and polyamide kitchenware from China and Hong Kong must enter Great Britain.

In 2025, approximately 98% of consignments (1,146 out of 1,171) underwent documentary checks, reflecting near universal application of the control regime. In addition, 124 consignments (around 11%) were subject to identity checks, and 131 consignments (around 11%) were subject to physical checks, indicating that around one in ten consignments received further control measures beyond documentary verification. These additional checks are applied on a risk-based basis and do not necessarily apply to the same consignments. This is marginally greater than the 2024 position, when 118 consignments (10% of 1,164) underwent physical checks.

A total of 19 consignments were rejected in 2025 (approximately 1.6% of consignments processed), compared to 20 rejections in 2024 (1.7%). This indicates that overall levels of non-compliance at the border remain low and broadly stable year-on-year.

Of the 19 rejections identified in 2025, 11 were associated with issues identified during physical checks, and eight were rejected due to documentary or identity issues.

Among consignments subject to physical checks, approximately 8.4% were found to be non-compliant in 2025, compared to 5.9% in 2024. This suggests an increase in the proportion of non-compliant consignments within the higher risk subset selected for inspection. Given that only a proportion of consignments are subject to physical checks, this figure should not be interpreted as representing overall compliance across all imports.

Organic Products

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

In Great Britain, the following assimilated organic regulations apply: Assimilated Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007, Assimilated Commission Regulation (EC) No 889/2008, Assimilated Commission Regulation (EC) No 1235/2008.

Inspections of organic operators in 2025 involved physical inspections and documentary checks. The majority of operators in Great Britain who were due for an inspection in 2025 were inspected during the annual cycle. Additional visits were announced or unannounced, depending on individual visit circumstances. Annual inspections were carried out under Assimilated Commission Regulation (EC) No 889/2008.

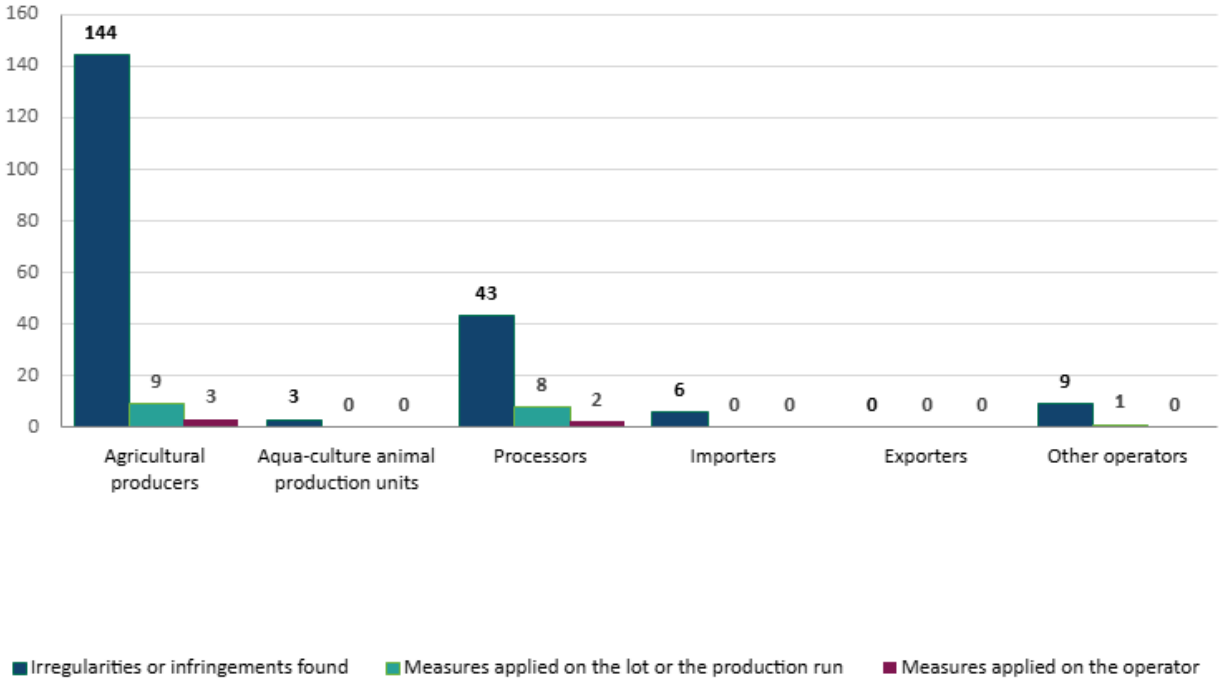
In 2025, there were 6,048 registered organic operators in Great Britain. A total of 6,038 announced and 726 unannounced inspections and visits were undertaken.

Table 14 shows additional risk-based inspections carried out in 2025. Reasons for risk-based inspections may include suspicion that an operator has not complied with, or is not complying with, the organic requirement; selection following a risk-based inspection process; the need to check the operator has addressed irregularities found during a previous visit; selection following a random selection process; the requirement to inspect additional enterprises or changes in the scope of the enterprise.

Table 14: Number of additional risk-based inspections of organic operators in UK for 2025

Organic Operators	GB-ORG-02	GB-ORG-04	GB-ORG-05	GB-ORG-06	GB-ORG-13	GB-ORG-17
Agricultural Producers	100	5	252	14	26	24
Aquaculture Animal Production Units	0	0	1	0	0	0
Processors	21	17	211	9	3	4
Importers	20	27	0	3	0	1
Exporters	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Operators	25	13	70	1	0	0

Figure 16: Chart showing organic operator infringements and control measures in the UK for 2025



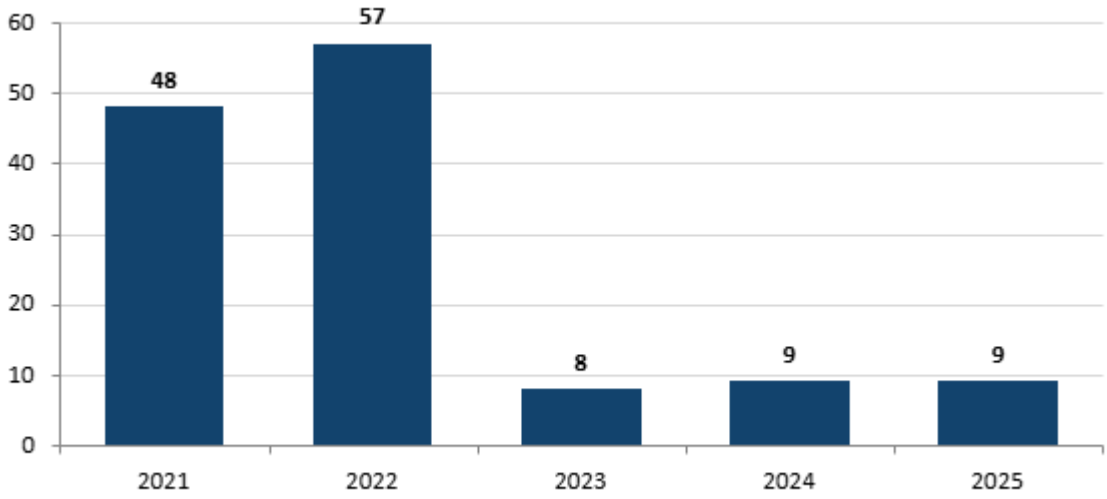
Infringements in 2025 related primarily to agricultural producers. The majority of these infringements were related to poor or inaccurate record keeping, for example, inputs used on farm, poor stock records, and mislabelling of products. There were some instances where non-organic feed was fed to organic livestock, and there were instances where non-organic stock or livestock were used or brought onto a farm without the required prior approval from their relevant control body or Defra. There were some cases where unauthorised substances were found in products, which led to formal investigations.

Agri-food Geographical Indications

A geographical indication (GI) is a name, or a sign used on goods that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities, reputation or characteristics that are essentially attributable to that place of origin. A GI product must be verified for compliance with the product specification before being placed on the market. Verification is cyclical, and is undertaken for every producer, rather than every product. The disparity in the number of producers across GI products is reflected in the annual number of verification inspections conducted.

No compliance issues were recorded that would result in harm to human or animal wellbeing or mislead the consumer.

Figure 17: Chart showing the number of Agri-food Geographical Indications inspections in Great Britain from 2021 to 2025



Natural mineral waters

Following EU Exit, and after a period of implementation of 6 months from 1 July 2021, all EU and EEA natural mineral water producers were informed that the automatic recognition of their products for marketing as natural mineral waters in Great Britain, would come to an end on 7 January 2022.

All natural mineral waters of non-UK origin have to seek recognition from their respective Great Britain competent authorities to continue to market their product in Great Britain, regardless of their origin (such as EU, EEA or Rest of World (RoW)). From 1 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.

During the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025, the number of non-UK natural mineral water producers that were granted recognition by the relevant Great Britain competent authorities was 10, consisting of EU producers. This was an increase from seven recognitions granted in the previous reporting period as applications began to steady.

Details of non-UK natural mineral waters recognised by Great Britain, 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 on the gov.uk website.

Veterinary residues surveillance

Compliance was observed in 99.6% of all samples analysed under the National Surveillance Programme in 2025. Of the 26,181 Great Britain samples analysed under the programme, residues above the maximum residue level (MRL) or other action limit were detected in 112 samples. This high level of compliance is in line with levels seen in recent years.

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

Investigations into non-compliant samples in 2024 found no evidence of the misuse or abuse of hormonal growth promoters, thyrostatic, beta-agonists or prohibited substances.

Non-compliant residues were confirmed for various classes of veterinary compound, as presented in Table 15. 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.

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.

Table 15: Summary of results of Great Britain residues analysis in 2023, 2024 and 2025 for Anti Microbials, Anthelmintics, Avermectin, Coccidiostats, Heavy metals and NSAIDS

Notes for this table:

Note 1: Milk data relates to bovine milk only

Note 2: Aquaculture data combines salmon and trout

Note 3: Poultry data combines broilers, layers, breeders and turkeys

Note 4: Game data combines partridge, pheasant and quail

Note 5: Inorganic arsenic is included within heavy metals data for 2024 and 2025

Animals tested	Residue tested for	Year	Number of inspections or samples	Non-compliant residues found
Calves	Anti-microbials	2023	305	4
Calves	Anti-microbials	2024	316	10
Calves	Anti-microbials	2025	301	6
Pig	Anti-microbials	2023	1,690	1
Pig	Anti-microbials	2024	1,102	1
Pig	Anti-microbials	2025	930	0
Cattle	Anti-microbials	2023	1,165	1
Cattle	Anti-microbials	2024	782	0
Cattle	Anti-microbials	2025	667	1
Milk (see Note 1)	Anti-microbials	2023	1,422	1

Animals tested	Residue tested for	Year	Number of inspections or samples	Non-compliant residues found
Milk (see Note 1)	Anti-microbials	2024	852	0
Milk (see Note 1)	Anti-microbials	2025	848	0
Sheep	Anti-microbials	2023	1,916	1
Sheep	Anti-microbials	2024	1,177	0
Sheep	Anti-microbials	2025	1,008	0
Poultry (see Note 3)	Anti-microbials	2023	2,050	0
Poultry (see Note 3)	Anti-microbials	2024	2,091	0
Poultry (see Note 3)	Anti-microbials	2025	1,948	0
Cattle	Anthelmintics	2023	522	1
Cattle	Anthelmintics	2024	439	0
Cattle	Anthelmintics	2025	369	2
Sheep	Anthelmintics	2023	1,212	5
Sheep	Anthelmintics	2024	1,117	7
Sheep	Anthelmintics	2025	1,032	3
Pig	Anthelmintics	2023	285	0
Pig	Anthelmintics	2024	273	1

Animals tested	Residue tested for	Year	Number of inspections or samples	Non-compliant residues found
Pig	Anthelmintics	2025	240	0
Sheep	Avermectin	2023	408	2
Sheep	Avermectin	2024	309	0
Sheep	Avermectin	2025	285	0
Aquaculture (see Note 2)	Avermectin	2023	113	0
Aquaculture (see Note 2)	Avermectin	2024	44	0
Aquaculture (see Note 2)	Avermectin	2025	46	0
Cattle	Avermectin	2023	284	0
Cattle	Avermectin	2024	192	0
Cattle	Avermectin	2025	184	0
Milk (see Note 1)	Ivermectin	2023	291	0
Milk (see Note 1)	Avermectin	2024	172	0
Milk (see Note 1)	Avermectin	2025	171	0
Sheep	Coccidiostats	2023	272	0
Sheep	Coccidiostats	2024	142	0

Animals tested	Residue tested for	Year	Number of inspections or samples	Non-compliant residues found
Sheep	Coccidiostats	2025	122	0
Poultry (see Note 3)	Coccidiostats	2023	1,470	5
Poultry (see Note 3)	Coccidiostats	2024	1,049	0
Poultry (see Note 3)	Coccidiostats	2025	1,053	2
Game (see Note 4)	Coccidiostats	2023	10	0
Game (see Note 4)	Coccidiostats	2024	12	2
Game (see Note 4)	Coccidiostats	2025	14	1
Cattle (see Note 5)	Heavy metals	2023	55	2
Cattle (see Note 5)	Heavy metals	2024	162	12
Cattle (see Note 5)	Heavy metals	2025	155	15
Honey (see Note 5)	Heavy metals	2023	14	0
Honey (see Note 5)	Heavy metals	2024	3	0
Honey (see Note 5)	Heavy metals	2025	2	0
Horse (see Note 5)	Heavy metals	2023	1	1
Horse (see Note 5)	Heavy metals	2024	2	1
Horse (see Note 5)	Heavy metals	2025	2	2

Animals tested	Residue tested for	Year	Number of inspections or samples	Non-compliant residues found
Sheep (see Note 5)	Heavy metals	2023	43	8
Sheep (see Note 5)	Heavy metals	2024	193	16
Sheep (see Note 5)	Heavy metals	2025	179	15
Cattle	NSAIDs	2023	327	2
Cattle	NSAIDs	2024	307	4
Cattle	NSAIDs	2025	293	2
Milk (see Note 1)	NSAIDs	2023	144	0
Milk (see Note 1)	NSAIDs	2024	85	1
Milk (see Note 1)	NSAIDs	2025	85	0
Horse	NSAIDs	2023	10	0
Horse	NSAIDs	2024	10	0
Horse	NSAIDs	2025	10	0

Pesticides monitoring

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) carried out a pesticide MRL monitoring programme in 2025. Table 16 shows numbers of samples taken, and the percentage of samples tested that contained residues over the MRL.

Table 16: Number of samples taken and percentage of samples tested containing residues over the MRL in the UK and Great Britain between 2020 to 2025

Note: Data for MRL samples is only available at a UK level up to 2020 and is therefore reported as a UK figure. Since the 2021 report, following EU Exit, reporting of data is for Great Britain only.

Year	Number of samples	Types of food	Percentage containing residues	Percentage with residues above the MRL
2020	2,460	33	41.54	2.52
2021	2,642	28	52.16	2.84
2022	2,671	27	57.88	2.06
2023	2,574	29	49.73	2.33
2024	2,609	28	46.03	1.84
2025	2,628	32	55.52	2.55

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

The Official Controls (Plant Protection Products) Regulations 2020 (introduced in 2020 to meet the requirements of Regulation (EU) 2017/625) 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 undertakes official controls on behalf of Great Britain's government.

During 2025/26, HSE carried out no risk-based inspections of distributors of professional PPPs. Formulation survey sampling was undertaken between April and December 2025, with 99 PPP samples obtained for formulation analysis. Of the 99 samples obtained, current analysis results at the time of reporting identified that 3 samples (3% rounded up of total obtained) were inconsistent with their authorisation (active substance level/co-formulant content), and a further 1 sample (1% of total obtained) was not compliant with the physicochemical tests. HSE took appropriate regulatory follow up action in relation to the results of formulation analysis. This includes working with authorisation holders and the manufacturers of PPPs to correct any product issues identified. Failure to comply may result in the removal of authorisation.

The Chemicals Regulation Division (CRD) of HSE was notified of 7 concerns in 2025 about the marketing and use of PPPs, which resulted in advice being given in 4 of these cases. There were two further cases were found to have no compliance issues and 1 case is still ongoing. No enforcement notices were issued for these 7 cases. There was 1 case received in 2026 for the marketing or use of PPPs where no compliance issues were found.

In 2025 HSE carried out a total of 518 proactive official control visits (excludes formulation survey), with actions taken in 503 cases. These included verbal advice 161 cases (31%), formal letter 314 cases (61%), and enforcement notice issued 28 cases (5%). The remaining 15 (3%) ‘compliant’ cases had no action taken. Further information on annual Official Control visits can be found in Section 8 of the Article 68 UK Plant Protection Products monitoring and control reports on the HSE website.

Official controls in the animal feed sector

In England, in 2024/25[3], 103% of planned feed inspections were delivered. All LAs contributed to the planning process for controls to be delivered in 2024/25. The FSA continued to review and make necessary improvements to the feed inspection system.

In Wales, in 2024/25, 140% of planned feed inspections were delivered. In this case, LAs delivered over and above their planned feed inspections. This was the result of varying factors, such as the identification and inspection of new businesses and those that have ceased trading being recorded as such. This is another marked improvement on the previous year’s improved rate of delivery of 126.9%.

[3] In England and Wales Feed statistics are reported one year in arrears.

Data returns for 2024/25 showed a 7.1% decrease in the number of feed businesses in England and Wales. Table 17 provides a breakdown for the last five years by business type.

Table 17: Total number of feed business operators in England and Wales 2019 to 2025

Registered and approved feed businesses by type (Only main categories listed)	2020 to 2021	2021 to 2022	2022 to 2023	2023 to 2024	2024 to 2025
Farms and primary producers	129,878	132,290	129,542	131,932	124,087
Feed manufacturers	1,933	2,215	2,189	2,208	1,865
Food businesses placing co-products and surplus food into the feed chain	6,299	7,116	7,128	7,879	6,666
Importers, distributors, transporters and stores	4,545	5,019	5,007	5,177	4,898
Total	142,655	146,640	143,866	147,196	137,516

In Scotland, FSS is the competent authority for the delivery of feed official controls, and delivery is undertaken either by FSS staff or Local Authorities (under Delegated Service Level Agreement (DSLA)). Table 18 provides a breakdown of feed establishments for the last 6 years by business type. Data returns for 2024/25 show that the total number of feed businesses has remained fairly static since 2022/23.

Table 18: Number of feed businesses in Scotland 2019 to 2026

Note: From 2023 onwards, importers are no longer categorised as a specific business activity and those businesses previously categorised as importers are now considered under different categories.

Feed businesses by type	2020 to 2021	2021 to 2022	2022 to 2023	2023 to 2024	2024 to 2025	2025 to 2026
Primary producers	22,288	22,371	23,783	24,218	24,340	24,471
Manufacturers	154	190	204	259	277	307
Food businesses placing co-products into the feed chain	307	295	347	364	367	379
Food businesses placing surplus product into the feed chain	764	746	846	855	857	860
Importers	6	6	6	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
Distributors	328	328	372	382	378	375
Stores	225	254	306	309	283	270
Retailers	175	157	207	215	228	259

Great Britain feed controls and enforcement

In England and Wales, during 2024/25, there was an 18.4% increase in the number of inspections undertaken by LAs. The number of feed business operators being given advice decreased by 1.4% compared to 2023/24. The number of revisits increased by 6.1%. These numbers show a continued recovery towards pre-pandemic inspection levels.

In Scotland, in 2025/6, LAs covered by Delegated Service Level Agreements (DSLAs) carried out 100% of planned farm and non-farm visits. FSS officers carried out 100% of planned farm visits in other areas while continuing officer training to carry out non-farm visits. Of the completed inspections noted below, satisfactory compliance or better was recorded at 99% of farms and 97% of non-farms.

Table 19: Number of interventions undertaken in Great Britain 2019 to 2025

Note: In 2020 to 2021, no on-site feed inspection activity was undertaken in Scotland due to COVID-19

Types of control or intervention and financial year	England and Wales	Scotland
Number of inspections, 2019 to 2020	5,609	499
Number of inspections, 2020 to 2021	3,387	0 (see Note)
Number of inspections, 2021 to 2022	4,724	439
Number of inspections, 2022 to 2023	5,518	1,074
Number of inspections, 2023 to 2024	5,691	1,211
Number of inspections, 2024 to 2025	6,736	1153
Number of revisits, 2019 to 2020	151	5
Number of revisits, 2020 to 2021	63	0 (see Note)
Number of revisits, 2021 to 2022	109	0

Types of control or intervention and financial year	England and Wales	Scotland
Number of revisits, 2022 to 2023	105	6
Number of revisits, 2023 to 2024	132	3
Number of revisits, 2024 to 2025	140	4
Number of feed business operators given advice, 2019 to 2020	2,991	182
Number of feed business operators given advice, 2020 to 2021	1,957	0 (see Note)
Number of feed business operators given advice, 2021 to 2022	2,570	102
Number of feed business operators given advice, 2022 to 2023	3,092	206
Number of feed business operators given advice, 2023 to 2024	2,570	230
Number of feed business operators given advice, 2024 to 2025	2,535	193
Number of sampling visits, 2019 to 2020	156	54
Number of sampling visits, 2020 to 2021	100	0 (see Note)
Number of sampling visits, 2021 to 2022	105	67
Number of sampling visits, 2022 to 2023	136	76
Number of sampling visits, 2023 to 2024	122	116

Types of control or intervention and financial year	England and Wales	Scotland
Number of sampling visits, 2024 to 2025	149	136

Table 19: Reported use of formal enforcement activity in Great Britain 2019 to 2025

Notes:

In England and Wales, Written warnings are referred to as ‘Notifications of Legal Contravention’

In 2020 to 2021, no on-site feed inspection activity was undertaken in Scotland due to COVID-19

Enforcement activity and financial year	England and Wales	Scotland
Written warnings for non-compliance identified for the first time and not an immediate threat to feed safety, 2019 to 2020	608	4
Written warnings for non-compliance identified for the first time and not an immediate threat to feed safety, 2020 to 2021	399	0 (see Note 1)
Written warnings for non-compliance identified for the first time and not an immediate threat to feed safety, 2021 to 2022	495	111
Written warnings for non-compliance identified for the first time and not an immediate threat to feed safety, 2022 to 2023	859	169
Written warnings for non-compliance identified for the first time and not an immediate threat to feed safety, 2023 to 2024	589	170

Enforcement activity and financial year	England and Wales	Scotland
Written warnings for non-compliance identified for the first time and not an immediate threat to feed safety, 2024 to 2025	199	173
Improvement notices on issues which required attention or were not actioned after written warnings, 2019 to 2020	33	0
Improvement notices on issues which required attention or were not actioned after written warnings, 2020 to 2021	44	0 (see Note 1)
Improvement notices on issues which required attention or were not actioned after written warnings, 2021 to 2022	7	0
Improvement notices on issues which required attention or were not actioned after written warnings, 2022 to 2023	24	0
Improvement notices on issues which required attention or were not actioned after written warnings, 2023 to 2024	9	0
Improvement notices on issues which required attention or were not actioned after written warnings, 2024 to 2025	5	0
Other formal actions to address serious feed breaches, 2019 to 2020	26	28
Other formal actions to address serious feed breaches, 2020 to 2021	19	0 (see Note 1)

Enforcement activity and financial year	England and Wales	Scotland
Other formal actions to address serious feed breaches, 2021 to 2022	6	0
Other formal actions to address serious feed breaches, 2022 to 2023	54	1
Other formal actions to address serious feed breaches, 2023 to 2024	62	0
Other formal actions to address serious feed breaches, 2024 to 2025	67	0

The number of written warnings issued in England and Wales decreased by 66.2% in 2024/25. In 2024/25, 2.9% of inspections resulted in written warnings being issued, compared to 10.4% in 2023/24. Written warnings include all notifications of legal contraventions to FeBOs, including those regarded as minor. This significant reduction is likely due to changes in reporting mechanisms in England.

Improvement notices issued decreased by 44.4%, from nine in 2023/24 to five in 2024/25. Due to the small numbers involved, the percentages fluctuate significantly from minor changes. The use of formal actions to address serious feed breaches increased by 8.1%, from 62 in 2023/24 to 67 in 2024/25.

In 2024/25, 0.1% of inspections led to an improvement notice, down from 0.2% in 2023/24, and 1.0% of inspections resulted in other formal actions, a slight decrease from 1.1% in 2023/24.

Animal Feed Sampling in Great Britain

LAs reported collecting 628 samples in England and Wales[4]. Samples were taken of imported feed at points of entry, as well as from inland premises in England and Wales. Whilst this doesn't present a complete picture of all feed sampling undertaken by LAs, it is currently the only centrally collated data available.

[4] Currently 61% of authorities in England and Wales use UK Food Surveillance System (UKFSS) to record feed sampling data.

In England and Wales, samples were tested for analytes including heavy metals, *salmonella*, mycotoxins, and other contaminants. Please note, however, that due to issues with the data, it is not possible to report the total number of analytes.

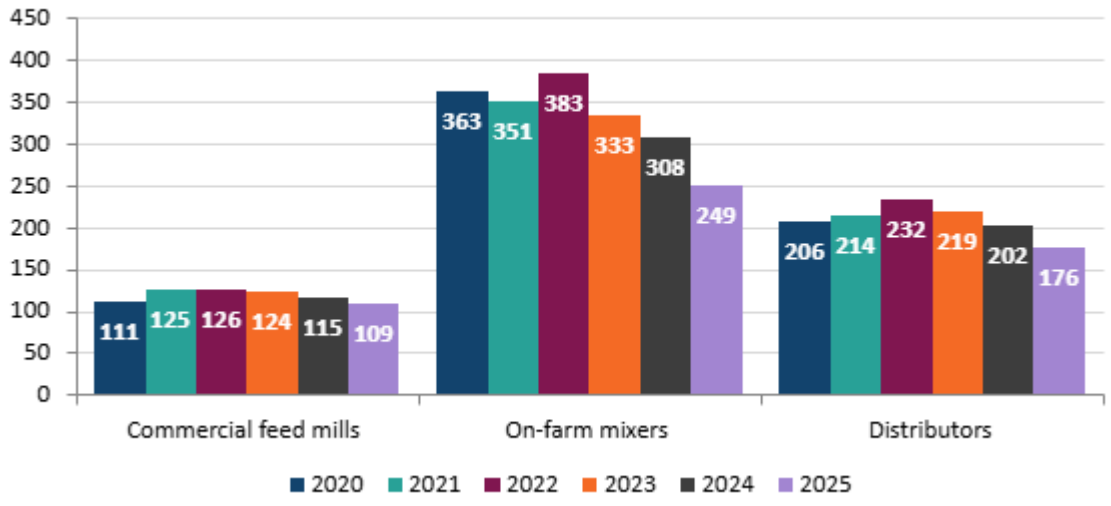
The sampling levels reported have increased by 24.8% in 2024/25, up from 503 samples the previous year.

In Scotland, FSS and LAs reported collecting 156 feed samples in 2025/26. All samples are recorded on the Scottish Food Sampling Database. Samples were taken of feed at a range of feed business establishments. The samples were tested for a range of analytes including heavy metals, *salmonella*, mycotoxins, nutritional composition and contaminants. Of the 156 samples, eight were targeted due to suspected non-compliance and a total of 22 samples were found to be non-compliant (14%).

Inspection of feed business operators by Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD)

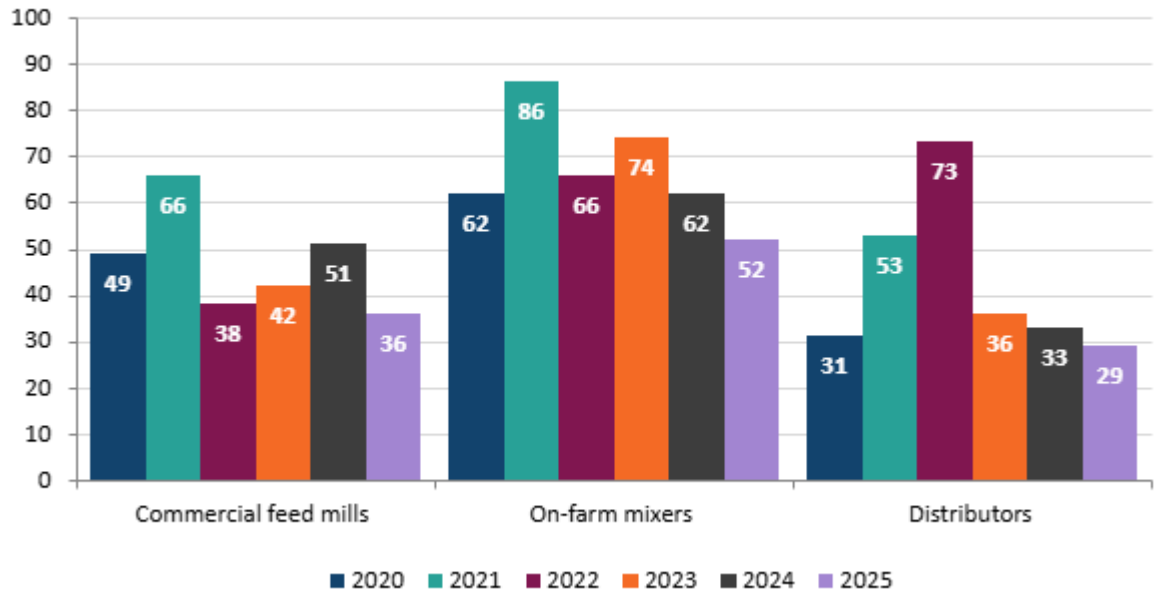
The number of authorised feed establishments for the last six years is shown in Figure 18.

Figure 18: Chart showing the number of authorised feed establishments in Great Britain from 2020 to 2025



Other visits also included 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 Great Britain from 2020 to 2025



For inspections carried out in 2025, 13.89% of commercial feed mills were fully compliant, compared with 21.6% in 2024. A total of 48.08% of on-farm manufacturers were fully compliant, compared to 43.4% in 2024, and 55.17% of distributors were fully compliant, compared to 51.5% in 2024. This shows a slight increase in fully compliant on-farm feed manufacturers and distributors.

One additional inspection, categorised as ‘other’, was carried out at a feed business operator. This was an unplanned visit, which diverted resources from scheduled inspections. This was a visit to a distributor where no one was present at the establishments. This instance has not been included in Figure 19.

Table 21: Great Britain sampling results for 2025 to 2026

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	21	13	3	2

Sample type	Veterinary medicinal product (VMP)	Number of VMP compliant samples	Specified Feed Additive (SFA)	Number of compliant SFA samples
Premixture or feedingstuff tested for 'carryover'	1	1	0	0
Premixture or feedingstuff tested as part of residue investigation	0	0	0	0
Premixture or feedingstuff tested as part of other investigation	0	0	4	2
Premixture or feedingstuff tested for 10 different AGPs	10	10	0	0

In summary, as in 2024, feed business operators manufacturing and distributing specified feed additives, intermediate products, and medicated feedingstuffs were generally compliant with legal requirements. Where non-compliance was observed, it was dealt with in accordance with the VMD enforcement policy.

Protein in animal feed controls

Information for Great Britain in 2025 on the National Feed Audit (the inspections and sampling programme that monitors for the presence of non-authorised animal protein in feed) is set out below.

Table 20: Number of inspections comprising checks on the presence of processed animal proteins in Great Britain in 2021 to 2025

Stage and inspection point	2022	2023	2024	2025
Import of feed materials	23	28	21	28
Storage of feed materials	33	36	36	36

Stage and inspection point	2022	2023	2024	2025
Feed mills	448	486	463	458
Home and mobile mixers	67	89	115	101
Intermediaries of feedingstuffs	11	12	12	8
Means of transport	11	17	14	12
Livestock Farms	1,124	1,528	1,700	1,656
Total	1,717	2,196	2,361	2,299

In Great Britain in 2025, there was an incident where ruminant protein was detected in duck feed at a garden centre. An investigation traced the feed to a pet food plant where it was produced on the same line as pet food, causing cross-contamination. Production of duck feed was permanently stopped at the plant and enforcement carried out. This was a technical breach with no TSE or public health risk. Once corrective actions were implemented, the incident was closed. Separately, procedural breaches were identified at two feed mills due to inadequate physical separation to prevent cross-contamination of farm animal feed with restricted proteins. Testing found no contamination. Corrective measures were implemented, and enhanced sampling plans were introduced to monitor compliance.

Table 21: Number of samples tested for processed animal proteins in Great Britain in 2025

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	103	4	0
Feed mills	630	1,029	322

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
Intermediaries and storage	117	25	5
Means of transport	0	0	0
Home and mobile mixers	44	76	43
Livestock farm	200	1,863	285
Fats and vegetable oils	0	0	0
Total	1,094	2,997	655

In 2025, 4746 samples were collected in Great Britain. There was an incident where ruminant protein was detected in duck feed as explained above. No other non-compliances relating to the presence of banned animal protein in animal feed were detected. The National Feed Audit (NFA) runs from 1 April to 31 March annually: the figures provided correspond to the period from April 2025 to March 2026.

Table 22: Number of sampling inspection visits and samples collected in Great Britain from 2019 to 2025

Visits and Samples	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Number of inspection visits	2,044	1,928	1,717	2,196	2,361	2,299
Number of collected samples	4,327	4128	3,852	4,559	4,877	4,746

Incidents and outbreaks in the feed sector - APHA

There were 57 illegal feeding incidents investigations in livestock holdings in the 2025 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.

Incidents and outbreaks in the feed sector - FSA and FSS

Incidents in the feed sector

Animal Feed related incidents 2022 - 2025

In total, there were 82 animal feed-related incidents in 2025, representing a 9% increase compared to the previous year. Pathogenic microorganisms were the most common cause, accounting for half of all feed-related incidents (41 cases).

Total number of animal feed incidents in the UK, excluding Scotland:

- 2022: 84
- 2023: 71
- 2024: 75
- 2025: 82

In 2025/2026, FSS managed a total of five incidents relating to feed, this included three microbiological incidents, a chemical contamination incident, and a RASFF for an exported consignment that missed border inspection.

Official controls in the animal health sector

Exotic diseases

APHA staff investigated 866 reports of suspected exotic diseases in Great Britain in 2025. The following diseases were detected:

- 16 cases of European Bat Lyssavirus were confirmed in England
- 122 confirmed infected premises of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in poultry in England, 10 in Wales and seven in Scotland
- 320 confirmed infected premises of Bluetongue Virus in England and 22 in Wales
- Two cases of Avian Influenza Origin in wild mammals were confirmed in England, two in Scotland and one in Wales
- One case of Avian Influenza in domestic mammals was confirmed in England

Table 25 shows the total number of official investigations for 2025.

Table 25: Animal health Investigations in Great Britain in 2025

Disease	Number of investigations in England and Wales	Number of investigations in Scotland
African Horse Sickness	1	0
Anthrax	3	2
Aujeszky's	3	0
Avian Notifiable (Avian Influenza and Newcastle Disease)	239	20
Bat Rabies (European Bat Lyssavirus)	19	0
Bluetongue Virus	480	9
Bovine Brucellosis	9	0
Brucellosis (excluding bovine brucellosis)	4	0
Enzootic Bovine Leukosis (EBL)	4	2
Epizootic Haemorrhagic Disease	1	0
Equine Viral Arteritis	4	0
Equine Viral Encephalomyelitis	1	0
Foot and Mouth Disease	6	0
Glanders	1	1

Disease	Number of investigations in England and Wales	Number of investigations in Scotland
Influenza of Avian Origin in Captive Mammals	2	0
Influenza of Avian Origin in Domestic Mammals	1	0
Influenza of Avian Origin in Free-living Wild Mammals	36	4
Lumpy Skin Disease	7	0
Rabies	2	0
Swine Fevers (Classical Swine Fever and African Swine Fever)	2	0
Surra	3	0
Total	828	38

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 2024 annual report was laid before the Scottish Parliament on 12 March 2025.

Animal By-Products (ABP)

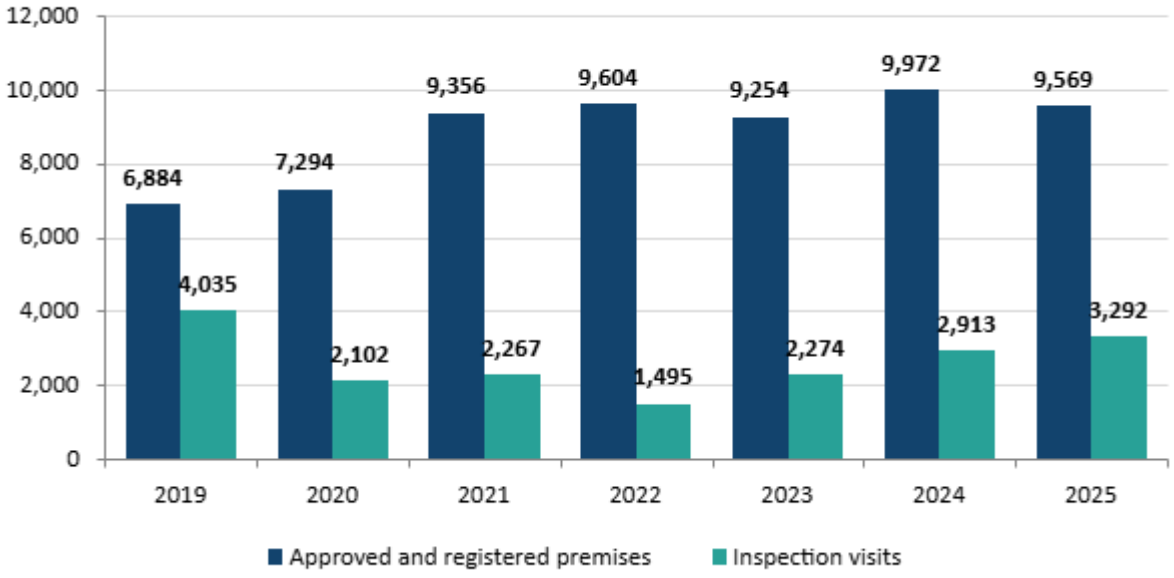
During 2025, APHA issued 181 new approvals to ABP establishments in Great Britain, and there were 871 new registrations of animal by-product (ABP) establishments. A large proportion of these new approvals in this period relate to incineration plants (88 in this period). However, some of these may be re-approvals due to changes in operations or equipment and may not equate to brand new operators being approved. Pet food plant

approvals remain consistent during the period, with 22 approvals, compared to 25 during the last period. For registrations, almost one half related to ABP transporters or hauliers. This industry sector accounted for the largest proportion of new registrations, with the next largest number within a single industry sector relating to diagnostic and research operators.

The overall number of risk-based visits to ABP establishments increased when compared with 2024, despite there being a slight decrease in the total number of approved and registered premises. APHA continued to prioritise inspection visits to premises which presented the highest risks in the various ABP industry sectors.

The number of ABP operators requiring new approvals, registrations, or changes to their existing approvals, continued to apply pressure to the available ABP resources. This resulted in some disruption to the delivery of other business as usual ABP inspection work.

Figure 20: Chart showing number of Great Britain approved premises and Animal by Product (ABP) inspection visits from 2019 to 2025

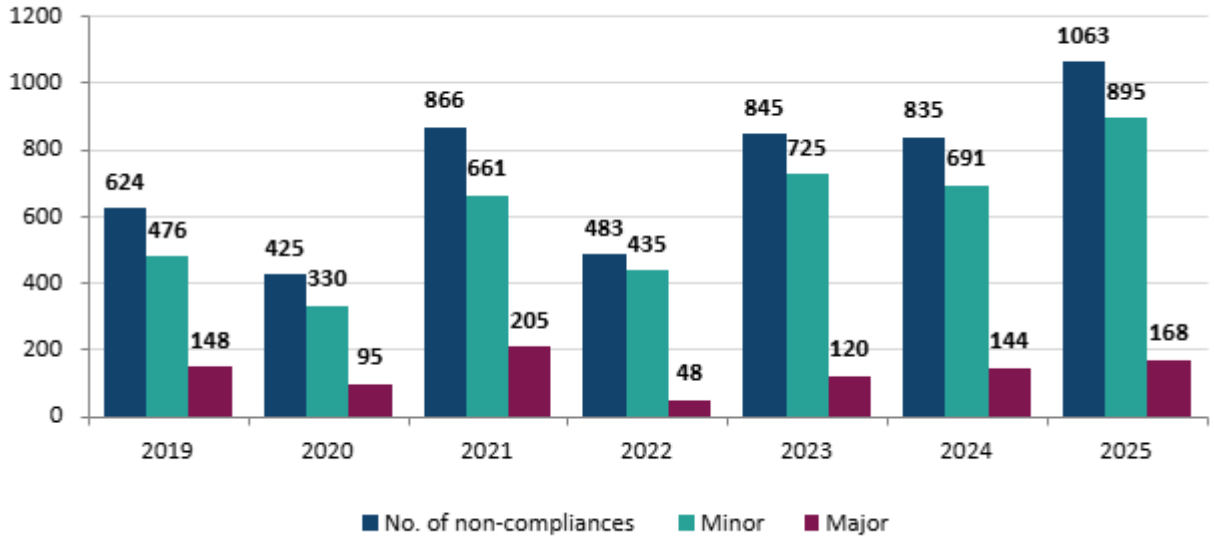


In 2025, the number of approval requests (243) remained comparable to the previous period. However, there was an increase in the number of registration requests (1037) received. The total number of non-compliances has risen slightly during the 2025 period, as shown in Figure 21. This rise is largely due to an increase in the number of inspections carried out, as well as those inspections targeting the operators and premises at higher risk of non-compliance.

The pet food and processing sectors continue to account for a significant proportion of non-compliances, with 40% of major non-compliances being attributed to processing plants and 21% to pet food plants.

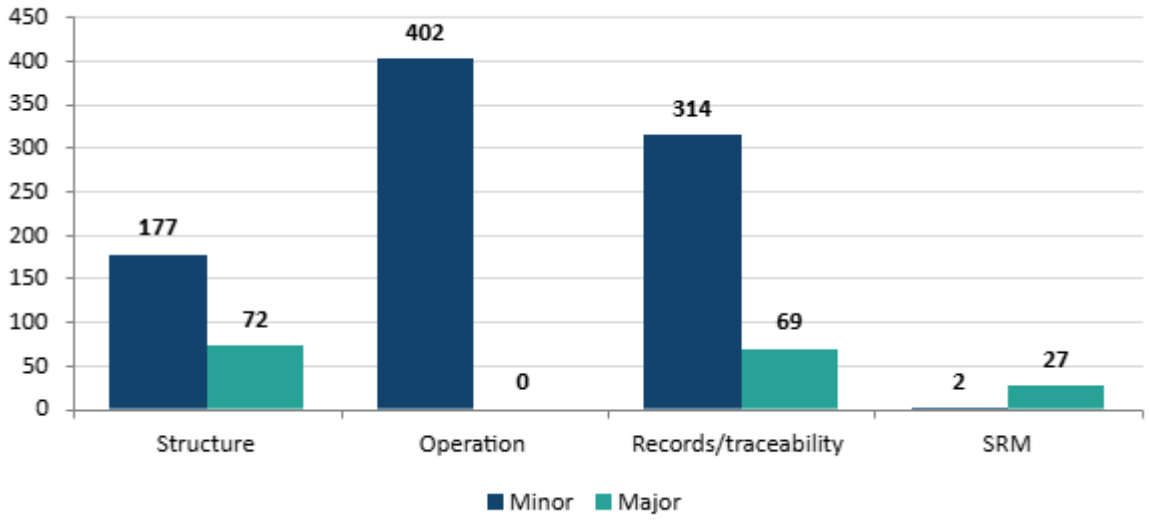
Major non-compliance findings during inspections at ABP processing plants and TSE Sampling Premises (the industry sectors considered to be higher risk in terms of TSE controls) were approximately 6% and 4% respectively of the total number of inspections. This represents a further decrease in major non-compliance rates when compared with 2024 (22% and 7% respectively). This is due to an increase in focus on inspections at these premises types. The rates continue to be considered as acceptable for the industry sectors in question. It should also be noted that where APHA identify repeat instances of non-compliance, the inspection visit frequency at those plants would have been increased accordingly, to ensure that there was better oversight of non-compliant premises.

Figure 21: Chart showing overall Great Britain Animal by Product (ABP) non-compliance scores for APHA risk based and follow up visits from 2019 to 2025



There was no significant pattern to these non-compliances. The most common minor non-compliances during this period were found to be with issues relating to operational compliance (45%) and record keeping (35%). Records (35%) and structural defects (32%) accounted for most of the major non-compliances. SRM non-compliances generally relate to poor staining of Cat 1 SRM material at ABP plants.

Figure 22: Chart showing the number of Great Britain ABP non-compliances disclosed at visits in 2025



Bovine Tuberculosis (bTB)

In Great Britain during 2025, as part of its TB eradication (England and Wales) and surveillance (Scotland) programme activities, APHA recorded 64,717 herd tests, with 2,736 bovine herds experiencing a new TB incident (positive herd that was previously officially TB free). Of those herds with a new TB incident, 1,475 had their Officially Tuberculosis Free status Withdrawn (OTFW). 64,717 herd tests, with 2,736 bovine herds experiencing a new TB incident (positive herd that was previously officially TB free). Of those herds with a new TB incident, 1,475 had their Officially Tuberculosis Free status Withdrawn (OTFW).

This means that those herds in England and Scotland had at least one TB test reactor with typical lesions of TB at postmortem meat inspection, and or one animal in which *Mycobacterium bovis* was identified by bacteriological culture or PCR testing of postmortem tissue samples.

Bovine herds in Wales could also have their OTF status withdrawn where skin test reactors (including animals that are inconclusive reactors at consecutive tests) or animals positive to an interferon-gamma or antibody test had been disclosed, regardless of postmortem findings and culture and PCR test results.

Approximately 10,100,000 TB tests (mostly tuberculin skin tests) were completed in bovine animals (domestic cattle, water buffalo and farmed bison), including statutory pre- and post- movement tests.

A total of 32,041 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.

To contain the potential spread of infection to other herds, APHA traced and tested individual animals that had been moved from OTFW establishments before the start of the TB incident (the so-called ‘spread’ or ‘forward’ tracings). APHA also traced herds that had unknowingly supplied infected animals subsequently identified in herds affected by TB incidents (‘source’ or ‘back’ tracings). For these, 5,824 standalone tracing skin tests were carried out in 2025, and 98% of tracings were initiated within the target time of 10 working days.

Figures 23 and 24 show the annual numbers of TB herd tests completed, and new TB herd incidents detected, in Great Britain.

Figure 23: Chart showing the annual number of TB herd tests in Great Britain between 2019 and 2025

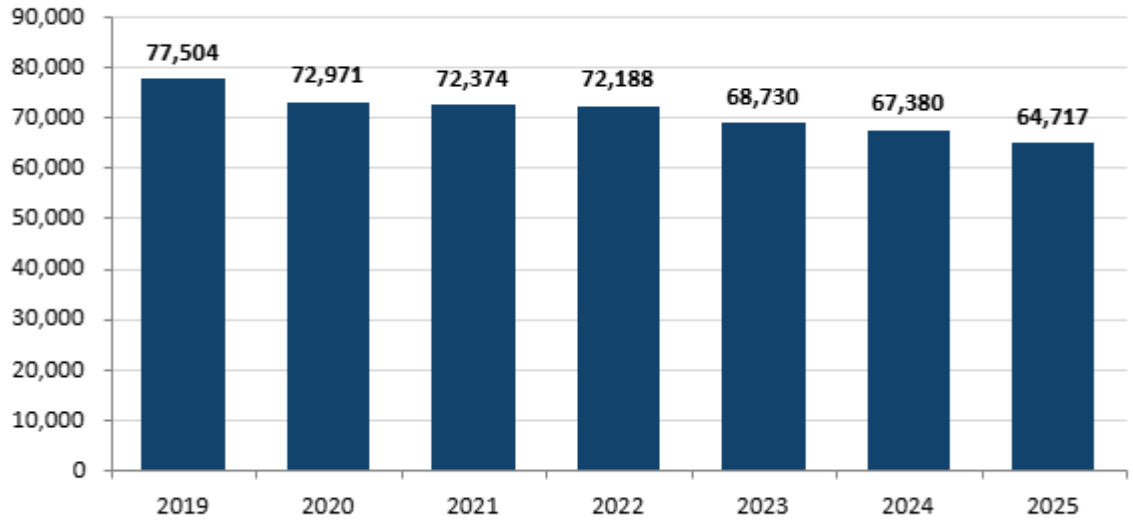
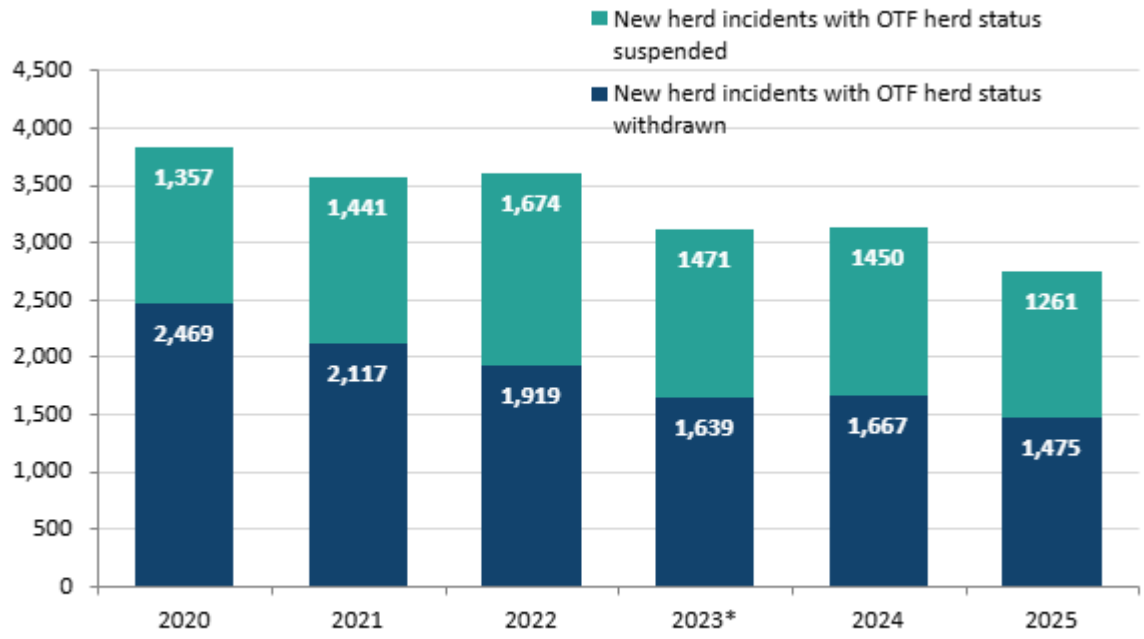


Figure 24: Chart showing the annual number of new herd incidents where TB free herd status was withdrawn or suspended in Great Britain between 2020 and 2025

Note: 2023 figures onwards have been amended since publication of 2024 annual report



The definition of OTFW in Wales changed in January 2022, and values reported here for previous years are not directly comparable with those set out in the respective published Annual Reports. As stated above, in Wales virtually all new herd incidents are now classified as OTFW, except in limited circumstances. Guidance on Officially TB Free Status Withdrawn by default and removal of Inconclusive Reactors 3 year rule is available on the Welsh Government website.

England and Wales

In 2025, 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 the majority of cattle herds were 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 were tested annually or every six months.

Defra continued to implement its long-term 2014 TB eradication strategy, to achieve Officially TB Free (OTF) status in cattle for the whole of England by 2038.

The percentage of OTF herds in England at the end of 2024 was 96.5%, an increase on December 2023 (95.8%). The herd incidence rate during 2025 was 7.0 new herd incidents per 100 herd years at risk[5], compared to 7.7 during 2024. The equivalent rate for OTFW incidents was 3.1, compared to 3.3 during 2024.

Overall, the headline TB statistics for cattle in England showed an improving disease trend in 2025, with large improvements in most parameters relative to 2024 (for example, herd incidence rates in England and the HRA, new herd incidents, herd prevalence and numbers of herds under TB breakdown restrictions in England and the HRA, animals removed for TB control purposes), a deterioration in few statistical indicators (for example, laboratory-confirmed slaughterhouse cases in England driven by the HRA (Edge numbers fell)). Herd incidence and prevalence remained very low and stable in the LRA, although the number of new herd incidents fell by 15% on 2024. All this pointed to a steadily improving epidemiological picture. The headline indicators for 2025 in England were still well below the values reached during the peak of the epidemic in 2011 to 2017.

In 2025, Wales continued to divide its bovine TB surveillance and eradication into 5 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 continued to implement its long-term eradication programme to achieve OTF status by 2041.

The Welsh Government introduced the following changes in 2025:

- The governance arrangements set out in the Delivery Plan, the TB Eradication Programme Board and Technical Advisory Group (TAG), were fully operational in 2025. An important change that went through the full governance process concerned Inconclusive Reactor policy. In May 2025 the former Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs announced changes to the Inconclusive Reactor policy which would mean that resolved standard Inconclusive Reactor cattle would be restricted to their herd for life. Preparatory work towards delivery of this change began in 2025 and the policy was

[5] '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

operational in January 2026. The Programme Board also began work on a position paper on TB eradication in Wales, published in March 2026.

- The Pembrokeshire Project, which began in 2023, continued in 2025 in Pembrokeshire to further explore partnership working. The project aims to establish a voluntary collaborative approach between a farmer and their veterinarian to reduce residual disease and encourage farmers to bring in voluntary measures to disease management beyond statutory controls. Lessons learned from the Pembrokeshire Project were adopted in a similar project in North Wales in 2025.

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 1,185 in the 12 months to March 2009, to 479 in the 12 months to March 2026, representing a 59.6% decrease.

In 2025, 161 new TB herd breakdowns were recorded in the High TB Area East, a decrease of 0.6% on 2024. The new TB breakdowns in the High TB Area West decreased to 246 from 274, a decrease of 10.2% from 2024. However, progress varied by TB Area, as 2025 also saw increases in the number of new TB breakdowns in the Intermediate TB Area Mid (68, an increase of 17.2% from 2024).

Scotland

In 2025 in Scotland, there were 11 OTFW incidents, in line with the low and stable incidence of disease that continued to support Scotland's Official TB Free status.

Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSE)

APHA delivered on all performance indicators within the agreed criteria for the 2025 period. Table 26 outlines BSE and Scrapie performance indicators for Great Britain in 2025.

Table 26: BSE and Scrapie performance indicators for 2025 in Great Britain

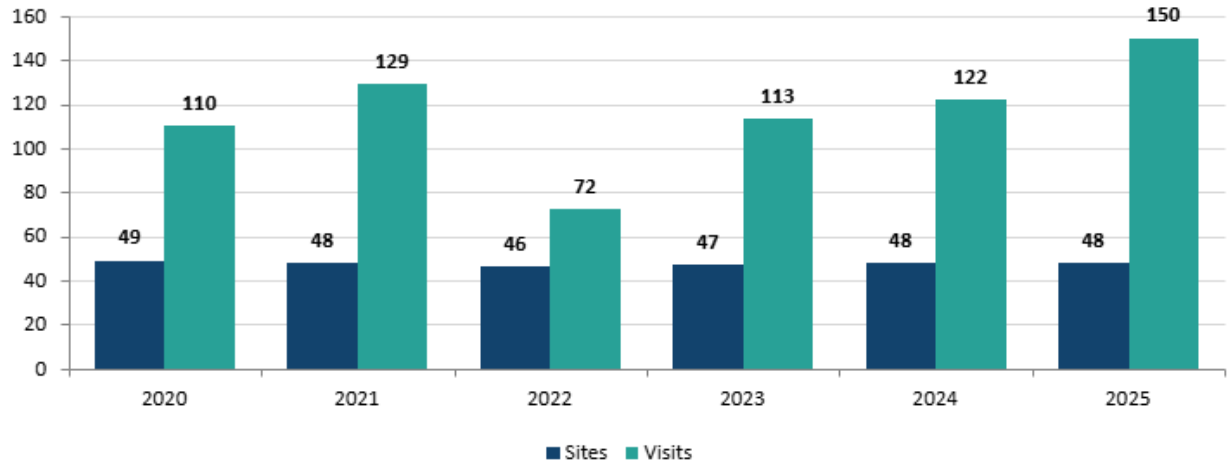
Performance Indicator	Number of Investigations	Percentage completed within agreed target
BSE suspects to be visited no later than the next day (PFC-03)	10	100%

On farm suspect scrapie reports to be investigated within 2 working days (PFC-01)	3	100%
Tracings from confirmed scrapie cases to be completed within 20 working days of notification (PFC-02)	9	100%
BSE – restrict eligible offspring and cohorts within 2 working days of service of Form C (report cases) or notification (surveillance) (PFC-37)	10	100%
Completion of the on-farm inquiry within 10 working days following confirmation of new scrapie cases (PFC-39)	9	100%
Serve a whole herd restriction notice on all natal and rearing holdings immediately following a suspect BSE case (PFC-40)	10	100%

There were a total of 10 BSE suspects in 2025. Three suspects were fallen stock animals that had a preliminary positive TSE test result from the active fallen stock survey. Following full confirmatory testing in the National Reference Laboratory, one produced negative results (allowing disease to be negated), and 2 cases were confirmed as atypical positive. Seven BSE suspects were reported through passive surveillance, and all were reported negative; three were negated on clinical grounds following assessment by an APHA veterinary inspector, and four were confirmed negative following full confirmatory testing.

There were a total of 17 Scrapie suspects reported in 2025. Two Scrapie suspects were reported through passive surveillance, one was confirmed as a classical positive case and one was negated as clinically negative. 15 atypical cases of Scrapie were confirmed through active surveillance. All the on-farm investigation Scrapie suspects were restricted immediately and visited according to priorities.

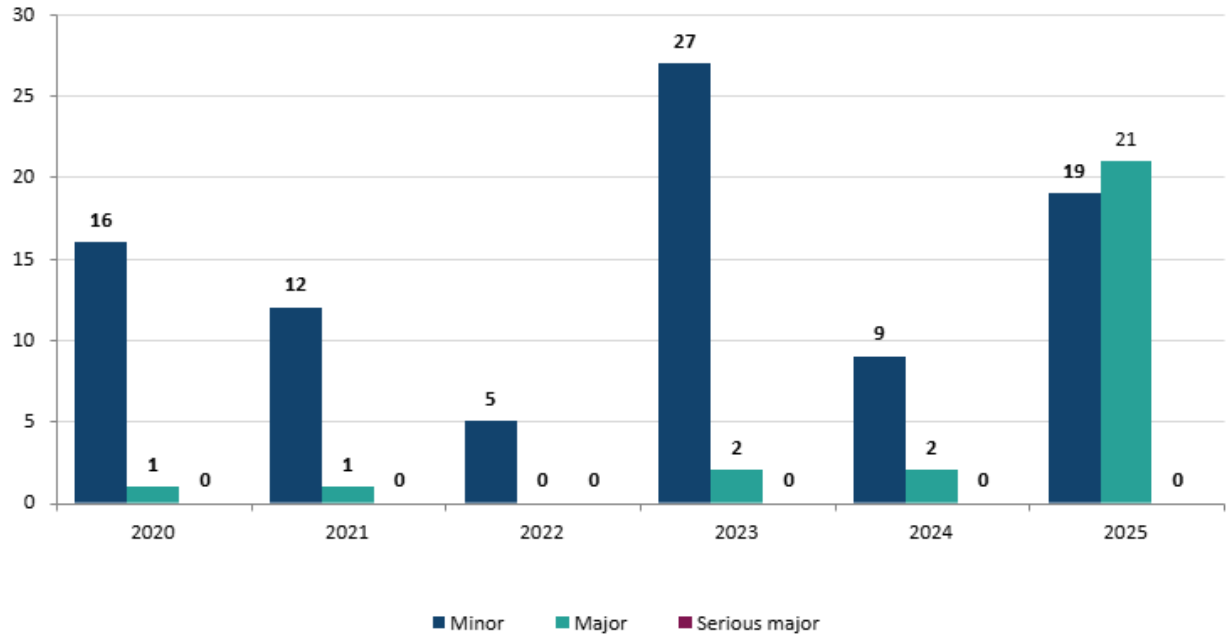
Figure 25: Chart showing number of TSE approved sampling sites and visits in Great Britain from 2019 to 2025



The number of TSE approved sampling sites remained stable over the previous three-year period, with no new sites being approved in 2025. Even though it was not possible to achieve 100% delivery of those scheduled visits, efforts were made to ensure that all premises received at least one inspection during 2025.

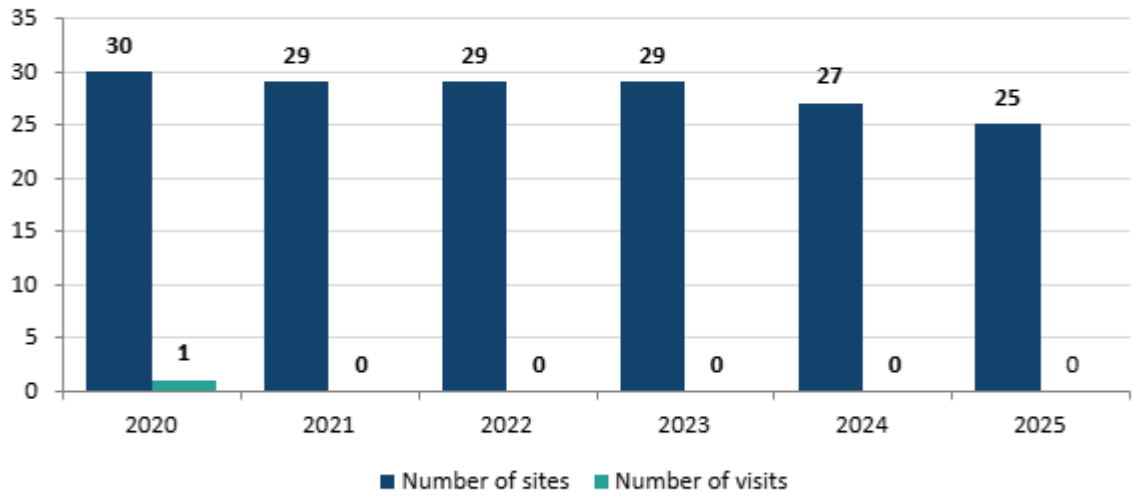
In Great Britain, 40 non-compliances were identified at TSE sampling sites during 2025. 21 were classified as major non-compliances. The major non-compliances related to structural defects, staining of SRM and record keeping. The increase in the number of major non-compliances is linked to APHA's efforts, during this period, to target those operators and premises at higher risk of non-compliance.

Figure 26: Chart showing the number of non-compliances at Great Britain TSE sampling sites from 2019 to 2025



The number of controlled hide establishments reduced by two to 25, in 2025. As a result of ongoing resource pressures and priorities in other work areas, no site visits were carried out in 2024/5.

Figure 27: Chart showing the number of Great Britain controlled hide establishments and the number of inspection visits from 2020 to 2025



Surveillance for BSE

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.

In 2025, 85,414 cattle were tested in Great Britain under the active surveillance programme. Two atypical BSE cases were detected through active surveillance in England. The numbers of confirmed TSE cases in Great Britain remained very low. Published TSE surveillance statistics provide further information.

Scrapie in sheep in Great Britain

Table 23: Great Britain surveillance for Scrapie from 2020 to 2025

Type of surveillance (Sheep over 18 months in Active Surveillance surveys)	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Total slaughtered for human consumption	5,509	7,603	7,685	6,166	4,726
Total submitted as fallen stock	13,652	12,005	11,187	11,335	12,561
Total number of sheep tested	19,161	19,608	18,872	17,501	17,287

Table 24: Great Britain Scrapie cases from 2020 to 2025

Positive Cases from Active and Passive Surveillance	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Number of classical Scrapie cases	0	0	0	0	1
Number of atypical Scrapie cases	11	11	4	7	15
Total positive Scrapie cases	11	11	4	7	16

In 2025 in Great Britain, one classical case of Scrapie was identified in sheep through Passive Surveillance, and 15 cases of atypical Scrapie were identified. Of these, 12 cases were submitted to the Fallen Stock survey, and 3 cases were submitted through the Abattoir survey.

The Fallen Stock survey was the main contributor to the detection of atypical Scrapie. Restrictions for atypical positive cases are no longer implemented in England and all existing restrictions on English atypical holdings were lifted in April 2025. Restrictions for classical cases in the UK and any atypical cases identified in Scotland and Wales still apply. Eleven new sheep holdings were placed under monitoring restrictions in 2025. Throughout 2025 a total of 23 holdings had Scrapie monitoring restrictions in place.

During the monitoring period, fallen and healthy slaughtered sheep aged over 18 months were tested for Scrapie. In total, 159 fallen stock sheep and twelve annual cull sheep were submitted from atypical and classical Scrapie holdings.

Optional schemes were available for keepers exporting animals to the EU, including the Scrapie Monitoring Scheme provided privately by Scotland's Rural College (SRUC). This provided annual inspections, animal testing and a risk status award.

Scrapie in goats in Great Britain

In 2025, no classical or atypical cases of Scrapie were identified in goats through Active or Passive Surveillance. No goat holdings were under the Compulsory Scrapie Flocks Scheme (CSFS). In total, 515 fallen stock goats were tested, and no positive cases were confirmed from this surveillance route.

Artificial breeding controls

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 2025.

Figure 28: Chart showing number of artificial breeding inspections carried out in Great Britain, by bovine embryo centres and bovine porcine centres from 2019 to 2025

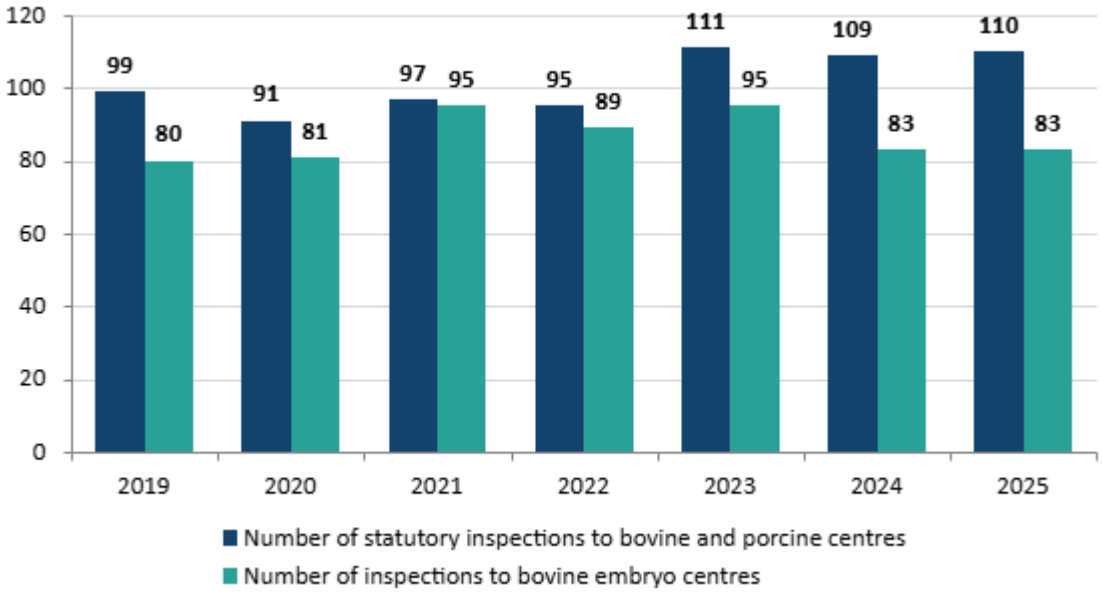


Table 25: Number of artificial breeding control activities undertaken in Great Britain 2020 to 2026

Note: Embryo stores and porcine AQU approvals not included in this data

Activity	2020 to 2021	2021 to 2022	2022 to 2023	2023 to 2024	2024 to 2025	2025 to 2026
Number of bovine embryo collection, production or transfer teams approved	9 (see Note)	7 (see Note)	4 (see Note)	9	6 (see Note)	0 (see note)
Number of bovine and porcine semen collection, processing and storage centres approved	4 (see Note)	4(see Note)	3 (see Note)	5	2(see Note)	6 (see note)
Number of animals licensed for on-farm domestic semen collection	308	355	292	315	268	253
Number of animals approved to move onto approved AI centres	1,687	1,460	1,378	1,327	1,442	1,315
Number of animals licensed for semen export	1,625	1,357	1,326	1,244	1,187	1,234

No sampling information was available in this period for collection of bovine and porcine semen production.

Sheep and goat identification and tracing inspections

Great Britain's Competent Authorities each met the regulatory requirement[6] to inspect 3% of sheep and goat holdings, covering 5% of national sheep and goat populations.

Table 26: General information on holdings, animals and checks in Great Britain between 2020 to 2022

Holdings, animals and checks	2020	2021	2022
Total number of MS registered holdings at the start of the reporting period	109,217	136,959	122,241
Total number of holdings checked	3,468	4,350	3,957
Total number of MS registered ovine and caprine animals at the beginning of the reporting period	16,087,152	16,677,987	16,381,371
Total number of ovine and caprine animals in holdings checked during the reporting period	1,809,360	2,294,864	2,371,032

Table 27: General information on holdings, animals and checks in Great Britain between 2023 to 2025

Holdings, animals and checks	2023	2024	2025
Total number of MS registered holdings at the start of the reporting period	113,350	116,377	115,589
Total number of holdings checked	4,108	4,021	3,823

[6] assimilated Regulation (EC) No 21/2004, via assimilated Commission Regulation 1505/2006.

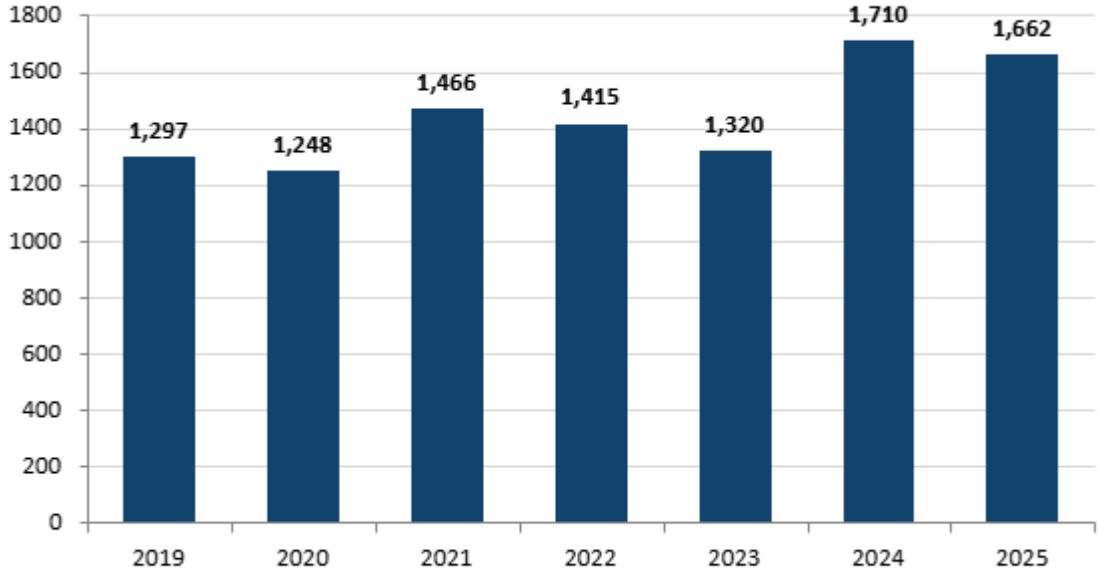
Holdings, animals and checks	2023	2024	2025
Total number of MS registered ovine and caprine animals at the beginning of the reporting period	16,831,715	15,440,733	14,835,652
Total number of ovine and caprine animals in holdings checked during the reporting period	1,509,686	2,138,016	1,690,923

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

In 2025 there was a 0.68% decrease in registered sheep and goat holdings in Great Britain. In total, 3.3% of holdings were checked, covering 11.4% of the national sheep and goat populations. There was a 4.92% decrease in the number of holdings checked compared to 2023. In 2025, 43.47% of checked holdings (1.44% of total holdings) were found to be non-compliant.

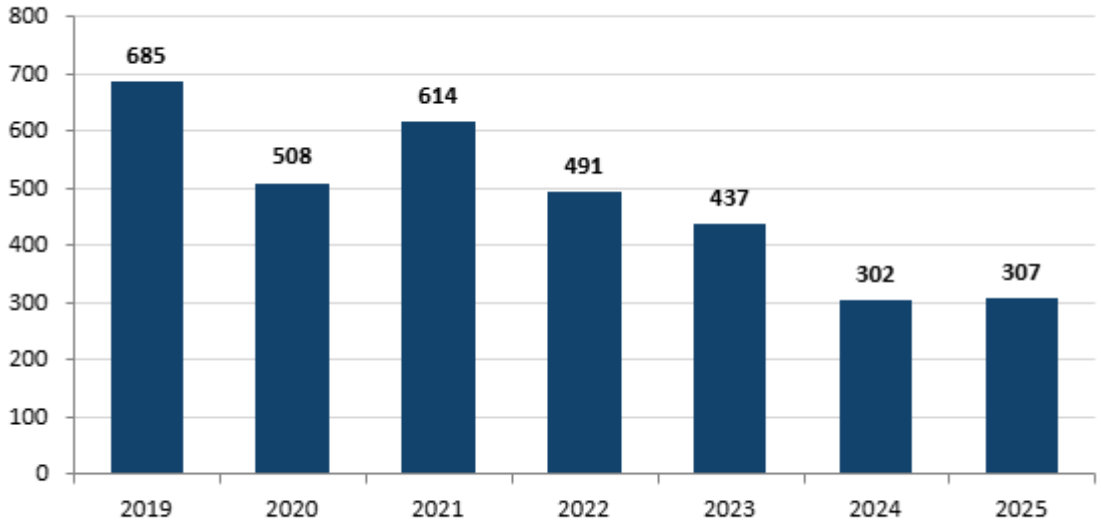
The most common types of non-compliance include the Annual Inventory not being submitted to the relevant competent authority and the Annual Inventory figure not being recorded in the keeper’s flock/herd register. Figure 29 shows the number of non-compliant holdings.

Figure 29: Chart showing the number of sheep and goat holdings with non-compliances in Great Britain from 2019 to 2025



Penalties were applied to sheep and goat keepers for non-compliances discovered during an SMR 8 cross compliance inspection. Figure 30 shows the number of penalties imposed in Great Britain from 2019 to 2025.

Figure 30: Chart showing the number of sheep and goat holdings with penalties imposed in Great Britain from 2019 to 2025.



The proportion of non-compliant holdings to have a penalty imposed in 2025 was 18.47%. Financial penalties are no longer imposed in England, but sanctions may be placed on holdings to restrict the movement of sheep and or goats, and these sanctions have been included in Figure 30.

Cattle identification and registration

In 2025, 3.4% of holdings were inspected in accordance with regulation (EC) 1760/2000, with the minimum requirement being 3% (per Commission Regulation (EC) 1082/2003). All inspections were completed on time during the reporting period.

In Great Britain, 80% of the holdings inspected were selected using a computerised risk analysis. The data was taken from the inspection year 2025 and aggregated across England, Scotland, and Wales. 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.

Table 28: General information on holdings and bovine animals in Great Britain from 2020 to 2025

Holdings and bovine animals	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Total number of holdings registered at the start of the reporting period	68,488	66,349	65,730	64,662	62,911
Total number of holdings checked during the reporting period	2,488	2,275	2,198	2,097	2,137
Total number of holding found to be non-compliant	1,082	1,034	1,295	1,117	1,023
Total number of bovine animals registered at the start of the reporting period	7,699,276	7,703,152	7,679,799	7,618,080	7,534,954
Total number of bovine animals checked during the reporting period	292,908	257,921	264,172	242,123	250,702
Total number of individual bovine animals found to be non-compliant	21,358	19,255	27,646	22,323	19,735

In 2025, the results of the cattle identification inspection annual programme for Great Britain showed a picture of improved compliance, with the number of non-compliant holdings decreasing from 1,117 to 1,023. There was a decrease in the number of bovines found to be non-compliant with identification requirements, from 22,323 in 2024 to 19,735, a reduction of 2,588.

Breaches were categorised under one of the following 4 headings:

- animal identification failure
- holding register discrepancies
- failure to notify birth, death, or movement
- passport anomalies

The most common types of non-compliance related to late reporting or failure to report births, movements and deaths, which accounted for 735 of the 1,023 non-compliant holdings and 12,454 of the non-compliant animals. Most animals inspected were found to have only one error.

In 2025, 12,291 bovine animals were subject to movement restrictions in Great Britain. A total of 684 animals were subject to individual restrictions, and 11,558 were subject to whole herd movement restrictions. This represented 88% of animals subject to inspection. A total of 89 holdings were subject to a whole herd restriction, which equated to 4.2% of all inspected holdings. Whilst more animals were subject to whole herd restrictions in 2025 than the previous year, there were fewer animals with individual discrepancies.

Figures 31 and 32 show holdings with non-compliances and inspections relating to cattle ID and registration from 2020 to 2025.

Figure 31: Chart showing the number of holdings with non-compliances for cattle identification regulations in Great Britain from 2020 to 2025

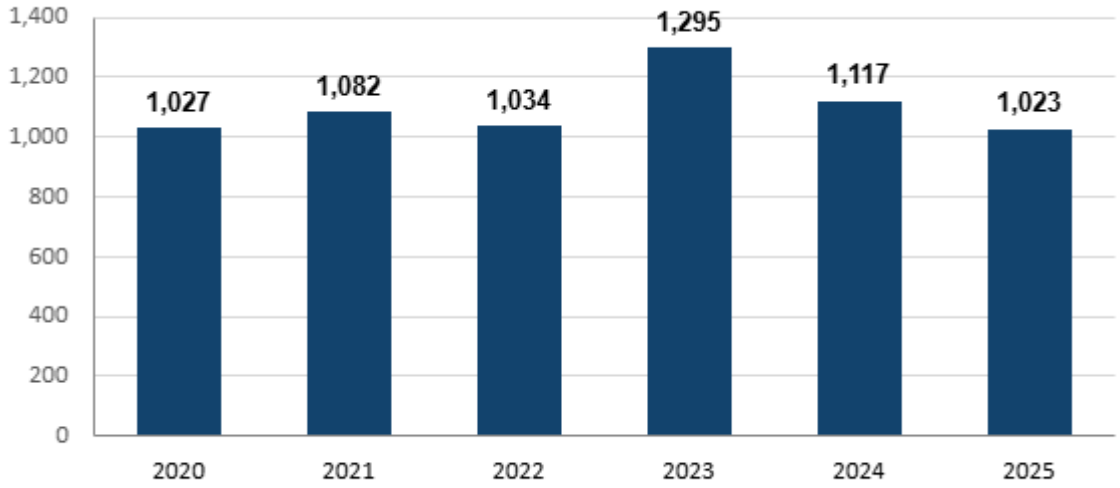
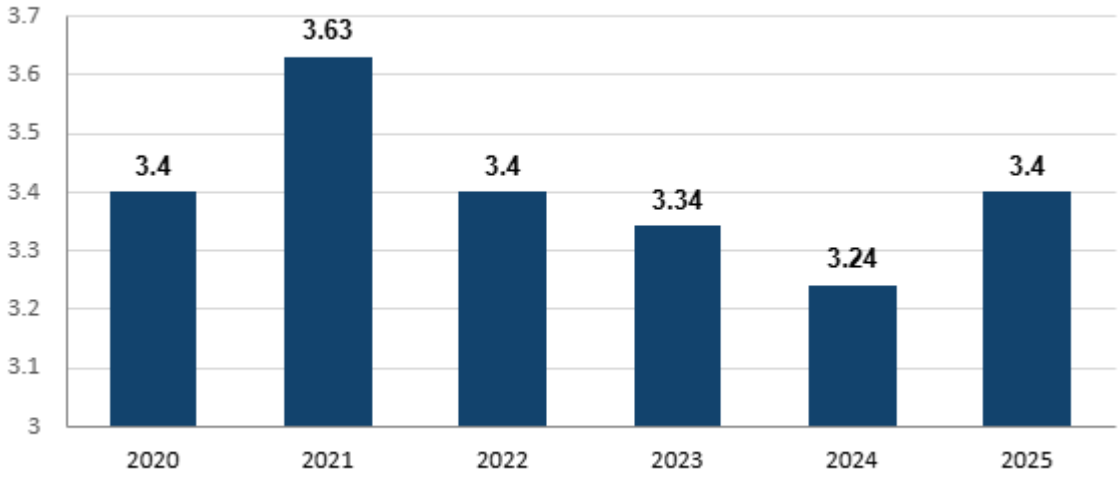


Figure 32: Chart showing the percentage of cattle holdings inspected under the cattle identification regulations in Great Britain from 2020 to 2025



Zoonoses

Control of *Salmonella* across all five poultry sectors (breeding, laying and broiler chickens, and breeding and fattening turkeys) in Great Britain remained effective in 2025. More detail on *salmonella* control trends can be found in the reports listed on the gov.uk website.

Surveillance undertaken through the *Salmonella* National Control Programmes (NCPs) in the five poultry sectors showed that the prevalence of regulated *Salmonella serovars* remained within, and in many cases well below, the legal targets across all five sectors in England, Scotland and Wales in 2025.

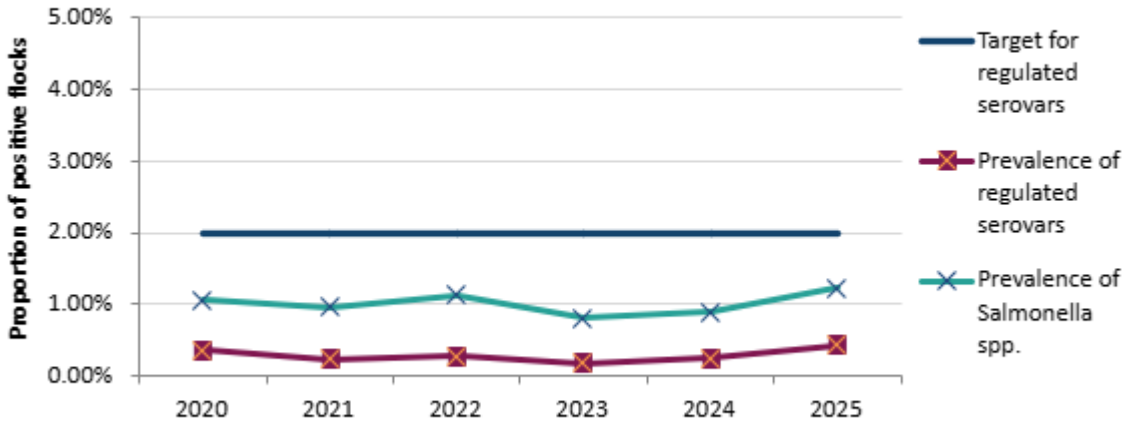
Following EU Exit, reporting has continued to be delivered at a national level rather than for the UK as a whole. Since 2021, each devolved nation in Great Britain has its own individual target of regulated serovars rather than a combined target covering Great Britain. England, Scotland and Wales each maintain separate Control Programmes for the 5 poultry sectors, which are implemented consistently across the 3 nations.

Operator and official sampling (required by legislation) under the *Salmonella* NCPs remained in place for each sector.

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 2025 was 0.43%. Prevalence remained well below the target of 2%, and was not significantly different to the rates in recent years (0.24% in 2024, 0.17% in 2023, 0.27% in 2022, 0.23% in 2021 and 0.35% in 2020). The estimated prevalence of regulated *Salmonella serovars* in each part of Great Britain in 2024 was: England 0.52%, Wales 0.45%, and there were no laying flocks positive for regulated serovars in Scotland.

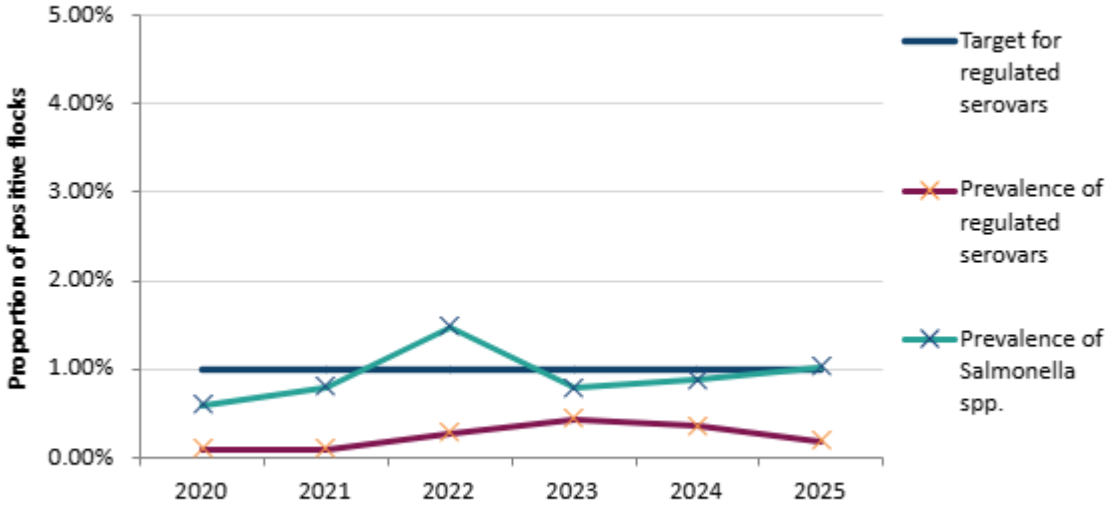
A total of 16 adult laying flocks (from eight separate holdings) tested positive for regulated *Salmonella serovars* (*S. Enteritidis* and or *S. Typhimurium*, including monophasic strains) in Great Britain in 2025. Ten adult flocks from four holdings tested positive for *S. Enteritidis* in 2025. Six adult flocks from four separate holdings tested positive for *S. Typhimurium* in 2025. No laying flocks were positive for monophasic *S. Typhimurium* in 2025.

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 2020 to 2025 in Great Britain



Great Britain's breeding chicken sector had a reported prevalence for regulated (target) serovars of 0.18% for 2025, comparing favourably with the legal target of less than 1% and with 0.35% in 2024. Two adult breeding flocks tested positive for a regulated *Salmonella serovar* in 2025. All were broiler breeder flocks which account for 89.6% of registered flocks in Great Britain. One parent broiler breeder flock tested positive for monophasic *S. Typhimurium* (via official sampling) and, one parent broiler breeder flock tested positive for monophasic *S. Typhimurium* (via operator sampling).

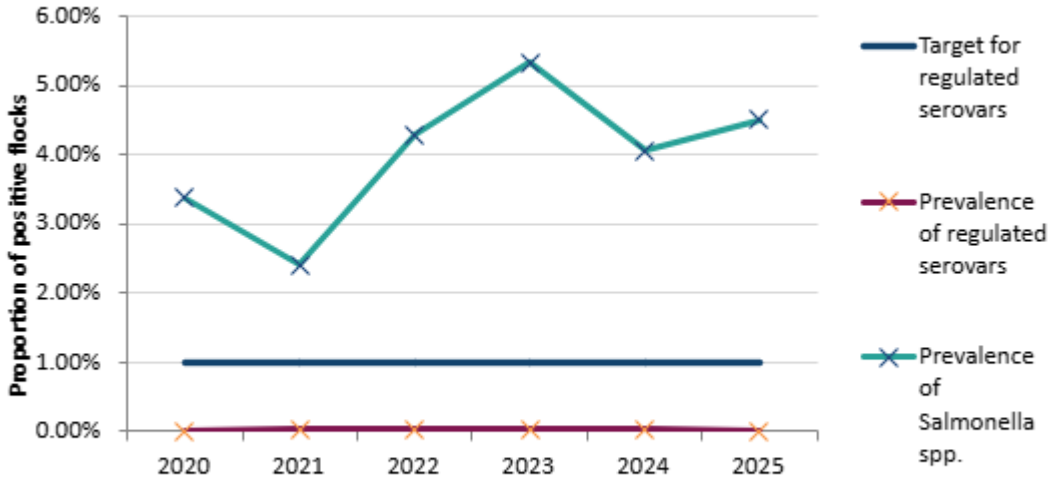
Figure 34: Chart showing prevalence of *Salmonella spp.* and the regulated serovars relative to the target in adult breeding flocks of *Gallus gallus* in the *Salmonella* National Control Programme from 2020 to 2025 in Great Britain



Two broiler flocks on two separate holdings tested positive for regulated serovars in 2024. No broiler flocks of *Gallus gallus*, from six separate holdings, were positive for *S. Enteritidis* in 2025. No broiler flocks were positive for *S. Typhimurium* in 2025. Two broiler flocks were positive for monophasic *S. Typhimurium* in 2025.

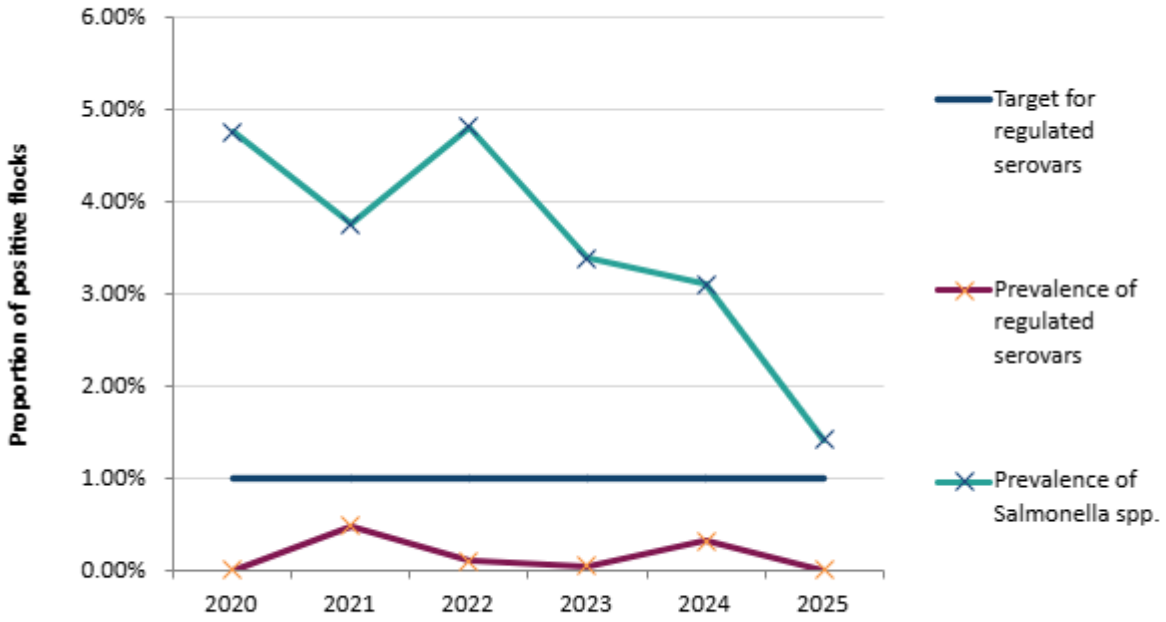
Based on the estimated number of broiler flocks in 2024, the estimated prevalence of regulated *Salmonella serovars* in Great Britain was 0.01%. This compares with 0.034% in 2024 and 0.04% in 2023 and 0.03 in both 2022 and 2021, again a favourable result in the context of a less than 1% legal target 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 2020 to 2025 in Great Britain



In 2025, no turkey fattening flocks tested positive for the *S. Enteritidis*, or *S, Typhimurium*, including monophasic *S. Typhimurium*. The overall prevalence in Great Britain in 2025 of the target serovars was 0%, which is below the legislative target of a maximum of 1% of flocks positive for regulated serovars in fattening turkey flocks. This compares with 0.32% in 2024, 0.05% in 2023, 0.10% in 2022 and 0.48% in 2021. There were no positive flocks with any *Salmonella serovar* identified in Scotland or Wales. The prevalence of regulated serovars in England of 0%, which is below the target of a maximum of 1% of flocks positive for regulated serovars, and a prevalence of *Salmonella spp* of 3.16%.

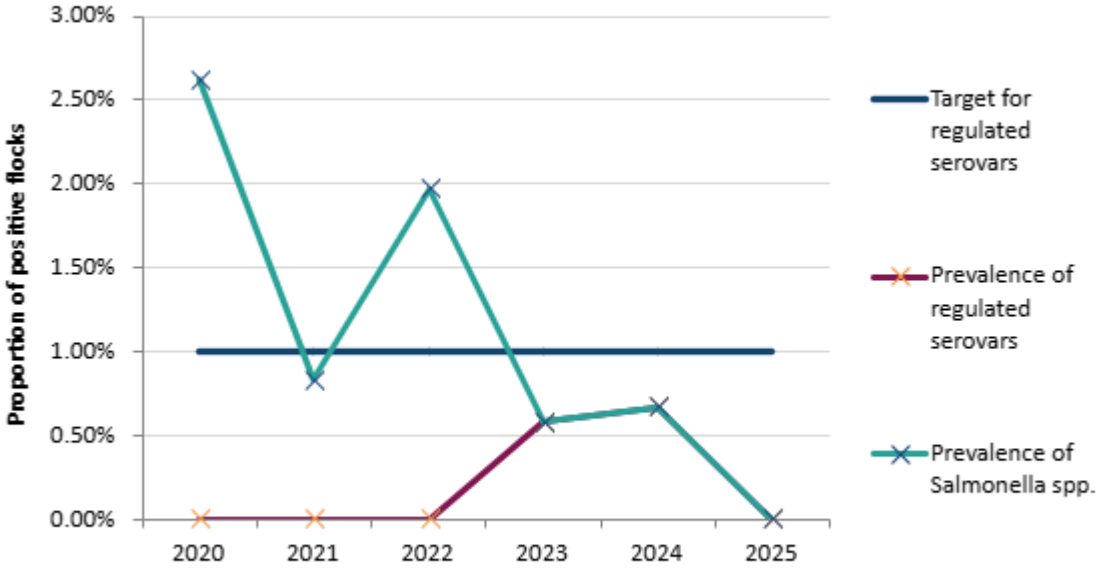
Figure 36: Chart showing prevalence of *Salmonella spp*. and the regulated serovars relative to the target for fattening turkey flocks in the *Salmonella* National Control Programme from 2020 to 2025 in Great Britain



In 2025, 146 adult turkey breeding flocks were tested under the National Control Programme by either APHA officials or by APHA trained private veterinarians, on behalf of the competent authority. 41 flocks were sampled at the hatchery and, 107 were sampled at the holding. No adult turkey breeding flocks were positive for *S. Typhimurium* or *monophasic S. Typhimurium*). The overall Great Britain 2025 prevalence of the regulated serovars was 0% - below the legislative target of 1% of flocks positive for *S. Enteritidis* and *S. Typhimurium*, including monophasic Salmonella *Typhimurium* strains, and less than 2024 (0.32%).

No adult or rearing turkey breeding flocks were positive for *S. Enteritidis* in 2025. This has been the case since the introduction of the UK breeding turkey NCP in 2010.

Figure 37: Chart showing prevalence of Salmonella spp. and the regulated serovars relative to the target in breeding turkey flocks in the Salmonella National Control Programme from 2020 to 2025 in Great Britain



The requirements for official sampling are set out in assimilated Regulation 2160/2003 (as amended) and implementing legislation. In total, for all poultry sectors across Great Britain, 2,478 poultry flocks were subject to annual routine official NCP sampling in 2025.

Table 29: Number of flocks officially sampled in Great Britain per year 2020 to 2025

Sector	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Breeding chickens	1,067	1,099	879	1,090	1,102	1,076
Laying chickens	805	1,044	869	840	988	1,089
Broilers	107	122	73	145	114	132
Fattening turkeys	32	37	24	50	41	33

Sector	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Breeding turkeys	187	182	137	128	142	148

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

Table 30: Summary of non-compliance in the poultry sector in Great Britain from 2020 to 2025

Year	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Non-compliances	35	44	39	84	71	47

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 2025, 25 case referrals (all in England) were received, and one was moderated by APHA. As a result, 14 penalty notices were sent out to customers in England, and 10 warning letters were issued (all in England), compared with 15 penalty notices and eight warning letters in 2024, nine penalty notices and 15 warning letters in 2023 and 13 penalty notices and 14 warning letters issued in 2022. To note, this financial penalty system is not used in Scotland.

Salmonella in pigs

During 2025/26, in England and Wales, sampling was undertaken at abattoirs that slaughter 100,000 or more pigs per annum. There were 2,699 *salmonella* tests carried out, of which 54 were positive. In Scotland during 2025/26, there were 412 *Salmonella* samples collected, with 2 positive results identified.

Border controls – Live animals and animal products

With the implementation of the Border Target Operating Model in 2024, these reported figures now include imports from both the EU and the RoW. The number of recorded

consignments of animal products imported into Great Britain increased slightly from 830,709 in 2024 to 834,584 in 2025.

Since October 2023, live animal imports from the EU have been recorded on the Import of Products, Animals, Food and Feed System (IPAFFS). This is the third year in which EU live animal imports have been recorded and therefore included in this Annual Report.

The number of consignments of live animals imported from EU and RoW countries decreased from 51,993 in 2024 to 45,128 in 2025.

Overall compliance remains high for consignments of both live animals and animal products from the EU and RoW countries. In 2025, 2,739 consignments (0.31%) were rejected, compared with 1,565 consignments (0.186%) in 2024.

The majority of non-compliances were for animal products. Of these 2,448 were due to documentary errors, although some consignments may also have failed a physical check.

In 2025, nine consignments of live animals were rejected, compared with eight in 2024. Of these, three involved dogs and six involved cats. These consignments were refused entry due to documentary issues. One of these consignments also failed a physical check. All rejected consignments were re-exported.

Consignments of animal products that presented a risk to public or animal health were destroyed. Otherwise, the operator or 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. Where required, this action was undertaken under the control of the relevant competent authority.

Since 1 January 2021, Great Britain has applied 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 during the introduction of these controls, temporary easements were implemented in 2021. These easements remained in effect in 2025.

Table 31: Great Britain controls on imported consignments: animal products from ROW 2020 to 2025.

Controls	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Total certificates issued	48,489	53,229	58,109	57,262	86,238	92,252
Number of controlled certificates	48,489	53,229	58,109	57,262	86,238	92,252
Number of rejections	965	1,093	1,294	1,601	1,099	1,162
Number of rejections re-exported	246	371	421	730	478	457
Number of rejections transformed	6	1	0	0	1	0
Number of rejections destroyed	713	661	830	834	582	641

Table 32: Great Britain Imports of animal products from the EU for 2024 to 2025

Note: From January 2024, animal products imported from the EU have been recorded on the Import of Products, Animals, Food and Feed System (IPAFFS).

Controls	2024	2025
Total certificates issued	744,471	742,332
Number of controlled certificates	744,471	742,332
Number of rejections	458	1,568
Number of rejections re-exported	217	848
Number of rejections transformed	0	1

Controls	2024	2025
Number of rejections destroyed	198	560

Table 33: Great Britain controls on imported consignments: live animals from RoW 2020 to 2025

Controls	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Total certificates	5,829	10,395	11,542	8,483	8,309	8,370
Number of controlled certificates	5,801	10,395	11,542	8,483	8,309	8,370
Number of rejects	103	183	124	14	8	9
Rejects re-exported	102	160	90	3	2	9
Rejects slaughtered	1	0	0	2	2	0
Rejects subject to euthanasia (Hatching eggs – Gallus gallus)	0	0	0	0	1	0
Rejects subject to euthanasia (fish and gastropoda)	0	1	1	1	0	0

Table 38: Great Britain controls on imported consignments: live animals from the EU, October 2023 to 2025.

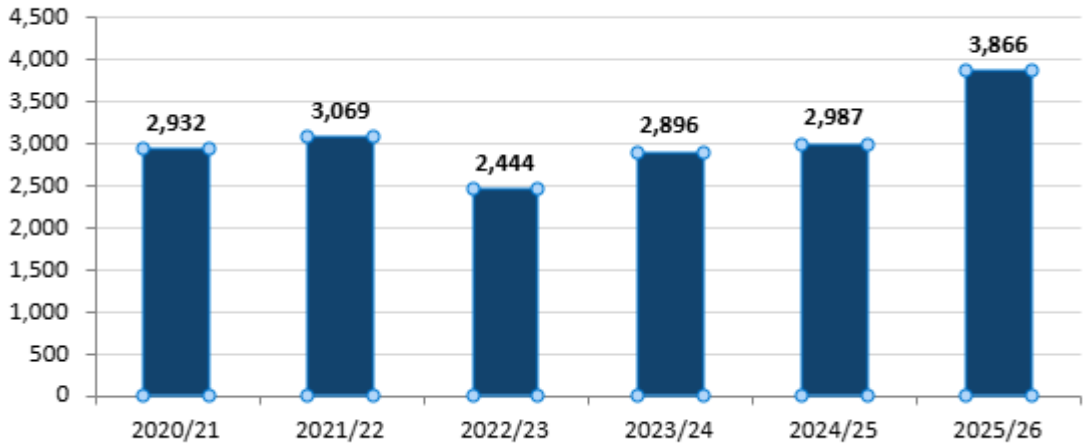
Controls	2023 (from Oct)	2024	2025
Total certificates	5,646	43,684	36,758

Border Force reported an increase in the number of seizures of illegal imports of products of animal origin (POAO) during 2025 to 2026, compared with the previous year. These figures include non-compliant imports intended for personal consumption or use, including those voluntarily surrendered at ports and airports, as well as consignments intended for onward distribution that sought to evade import requirements by failing to present to a Border Control Post.

In August 2024, Defra and the Devolved Governments introduced a ban on imports of certain sheep and goat products from the EU for personal consumption or use in response to outbreaks of peste des petits ruminants. In September 2024, the existing ban on imports of certain pork and pork products from the EU for personal consumption or use (introduced in September 2022 in response to African swine fever) was extended. The new ban limited such imports to a maximum of 2kg of goods commercially produced and packaged to EU requirements.

In the first quarter of 2025, Defra and the Devolved Governments introduced bans on imports of certain meat and dairy products from the EU for personal consumption or use in response to foot and mouth disease outbreaks. These restrictions remained in place throughout 2025.

Figure 38: Chart showing the number of seizures of imported products of animal origin in UK from 2020/21 to 2025/26 (Source: Border Force)



Bee health

In England and Wales, the Animal and Plant Health Agency's 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 website, along with full details of the NBU's inspections and pest and disease incidence in 2025 and in previous years.

The number of colonies infected with American foulbrood (AFB) and European foulbrood (EFB) continued to remain low during the 2025 reporting period. A total of 17 colonies were found to be infected with AFB and were destroyed. Control action 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.' A total of 548 colonies were found to be infected with EFB. Two colonies were found positive for both AFB and EFB, and were destroyed.

Honey samples were also collected under contract for the VMD for the National Surveillance Scheme. Approximately 100 samples were collected in 2025, in line with previous years.

A total of 21,127 unique colonies in 3,071 apiaries were inspected across England and Wales in 2025.

Figure 39: Chart showing the total number of unique colonies inspected in England and Wales from 2020 to 2025[7]

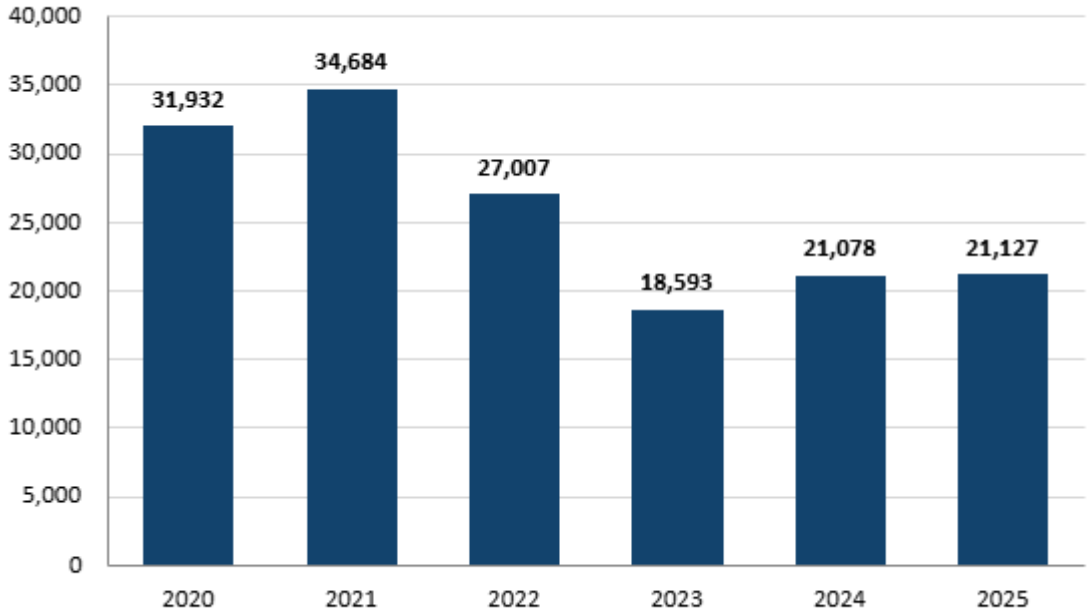


Table 39: Turnaround times on laboratory diagnosis and control measures on diseased apiaries in England 2022 to 2025

Type of sample	Target (working days within which 95 percent of samples should be completed)	Percentage within target	Number of samples analysed
Statutory Exotics, 2022	1	Not applicable	0

[7] 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 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.

Type of sample	Target (working days within which 95 percent of samples should be completed)	Percentage within target	Number of samples analysed
Statutory Exotics, 2023	1	Not applicable	0
Statutory Exotics, 2024	1	Not applicable	0
Statutory Exotics, 2025	1	Not applicable	0
Voluntary Exotics, 2022	1	90	153
Voluntary Exotics, 2023	1	89	133
Voluntary Exotics, 2024	1	87	162
Voluntary Exotics, 2025	1	92	169
Import Samples, 2022	4	10	24
Import Samples, 2023	10	30	30
Import Samples, 2024	10	73	28
Import Samples, 2025	4	11	79
Statutory Foulbrood, 2022	1	97	605
Statutory Foulbrood, 2023	1	92	514
Statutory Foulbrood, 2024	1	79	837
Statutory Foulbrood, 2025	1	88	751

Type of sample	Target (working days within which 95 percent of samples should be completed)	Percentage within target	Number of samples analysed
Voluntary Foulbrood, 2022	1	50	2
Voluntary Foulbrood, 2023	1	0	12
Voluntary Foulbrood, 2024	1	43	7
Voluntary Foulbrood, 2025	1	100	10

Table 40: Turnaround times on laboratory diagnosis and control measures on diseased apiaries in Wales 2022 to 2025

Type of sample	Target (working days within which 95 percent of samples should be completed)	Percentage within target	Number of samples analysed
Statutory Exotics, 2022	1	Not applicable	0
Statutory Exotics, 2023	1	Not applicable	0
Statutory Exotics, 2024	1	Not applicable	0
Statutory Exotics, 2025	1	Not applicable	0
Voluntary Exotics, 2022	1	94	17
Voluntary Exotics, 2023	1	81	16

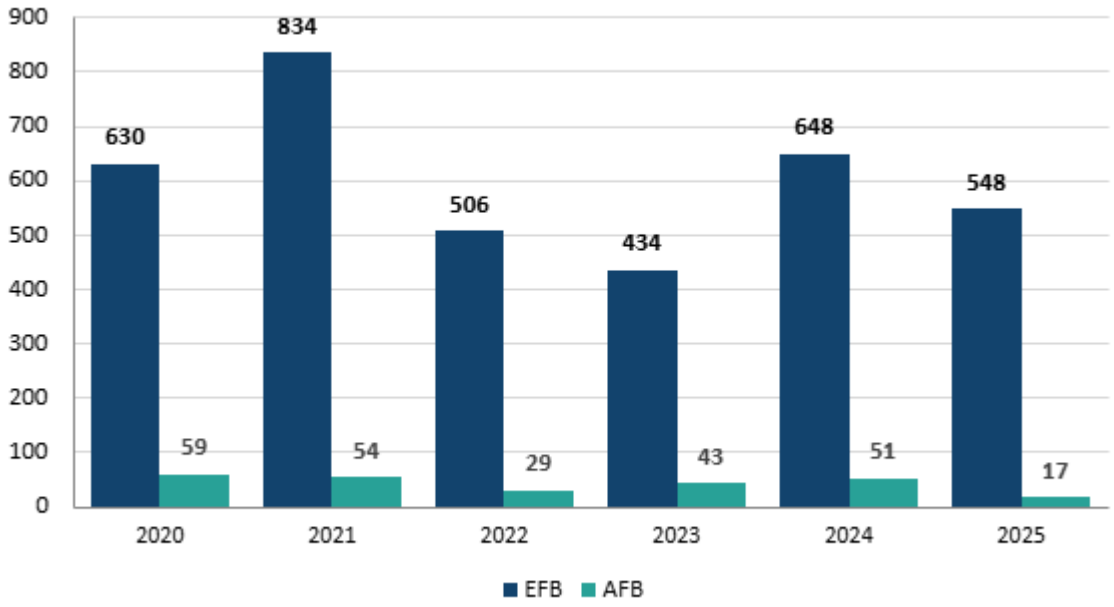
Type of sample	Target (working days within which 95 percent of samples should be completed)	Percentage within target	Number of samples analysed
Voluntary Exotics, 2024	1	93	15
Voluntary Exotics, 2025	1	91	11
Import Samples, 2022	4	8	2
Import Samples, 2023	10	Not applicable	0
Import Samples, 2024	10	Not applicable	0
Import Samples, 2025	4	Not applicable	0
Statutory Foulbrood, 2022	1	100	62
Statutory Foulbrood, 2023	1	80	30
Statutory Foulbrood, 2024	1	66	38
Statutory Foulbrood, 2025	1	85	176
Voluntary Foulbrood, 2022	1	Not applicable	0
Voluntary Foulbrood, 2023	1	Not applicable	0
Voluntary Foulbrood, 2024	1	100	1
Voluntary Foulbrood, 2025	1	Not applicable	0

In England and Wales, official controls on colonies infected with foulbrood comprised 139 colonies in 82 separate apiaries, where 68% were treated by shook swarm within 10 days

(with a mean treatment time of three days), while 79% of 427 colonies in 216 separate apiaries were controlled by destruction within 10 days (mean treatment time four days).

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.

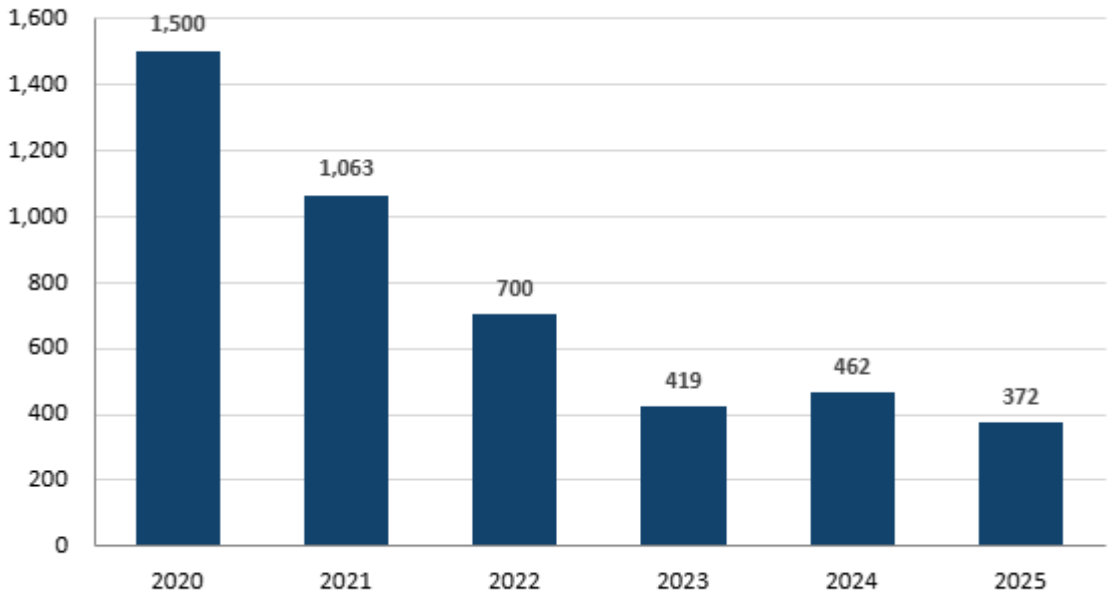
Figure 40: Chart showing the number of colonies found to be infected with EFB and AFB in England and Wales from 2020 to 2025



A total of 1,930 colonies in 372 apiaries were specifically examined in England and Wales for the presence of exotic pests. A further 180 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.

Following a review of the effectiveness of the risk-based inspection rules in 2020 changes were introduced to optimise disease detection for both American and European foulbrood, as well as improving the coverage of visits to locations with increased risk from exotic threats.

Figure 41: Number of apiaries inspected for exotic pests in England and Wales from 2020 to 2025



In Scotland, the Bee Health Inspectorate carried out the statutory inspection programme for the Scottish Government. Diagnostic support for the programme is provided by Science and Advice for Scottish Agriculture (SASA). Details of the programmes are available from the Scottish Government Bee Health webpages. Full details of the Scottish Government Bee Inspectorate inspections and pest and disease incidence across the years can be found on the Animal and Plant Health Agency's National Bee Unit website.

The number of Scottish colonies infected with American foulbrood (AFB) and European foulbrood (EFB) have remained at low levels in recent years. Another good summer meant that infection rates were on the low side.

EFB remained 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 remained largely unaffected. The Honeybee Health Team continued to work on establishing the true picture of EFB spread in Scotland, with ongoing research projects aiming to better understand the disease.

A total of 12,809 unique colonies in 630 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).

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.

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 2025. 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 2020 to 2025

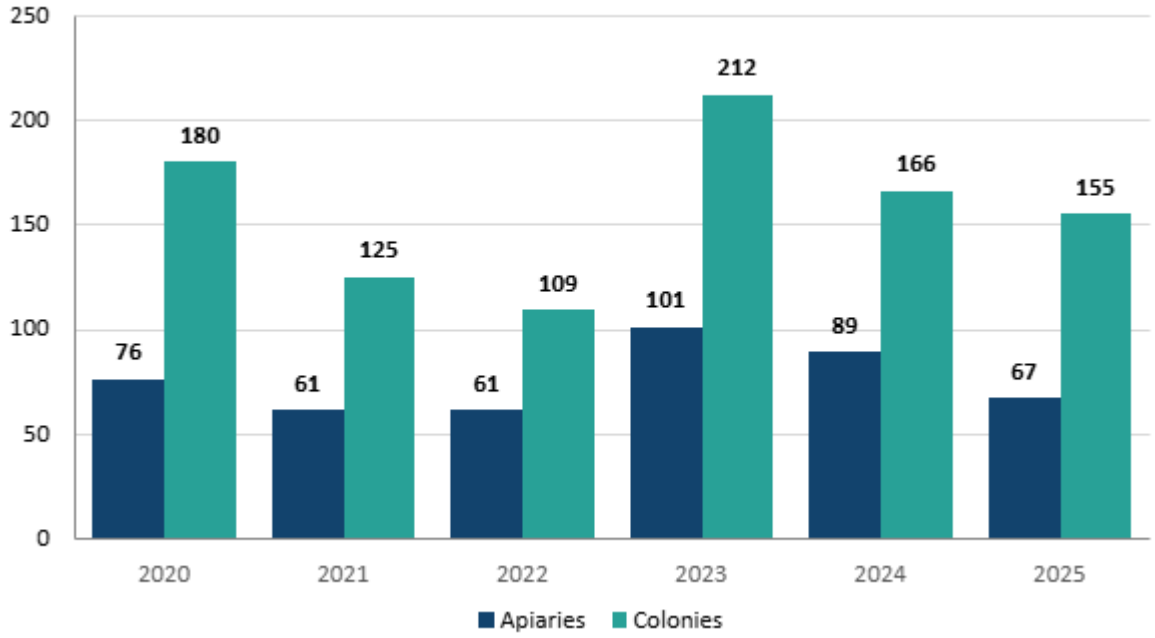


Figure 43: Chart showing the number of apiaries and colonies inspected in Scotland from 2020 to 2025

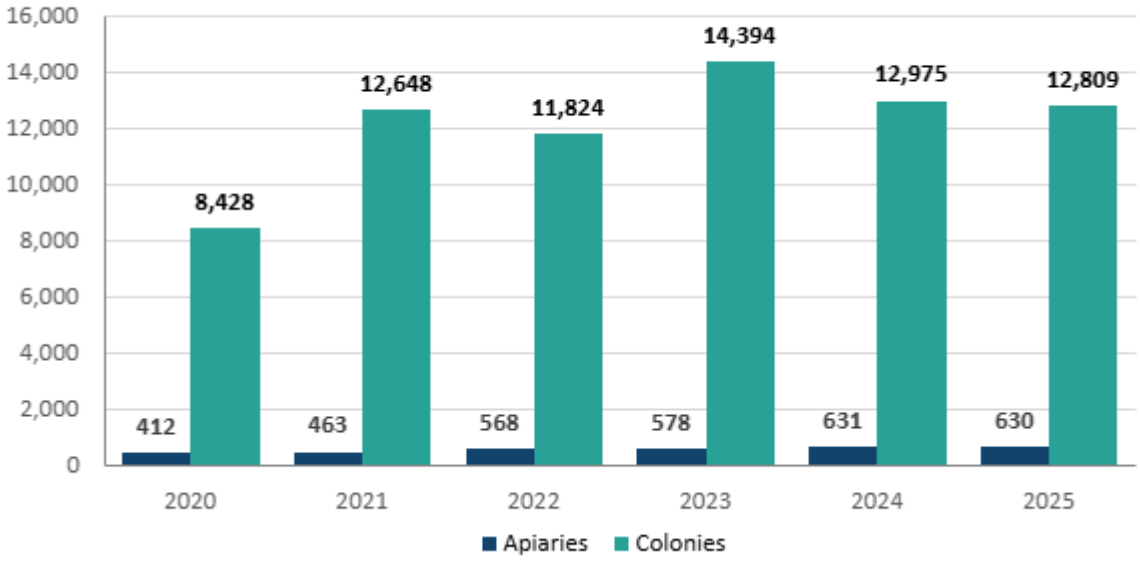
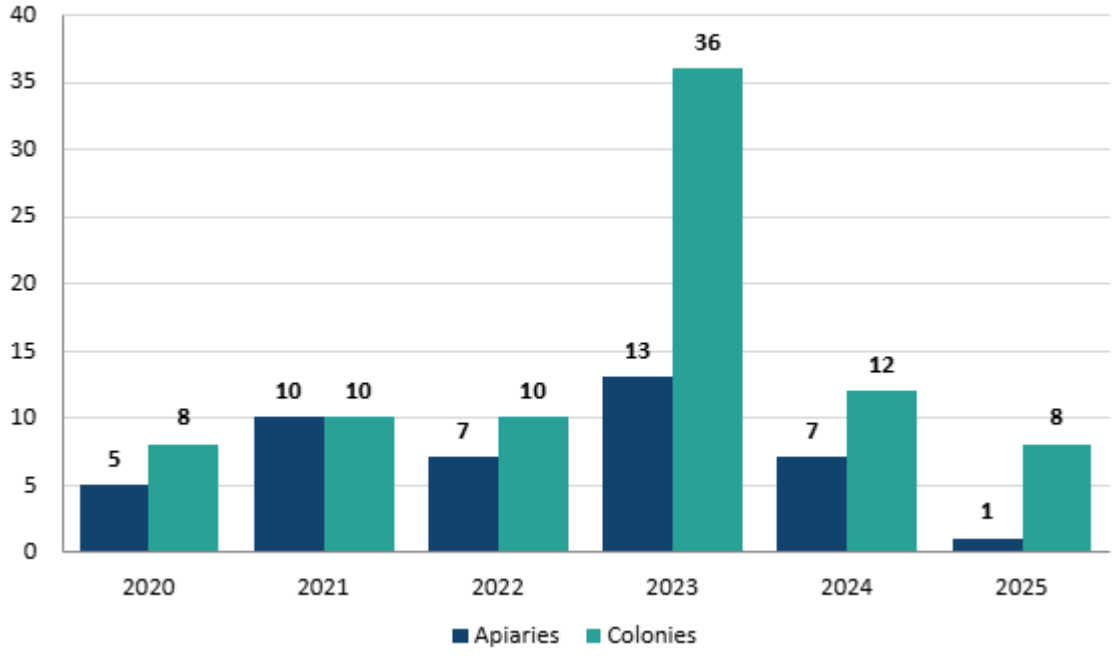


Figure 44: Chart showing the number of apiaries and colonies infected with American Foulbrood in Scotland from 2020 to 2025



Aquatic animal health (AAH)

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

The 2025 annual risk-based routine compliance and aquatic animal health (AAH) surveillance inspection programme was delivered by the Fish Health Inspectorate (FHI) at the Centre for Environment, Fisheries & Aquaculture Science (Cefas). All statutory requirements for aquatic animal health surveillance and official controls were fully met.

Routine inspections were undertaken to monitor stock heath and carry out surveillance for notifiable (listed) 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.

The routine programme of inspections was successfully completed for England and Wales in 2025, meeting the objectives and targets set out in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Defra and Cefas. Adjustments to the risk-based programme were made throughout the year to ensure coverage of all relevant sites. The official control programme supports the continued maintenance of Great Britain's high aquatic animal health status for the listed (notifiable) diseases of fish and shellfish.

The routine inspection programme runs on a calendar year basis, therefore figures in this section of the report are for the 2025 calendar year.

In 2025, there were 94 material changes to Aquaculture Production Businesses during the period, including updates to existing authorisations (for example new owners, change in facility or activity type), reauthorisation of non-susceptible importers and newly authorised APBs. The link to the live APB register can be found here: Public register of Aquaculture Production Businesses in England and Wales.

Table 41: Total number of routine Aquaculture Production Business compliance inspections 2020 to 2025

APB compliance inspections	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Fish Farms	263	243	230	232	206	231
Mollusc Farms	63	50	60	59	43	55

APB compliance inspections	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Crustacean Farms	6	8	11	16	19	19
Purification Centres	40	43	46	44	25	36
Importers (live fish and shellfish)	72	66	65	69	61	75
Exporters (live fish and shellfish - new programme November 2021)	Not applicable	12	26	45	43	49

In addition, a total of 376 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 FHI received 125 disease and mortality reports in 2025. In response to these, and to reports of clinical signs observed during routine inspections, the FHI issued 47 Initial Designation Notices (IDNs - controls on suspicion of notifiable or emerging disease in fish and shellfish) and conducted 74 investigations on suspicion of (or to rule out) notifiable and emerging disease. In total, 55 diagnostic samples were collected to investigate suspicion of infectious diseases: 52 from fish, one from molluscs, and two from crustaceans. These were submitted for diagnostic testing to screen for notifiable, new, and emerging diseases.

In 2025, 25 Confirmed Designation Notices (CDNs) were issued on confirmation of notifiable disease, 24 CDNs were placed for the control of Koi herpesvirus (KHV) disease outbreaks in recreational carp / coarse fisheries. Although KHV is notifiable, Great Britain is not free of the disease and outbreaks occur routinely in this sector. A CDN was issued to control an outbreak of Oyster herpesvirus-1 microvariant in wild settled Pacific oysters (*Magallana gigas*) in the Humber Estuary (Grimsby Docks). Infection was confirmed through PCR testing and sequencing (including nested PCR and Sanger sequencing).

To monitor compliance with movement restrictions and biosecurity measures, 47 inspections were carried out on fish and shellfish sites subject to controls (under Confirmed Designation Notices) for notifiable diseases.

Table 42: Total number of investigations and inspections for disease control 2020 to 2025

Investigations and inspections	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Disease Investigations	59	118	87	83	62	74
Disease Control Inspections	67	113	68	72	49	47

KHV outbreaks continued to account for most listed disease investigations and outbreaks in England and Wales. To note, 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 or cooler summer.

Long-standing disease control zones remained unchanged across multiple shellfish harvesting areas for the control of the protozoan parasite *Bonamia ostreae* (affecting native oyster Ostrea edulis). For *Marteilia refringens,* zoning remained limited to a single estuary system, following the detection of infection in edible mussels (*Mytilus edulis*) in 2011.

The position for other notifiable diseases remained stable in 2025, with the high status for aquatic animal health maintained overall. Continued emphasis on awareness and biosecurity practices across the aquaculture, ornamental wholesale and fisheries sectors is supporting the containment and control of serious diseases. Details of all fish and shellfish disease controls and Designations in England and Wales are published in the guidance on the gov.uk website.

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 2025, 332 recreational fisheries were registered. By the end of 2025 there were a total of 10,819 registered fisheries and cropping waters in England and Wales.

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 2025, 29 residue samples were obtained and

submitted to the analytical laboratory Fera (at Sand Hutton, York) for testing and mixing licence inspections were conducted on 16 fish farms.

The risk-based import surveillance programme continued to be targeted at sources of live fish posing a higher risk for disease introduction. In 2025, a total of 18 import samples were collected under the risk-based monitoring programme and screened for notifiable diseases.

Table 43: Total number of fish and shellfish import samples 2020 to 2025

Fish and shellfish import samples	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Rest of the world	6	25	29	23	21	14
EU/EEA	1	9	8	7	3	4
Total import samples	7	34	37	30	24	18

The level of trade, import and export activity delivered by the FHI in 2025 remained high, with the FHI issuing 147 health certificates for the export of live aquatic animals from England and Wales and undertaking 100% documentary checks on consignments of live fish and shellfish imported into Great Britain from the EU.

The number of controls (Regulation 16 and 23 notices) applied to imports under the Trade in Animals and Related Products Regulations (TARP) 2011 increased from 117 in 2024 to 142 in 2025. This rise was largely driven by a higher number of Regulation 16 notices issued for consignments of non-susceptible aquatic animals, primarily due to documentary non-compliance, including the use of outdated or incorrect health certificates and missing or inaccurate attestations.

Figure 45: Chart showing the number of import checks and export certificates issued by the FHI (England and Wales) from 2020 to 2025

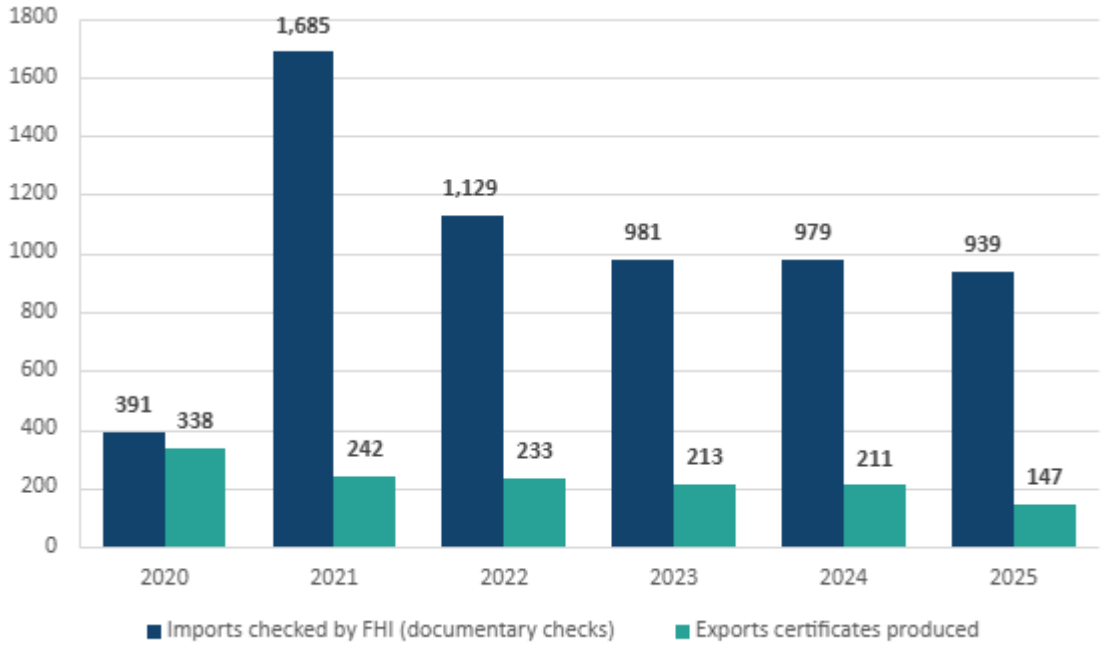


Figure 46: AAH Non-compliance and Enforcement Summary (England and Wales) from 2020 to 2025

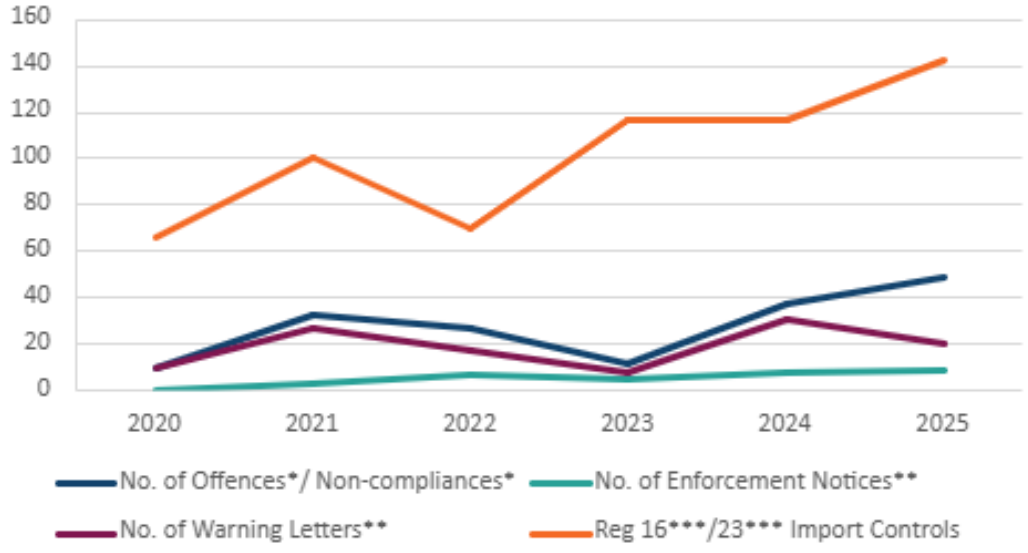


Table 44: Annotations for AAH Non-compliance and Enforcement Summary data (England and Wales) from 2019 to 2025

Notes:

Note 1: under The Aquatic Animal Health (England and Wales) Regulations 2009 and APB Conditions of Authorisation

Note 2: the actual number of WLS and ENS issued may differ from the number of offences and non-compliance because they may be combined

Note 3: The Trade in Animals and Related Products Regulations 2011 includes Regulation 16 notices to authorise the removal of animals from the Border Control Post and Regulation 23 notices to detain, isolate or destroy consignments

Non-compliance and Enforcement	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Number of Offences and Non-compliances (see note 1)	10	33	27	12	37	49
Number of Enforcement Notice (see note 2)	0	3	7	5	8	9
Number of Warning Letters (see note 2)	10	27	17	8	31	20
Regulation 16 or 23 Import Controls (see note 3)	66	100	70	117	117	142

Details of the 49 offences and non-compliances in 2025 included:

- Warning letters (20) predominantly issued for operating without authorisation, including both importing and exporting of susceptible and non-susceptible species without being authorised as an importer. A significant proportion related to failures to comply with conditions of authorisation under the AAHR 2009, including failure to report mortality events and to maintain required records. Warning letters are issued where the non-compliance or offence cannot be immediately rectified with the use of an Enforcement Notice.

- Enforcement Notices (9) for non-compliance with APB authorisation conditions such as failing to operate in accordance with approved biosecurity measures plans or failing to maintain appropriate mortality or movement records.

The 142 Regulation 16 or 23 controls issued under TARP were largely administrative. The increase in regulations issued compared with 2024 was driven primarily by a rise in Regulation 16 notices for consignments of non-susceptible species, with relatively smaller increases in Regulation 23 notices for consignments containing susceptible species. The majority of issues related to documentary non-compliance including the use of outdated or incorrect health certificate models, incorrect or incomplete health attestations and missing original documentation, stamps or certifying signatures. These issues were typically resolved through the submission of corrected or replacement health certificates by the Competent Authority in the exporting country. Where appropriate, advice was provided to importers to prevent recurrence and assurances were sought from exporting country Competent Authorities to improve the quality and compliance of certification.

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 continued 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.

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 2025, no APBs had their authorisation suspended or revoked as a result of actions arising from official controls.

Aquatic animal health – Scotland

In Scotland, in accordance with the Risk Based Surveillance scheme (Council Directive 2006/88/), 146 inspections relating to fish farms and 110 inspections relating to shellfish farms were conducted in 2025. During the inspection process, two unannounced inspections were conducted.

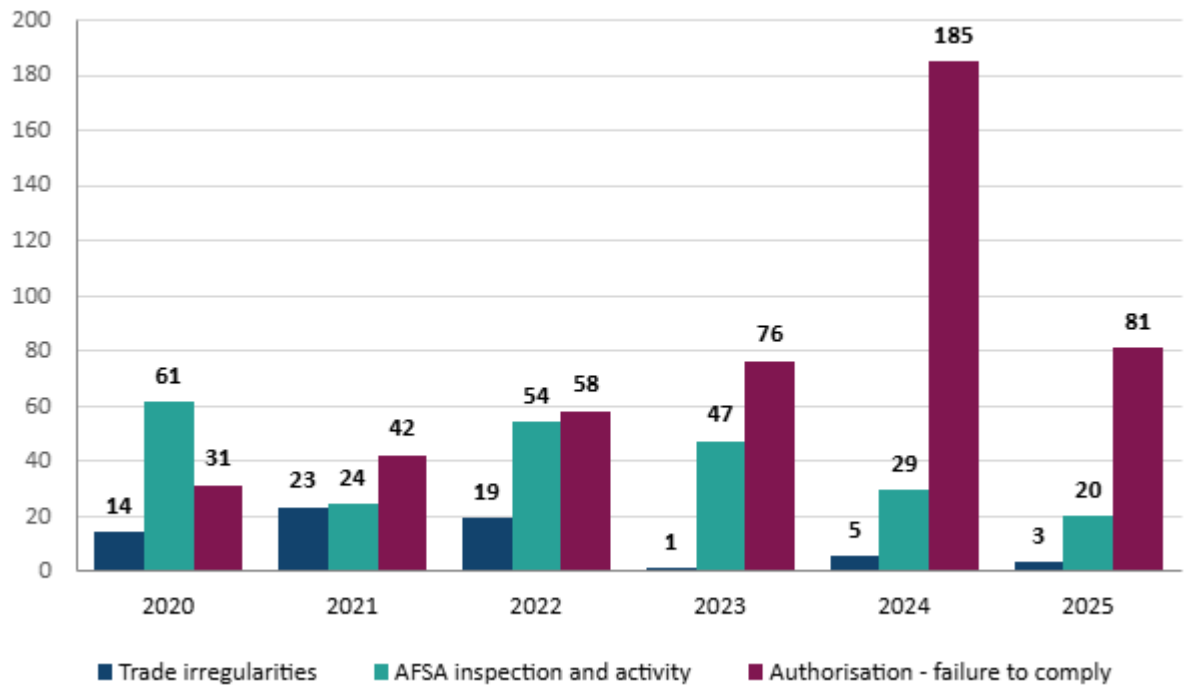
A total of 35 diagnostic samples were taken from fish and two from shellfish in response to notifications of mortality, suspicion of disease, or through routine active inspection involving the observation of clinical and postmortem signs of disease. Further details on Fish Health Inspectorate case information: 2025 are available on the Scottish Government website.

Through a contractual arrangement with the VMD, a total of 765 samples were collected from finfish aquaculture sites. These samples were submitted to Fera Science Limited, for analysis on residues of chemotherapeutants or environmental contamination.

Fourteen inspections were conducted at fish farm sites approved by the VMD as ‘manufacturers of medicated feedingstuffs intended for feeding to their own fish’. All 14 facilities inspected rated as Category 5 (three or fewer minor deficiencies).

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. To note, a case is equivalent to a single site visit, which may record more than one issue of non-compliance.

Figure 47: Chart showing the number of non-compliances in Scotland from 2020 to 2025



Outcomes of the non-compliances found in Scotland during 2025

Three trade irregularities relating to issues with animal health certificates, involving last minute changes to site destination, were resolved through provision of advice.

Inspection and activity associated with the Aquaculture and Fisheries (Scotland) Act 2007 and 2013 saw a total of 19 non-compliances:

- Eight cases related to the Act’s enhanced inspection programme
- Seven issues related to farm management statements or agreements

- One issue related to containment
- Three issues raised due to sea lice reporting

All these non-compliances were successfully resolved through complying with advice given and any recommendations made.

There were 81 non-compliances for failure to comply with authorisation conditions. These included 77 issues related to record keeping, and four instances where the farm was operating without appropriate authorisation. These latter four instances are all non-compliances related to unauthorised stocking of species. One warning letter was issued. Issues have been successfully resolved through providing advice and addressing recommendations or requirements imposed following inspection. Four warning letters issued in 2025 related to four cases from 2025. Two warning letters and four enforcement notices were issued in relation to sea lice management in 2025.

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 2025 increased significantly in comparison to those of 2024.

It should be noted that the number of cases of non-compliance represents the number of cases with detected issues; issues detected: more than one issue can be found per individual case. 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.

Table 45: cases and non-compliances on fish and shellfish farms from 2020 to 2025

Note: data has been revised in the 2025 report to include historical data not previously provided

Cases and non-compliances	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Number of cases	183	249	325	332	321	314
Number of non-compliance	27	47	58	78	191	93
Number of cases with non-compliance	31	48	46	57	103	59

Cases and non-compliances	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Percentage of non-compliance	17%	19%	14%	18%	32%	19%

Risk-based enhanced inspections were conducted in accordance with the Aquaculture and Fisheries (Scotland) Act 2007 (as amended) during 2025. Analysis of the number of inspections in comparison to the number of cases involving non-compliance suggests an increase in the level of compliance during 2024, in comparison to 2023, and compliance was greater than in comparison to previous years. This analysis has not been statistically tested, however, and lower levels of enhanced inspections must be taken into consideration.

Table 46: Risk based enhanced inspections and non-compliances on fish and shellfish farms from 2020 to 2025

Inspections and cases of non-compliance	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Number of inspections	7	16	20	16	14	19
Number of cases of non-compliance	6	13	5	6	2	8
Percentage of non-compliance	86%	81%	25%	36%	14%	42%

Incidents and outbreaks in the animal health sector

Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA)

In 2025, there were 11 confirmed cases of *Salmonella serovar* (*Salmonella Typhimurium*) in chicken breeding flocks. All 11 flocks were in England. There were also three immature breeding flock cases. The immature cases were positive for non-regulated *Salmonella serovars* (*S. Idikan* (incl monophasic variants, x1), *S. Montevideo* (x1), and *S. Orion var 15+ (Binza*) (x2)).

There were no *Salmonella* cases in adult turkey breeder flocks in 2025 (in England). No immature turkey breeding flocks were positive for *Salmonella spp*. through NCP sampling in 2025. Flocks are classed as immature when the birds were under 20 weeks old at the date of sampling. Immature flocks are not counted in prevalence estimates or national

targets. However, under the NCP legislation, turkey and chicken breeding flocks require official slaughter with compensation payable if criteria are met and whenever certain regulated *Salmonella serovars* are isolated, regardless of the age of the flock.

In 2025, two adult chicken breeding flocks located in England were positive for regulated *Salmonella serovars* (both were *Salmonella Typhimurium* monophasic variants). Nine adult breeding flock were positive for non-regulated *salmonella serovars (S. Agona* (x1), S. *Anatum* (x1), *S. Give* (x2), *S. Kedougou* (incl. monophasic variants) (x2), *S. Idikan* (incl. monophasic variants, x2), and *S. Newport* (x1)).

In 2025, 866 reports of suspected cases of exotic notifiable diseases were investigated, of which 259 were for Avian Influenza notifiable disease and 489 for Bluetongue Virus. There were 122 confirmed infected premises of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in poultry in England (an increase from 17 in 2024), Virus 14 cases of European bat lyssavirus confirmed in England, and 313 cases of Bluetongue in England and 22 in Wales.

Bluetongue Virus serotype 3 (BTV-3) continued to circulate in 2025 almost certainly as a result of overwintering in England, and it is likely that there was also a separate incursion of Bluetongue Virus serotype 8 (BTV-8) via infected airborne vectors from the near continent. Great Britain lost its World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) disease free status for HPAI in November 2024 and continued to have outbreaks throughout 2025 and 2026. There were continual cases detected in wild birds (including waterfowl) at inland and coastal locations through the winter and into summer and autumn 2025.

Aquatic Animal Health England and Wales – Cefas Fish Health Inspectorate

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 2025 there were a total of 24 confirmed outbreaks of Koi herpesvirus (KHV) disease, all occurring in recreational coarse fisheries and affecting common carp (*Cyprinus carpio*) and varieties of carp (*Cyprinus carpio*).

KHV is a listed disease for which Great Britain is not officially declared free. There were no outbreaks in the three KHV approved compartments, which continue to maintain disease-free status for this disease. In addition to KHV, there was one confirmed outbreak of Oyster herpesvirus-1 microvariant in wild settled Pacific oysters (*Magallana gigas*) in the Humber Estuary (Grimsby Docks). Infection was confirmed through PCR testing and sequencing (nested PCR and Sanger sequencing).

Aquatic Animal Health Scotland – Marine Directorate, Fish Health Inspectorate

At the beginning of 2025, three freshwater rainbow trout farm sites and two sea water salmon sites had movement restrictions in place for Bacterial Kidney Disease (BKD). Additional movement restrictions were placed at three seawater salmon farms. Two were removed when clinical disease was not confirmed to be present. The other one was confirmed to be clinical BKD and restrictions remained in place. The domestic control policy for BKD involves control measures where clinical disease is confirmed. Three statutory inspections in relation to BKD were conducted at seawater salmon farms. The two sea water salmon farms and two of the freshwater rainbow trout sites that had controls for BKD at the start of 2025 fallowed and the restrictions were withdrawn. At the end of 2025 one freshwater rainbow trout site and one sea water salmon site remained under restriction for BKD.

During 2025, movement restrictions were placed on 1 Atlantic salmon farm following suspicion of the presence of Infectious Salmon Anaemia virus (ISAv). Further analysis of laboratory results, involving gene sequencing, confirmed the presence of a non-pathogenic variant of ISAv known as HPR0. This strain of the virus is not subject to statutory control measures and subsequently the movement restrictions in place were withdrawn.

Throughout the year protection zones were in place to control *Bonamia ostrea* within four sea water lochs in Scotland. All four zones remained under restriction at the end of the reporting year. One private ornamental facility remained under restriction for KHV, following confirmation of the virus within fish at the facility.

Bee health

2025 saw further outbreaks of the non-native Yellow-legged hornet, also known as Asian hornet. In 2025, 163 nests were discovered, an increase from 24 in the previous year. In each case a nest was quickly located and successfully destroyed by APHA) inspectors, led by the National Bee Unit (NBU).

Official controls in the animal welfare sector

The centralised FSA and FSS referrals process for England, Wales and Scotland continued to report conditions indicative of welfare issues to APHA. Urgent referrals (where there was an immediate concern for animal welfare on farm or during transport) were referred to Local Authorities (LA) and to APHA within 24 hours for prompt investigation and appropriate and proportionate action.

Non-urgent FSA and FSS referrals relating to on farm welfare issues, or to combined farm and transport issues, were triaged by the APHA Customer Service Centre (CSC)

administration team. Further action and investigation, by both APHA and LAs, was guided at a country level by the dedicated APHA central veterinary teams. Final triage and actions were completed at a local level.

On-farm animal welfare in Great Britain

In 2025, the total number of farm visits to individual farms and enterprises decreased by 10% compared to 2024 figures, with 2,468 visits completed compared to 2751 in 2024. This 2025 decrease was due to a 10% decrease in visits undertaken in England and Scotland, with a proportionately larger decrease in visits undertaken in Wales (16%).

On-farm visits continued to be conducted according to specific criteria. They included ‘proactive’ (such as, 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, including FSA and FSS referrals. Risk criteria for selection as a ‘proactive visit’ for England includes previous on farm history, assessment of calf mortality, welfare complaints received by APHA and previous FSA/FSS referrals. For Wales and Scotland, Cross Compliance risk selection remains in force. Criteria includes previous farm animal welfare inspection outcomes, Farm Assurance scheme membership, FSA/FSS referrals and welfare complaints. For all countries there are no criteria for random selection.

The number of farming enterprise types inspected at each visit remained just under two enterprises per visit (1.98 England, 1.75 Scotland and 1.84 Wales) during 2025, similar to previous years where 2 enterprises per visit were inspected. The number of repeat visits across Great Britain to farms inspected in 2025 comprised 23% of all visits (556 out of 2468 visits), a fall of 3%. Repeat visits indicate presence of complex issues, which can be protracted to resolve and may involve a multi-disciplinary approach.

The level of repeat visits to the same enterprises, and the correlation of scheduled ‘cross compliance’ visits[8] 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 identified, managed and inspected as potentially higher risk in 2025. Scotland had a higher number of repeat inspections, comprising 27% of all farm inspections, compared to England (22%) and Wales (22%). Across Great Britain there was a 19%

[8] ‘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 quality for certain rural payments. See the Guide to Cross Compliance in England 2021

reduction in the number of farms (381 in 2025 compared to 468 in 2024) subject to repeat visits in 2025, with a decrease of 22%, in the number of repeat visits (556 in 2025 compared to 712 in 2024) suggesting that, although some holdings required multiple visits, they were being brought into compliance with fewer repeat visits than in previous years.

Figure 48: Chart showing farm inspections in Great Britain from 2020 to 2025

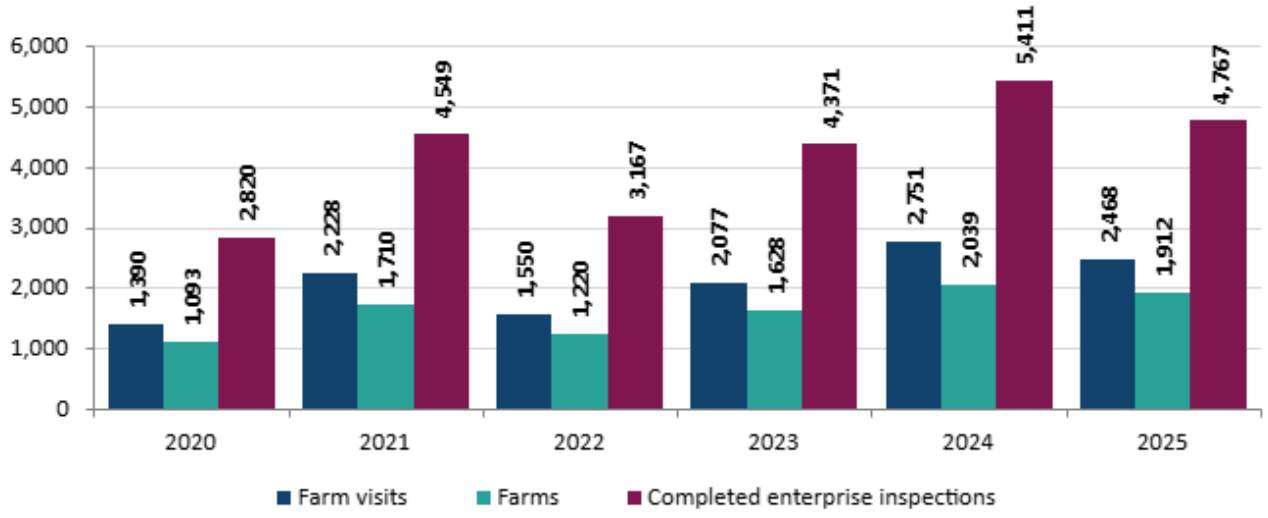


Table 47: Analysis of farm visits by country 2022 to 2025

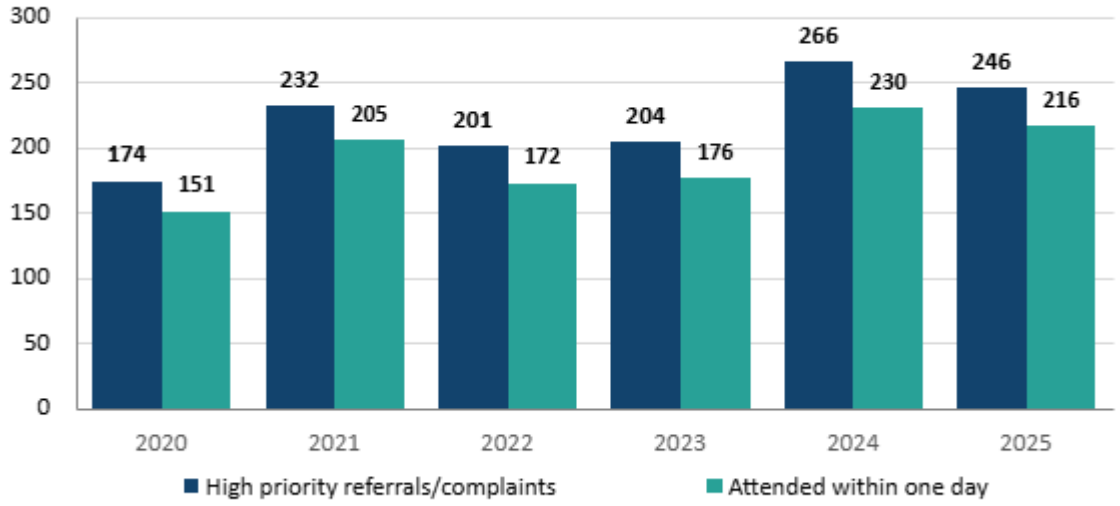
Farm visits	England	Scotland	Wales
Number of farm visits, 2022	808	298	444
Number of farm visits, 2023	1,381	315	381
Number of farm visits, 2024	1,895	317	539
Number of farm visits, 2025	1,714	267	487
Number of farms, 2022	676	211	333
Number of farms, 2023	1,093	230	305
Number of farms, 2024	1,443	215	381
Number of farms, 2025	1,337	195	380
Number of completed enterprise inspections, 2022	1,711	601	855
Number of completed enterprise inspections, 2023	3,001	622	748
Number of completed enterprise inspections, 2024	3,779	612	1,020
Number of completed enterprise inspections, 2025	3,404	467	896

Table 48: Analysis of site visits by country 2022 to 2025.

Note: data for previous years (2022-2024) has been amended as it has been identified that the original inspection was included in the number of repeat inspections.

Site Visits	England	Scotland	Wales	Great Britain
Sites subject to repeated visits, 2022	84	55	85	224
Number of repeat visits, 2022 *	132	87	111	330
Proportion of total visits (%), 2022*	16	16	25	21
Sites subject to repeated visits, 2023	190	53	61	304
Number of repeat visits, 2023*	288	85	76	449
Proportion of total visits (%), 2023*	21	27	20	22
Sites subject to repeated visits, 2024	292	78	98	468
Number of repeat visits, 2024*	452	102	158	712
Proportion of total visits (%), 2024*	24	32	29	26
Sites subject to repeated visits, 2025	248	56	77	381
Number of repeat visits, 2025	377	72	107	556
Proportion of total visits (%), 2025	22	27	22	23

Figure 49: Chart showing the number of high-priority referrals and or complaints alleging unnecessary suffering attended by APHA inspectors in Great Britain from 2020 to 2025



In 2025 all referrals had an assigned CPH enabling them to be assigned to a specific country and ensured that referrals were allocated to inspection teams within the appropriate nation.

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 covered all enterprises and CPHs under the same ownership.

Table 49: Analysis of Great Britain high-priority referrals or complaints by country 2022 to 2025

Note: Final reporting priority at local level may not reflect initial prioritisation by central teams

Number of high-priority referrals or complaints	England	Scotland	Wales
High-priority referrals or complaints, 2022 (see note)	87	13	81
High-priority referrals or complaints, 2023 (see note)	141	10	53

Number of high-priority referrals or complaints	England	Scotland	Wales
High-priority referrals or complaints, 2024 (see note)	174	9	83
High-priority referrals or complaints, 2025 (see note)	145	14	87
Number attended within one day, 2022	69	12	76
Number attended within one day, 2023	119	9	48
Number attended within one day, 2024	147	7	76
Number attended within one day, 2025	133	11	72
Percentage attended within one day, 2022	79.3	92.3	93.8
Percentage attended within one day, 2023	84.4	90.0	90.6
Percentage attended within one day, 2024	84	78	92
Percentage attended within one day, 2025	92	79	83

All complaints and allegations of poor welfare were risk assessed centrally at national level by a veterinary inspector. High-priority referrals or complaints were visited as a matter of urgency. In 2025, the number of these types of complaints and allegations received was decreased by 8% compared to the previous year, with a total of 246 complaints received in 2025, versus 266 for 2024. There was an increase of 55% in high-priority cases for Scotland and 5% for Wales in 2025, with a fall of 17% for England.

In total, 88% of high-priority complaints and or referrals were attended within 24 hours, an increase from 2024. On a country basis, however, there was an increase in the number attended within a day for England (92% versus 84%) and Scotland (79% versus 78%) and a reduction for Wales (83% versus 92%). In Scotland, as the number of complaints received are modest any slight change in the number visited within a day, results in a marked percentage change.

Figure 50: Chart showing the number of individual welfare criteria assessments in Great Britain from 2020 to 2025

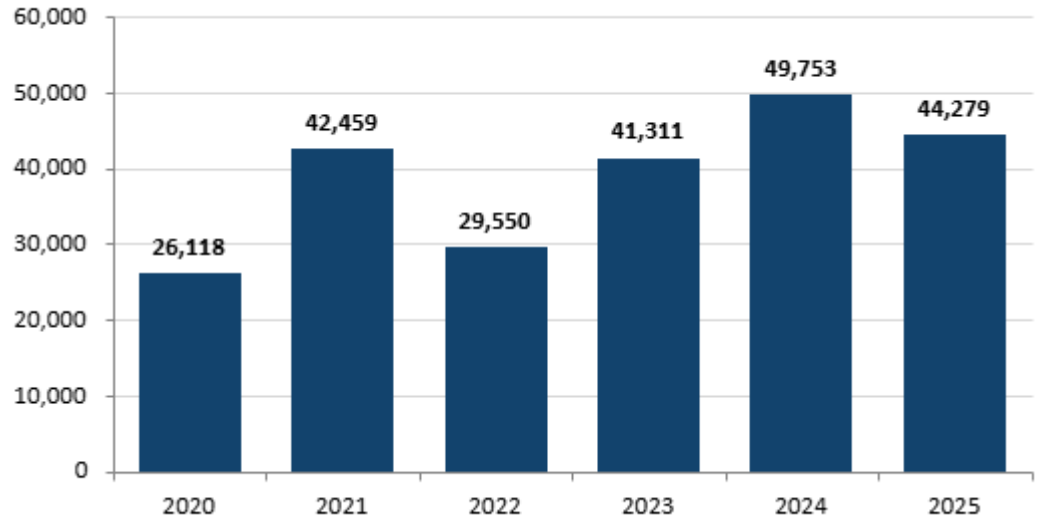


Table 50: Welfare criteria assessments in Great Britain from 2022 to 2025

Note: Some enterprises cannot be assessed on all 11 criteria at the time of inspection, due to the nature of the enterprise

Number of assessments	England	Scotland	Wales
Welfare criteria assessments, 2022	16,140	5,394	8,016
Welfare criteria assessments, 2023	28,722	5,501	7,088
Welfare criteria assessments, 2024	34,890	5,398	9,465
Welfare criteria assessments, 2025	31,785	4,153	8,341
Number of criteria assessed per enterprise (maximum:11), 2022 (see note)	9.4	8.9	9.4
Number of criteria assessed per enterprise (maximum /11), 2023 (see note)	9.6	8.8	9.5

Number of criteria assessed per enterprise (maximum:11), 2024 (see note)	9.6	8.8	9.3
Number of criteria assessed per enterprise (maximum:11), 2025 (see note)	9.4	9.0	9.3

The number of individual welfare criteria assessments decreased by 11% in 2025 to 44,279 as a result of a corresponding decrease in the number of farm inspections completed. The number of criteria assessed per enterprise remained similar to previous years at a country level. The level of compliance on farms in Great Britain was comparable to previous years, with 95% of individual category assessments indicating compliance in 2025. For all enterprise assessments, 26.6% had at least one non-compliance, a decrease from 27.8% in 2024. 642 advisory letters were issued to farmers, an increase of 20% from 2024.

The 11 welfare categories are based on the Welfare of Farmed Animals (WOFAR) 2007 (England and Wales) and 2010 (Scotland) Schedule 1 with additional requirements for laying hens, conventionally reared meat chickens, calves for rearing and fattening cattle and pigs. 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. There may 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.

The results of inspection visits were classified into four score categories - A to D:

- A = Full compliance with code advice and legislation
- B = Full compliance with legislation but not with code advice
- C = non-compliance with legislation but no unnecessary animal suffering detected
- D = non-compliance with legislation, unnecessary suffering detected (for at least one animal)

Table 51: Enterprises with welfare non-compliance only (C score), Great Britain 2020 to 2025

Outcomes by year	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Number of non-compliances per 1,000 assessments	51	49	39	41	56	51
Number of enterprises with overall C score	599	909	479	730	1,117	895
Percentage of enterprises inspected with overall C score	21	20	15	17	20	19
Advisory letters issued	279	398	261	356	536	642

Table 52: Enterprises with welfare non-compliance only (C score) in England, Scotland, and Wales from 2022 to 2025

Outcomes by year	England	Scotland	Wales
Number of non-compliances per 1,000 assessments, 2022	48	43	17
Number of non-compliances per 1,000 assessments, 2023	47	38	16
Number of non-compliances per 1,000 assessments, 2024	68	42	25
Number of non-compliances per 1,000 assessments, 2025	62	41	12
Number of enterprises with overall C score, 2022	310	94	75
Number of enterprises with overall C score, 2023	604	68	58
Number of enterprises with overall C score, 2024	927	84	106
Number of enterprises with overall C score, 2025	767	69	59
Percentage of enterprises inspected with overall C score, 2022	18	16	9
Percentage of enterprises inspected with overall C score, 2023	25	11	8
Percentage of enterprises inspected with overall C score, 2024	25	14	10

Percentage of enterprises inspected with overall C score, 2025	23	15	7
Advisory letters issued, 2022	127	74	60
Advisory letters issued, 2023	251	60	45
Advisory letters issued, 2024	396	60	80
Advisory letters issued, 2025	481	66	95

Table 53: Welfare non-compliance with unnecessary suffering (D score) in Great Britain 2019 to 2025

Outcomes by year	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Unnecessary suffering found per 1,000 assessments	9	9	9	12	15	15
Number of enterprises with overall D score	142	262	176	287	420	362
Percentage of enterprises inspected with overall D score	5.1	5.7	5.6	6.6	7.8	7.6
Average number of days to clear D score	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

Table 54: Welfare non-compliance with unnecessary suffering (D score) in England, Scotland, and Wales from 2022 to 2025

Outcomes by year	England	Scotland	Wales
Unnecessary suffering found per 1,000 assessments, 2022	8	18	6
Unnecessary suffering found per 1,000 assessments, 2023	10	21	13
Unnecessary suffering found per 1,000 assessments, 2024	13	20	19
Unnecessary suffering found per 1,000 assessments, 2025	15	24	10
Number of enterprises with overall D score, 2022	73	69	34
Number of enterprises with overall D score, 2023	154	74	59
Number of enterprises with overall D score, 2024	244	67	109
Number of enterprises with overall D score, 2025	230	61	71
Percentage of enterprises inspected with overall D score, 2022	4	11	4
Percentage of enterprises inspected with overall D score, 2023	5.1	11.9	7.9
Percentage of enterprises inspected with overall D score, 2024	6	11	11
Percentage of enterprises inspected with overall D score, 2025	7	13	8

Across Great Britain, the percentage of C scores (non-compliances where unnecessary suffering was not detected) at enterprise level was lower for 2025 (19%) than 2024 (20%). The C score percentage for fell from the 2024 level of 25% to 23% for England and from 10% to 7% for Wales. There was an increase (15% versus 14%) in C score percentages being allocated on Scottish holdings.

The percentage of enterprises receiving a D score (unnecessary suffering detected) in Great Britain in 2025 was lower than 2024, at 7.6%. There was an increase from 11% to 13% incidence in Scotland and from 6% to 7% in England, with the level falling from 11% to 8% in Wales.

Figure 51: Chart showing the most frequently detected non-compliances (for C and D categories) in Great Britain in 2025

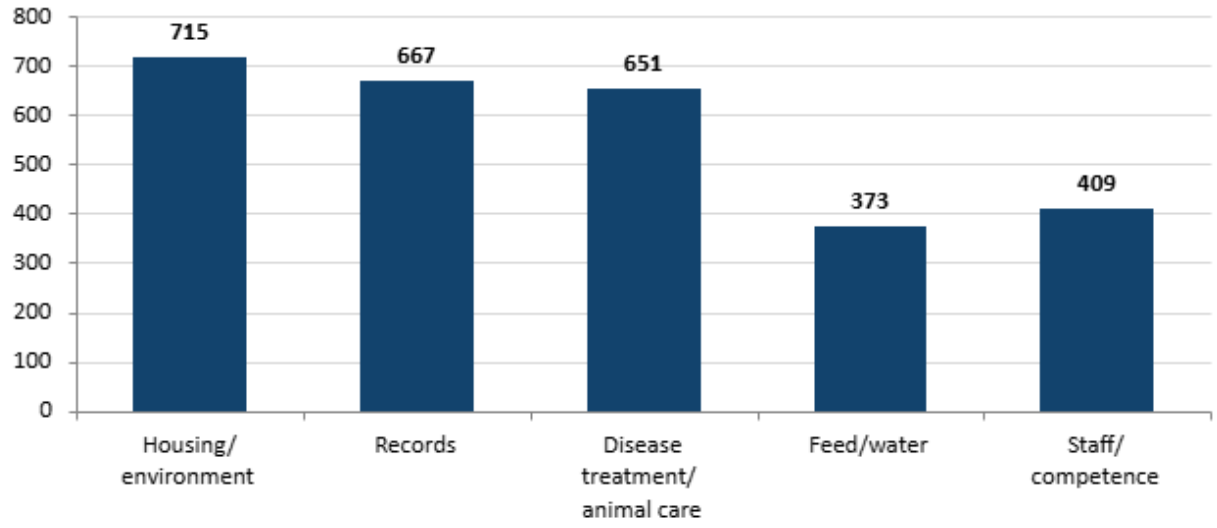


Table 55: Great Britain non-compliances, split England, Scotland, and Wales in region 2022 to 2025

Outcomes by year	England	Scotland	Wales
Housing/environment, 2022	134	54	36
Housing/environment, 2023	383	65	34
Housing/environment, 2024	690	53	47

Outcomes by year	England	Scotland	Wales
Housing/environment, 2025	655	40	20
Records, 2022	204	84	59
Records, 2023	442	74	55
Records, 2024	687	79	110
Records, 2025	545	72	50
Disease treatment/animal care, 2022	138	74	50
Disease treatment/animal care,2023	247	55	57
Disease treatment/animal care, 2024	414	61	113
Disease treatment/animal care, 2025	457	70	124
Feed/water, 2022	121	36	18
Feed/water, 2023	187	54	26
Feed/water, 2024	364	36	41
Feed/water, 2025	329	33	11
Staff/competence, 2022	116	43	14
Staff/competence, 2023	237	50	22
Staff/competence, 2024	366	70	69
Staff/competence, 2025	345	38	26

The welfare criteria with the most non-compliances related to ‘records’ and ‘housing and environment’ for England. In Wales ‘disease treatment,’ which includes failure to provide appropriate care, was the most frequently identified followed by ‘records’. In Scotland, the most non compliances were associated with ‘records’ followed by ‘disease treatment’.

During 2025, APHA provided 33 witness statements to enforcement bodies in support of legal action relating to 17 farms, compared to 49 witness statements 2024. Overall, this shows a decrease of 32% in witness statement production. Due to the protracted nature of court processes, there may be wide fluctuations in the requirement to produce witness statements recorded year-on-year.

Table 56: Great Britain witness statements split England, Scotland, and Wales in 2022 to 2025

Statements produced and number of farms	England	Scotland	Wales
Statements produced, 2022	11	9	0
Number of farms, 2022	5	2	0
Statements produced, 2023	32	1	4
Number of farms, 2023	21	1	2
Statements produced, 2024	38	2	9
Number of farms, 2024	16	2	5
Statements produced, 2025	25	7	1
Number of farms, 2025	13	3	1

Meat Chicken Directive

During 2025, the FSA (on behalf of APHA) and the FSS (on behalf of the Scottish Government) continued to deliver the established ‘trigger report’ system for all ‘eligible’ flocks (such as, conventionally reared meat chickens). Throughout the year, all flocks were monitored at the slaughterhouse level for specific post-mortem conditions indicative of potential on-farm welfare issues. Producers were notified if any of these conditions were

excessively high (Process 1), or if a combination of high farm cumulative daily mortality and where at least 3 conditions on-farm were high (Process 2). All farmers received their trigger report results directly from the FSA and FSS and were required to take appropriate action.

In Great Britain, trigger report data collected from 2024 was used to target farm inspections in 2025, using a ranking process combining all-flock cumulative daily mortality rates, total rejections (excluding those relating to mechanical processes) and historical knowledge about conditions on farm. High risk FSA or FSS referrals and complaints were used as the main source of intelligence driving meat chicken farm inspections for most of 2025.

A total of 3391 trigger reports at flock level were generated in Great Britain and sent to producers in 2025 in response to high levels of the specific conditions recorded for meat chicken welfare purposes. This was an 18% increase in trigger reports compared to 2024. The basis of 53.9% of trigger reports was Process 1 triggers with 46.1% being Process 2.

When assessing specific conditions associated with Process 1 Trigger reports, the proportion for each of the disease conditions was broadly similar to 2024.

Table 57: Inspection numbers and carcass conditions of relevance to farm animal welfare in meat chickens in Great Britain 2022

Birds inspected and conditions recorded 2022	Number	Percentage
Total inspected	891,182,267	100
Ascites/Oedema	2,597,979	0.29
Cellulitis/dermatitis	3,200,279	0.36
Dead on Arrival	982,193	0.11
Emaciation	210,637	0.02
Joint lesions	241,218	0.03
Septicaemia / Respiratory	1,516,837	0.17
Total farm-attributed rejections	12,556,780	1.41

Table 58: Inspection numbers and carcass conditions of relevance to farm animal welfare in meat chickens in Great Britain 2023

Birds inspected and conditions recorded 2023	Number	Percentage
Total inspected	876,811,161	100
Ascites/Oedema	2,700,297	0.31
Cellulitis/dermatitis	3,045,812	0.35
Dead on Arrival	926,366	0.11
Emaciation	201,925	0.02
Joint lesions	223,575	0.03
Septicaemia/Respiratory	1,292,871	0.15
Total farm-attributed rejections	11,068,894	1.26

Table 59: Inspection numbers and carcass conditions of relevance to farm animal welfare in meat chickens in Great Britain 2024

Birds inspected and conditions recorded 2024	Number	Percentage
Total inspected	895,888,468	100
Ascites/Oedema	2,750,126	0.31
Cellulitis/dermatitis	2,949,797	0.33
Dead on Arrival	979,259	0.11
Emaciation	213,935	0.02
Joint lesions	254,578	0.03
Septicaemia/Respiratory	1,220,984	0.14
Total farm-attributed rejections	11,645,246	1.3

Table 60: Inspection numbers and carcass conditions of relevance to farm animal welfare in meat chickens in Great Britain 2025

Birds inspected and conditions recorded 2025	Number	Percentage
Total inspected	895,370,466	100
Ascites/Oedema	2,821,448	0.32%
Cellulitis/dermatitis	2,654,436	0.30%
Dead on Arrival	995,736	0.11%
Emaciation	237,509	0.03%
Joint lesions	282,904	0.03%
Septicaemia/Respiratory	1,099,123	0.12%
Total farm-attributed rejections	11,246,807	1.26%

Table 61: 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 2022

Flocks assessed and reported for excessive levels of reported Process 1 conditions or Process 2 conditions 2022	Flocks	Percentage of flocks	Percentage of trigger reports
Total flocks assessed	119,888	100	Not applicable
Ascites/Oedema	204	0.17	4.8
Cellulitis/dermatitis	298	0.25	7.0
Dead on Arrival	210	0.18	5.0
Emaciation	210	0.18	5.0
Joint lesions	130	0.11	3.1
Septicaemia/Respiratory	8	0.01	0.2
Total farm-attributed rejections	84	0.07	2.0

Flocks assessed and reported for excessive levels of reported Process 1 conditions or Process 2 conditions 2022	Flocks	Percentage of flocks	Percentage of trigger reports
On Farm Mortality rate	939	0.88	22.2
Foot Pad Dermatitis	156	0.4	3.7
Process 1 report	2,092	1.74	49.6
Process 2 report	2,129	1.78	50.4
Total trigger reports	4,221	3.52	100

Table 62: 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 2023

Flocks assessed and reported for excessive levels of reported Process 1 conditions or Process 2 conditions 2023	Flocks	Percentage of flocks	Percentage of trigger reports
Total flocks assessed	105,678	100	Not applicable
Ascites/Oedema	171	0.16	5.4
Cellulitis/dermatitis	242	0.23	7.7
Dead on Arrival	133	0.13	4.2
Emaciation	110	0.10	3.5
Joint lesions	161	0.15	5.1
Septicaemia/Respiratory	3	0.00	0.09
Total farm-attributed rejections	40	0.04	1.3

On Farm Mortality rate	545	0.59	17.3
Foot Pad Dermatitis	155	0.57	4.9
Process 1 report	1,482	1.4	47
Process 2 report	1,673	1.58	53
Total trigger reports	3,155	2.99	100

Table 63: 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 2024

Flocks assessed and reported for excessive levels of reported Process 1 conditions or Process 2 conditions 2024	Flocks	Percentage of flocks	Percentage of trigger reports
Total flocks assessed	106,815	100	Not applicable
Ascites/Oedema	123	0.12	4.3
Cellulitis/dermatitis	298	0.28	10
Dead on Arrival	153	0.14	5.3
Emaciation	62	0.06	2.3
Joint lesions	237	0.22	8.3
Septicaemia/Respiratory	2	0.00	0.07

Total farm-attributed rejections	59	0.06	2.1
On Farm Mortality rate	624	0.67	21.7
Foot Pad Dermatitis	104	0.29	3.6
Process 1 report	1,596	0.42	55.6
Process 2 report	1,276	1.29	44.4
Total trigger reports	2,872	2.79	100

Table 64: 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 2025

Flocks assessed and reported for excessive levels of reported Process 1 conditions or Process 2 conditions 2025	Flocks	Percentage of flocks	Percentage of trigger reports
Total flocks assessed	109,471	100%	Not applicable
Ascites/Oedema	221	0.20	6.5
Cellulitis/dermatitis	272	0.25	8.0
Dead on Arrival	180	0.16	5.3
Emaciation	84	0.08	2.5
Joint lesions	270	0.25	7.9
Septicaemia/Respiratory	0	0.00	0.0

Total farm-attributed rejections	52	0.05	1.5
On Farm Mortality rate	793	0.80	23.4
Foot Pad Dermatitis	43	0.10	1.3
Process 1 report	1828	1.67	53.9
Process 2 report	1563	1.43	46.1
Total trigger reports	3,391	3.1	100

Figure 52: Chart showing the number of trigger reports received by APHA in Great Britain from 2020 to 2025

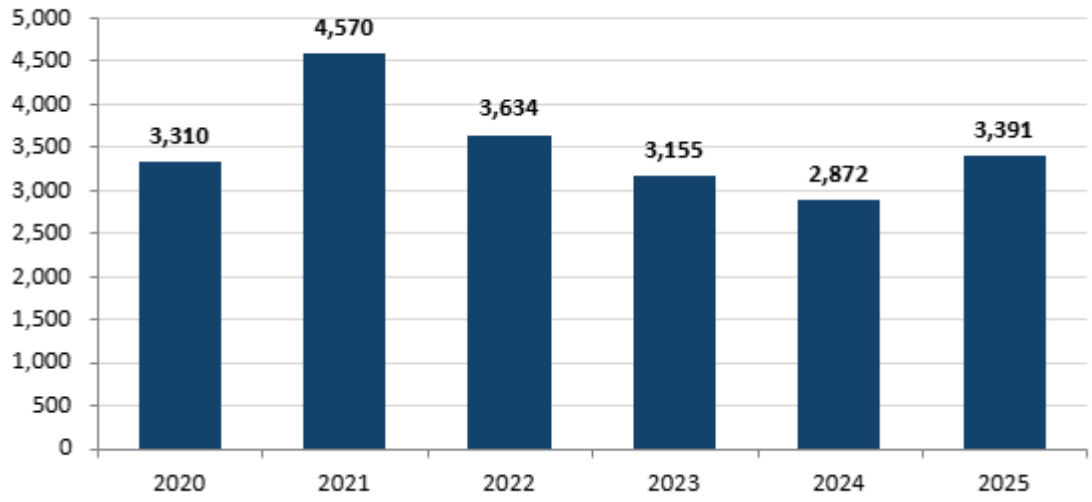


Table 65: Number of actions (as a percentage of total notifications) taken in Great Britain on meat chicken welfare from 2020 to 2022

Note: for example, following inspections for cross compliance, or welfare complaints, or receipt of trigger reports from slaughterhouses.

Actions	2020	2021	2022
Farmer or owner notified in writing and requested to take action	3,310 (100%)	4,570 (100%)	3,634 (100%)
Inspection based on historical data to target highest risk farms (from previous year)	8 (0.2%)	16 (0.3%)	2 (0.1%)
Inspections associated with complaints, referrals, or other inspections (see note)	19 (0.6%)	24 (0.5%)	32 (0.9%)
Total inspections checked for compliance with 2007/43/EC	27 (0.8%)	40 (0.9%)	34 (1.0%)

Actions	2020	2021	2022
Farms undergoing support by APHA for enforcement in respect of non-compliances detected at inspection	15 (0.5%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)

Table 66: Number of actions (as a percentage of total notifications) taken in Great Britain on meat chicken welfare from 2023 to 2025

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

Note: The historical trigger report data is used in the selection of farms for targeted inspection. Multiple trigger reports may result in the selection of a single farm. The percentage of inspections from 2025 is calculated from 2024 trigger report numbers

Actions	2023	2024	2025
Farmer or owner notified in writing and requested to act	3,155 (100%)	2,872 (100%)	3,391 (100%)
Inspection based on historical data to target highest risk farms (from previous year)	32 (1.0%)	49 (1.7%)	32 (1.1%) see note
Inspections associated with complaints, referrals, or other inspections (see note)	32	93	69
Total inspections checked for compliance with 2007/43/EC	64	142	101
Farms undergoing support by APHA for enforcement in respect of non-compliances detected at inspection	0	0	0

In 2025, a total of 102 meat chicken inspections were carried out, a decrease of 28% from 2024. Staff availability to undertake the visits was impacted by both Bluetongue Virus and Avian Influenza outbreaks. The majority of the visits were carried out in England (81.2%). As in 2024 approximately two thirds of the inspections were carried out in response to slaughterhouse referrals and complaints with the other third based on risk ranking of historical data. Selected visits revealing no birds present on the unit, or where birds were not inspected, are not included in the farm inspection data.

The inspections revealed that most farms were compliant with legislation but not the Code of practice for the welfare of meat chickens and meat breeding chickens. There was a greater proportion of inspections, which revealed non-compliances with unnecessary suffering identified, related to environmental conditions, staff levels, competence, and disease. The overall proportion of non-compliant inspections was 31%, a decrease from 38% in 2024.

Table 67: Results of Great Britain combined APHA Inspections by categories A to D, of meat chicken holdings under 2007/43/EC from 2020 to 2022, including as a percentage of the total number of holdings inspected

Note: Figures amended due to an error in calculations in previous reports

Categories	2020	2021	2022
Number inspected	28	40	34
A = full compliance with code advice and legislation	3 (11%)	6 (15%)	2 (6%)
B = full compliance with legislation, but not with code advice	14 (50%) see note	20 (50%)	18 (53%)
C = on compliance with legislation, no unnecessary animal suffering detected	8 (29%) see note	9 (22.5%)	0 (0%)
D = non-compliance with legislation, unnecessary suffering detected (for at least one animal)	2 (7%)	5 (12.5%)	14 (41%)

Table 68: Results of Great Britain combined APHA Inspections by categories A to D, of meat chicken holdings under 2007/43/EC from 2023 to 2025, including as a percentage of the total number of holdings inspected

Categories	2023	2024	2025
Number inspected	64	142	110
A = full compliance with code advice and legislation	7 (11%)	17 (12%)	21 (19 %)
B = full compliance with legislation, but not with code advice	37 (58%)	70 (49%)	58 (53%)
C = on compliance with legislation, no unnecessary animal suffering detected	17 (27%)	48 (34%)	20 (18%)
D = non-compliance with legislation, unnecessary suffering detected (for at least one animal)	3 (5%)	6 (4.2%)	11 (10%)

Table 69: Inspections data by country, for categories A to D, from 2022 to 2025

Note: One inspection in 2024 has no score

Categories	England	Scotland	Wales
Number inspected, 2022	28	3	3
Number inspected, 2023	56	5	3
Number inspected, 2024	127 (see note)	5	11
Number inspected, 2025	85	13	12
Category A, 2022	0	0	2
Category A, 2023	5	0	2
Category A, 2024	12	2	3
Category A, 2025	15	0	6
Category B, 2022	14	3	1
Category B, 2023	32	5	0
Category B, 2024	64	3	3
Category B, 2025	45	11	2
Category C, 2022	0	0	0
Category C, 2023	16	0	1

Category C, 2024	46	0	2
Category C, 2025	18	1	1
Category D, 2022	14	0	0
Category D, 2023	3	0	0
Category D, 2024	4	0	3
Category D, 2025	7	1	3

Fish welfare

FHI and APHA work collaboratively to share information about fish farms. FHI contact APHA when they identify potential welfare concerns in farmed fish during their contact with fish farms.

APHA visit fish farms under three circumstances:

- in response to complaints received from the public
- in response to concerns raised by FHI.
- routinely in collaboration with FHI for training and maintaining competence of SVIs

For inspections generated following a complaint in 2025 both in person and remote inspections were undertaken following assessment and individual circumstances.

Table 70: Fish welfare visits (Scotland) 2020 to 2025

Year	Complaints	Routine / Advisory inspections
2020	5	2
2021	1	0
2022	3	1

Year	Complaints	Routine / Advisory inspections
2023	4	0
2024	2	5
2025	16	5

No non-compliances were identified following inspections in 2025.

Gamebird welfare

Increased public interest in gamebird welfare has led to increased inspections of units where gamebirds, including some commercial ones, are reared. ‘Gamebirds’ bred for game purposes, once released, are no longer classified as farmed and thus 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
- any gamebirds raised for any farming purpose, and
- the growing phase, when the birds are considered under the responsibility of humans for their day-to-day care

APHA also records non-compliances with the Animal Welfare Act (2006) for any wild birds used in Larsen traps or similar devices, if these are seen during inspections on agricultural land.

In 2025, there were 18 inspections, a slight increase from 16 in 2024. Fourteen holdings were located in England (78%) and four in Wales (22%). There were no visits carried out in Scotland for the third year in a row. Non-compliance rates were at 16.6%, an increase from 12.5% in 2024, although absolute numbers are small and there were no incidents where unnecessary suffering was identified.

Table 71: Number of compliant and non-compliant (Categories A to D) gamebird rearing units, following inspection in Great Britain in 2022 to 2025

Categories	England	Scotland	Wales
Number inspected, 2022	9	2	3
Number inspected, 2023	11	0	0
Number inspected, 2024	16	0	0
Number inspected, 2025	14	0	4
Category A, 2022	3	0	1
Category A, 2023	3	0	0
Category A, 2024	6	0	0
Category A, 2025	5	0	2
Category B, 2022	5	1	2
Category B, 2023	6	0	0
Category B, 2024	8	0	0
Category B, 2025	6	0	2
Category C, 2022	1	1	0
Category C, 2023	1	0	0
Category C, 2024	2	0	0
Category C, 2025	3	0	0

Categories	England	Scotland	Wales
Category D, 2022	0	0	0
Category D, 2023	1	0	0
Category D, 2024	0	0	0
Category D, 2025	0	0	0

Animal welfare during transport

Inspections in 2025 continued to be carried out in Great Britain on a risk basis, and in response to intelligence received. Findings at these inspections were kept under review and local action taken as appropriate.

Table 72: Number of applications for transporter authorisations in Great Britain 2020 to 2025

Year	New applications	New authorised	Refused	Applications for re-authorisations
2020	1,000	975	0	471
2021	1,143	1,198	0	1,292
2022	592	523	0	3,959
2023	519	436	0	1,121
2024	563	456	0	832
2025	576	468	0	899

Of the 576 new Transporter Authorisation applications received by APHA, 22 were from transporters based in the EU. A total of 468 applications were processed in 2025, 16 of these were from transporters based in the EU.

Figure 53: Chart showing the number of journey logs (JL) in Great Britain from 2020 to 2025

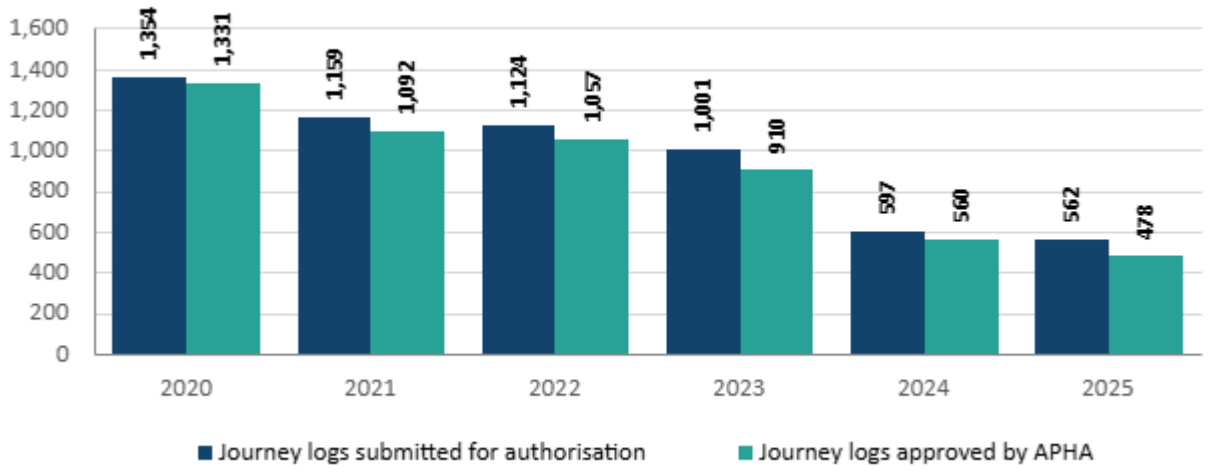


Table 73: Breakdown of Journey Log (JL) applications from 2021 to 2025

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
2023	1,001	910	476	495	30
2024	597	560	469	112	14
2025	562	478	497	58	7

Following EU Exit, journey logs approved and issued by APHA are no longer valid for use in the EU, and EU approved journey logs are no longer valid for use in Great Britain. Livestock and un-registered equines being transported into, out of, or transiting through Great Britain are required to have a journey log approved by APHA (or in some cases Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs in Northern Ireland).

Since 1 January 2021, all live animal exports from Great Britain to the EU are required to enter the EU via a Border Control Post (BCP). In 2025, no BCP had been designated for

livestock between Dover to Calais, an important trade route. 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. Equine movements using the short straits were not affected, as a Border Control Post in Calais had been designated for equine controls.

Since 22 July 2024, under the Animal Welfare (Livestock Exports) Act 2024, it is an offence to export cattle, sheep, pigs, goats or horses for fattening or slaughter. This applies to journeys from or through Great Britain to anywhere outside the UK, Channel Islands or Isle of Man. As the ban was in place, there were no journey log applications received or rejected in 2025 for the export of fattening or slaughter consignments.

Live animal exports for other purposes, for example, breeding and competitions, are still permitted provided that animals are transported in line with legal requirements which protect their welfare. The ban does not apply to exports of other live animals, such as poultry, and it does not apply in Northern Ireland. The legislation does not affect livestock and horse movements within the UK.

APHA rejected 28 journey logs in 2025 because the applications submitted did not meet the requirements of the Welfare in Transport Regulations (2006) or the additional restrictions due to the presence of Bluetongue Virus, Foot & Mouth disease & African Swine Fever in the EU. A further 56 applications did not proceed to approval and were deemed ‘cancelled by the transporter’. This is likely the result of journeys being delayed/cancelled or the transporter being unable to demonstrate compliance with the relevant Welfare in Transport Regulation, following APHA requests for further information to support.

Inspections of vehicles transporting livestock and horses through ports decreased by 60% (149 in 2024; 60 in 2025) overall in Great Britain compared with 2024. This decrease can be attributed to a decrease in resourcing at the port of Dover. Inspections in Great Britian resulted in a variety of enforcement actions, ranging from verbal warnings to prosecutions. In 2025 there was one prosecution, which involved the incorrect handling of an animal causing unnecessary suffering to that animal during transport.

Transport and on-farm – FSA and FSS referrals

Tables 74 to 76 provide information on non-urgent referrals received by APHA from the FSA (English and Welsh slaughterhouses) and FSS (Scottish slaughterhouses) for 2025, regarding potential non-compliances associated with animal welfare during transport (including poultry catching), at markets, collection centres and/or on farm.

Urgent referrals in 2025 were dealt with as complaints by APHA or local authorities and were accounted for in data sets in the “On-farm animal welfare in Great Britain” section 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 farms, markets, collection centres, or hauliers.

The number of non-urgent referrals received (3,768) in 2025 an increase of 19% compared to 2024. There was an increase in the dead on arrival (DOA) category (increased by 28.5%) and in poultry catching (increased by 36.5%). A single dead on arrival referral may refer to a single or multiple animals. Late gestation decreased by 10%.

Table 74: Summary data and most common non-urgent welfare referral reasons from FSA or FSS in Great Britain from 2020 to 2025

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

Referral type	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Total number received	4,679	4,542	4,062	3,293	3,164	3,768
Poultry catching (see note)	1,829	1,859	1,248	836	962	1,313
Dead on arrival	1,464	1,287	1,448	1,060	729	937
Late gestation (greater than 90 percent pregnancy)	521	426	382	325	349	315
Further triage required	865	970	984	1,072	1,124	1,203

Table 75: Summary data showing the number of incidents (percentage of total) and most common reasons for referral from FSA or FSS slaughterhouses from 2022 to 2023

Referral type	FSA 2022	FSS 2022	FSA 2023	FSS 2023
Total	3,766	296	2,999	294
Poultry catching (see note)	1,220 (32%)	28 (9.5%)	776 (26%)	60 (20%)
Dead on arrival	1,405 (37%)	43 (14.5%)	1,027 (34%)	33 (11%)
Late gestation (greater than 90 percent pregnancy)	301 (8%)	81 (27%)	244 (8%)	81 (26%)
Further triage required	840 (22%)	144 (49%)	952 (32%)	120 (41%)

Table 76: Summary data showing the number of incidents (percentage of total) and most common reasons for referral from FSA or FSS slaughterhouses from 2024 to 2025

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

Referral type	FSA 2024	FSS 2024	FSA 2025	FSS 2025
Total	2,918	246	3,492	276
Poultry catching (see note)	921 (31.5%)	41 (17%)	1,281 (36.7%)	32 (11.6%)
Dead on arrival	713 (24%)	16 (6.5%)	907 (26.0%)	30 (10.9%)

Referral type	FSA 2024	FSS 2024	FSA 2025	FSS 2025
Late gestation (more than 90 percent pregnancy)	271 (9%)	78 (32%)	238 (6.8%)	77 (27.9%)
Further triage required	1,013 (34.7%)	111 (45%)	1,066 (30.5%)	137 (49.6%)

The most frequently reported non-urgent welfare in transport referral type for English and Welsh slaughterhouses (FSA) related to poultry catching. This was followed by referrals relating to animals found dead on arrival at the slaughterhouse. In Scotland (FSS), late gestation pregnancies continued to be the most frequent issue identified, followed by poultry catching.

Poultry catching issues were referred to LAs for monitoring and action as appropriate in 2025, 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 (96%), but small numbers of incidents were associated with laying hens (1.9%) breeders (1.5%) and turkeys (0.5%)

The most common species type referred for DOA from English and Welsh slaughterhouses (FSA) were pigs (49%), sheep (34%), meat chickens (12%), and cattle (4%), whilst FSS reported most frequently for pigs (70%), cattle (13%), and sheep (16.7%)

The most common species referred for late pregnancy from English and Welsh slaughterhouses were cattle (86.1%), followed by sheep (13.9%). The most common species in FSS referrals was also cattle (85.9%) then pigs (7.7%) and sheep (6.4%).

APHA’s welfare in transport team issued warning letters with guidance to Great Britain authorised transporters for late gestation cases, where the issue was identified by the OV antemortem.

In 2025, 96.4% (267 of 277) of referrals from the FSS related to Scottish farms with 10 (3.6%) referrals from farms in England.

In total, 83% of FSA referrals (2897) related to English holdings with 12% (419) from Welsh holdings and 5% (177) referrals relating to Scottish holdings. The FSA referrals

comprised 39.9% of all referrals in respect of Scottish holdings in 2025, which is similar to the proportion identified in 2023 (40%) and 2024 (41.5%).

The referrals from FSA regarding Scottish holdings were not equally spread across referral types, with FSA reporting 68% of DOAs, all species, 23% of late gestation cases and 31% of poultry catching incidents originating from Scottish farms in 2025. This is a decrease of DOAs from 83% to 68% and increase in poultry catching from 17% to 31% for 2025.

In total, 34 out of 62 of the FSA referred DOAs regarding Scottish holdings related to sheep, which comprised 89% of all sheep DOAs for Scottish holdings. There were 23 of the FSA referred DOAs associated with Scottish pig holdings, comprising of 52% of all pig DOAs for Scottish holdings.

Table 77 splits the referrals by original holding of animals and by country. In 2025, 77.1%, 11.7% and 11.1% of referrals originated from English, Scottish and Welsh holdings, respectively. This is an increase in proportion from English holdings at 77.1% compared to 74.5% in 2024 and a decrease from Welsh (74.5% versus 76%) and Scottish (12.8% versus 14.5%) holdings.

The actual number of incidents relating to DOAs decreased for Scotland and England from 2024 levels, with a slight increase for Wales. Incidence (in actual numbers) of late gestation increased for England and fell for Wales and Scotland in 2025.

Table 77: Number of incidents (percentage of total) by country of origin for FSA or FSS referrals from 2022 to 2025

Referral type	England	Scotland	Wales
Total, 2022	3,210	432	420
Total, 2023	2,501	480	312
Total, 2024	2,360	407	397
Total, 2025	2,907	442	419
Poultry catching, 2022	1,060 (33%)	39 (9%)	149 (35%)
Poultry catching, 2023	695 (28%)	62 (13%)	79 (25%)

Referral type	England	Scotland	Wales
Poultry catching, 2024	767 (32.5%)	48 (12%)	147 (37%)
Poultry catching, 2025	1,119 (38.5%)	45 (10.2%)	149 (35.6%)
Dead on arrival, 2022	1,203 (37%)	131 (30%)	114 (27%)
Dead on arrival, 2023	860 (34%)	124 (26%)	76 (24%)
Dead on arrival, 2024	561 (24%)	88 (21.6%)	80 (20%)
Dead on arrival, 2025	758 (26.1%)	90 (20.4%)	89 (21.2%)
Late gestation (greater than 90 percent pregnancy), 2022	254 (8%)	91 (21%)	37 (8%)
Late gestation (greater than 90 percent pregnancy), 2023	204 (8%)	97 (20%)	24 (8%)
Late gestation (greater than 90 percent pregnancy), 2024	227 (10%)	95 (23%)	27 (7%)
Late gestation (greater than 90 percent pregnancy), 2025	193 (6.6%)	96 (21.7%)	26 (6.2%)
Further triage required, 2022	693 (21%)	171 (39%)	120 (28%)
Further triage required, 2023	742 (30%)	197 (41%)	133 (43%)
Further triage required, 2024	805 (34%)	176 (43%)	143 (36%)
Further triage required, 2025	837 (28.8%)	211 (47.7%)	155 (37.0%)

Across Great Britain in 2025, 1203 incidents were determined for triage, an increase of 7% from 2024 levels.

Table 78 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 any ongoing regulatory action in relation to authorised transporters associated with any FSA or FSS referrals.

Table 78: FSA or FSS referrals requiring further triage in Great Britain from 2020 to 2025

Note: New categories were added in 2025 to identify cases where animals had been moved via a livestock market

Referral type	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Welfare in transport (WIT)	173	183	150	245	298	318
Welfare on farm (WOF)	177	220	97	170	97	104
Welfare in transport, Welfare on farm origin and Welfare at Market	N/A (see note)	N/A (see note)	N/A (see note)	N/A (see note)	N/A (see note)	651
Welfare in transport and Welfare at Market	N/A (see note)	N/A (see note)	N/A (see note)	N/A (see note)	N/A (see note)	80
Welfare on farm origin and Welfare at Market	N/A (see note)	N/A (see note)	N/A (see note)	N/A (see note)	N/A (see note)	18
Welfare in transport and Welfare on farm origin / cause (WIT / WOF)	459	515	612	595	700	1
Welfare issue could not be determined from evidence	41	25	17	29	9	9

Referral type	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Other issue / action / DOAs / catching (see note 2)	21	28	108	33	20	22
Total	871	971	984	1,072	1,124	1,203

Cases relating to welfare on farm, markets and 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. There were cases where insufficient information was recorded to fully triage the referral or determine where the reported injury had occurred (on farm, during transport or at the abattoir).

Table 79: FSS and FSA referred farm inspections and non-compliances in Great Britain 2020 to 2025

Referrals	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Total farm inspections following referral	246	355	199	306	409	396
Non-compliant findings	33	55	43	72	97	105
Non-compliant findings without unnecessary suffering	19	29	20	38	55	56
Non-compliant findings with unnecessary suffering detected	14	26	23	34	42	49

There continued to be a significant number of farm inspections carried out following triage of FSS and FSA referrals in 2025. A total of 396 farm inspections were carried out across Great Britain, a decrease of 3%.

Of these farm inspections, 26.5% resulted in a non-compliance being recorded in 2025. This indicates that official controls at the slaughterhouse level continue to be effective in detecting and targeting on farm animal welfare issues.

The number of incidents/findings involving unnecessary suffering at farm level increased at 12.4% compared to 10.3% of assessments in 2024. This confirms that ante-mortem and post-mortem findings reported via the FSA/FSS referral system continue to be used as an indicator of serious animal welfare issues on farm.

At national level, Scotland reported 16 cases of unnecessary suffering at farm inspections in response to slaughterhouse referrals, which was an increase in the proportion from 16% to 27% of all slaughterhouses referred farm inspections for 2025. England reported 10 cases of unnecessary suffering in 2025, a decrease in absolute number and proportionately, 3.5% in 2025 compared to 6.6% in 2024. Wales reported 23 cases, comprising 48% of all slaughterhouses referred farm inspections in 2025, an increase of 21% from 2024.

Table 80: FSA and FSS referred farm inspections and compliance levels by country from 2021 to 2025

Note: These may be associated with the slaughterhouse finding only in Wales and England

Outcomes by year	England	Scotland	Wales
Farm inspections following referral, 2021	249	66	40
Farm inspections following referral, 2022	127	43	29
Farm inspections following referral, 2023	230	39	37
Farm inspections following referral, 2024	304	57	48
Farm inspections following referral, 2025	288	60	48

Outcomes by year	England	Scotland	Wales
Non-compliances recorded 2021 (see note)	23	11	13
Non-compliances recorded 2022 (see note)	12	3	5
Non-compliances recorded 2023 (see note)	43	10	19
Non-compliances recorded 2024 (see note)	70	10	17
Non-compliances recorded 2025 (see note)	58	23	24
Non compliances where suffering was determined 2021 (see note)	8	9	9
Non compliances where suffering was determined 2022 (see note)	5	14	4
Non compliances where suffering was determined 2023 (see note)	11	9	14
Non compliances where suffering was determined 2024 (see note)	20	9	13
Non compliances where suffering was determined 2025 (see note)	10	16	23

Animal welfare at slaughter or killing

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) Regulations 2015, the Welfare of Animals at Time of Killing (Wales) Regulations 2014, and for Scotland the Welfare of Animals at the

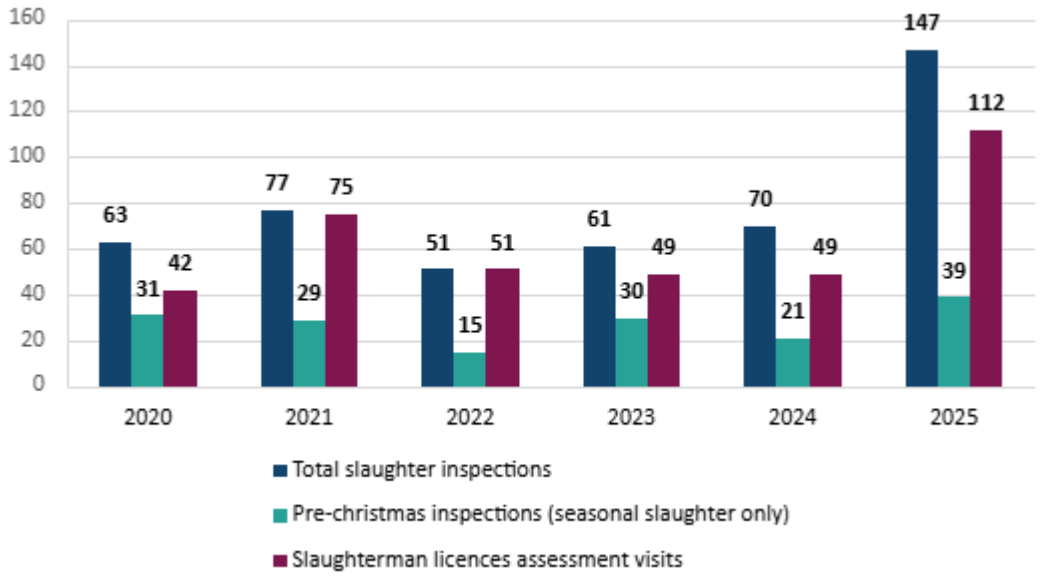
Time of Killing (Scotland) Regulations 2012, and in Scotland retained sections of the Welfare of Animals (Slaughter or Killing) Regulations 1995.

In 2025, APHA followed up reports and allegations relating to poor animal welfare during slaughter or killing operations outside of approved slaughterhouses. Slaughter and killing operations, along with the associated facilities, were also assessed by APHA during the evaluation for a WATOK licence at premises located outside of slaughterhouses.

In Great Britain, all 112 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, and 35 were carried out independent of an WATOK licence assessment. In the pre-Christmas period, 39 visits were associated with seasonal slaughter of poultry. Non-compliance was found on six APHA visits. There were no inspections where unnecessary suffering was identified.

Figure 54: Chart showing the number of assessments for WATOK (slaughterman) licences and WATOK compliance visits for slaughter and killing outside approved slaughterhouses in Great Britain, 2020-2025

Note: Data calculation methodology has changed since 2020 and cannot be compared with previous years



Tables 81 to 83 set out non-compliance data by country for 2025; and the types of non-compliance assessment finding in Great Britain between 2019 and 2025. A WATOK Licence assessment may involve multiple species.

Table 81: Great Britain non-compliance data by country for 2025

Inspection activities and compliance outcomes	England	Scotland	Wales
Premises visited	114	10	6
Slaughter visits	124	17	6
Visits for slaughter licence assessment	107	0	5
Species categories assessed	125	0	5
Non-compliances at visit	5	0	1
Non-compliances recorded where suffering was not determined	5	0	1
Non compliances where suffering was determined	0	0	0

Table 82: Great Britain non-compliance assessment finding between 2020 to 2025

Non-compliance issues	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Licensing	1	0	0	3	3	3
Construction, equipment, maintenance	4	0	0	2	2	1
Animals awaiting killing	0	0	0	0	0	0
Handling and restraint	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stunning and killing	2	1	0	1	4	2

Non-compliance issues	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Bleeding or pithing	0	1	0	2	2	1

Table 83: Welfare of Animals at Time of Killing (WATOK) in Great Britain 2022 to 2025

Outcomes by year	England and Wales	Scotland
Slaughterman Licence, 2022	66	Not applicable
Slaughterman Licence, 2023	36	Not applicable
Slaughterman Licence, 2024	53	Not applicable
Slaughterman Licence, 2025	89	Not applicable
Certificate of Competence, 2022	1,060	110
Certificate of Competence, 2023	1,171	100
Certificate of Competence, 2024	1,053	63
Certificate of Competence, 2025	929	63
Temporary Certificate of Competence, 2022	1,499	147
Temporary Certificate of Competence, 2023	1,450	180
Temporary Certificate of Competence, 2024	1,347	143
Temporary Certificate of Competence, 2025	1,203	116

In 2025/26, the licences of 89 slaughterers were issued under Welfare of Animals at Time of Killing (WATOK) by the FSA, in England and Wales.

The FSA publishes quarterly reports showing levels of animal welfare compliance and non-compliance.

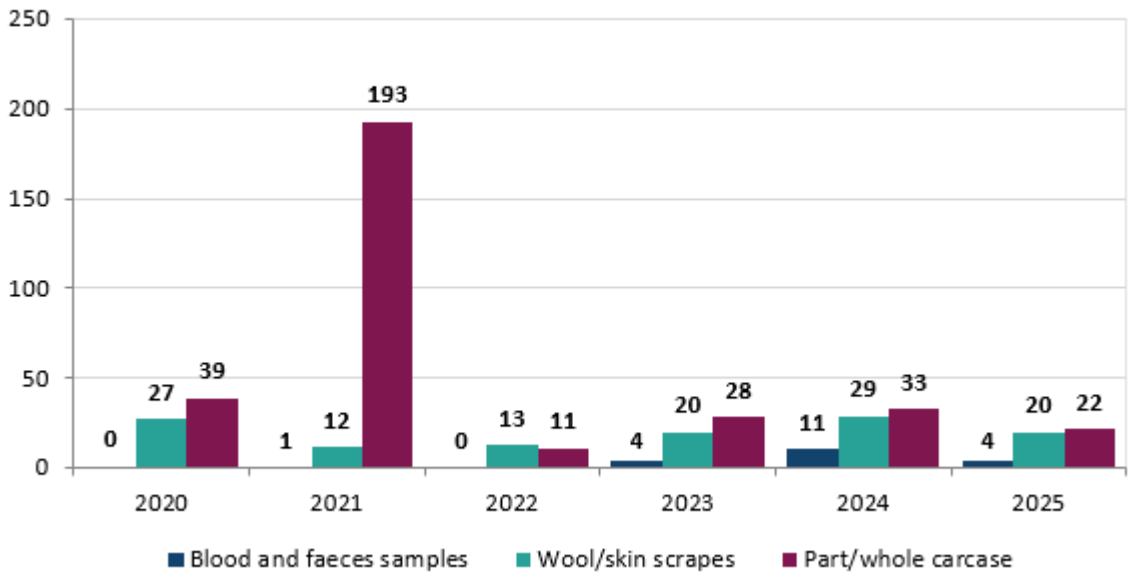
In Scotland, 63 Certificates of Confidence (CoCs) were issued for operatives in slaughterhouses, farms and knackeries, under the WATOK (Scotland) Regulations 2012, between April 2025 and March 2026. Nine existing temporary CoCs were amended to withdraw units, and five were amended to include new activities.

FSS publishes monthly animal welfare data.

Welfare forensic pathology and advice

Figure 55 shows the number of submissions to regional veterinary laboratories in England and Wales from 2020 to 2025.

Figure 55: Chart showing the number of samples submitted to Regional Veterinary Laboratories in England and Wales from 2020 to 2025



In 2025, APHA's Veterinary Investigation Centres received 26 separate welfare forensic submissions, consisting of 11 whole carcase parts (such as heads or limbs). A submission can comprise of multiple carcasses or body parts. The remainder of the submissions were wool or skin submissions (20) relating to suspect sheep scab cases, and faeces samples (4) submitted following on farm investigations by APHA field delivery staff.

In 2025, submissions were received from investigation into cattle (4), sheep (20), pigs (1) and poultry (1). The submission of material for forensic examination is reactive depending on what is identified at APHA farm investigations and may include material collected by Official Veterinarians at slaughterhouses and submitted by LA for investigation. Therefore, no real trends regarding number of submissions or species can be inferred.

Official controls in the plant health sector

Controls on imported plants, plant products and plant material in England and Wales

Including EU material, 87% of the highest risk commodities were inspected, 77% of other controlled material was inspected, and 55% of documentary checks were achieved. There was a 2% decrease in number of declared consignments for 2025/26. The total number of consignments in 2025/26 was 364,798 compared to 372,187 in 2024/25. For commodities that were subject to reduced import checks and required an inspection, 77% were inspected.

The Forestry Commission (FC) has maintained its level of operational staffing at 39 posts. The team is mostly engaged with inspections, surveillance and action to respond to pest outbreaks inland.

The FC continued to deliver other statutory plant health functions in England as well as on behalf of the Devolved Governments in Scotland and Wales. These functions include checks on regulated wood and wood products at the border, export certification and the delivery of plant passporting for the internal movement or regulated wood and wood products.

For consignments of regulated wood, wood products and isolated bark, 100% are subject to statutory checks. The import of all controlled sawn wood from Russia continued to be prohibited and this trade has been replaced by imports of unregulated bark-free sawn conifer from elsewhere in Europe which do not require checks by the FC.

Controls on imported plants, plant products and plant material in Scotland

In 2025 a total of 76 consignments were recorded across 16 countries. All received documentary checks, and 40 had both physical and identity checks. Edinburgh and Glasow airports continued to be the main import points. The most frequently represented commodity types were propagating material (33 records), fruit and vegetables (22

records), and potato tubers (four records), with smaller numbers involving tree ferns, Christmas trees, apples, seeds, aquatic plants, bonsai plants and other plants.

Plant health surveillance and outbreak management in England and Wales

In 2025 to 2026, work continued to monitor and manage several plant and tree health pest and disease incidents, including the below.

Thaumetopoea processionea (Oak processionary moth (OPM))

The pest has continued to slowly spread from where it is established in London into the surrounding Buffer Zone where it is being managed by the FC. The Established Area and Buffer Zone management zone boundaries were expanded to reflect the areas of known infestation in 2023. In the same year, a breeding population of OPM was found in Derbyshire, within the Pest Free Area, and an eradication programme was introduced. Consequently, local populations have declined, with only a single male caught through extensive pheromone trapping in 2024. Local populations have declined with 17 infested trees found in 2025, compared to 43 trees infested in 2023.

In 2025 a new outbreak of OPM was identified in Dorset. All oaks within 1km of the infested trees were inspected through ground surveys, with 20 pheromone traps deployed in the area. Statutory plant health notices were issued and all infested oaks were treated. All recently planted trees which were the source of the infestation were destroyed and mature trees were treated through a combination of pesticide application and manual nest removal.

Ips typographus (Spruce bark beetle)

A demarcated area (DMA) is in place across the south and east of England. This region is at high risk of wind-borne incursion from continental Europe and has known outbreak sites where additional measures are taken to mitigate the higher risk. Successful eradication of outbreak sites follows three years of monitoring on site for beetle presence, gathering data and carrying out regular surveillance to determine eradication and prevent the establishment of breeding beetles. All 14 outbreaks identified in the 2018/2019 and 2021/2022 season were declared as eradicated in 2025. There were13 out of 16 sites from the 2022/2023 season declared as eradicated, with trapping extended on the remaining three sites as a precautionary measure for an additional year.

In 2025, 30 new outbreak sites were identified through surveillance in England. Over 900 sites were inspected following a combination of aerial surveillance, pheromone trapping and authorisations for the felling and movement of spruce. In 2025, there were 81 traps

within in the Demarcated Area (DMA) for *I. typographus* and of these 65 had positive findings. Outside of the DMA there were 239 traps and 15 of those also had positive findings. A positive trap finding does not indicate the presence of a breeding population, but the area is surveyed as a precaution.

Cryphonectria parasitica (sweet chestnut blight)

Surveillance for sweet chestnut blight in Great Britain is by ground based wider environment surveys, which have been running since 2013. These involve at least 20,000 sweet chestnut trees across approximately 100 sites, as well as revisiting known sites of infection and the surrounding 5km area. These sites include 15 sentinel plots surveyed since 2005, that were selected for climatic suitability for sweet chestnut blight. Eradication of findings have been proven to be feasible and effective through Statutory Plant Health Notices (SPHNs) on sites with findings requiring destruction of infected trees. Since 2011, eradication has been successful on 27 sites, with 26 sites under long-term containment measures.

During 2025, new infections were recorded at 14 outbreak sites in England. These findings brought the total number of sites under SPHN up to 52 of which 39 required an outbreak response. A Demarcated Area was introduced in Devon in response to a finding that sweet chestnut blight was reproducing sexually and therefore had the potential to spread rapidly and over longer distances through the movement of airborne spores. The measures restrict the felling and movement of sweet chestnut trees and other susceptible material capable of spreading the disease, helping to prevent further spread.

Meloidogyne chitwoodi

In 2025 *M. chitwoodi* was detected in one field in eastern England. This field was pre-emptively tested for free-living nematodes by the grower, prior to any crop being planted. Eradication measures are being applied to this field and follow up investigations has led to no further findings. The source of the outbreak yet is unknown, despite extensive tracing work.

Colorado beetle

A single colony was confirmed in a single potato field in Kent in July 2023. A demarcated area was established to eradicate the beetle, and official surveillance was undertaken out to 5 km to detect the presence of other beetles. A full programme of surveillance was undertaken in 2024, and no evidence of Colorado beetle establishment was detected. Colorado beetle was declared eradicated in December 2025, although the actual surveillance finished in September 2025.

Surveillance surveys carried out during 2025 to 2026 in England and Wales

The APHA 2025 to 2026 surveillance programme is summarised in Table 84. The programme was reviewed and many of the pre-existing surveys were updated and adapted to improve their methodologies, robustness, and value for money. Development of the surveillance programme is a long-term project undergoing continuous improvement, to be able to prove country freedom and for early detection.

Some survey locations include inspections for both annual and multi-annual pests. These form the basis of country status for each pest and disease, and input to decision making regarding import and export legislation. The Forestry Commission carried out annual priority pest surveys inspecting for the presence or absence of 13 regulated tree pests during 2025.

Table 84: Animal and Plant Health Agency surveillance programme 2025 to 2026

Survey	Action taken during 2023 to 2024	Action taken during 2024 to 2025	Action taken during 2025 to 2026
Potato ware crop survey – Tuber *Epitrix spp, Clavibacter michiganensis (Ring rot), Synchytrium endobioticum (Potato wart disease), Candidatus Liberibacter solanacearum (Zebra chip)9, Ralstonia solanacearum (Brown rot), Meloidogyne chitwoodi, Thecaphora solani, Ralstonia pseudosolanacearum, Tecia solanivora* and *Naupactus leucoloma* visual and tuber cutting	270 ware crops sampled grown from UK/EU seed	247 ware cops sampled grown from UK/EU seed	314 ware cops sampled grown from UK/EU seed
Potato seed crop survey – Tuber	609 England and Wales Seed Potato	453 England and Wales Seed Potato	494 England and Wales Seed Potato

[9] Proxy survey for Bactericera cockerelli

Survey	Action taken during 2023 to 2024	Action taken during 2024 to 2025	Action taken during 2025 to 2026
Epitrix spp, Clavibacter michiganensis (Ring rot), *Synchytrium endobioticum* (Potato wart disease), *Candidatus Liberibacter solanacearum* (Zebra chip)9, *Ralstonia solanacearum* (Brown rot), *Meloidogyne chitwoodi, Thecaphora solani, Ralstonia pseudosolanacearum, Tecia solanivora and Naupactus leucoloma* visual & tuber coring for latent testing	Classification Scheme stocks sampled	Classification Scheme stocks sampled	Classification Scheme stocks sampled
Potato ware crop survey – Field *Leptinotarsa decemlineta and Candidatus Liberibacter solanacearum* (Zebra chip)9 - visual inspection of growing crop	54 crops	50 crops	53 crops

Survey	Action taken during 2023 to 2024	Action taken during 2024 to 2025	Action taken during 2025 to 2026
Post planting tree survey *Ceratocystis platani, Thaumatopea processionea, Thaumatopea pityocampa, Agrilus anxius, Anoplophora chinensis, Anoplophora glabripennis, Ips typographus, Elm Yellows and Xylella fastidiosa*	86 planting sites inspected following tracing exercise to identify sites planted in the last 3 years	121 planting sites inspected following tracing exercise to identify sites planted in the last 3 years	67 planting sites inspected following tracing exercise to identify sites planted in the last 3 years
***Xylella fastidiosa* latent survey**	136 inspections at plant passport premises. 131 inspections at managed parks and gardens.	123 inspections at plant passport premises. 133 inspections at managed parks and gardens.	143 inspections at plant passport premises. 138 inspections at managed parks and gardens.
***Phytophthora ramorum* survey – wider environment**	300 sites	315 sites	301 sites

Survey	Action taken during 2023 to 2024	Action taken during 2024 to 2025	Action taken during 2025 to 2026
Phytophthora ramorum and P. kernoviae			
PCN ware survey – field	530 Ha	504 Ha	527 Ha
Brown rot water course survey ***Ralstonia solanacearum***	24 water courses	24 water courses	24 water courses

Survey	Action taken during 2023 to 2024	Action taken during 2024 to 2025	Action taken during 2025 to 2026
Ornamental survey *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, Rhizoecus hibisci, Rhynchophorous 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 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	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

Survey	Action taken during 2023 to 2024	Action taken during 2024 to 2025	Action taken during 2025 to 2026
Tomato and pepper crop survey *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 chocolàte 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)	63 tomato and pepper production sites	69 tomato and pepper production sites	69 tomato and pepper production sites

Survey	Action taken during 2023 to 2024	Action taken during 2024 to 2025	Action taken during 2025 to 2026
Vineyard survey *Draeculacephala minerva, Candidatus Phytoplasma australiense, Cicadellidae (non-European), Candidatus Phytoplasma 'solani', Graphocephala atropunctata, Lycocorna delicatula, Margarodes prieskaensis/vitis/vredendalensis, Non-European viruses, viroids of Vitis, Peach rosette mosaic virus, Popillia japonica, Scaphoideus titanus, Thaumatotibia leucotreta, Xylella fastidiosa, Xylophilus ampelinus*	60 sites	56 sites	65 sites

Survey	Action taken during 2023 to 2024	Action taken during 2024 to 2025	Action taken during 2025 to 2026
Soft fruit survey *Acleris nishidai, Anthonomus bisignifer, Anthonomus signatus, Aphelenchoides besseyi*, Black raspberry latent virus/ Tobacco streak virus black raspberry latent strain, Blueberry leaf mottle virus, Blueberry scorch virus, Blueberry shoestring virus, Diaporthe *vaccinii, Epochra canadensis, Longidorus diadecturus*, Non-European viruses, viroids and phytoplasmas, *Popillia japonica, Raspberry leaf curl virus, Rhagoletis mendax, Rhagoletis ribicola, Strawberry vein banding virus, Strawberry witches' broom phytoplasma, Thekopsora minima, Xiphinema rivesi, Xylella fastidiosa*	52 sites	52 sites	59 sites

Orchard survey *Acleris nivisellana/minuta/ senescens, Acrobasis pyrivorella, Alternaria mali*, American plum line pattern virus, *Anthonomus quadrigibbus, Apiosporina morbosa*, Apple dimple fruit viroid, *Botryosphaeria kuwatsukai, Candidatus Phytoplasma 'mali', Candidatus Phytoplasma 'prunorum', Candidatus Phytoplasma 'phoenicium', Candidatus Phytoplasma 'pruni', Carposina sasakii*, Cherry rasp leaf virus, *Conotrachelus nenuphar, Grapholita inopinata/packardi/prunivora, Gymnosporangium asiaticum, clavipes, globosum, juniperi-virginianae, yamadae, Lopholeucaspis japonica*, Non-European viruses, viroids and phytoplasmas of *Cydonia Mill., L., Malus Mill., Prunus L., Pyrus L, Oemona hirta, Phyllosticta solitaria, Popillia japonica, Rhacochlaena japonica, Rhagoletis fausta/indifferens/pomonella, Saperda candida, Thaumatotibia leucotreta, Xanthomonas arboricola*	59 sites	59 sites	58 sites

Survey	Action taken during 2023 to 2024	Action taken during 2024 to 2025	Action taken during 2025 to 2026
pv. pruni, Xiphinema californicum, Xiphinema rivesi (non-EU populations), Xylella fastidiosa			
Maize survey *Anomala orientalis, Diabrotica barberi, Diabrotica undecimpunctata howardi, Diabrotica undecimpunctata undecimpunctata, Diabrotica virgifera zeae, Listronotus bonariensis, Spodoptera littoralis, Spodoptera frugiperda, Helicoverpa assulta, Helicoverpa armigera,Pantoea stewartii subsp. Stewarti*	Not applicable	64 fields	86 fields
Sunflower survey *Strauzia longipennis, Helicoverpa armigera, Helicoverpa zea, Thrips palmi, Liriomyza trifolii, Spodoptera littoralis, Ralstonia pseudosolanacearum*	Not applicable	19 fields	18 fields

Survey	Action taken during 2023 to 2024	Action taken during 2024 to 2025	Action taken during 2025 to 2026
Sunflower survey - seed *Curtobacterium flaccumfaciens pv. flaccumfaciens*	Not applicable	Not applicable	28 samples
Wheat survey – grain *Tiletia indica*	Not applicable	Not applicable	144 samples
Protected vegetables & salad survey Squash vein yellowing virus, *Begomoviruses*, Lettuce infectious yellows virus, *Neoleucinodes elegantalis*, *Amauromyza maculosa*, *Liriomyza sativae*, *Spodoptera eridania, Spodoptera litura, Thrips palmi*, Tobacco ringspot virus, *Platynota stultana* Cowpea mild mottle virus, Cucumber vein yellowing virus, Cucurbit yellow stunting disorder virus, *Spodoptera frugiperda*	Not applicable	Not applicable	39 sites

The Forestry Commission carried out its annual aerial surveillance programme for quarantine pests within England during 2025. In this, 57 flights were undertaken, covering 34,815 miles and capturing 15,210 images for analysis. In England, 90.3% of 10km grid squares have been subject to aerial surveillance. In total, 14 flights were carried out specifically to monitor the condition of larch trees for symptoms of *Phytophthora ramorum*. There was a low-level of symptom expression due to drier-than-average conditions during 2025. The disease was only confirmed at 34 of 212 sites which had been identified for follow-up inspection and which were close to sites with previously known infection. By contrast, a high proportion of samples taken from larch tested positive for the non-quarantine *Phytophthora, P.pseudosyringae.*

Forestry surveys for *Xylella fastidiosa* (Bacterial Leaf Scorch) took place between June and September 2025 in Great Britain as part of ongoing Forestry Commission Plant Health Forestry surveys. 10,546 trees distributed across 397 sites were inspected for *X. fastidiosa*.

Oak (*Quercus*), plane (*Platanus*), wild cherry (*Prunus*), elm (*Ulmus*) and sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) were surveyed for various associated pathogens including *X. fastidiosa*. Wild cherry was also inspected for symptoms of *Aromia bungii* and *Xanthomonas arboricola pv. Pruni*. Visual inspections are completed by trained surveyors who have been supplied with symptom ID guidance as part of host surveys for a number of target EU quarantine and Great Britain priority pest organism.

Plant health surveillance and outbreak management in Scotland

Separate surveys to those conducted in England and Wales were completed in Scotland in 2025 to 2026 for both priority pests and multi-annual pests, including forest surveys. The results were incorporated into Great Britain surveillance returns for 2025.

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

General quarantine surveillance in England and Wales

As part of the APHA survey design for the ornamental survey, inspection visits in England and Wales were determined according to the following risk matrix in 2025 to 2026.

Table 85: Plant health risk matrix and achievements against targets in England and Wales from 2021 to 2026

- Note 1: A client's business is reviewed using the plan health risk matrix throughout the year and could result in target changes between quarters. Clients are assessed against business activity, source material and scale of production
- Note 2: Client plant health risk rating: very high risk 10 to 12 visits per year; high risk 4 to 6 visits per year; med risk two visits per year; low risk one visit every two years

Achievements (see note 2)	Very high risk	High risk	Medium risk	Low risk
Target Number of Visits, 2021 to 2022	120	1,084	3,723	1,986
Percentage achievement, 2021 to 2022	125	110	75	85
Target Number of Visits, 2022 to 2023	110	1,112	3,792	2,017
Percentage achievement, 2022 to 2023	100	100	100	100
Target Number of Visits, 2023 to 2024	170	1,104	3,312	2,097
Percentage achievement, 2023 to 2024	85	93	109	102
Target Number of Visits, 2024 to 2025	110	1,000	3,338	2,131
Percentage achievement, 2024 to 2025	100	104	112	100
Target Number of Visits, 2025 to 2026	160	1,056	2,903	2,088
Percentage achievement, 2025 to 2026	88	94	82	100

General quarantine surveillance in Scotland

Seed potato export tonnages in 2025 were 107,573 which is a record high and mainly driven by increased demand from our biggest export market, Egypt. In total, 2,019 phytosanitary certificates were issued for seed potatoes. Ware potato exports were 25,293

tonnes, a slight decrease of on last year's total, this was covered by 1,060 phytosanitary certificates.

Table 86: Number of quarantine pest tests carried out in Scotland from 2020 to 2025

Type of diagnosis	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Viroids	7,230	3,321	2,745	5,477	7,001	1,668
Virology	516	472	355	176	0	479
Bacteriology (including brown rot/ring rot)	2,758	2,809	2,794	3,311	2,888	2,817
Mycology	207	441	196	294	235	172
Nematology/Entomology	20,000	16,954	18,196	14,022	16,184	20,298
Total	30,711	23,997	24,286	23,280	26,308	25,434

In addition, 21 lines for quarantine pests of potatoes were carried out by the UK Potato Quarantine Unit (UKPQU).

Table 87: Enforcement activities for Single Market and EU surveillance activities in Scotland in 2025

Disease / pest	Surveillance	Findings
Ditylenchus dipsaci **(stem and bulb nematode)**	A total of 92 stocks covering 135.27 ha were entered for growing-season inspections. This included the Scottish certification scheme, in which seven growers participated with 53 stocks covering 79.73 ha, as well as all stocks inspected to meet USA pre-clearance export requirements. Pre-export inspections for bulbs destined for the USA commenced in the first week of July. Just under half of all lifted bulbs are exported to the USA under the pre-clearance programme. Most of the remaining production is shipped to the Netherlands and Scandinavia for forcing or retail packing, with an increasing proportion supplied to the GB market. In addition, 18 Cornish stocks will be packed in Scotland for export.	No *Ditylenchus dipsaci* or *Aphelenchoides* spp. were detected this season. Freedom from *Aphelenchoides* spp. is a specific requirement for export to the USA, although it has been detected in Scottish stocks in previous years.

Disease / pest	Surveillance	Findings
***Dothistroma* Needle Blight**	Growing season inspections to forestry nurseries were supported by Forest Research and all samples collected were tested for *Dothistroma* species (Dothistroma needle blight), *Lecanosticta acicola* (brown spot needle blight) and *Fusarium circinatum* (pine pitch canker).	No quarantine pathogens (*D. pini, L. acicola, and F. circinatum*) were found.

Disease / pest	Surveillance	Findings
Phytophthora spp:	<u>*Nursery Trade / Garden Centres*</u> Nurseries producing susceptible host plants remain free from *Phytophthora ramorum* and *P. kernoviae*. These businesses continue to receive two site inspections a year, with an additional check based on risk. Inspections at nurseries and garden centres also include visual checks of *P. austrocedri*, *P. lateralis*, and *P. pluvialis* hosts. <u>*Gardens / Landscaped Sites*</u> There are currently 28 'active' outbreak sites across Scotland comprising of 27 with *P. ramorum*, 6 with *P. kernoviae* and 5 with both pathogens.	Nurseries producing susceptible host plants remain free from *Phytophthora ramorum* and *P. kernoviae*. The number of outbreaks has increased as a result of last year's surveillance where the re-emergence of both pathogens was picked up at some former outbreak sites. A further 85 gardens have a 'non-active' status where controls have been lifted following a programme of monitoring and the disease has not been detected for at least 3 years

Disease / pest	Surveillance	Findings
***Xanthomonas arboricola* pv *pruni*:**	*Xanthomonas arboricola* pv *pruni* was confirmed at a nursery in the Scottish Borders on *Prunus laurocerasus* plants of Dutch origin. The detection involved a significant number of plug-grown plants located within a contained propagation area. The outbreak of *X. arboricola* pv *pruni* on Dutch origin *Prunus laurocerasus* at one nursery in Scotland, first reported in 2024, remains under active quarantine.	Following confirmation, all affected and potentially exposed plants were destroyed under statutory notice. No additional host material was present on site and the consignment had not been distributed. As a result, no onward tracing or further biosecurity measures were required. Biosecurity measures continue to be enforced, with monthly inspections conducted as part of ongoing eradication efforts. Recent detections of the pathogen have been minimal and are linked with the original outbreak. The site is approaching the conclusion of its quarantine period, with the final infected plants having been identified and destroyed.

Summary of intensity and type of plant controls in Great Britain

In Great Britain during 2025, overall official controls for commercial cargo, and postal interceptions went down from 669 in 2024, to 473 in 2025. In 2025 there was an increase in notifications of imported harmful organisms to 761 findings, compared to 520 in 2024. Table 88 shows the most common third country import and pest combinations in 2024 to 2025.

Table 88: Pests detected and non-compliances in third country imports during 2025 to 2026

Country	Pest detected	Non-compliance cases
Netherlands	*Bemisia tabaci*	187
Thailand	*Bemisia tabaci*	81
Morocco	*Helicoverpa spp.*	64
Peru	*Noctuidae (family)*	37
Italy	*Pochazia shantungensis*	24
Belgium	*Phytophthora ramorum*	20
Thailand	*Liriomyza spp.*	15
Italy	*Ricaniidae (suspected Pochazia)*	11
Netherlands	*Phytophthora ramorum*	11
Italy	*Phytophthora ramorum*	10

Documentary issues accounted for 1634 notifications, with 471 of these being related to private imports imported by post or courier. This is an increase from the previous year which was 1167 and 668 respectively.

For Scotland, only a few non-compliances occurred, and this was due to incomplete phytosanitary certificates.

When harmful organisms or outbreaks were found at designated premises, BCPs or Control Points (CPs) in England and Wales, most businesses cooperated with APHA PHSI and other inspectors in destroying affected stock. Most businesses entered imports into the advance notification system (IPAFFS) and produced records for plant passport inspections.

When harmful organisms or outbreaks were found at ports or inland in Scotland, most businesses cooperated with plant health inspectors in destroying affected stock. Most businesses entered imports correctly into the advance notification system (IPAFFS) and produced records for plant passport inspections.

Plant, wood and wood products imports subject to inspections

In England and Wales in 2025/26, 364,798 consignments were declared, a decrease of 2% from 2024 (372,187).

Figure 56: Chart showing plant import consignments subject to inspections in England and Wales from 2020 to 2026

Note: Identity check figures have been amended to reflect a change in operational procedures; Document and ID checks are no longer completed together. ID checks are aligned with the physical check

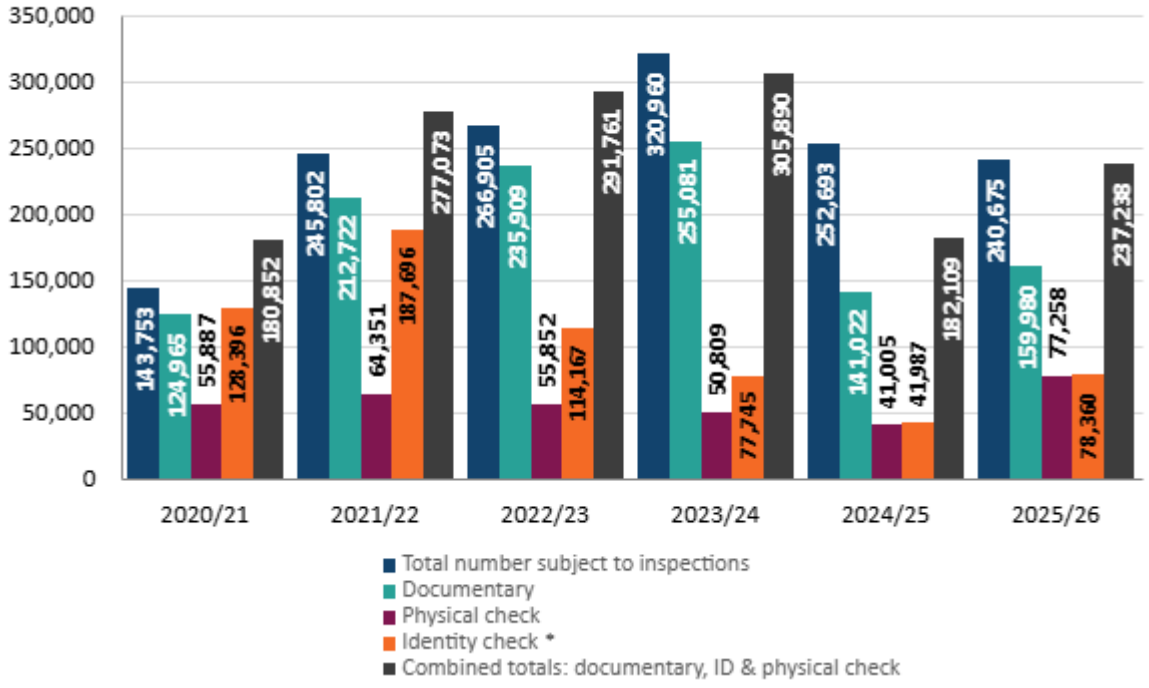


Figure 57: Chart showing plant import consignments subject to inspections for Scotland from 2020 to 2026

Notes:

Data for combined totals of checks from 2016 to 2020 have been corrected due to an error in the 2019 report.

Figures are higher in 2021 to 2022 due to the transitional period following EU Exit ended in January 2021 and inspections started on imports of high-risk plants from the EU.

Place of Destination ceased on 30 April 2024. After this date most regulated imports of plant and plant products destined for Scotland were checked by APHA having landed directly in England through a Border Control Post.

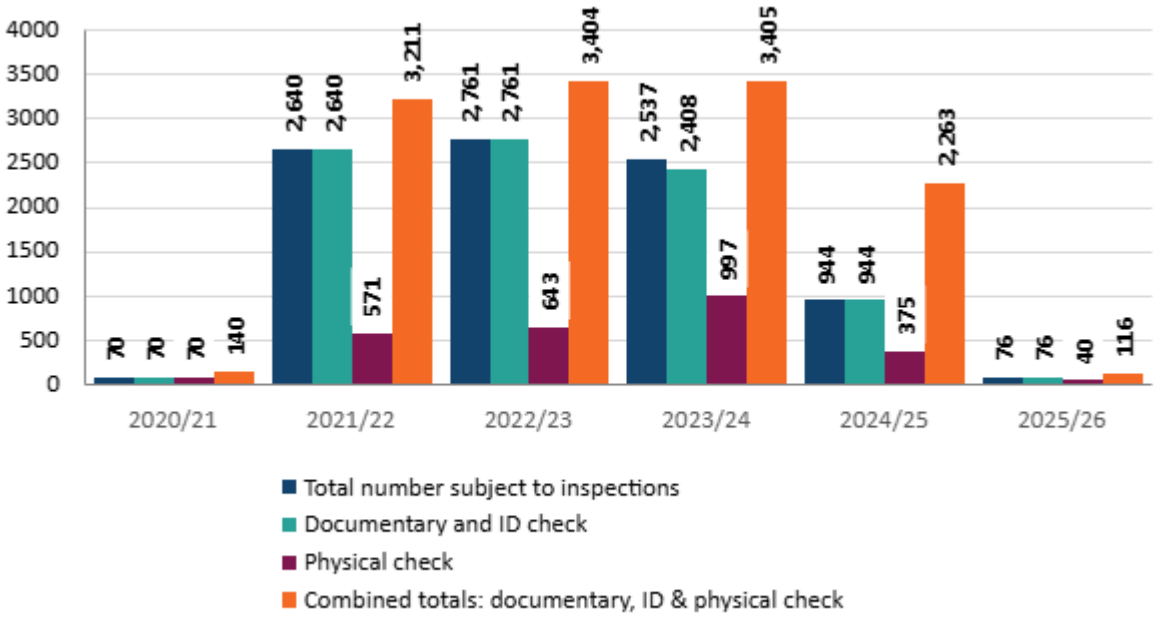
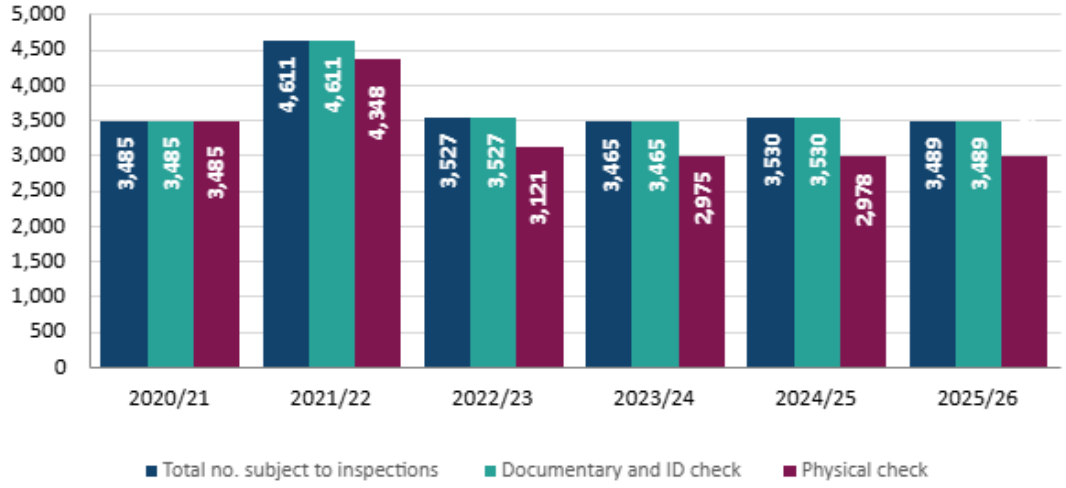


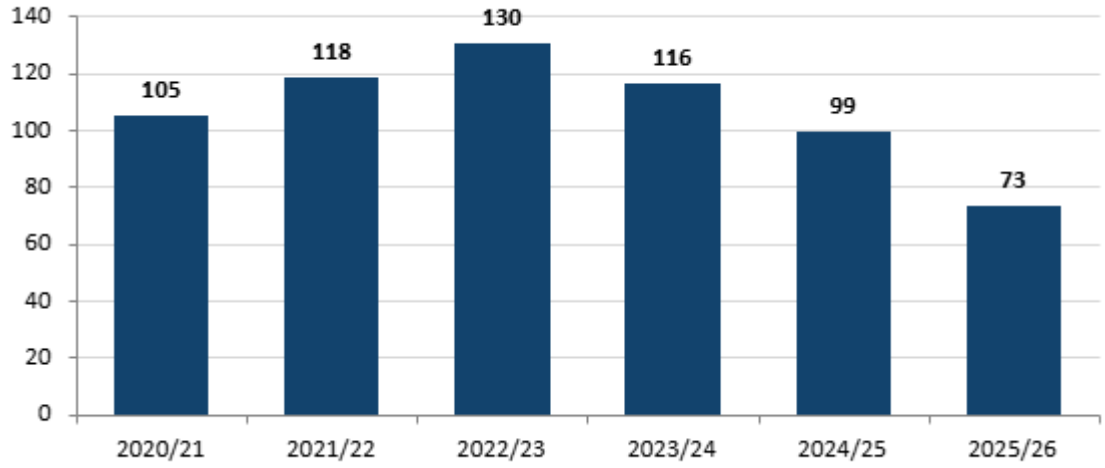
Figure 58: Chart showing wood and wood products import consignments in Great Britain subject to inspection undertaken by Forestry Commission from 2020 to 2026.

Note: Data for total number subject to inspections corrected for previous years



The inspection figures include checks on controlled wood, wood products and bark. Risk-based checks on wood packaging material (WPM) are not included in the figures. Checks on WPM were carried out according to an annual monitoring plan under the assimilated 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 in 2021. These additional checks on sawn timber and firewood still do not fully offset the sanction-driven fall in the number of checks on sawn timber imported from Russia.

Figure 59: Chart showing imported wood and wood products non-compliances in Great Britain from 2020 to 2026



Under the Forestry Commission's jurisdiction for imported material, the number of non-compliances in 2025 to 2026 was lower than in 2024 to 2025. In 2025 to 2026 the breakdown of the percentage non-compliance by product type was:

- WPM – 79%
- Dunnage – 3%
- Sawn timber – 10%
- Other – 8% (including bark and solid firewood)

During 2025 to 2026 the rules for ISPM15[10] continued to be fully enforced for wood packaging and dunnage from the EU, in the same way as from other parts of the world. Interceptions of non-compliant material from the EU represented 32% of the total interceptions.

[10] 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

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

There were three interceptions made where non-quarantine powder post beetles were found on WPM of Asian origin.

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

In 2025 to 2026, the checks for wood packaging material were associated with a wide range of goods. The most intercepted imports of goods with non-compliant wood packaging were from the USA and Türkiye, followed by Canada and India.

There was a downward trend in the volume of controlled timber. The volume of material inspected is no less than half of that seen before the sanctions on Russian imports. Almost all checks were carried out at BCPs, with only one check inland. The import checks on EU material remained at 40% of checks overall, and 59% of controlled timber volume.

Compliance rates continued to be high for controlled timber commodities, with no findings of live pests, although a small number of shipments of isolated conifer bark continued to be intercepted with live life forms of nematodes or (non-pest) insects, which suggested a failure of phytosanitary treatment.

Figure 60: Chart showing the number of phytosanitary export certificates issued in Great Britain from 2020 to 2026

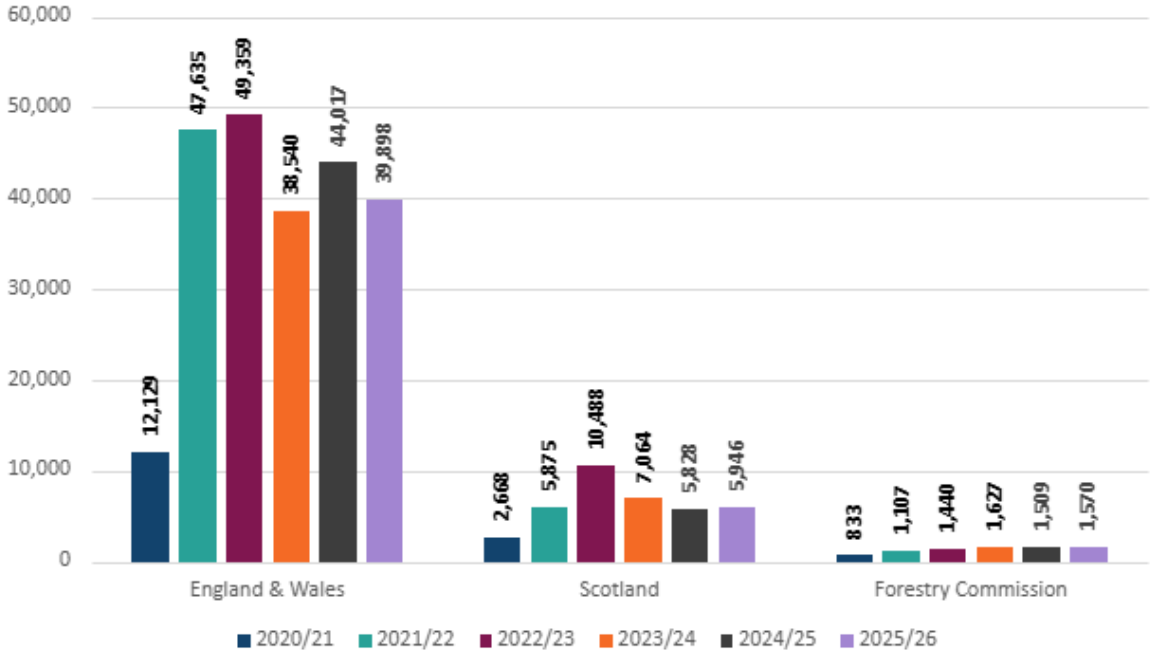
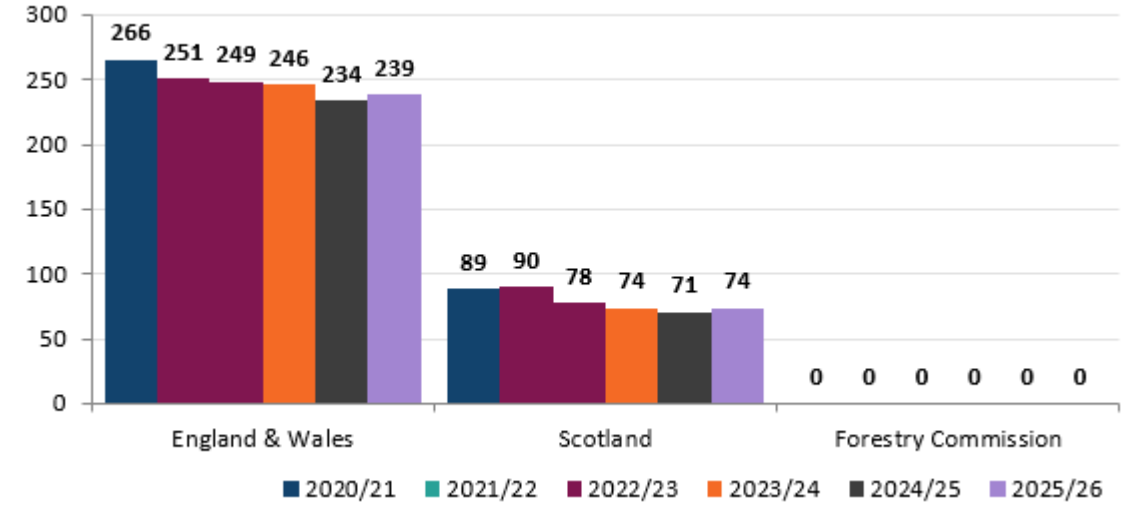


Figure 61: Chart showing the number of authorisations issued for import or holding of prohibited plants and pests in Great Britain from 2020 to 2026



The number of phytosanitary certificates for export issued by the Forestry Commission (FC) has increased since 2022, to meet demand for regulated exports to the EU. No

scientific authorisations (previously referred to as licences) were issued by FC, as the delivery of authorisations was transferred from the FC to APHA on 1 January 2021.

In England and Wales during 2025 to 2026, 239 scientific authorisations were issued to allow for the import or to hold prohibited plants and plant pests. This was compared to 234 in authorisations issued in 2024 to 2025.

In Scotland, 74 scientific authorisations were held during 2025, of which 70 were active. Authorisations remain valid for the duration of the research project, while associated Letters of Authority (LoAs), where required for the import of prohibited material, are valid for one calendar year and renewed as necessary. During the year, 14 LoAs linked to plant health authorisations and 20 LoAs linked to soil authorisations were renewed. The remaining authorisations related solely to the retention of previously imported material. One new soil authorisation was issued in 2025 following inspection of the premises and completion of any required remedial actions.

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

For APHA PHSI, enforcement of import controls was mainly by action against non-compliant consignments. This was generally handled by re-export or destruction of the consignment at the importer’s expense.

During 2025 in England and Wales, the number of non-compliant actions for imports decreased slightly from 1,687 in 2024, to 1,634 in 2025.

The enforcement of import controls in Scotland was mainly delivered by action on consignments that were non-compliant due to incorrect completion of PCs, which were corrected in time before consignments landed.

Chapter 3 - National systems of audit

British 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.

Audit of local and port health authorities

A programme of LA audits for 2025/26 was developed following a risk-based audit planning process carried out in both England and Wales. In England, the plan included audits carried over from the previous year's plan, looking at inland imported food controls and primary production. The programme on inland imported foods has now been extended into the 2026/27 programme to allow more evidence to be assessed and collated.

New topics were included in the 2025/26 plan, covering the delivery of allergen controls, food business registration and database management. In addition, the shellfish traceability audit programme was completed in 2024, and a summary report identifying any key issues and any good practice, was published in July 2025.

In Wales, the audit programme consisted of a series of LA audits from 2025/26 to assess allergen control delivery as well as reviewing any relevant open audit actions following previous audits. The audits focus on the delivery of official controls in relation to food standards. Six LAs were audited in 2025/26. Individual audit reports have been published.

For all reports mentioned above, please see these links for England and Wales.

The LA audits undertaken by the Food Standards during 2025 to 2026 are set out in Table 89.

Table 89: Local and port health authorities audits in England and Wales

Programme topic or policy area	Dates	Number of LAs audited	Number of establishment 'reality checks'	Reporting	Number of recommendations
Allergen controls & follow up of open recommendations	2025/26	6	6	6	74

Programme topic or policy area	Dates	Number of LAs audited	Number of establishment 'reality checks'	Reporting	Number of recommendations
Inland Imported Food[11]	2025/26	5	5	5	14
Primary Production[12]	2025/26	8	5	6	8

In Scotland, the 2025 to 2026 LA audit programme continued, see Table 90.

Table 90: Local authority audit programme in Scotland

Programme topic or policy area	Dates	Number of LAs audited	Number of establishment 'reality checks'	Reporting	Number of recommendations
Enforcement Actions	2025/26	6	0	Throughout 2025/26	Conclusions only

Summary of audit findings

Primary Production

England

- Overall, the audit programme provided limited assurance[13], with arrangements requiring improvement to ensure consistent delivery of official controls.

[11] Programme still ongoing at the time of writing

[12] Programme included some merged services

[13] Definitions of audit assurance levels:

Substantial: The system for delivering official controls demonstrate effective implementation of planned arrangements suitable to achieve the objectives of legal requirements and guidance.

Moderate: The system for delivering official controls requires some improvement to fully demonstrate effective implementation of planned arrangements suitable to achieve the objectives of legal requirements and guidance.

- Service plans were in place in each authority audited, but primary production was not clearly reflected, and resource needs were not clearly defined.

- LAs showed strong intelligence gathering and collaboration, but premises data was sometimes incomplete or inaccurate.

- Risk-based approaches were applied inconsistently, with no standardised method to determine inspection frequency.

- Higher-risk businesses were not consistently identified or prioritised, limiting effective targeting of interventions.

- The Inland Imported Food programme is still ongoing, and findings will be published in due course.

Wales

Local Authority Allergen Controls

Findings

- Moderate assurance (two LAs) - Have a risk-based plan to re-align with the FLCoP and are making good progress in accordance with the plan. Quality of allergen controls good in one LA but variable in the other.
- Limited assurance (four LAs) – One LA had a risk-based plan to re-align with the FLCoP and making good progress in accordance with the plan. Plan to re-align with FLCoP inadequate or not sufficiently supported in the other three. Quality of allergen controls variable but commonly poor.
- In terms of intervention numbers, where LAs have were not able to re-align with the intervention frequencies contained within the FCoP, the programme looked for assurance that LAs have taken a risk-based and intelligence-led approach to their prioritisation of interventions, and that they were working towards re-aligning with the FLCoP.

Limited: The system for delivering official controls requires significant improvement to fully demonstrate effective implementation of planned arrangements suitable to achieve the objectives of legal requirements and guidance.

Unsatisfactory: The system for delivering official controls requires substantial improvement to fully demonstrate effective implementation of planned arrangements suitable to achieve the objectives of legal requirements and guidance.

- Four of the six authorities had identified a shortfall in authorised officers but had not fully addressed the deficit.
- Common defects detected were:
  - Not consistently conducting thorough assessments of allergen controls during inspections
  - Inconsistent application of food standards risk ratings
  - Intervention reports did not always include all the required information
  - Not always taking appropriate follow up action
  - Not consistently undertaking revisits as required
  - Not removing unsafe food from the market during inspections
  - Inadequate food sampling programmes
  - Inadequate investigation of allergen related food complaints
  - Not taking appropriate level of enforcement
  - Internal monitoring (quality control) system not covering all activities
- Occasional serious defects detected were:
  - Loss of interventions data in one LA following database migration
  - Not informing the FSA or other LAs of issues relating to unsafe food as required
  - Not taking appropriate follow-up action where food samples failed requirements or complaints were substantiated, e.g. unsafe food left on the market and root cause not investigated

Scotland - Local Authority Audits

At a time of limited resource, the local authority audit programme in Scotland for 2025/26 was focussed on a horizontal review of a number of local authorities with the overarching aim of assessing and verifying the arrangements in place at local authorities to ensure the adequate and effective delivery of official controls, specifically enforcement actions in LA enforced establishments.

The audit covered the organisation, planning, implementation, and review of official controls across six local authorities, and consisted of a documentation review and one online meeting with an Audit Liaison Officer over the course of approximately ten days in each case.

Findings were presented to each local authority at a closing meeting, and a final overall summary report was also presented. No assurance categories were given.

Across the six authorities audited in this programme, despite on-going resource and capacity issues, food law enforcement was found to be robust and reliable, with evidence of improved standards following enforcement actions. Officers showed professionalism, competence, and commitment.

Systemic issues, however, were identified concerning the central database accuracy, and backlogs of unrated and overdue inspections as a result of resource shortage.

Audit of Border Control Posts and Control Points (POA, P and PP and LA) [14]

In the 2025 to 2026 year, the APHA, BCP Designation and Audit Team, Quality Services, Animal & Plant Health Expert Services Directorate completed annual audits at border control posts (BCPs), including all inspection centres (ICs) and control points (CPs) designated for products of animal origin (POA), live animals (LA) and plants, plants products, other objects (P, PP, OO) in England and Scotland (excluding P, PP, OO sites in Scotland which are under the direction of Scottish Government). There were no designated BCPs, ICs or CPs in Wales in the audit year. In total, 100% of audits required were completed.

During 2025/26 designations took place as follows.

- P, PP, OO - Two BCPs for expansion, one modification of facilities, one new IC and three new CPs. Two BCPs ICs and two CPs delisted.
- POA – One BCP added a new commodity to their listing.
- LA – No change.

Table 91: Designation audits from 2023 to 2025

Category of designation	Total number of BCPs, ICs and CPs audited	Number of compliant audits	Sites with Findings
Live animals (LA) 2023 to 2024	8	0	8
Live animals (LA) 2024 to 2025	9	0	9
Live animals (LA) 2025 to 2026	9	0	9

[14] BCPs/ICs designated for PNAO only that are not shared with POA are out of scope for our team, these ICs are covered by FSA/FSS, SASA have the remit for P and PP in Scotland.

Category of designation	Total number of BCPs, ICs and CPs audited	Number of compliant audits	Sites with Findings
Plants, Plants Products, Other objects (P, PP, OO) 2023 to 2024	76	18	58
Plants, Plants Products, Other objects (P, PP, OO) 2024 to 2025	104	32	72
Plants, Plants Products, Other objects (P, PP, OO) 2025 to 2026	102	32	70
Products of Animal origin (POA) 2023 to 2024	17	4	13
Products of Animal origin (POA) 2024 to 2025	30	10	20
Products of Animal origin (POA) 2025 to 2026	Facilities – 35 PHA/LA procedures - 27	Facilities – 3 PHA/LA procedures - 9	Facilities – 32 PHA/LA procedures 18
Total 2023 to 2024	101	22	79
Total 2024 to 2025	143	42	101
Total 2025 to 2026	173	44	129

Audits covered facilities, operation, and procedures. Port Health/Local authority (PHA/LA) procedures for POA are now reported separately as some PHA/LA are responsible for

multiple BCPs using common procedures for veterinary checks. This increased the number of audits completed in comparison with the 2024 to 2025 year.

Of the audits with findings, no high-risk non-compliance caused an imminent risk to animal, public or plant heath or animal welfare that required immediate referral to the central competent authority (CCA). One high risk finding was reported to the CCA in relation to veterinary service provision at a seasonal BCP which was resolved before throughput resumed. There was one high risk finding that was identified outside of audit which was resolved following official regulatory intervention. Of the sites where more significant non-compliance was identified, mitigations were put in place and suitable actions and timescales agreed to rectify. Evidence from post audit follow up procedures shows these were resolved. Low risk findings were predominantly related to documentation, operational and structural issues that could be resolved at time of visit or evidenced as compliant shortly after.

When taking in to account the reporting of POA procedures separately the level of findings was comparable to the 2023 to 2024 audit year. A significant proportion of findings were associated to operational procedures requiring refinement and submission of completed internal verification checks by local competent authorities.

Internal audits conducted by competent authorities

Great Britain's competent authorities completed risk-based audits of operational systems, processes and procedures for food and feed, animal welfare and plant health. Audits of associated control bodies were also undertaken. These audits ensured that requirements of Article 6 of assimilated Regulation (EC) 625/2017 were met.

Table 92: Internal audits conducted by competent authorities 2025 to 2026

Audit programme topic and policy area audited	Sector	Competent authority	Country	Assurance level	Final report issued	Recommendations
Risk Mitigation Effectiveness	Animal, Plant and Bee Health	APHA (conducted by GIAA)	England, Scotland and Wales	Limited	11-Jun-26	10
Staff Management Processes	Animal, Plant and Bee Health	APHA (conducted by GIAA)	England, Scotland and Wales	Limited	11-Feb-26	5
Agency Business Continuity	Animal, Plant and Bee Health	APHA (conducted by GIAA)	England, Scotland and Wales	Moderate	28-Apr-26	4

Audit programme topic and policy area audited	Sector	Competent authority	Country	Assurance level	Final report issued	Recommendations
Talent Management	Animal, Plant and Bee Health	APHA (conducted by GIAA)	England, Scotland and Wales	Moderate	28-Jul-26	1
Delivering Sustainable Future Programme	Animal, Plant and Bee Health	APHA (conducted by GIAA)	England, Scotland and Wales	Moderate	05-May-26	5
Biosecurity	Animal, Plant and Bee Health	APHA (conducted by GIAA)	England, Scotland and Wales	Moderate	06-Jan-26	3
Cyber Security Risk Management	Animal, Plant and Bee Health	APHA (conducted by GIAA)	England, Scotland and Wales	Limited	16-Mar-26	5
Response to National Audit Office	Animal Health Welfare	Scottish Government	Scotland	Limited	April 2026	15

Audit programme topic and policy area audited	Sector	Competent authority	Country	Assurance level	Final report issued	Recommendations
Warm (partially chilled) Meat	Approved Abattoirs	FSA	England and Wales	Limited	March 2026	5
Ante Mortem Inspection	Approved Abattoirs	FSA	England and Wales	TBC	TBC	TBC
Notifiable Diseases	Approved Abattoirs	FSA	England and Wales	Substantial	June 2025	10
Unannounced Inspections (UAI)	Approved Establishments	FSA	England and Wales	Moderate	June 2026	21
Trichinella controls	Food	FSS	Scotland	Reasonable	July 2025	3
Microbiological criteria	Food	FSS	Scotland	Limited	January 2026	4
Resource Allocation	Food	FSS	Scotland	Limited	May 2026	4

Summary of audit findings

England

There was no Official Feed and Food Controls work identified for inclusion in the Defra Internal Audit plan for 2025 to 2026.

Wales

The European Funds Audit Team (EFAT) and the Internal Audit Service (IAS) are 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.

There were no system audits planned for 2025. However, EFAT undertook four compliance audits of projects under the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF). No significant findings were identified from these audits.

Scotland - Response to National Audit Office (NAO) – Resilience to Animal Diseases

The review of Response to National Audit Office – Resilience to Animal Diseases identified 15 improvement opportunities. A limited assurance rating was provided on the basis of work performed to date and evidence available. It was assessed that governance frameworks are present but not consistently effective. Assurance over delivery (especially non-KPI and OC checks), data quality, and resilience preparedness require targeted improvement. These findings are consistent with the NAO's system-wide observations on data/systems, exercising, and workforce capacity.

Food Standards Agency (FSA)

England and Wales

Audit reports for three audits were issued in 2025/26 covering the official controls delivery for Warm (Partially Chilled) Meat, Unannounced Inspections and Notifiable Diseases at approved meat establishments across England and Wales for which the FSA acts as the competent authority.

The audit on Warm Meat resulted in a 'limited' audit opinion, showing that improvements were required to allow effective controls to be delivered and monitored in this area. This activity forms only a very small proportion of the overall controls delivered by the FSA, but several high-risk issues were identified, and an

appropriate management action plan was put in place and delivered to address the issues.

The audit on Notifiable Diseases resulted in a ‘substantial’ audit opinion. There was an effective system in place for the delivery and monitoring of controls in this area of work, with no high-risk findings. No high-risk issues were identified as part of the audit.

The audit on Unannounced Inspections resulted in a ‘moderate’ opinion, meaning that some improvements are required to enhance the adequacy and effectiveness of the framework of governance, risk management and control. No high-risk issues were found as part of the audit.

Food Standards Scotland (FSS)

The 2025/26 internal audit programme was agreed by the FSS Audit and Risk Committee.

All three audits covered work areas for which FSS Meat Hygiene Operations have responsibility. The audit recommendations are, in all cases, being progressed by agreed action plans. The Trichinella action plan is complete, and this audit has been closed.

Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA)

Seven audits were undertaken by the Government Internal Audit Agency (GIAA) in the 2025 reporting year, all seven were assurance pieces, an eighth audit was cancelled. Three audits were delivered to final report by year end March 26, with others in April, May, June and July 2026.

GIAA provided an overall moderate opinion on the framework of governance, risk management and control within the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) for the year 2025 to 2026.

APHA Policies and Operating Procedures

APHA has extensive operating procedures in place.

APHA Quality Assurance and Lessons Learned

APHA has several 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 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 GIAA Audit Findings

The staff management audit raised recommendations related to updating policies on pay allowances and overtime claims, oversight of flexi balances, improvements to overtime forms, establish routine management and compliance checks and provide additional line management training.

The business continuity audit raised recommendations related to reviewing gaps in compliance, consistency in messaging, clarity over external suppliers, enhanced training.

The delivering sustainable futures audit raised recommendations related to embedding a governance framework to reduce ambiguity, improve consistency, provide effective oversight and strengthen benefits realisation.

The biosecurity audit raised recommendations related to the approach to documenting responsibilities, procedures and governance arrangements, prioritisation guidance and extension of quality systems across the agency.

The cyber security audit raised recommendations related to implementation of operational level agreements with Digital, Data, Technology and Security (DDTS) and measurable standards, vulnerabilities framework, governance framework with dedicated roles and reporting and oversight mechanisms.

The recommendation tracking for APHA in this period showed all actions remain open and in progress during 2025 to 2026 reporting period.

Audit of organic control bodies

The accreditation of organic control bodies is undertaken by the UK Accreditation Service (UKAS). UKAS carries out annual assessments to ensure these bodies are operating in accordance with the control requirements. UKAS accredits the control bodies under ISO/IEC 17065:2012 against the assimilated Organic Regulations; Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007, and Commission Regulations (EC) 889/2008 and 1235/2008.

In 2025, UKAS concluded that satisfactory evidence had been demonstrated in several areas to allow them to recommend continued approval of all control bodies for performing organic certification duties. Where mandatory findings were raised, all

control bodies completed corrective actions and UKAS have satisfactorily closed the findings.

Defra is required to carry out inspections of control bodies with delegated control tasks, to ensure compliance and to identify any arising issues. These oversight visits include assessment of documentation of the control body's relevant policies and procedures, in depth discussions of their procedures and sampling of operator files. Defra receives a copy of each control body's UKAS accreditation report and reviews it ahead of conducting its own oversight visits.

Defra is reviewing its control and supervision system and were only able to conduct head office visits for two control bodies in 2025. However, Defra is satisfied that a satisfactory level of compliance was achieved in 2025 through the accreditation reports, annual control body reporting, and regular engagement with the control bodies.

Chapter 4 - Resources

Number of control staff in Great Britain

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 2026.

- Note 1: The LA FTE figure is for the professional food posts occupied and includes FTE diverted to non-food related duties as at 31 March 2026 in England and Wales.
- Note 2: The FSA FTE figure represents only front-line staff who deliver official controls. It excludes admin and support staff.

Table 93: Breakdown of staffing numbers by authority

Authority	Full time equivalents (FTE) at 31 March 2025	Full time equivalents (FTE) at 31 March 2026
Food Standards Agency	840	830
Food Standards Scotland	131	137
Local authorities	2,013	1550 (England/Wales) 205.5 (Scotland)
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	414	375.85
Welsh Government	109	59.25
Scottish Government	332	329

Authority	Full time equivalents (FTE) at 31 March 2025	Full time equivalents (FTE) at 31 March 2026
Animal and Plant Health Agency	3,282	3351.9
Veterinary Medicines Directorate	32	24
Health and Safety Executive	19	21
Rural Payments Agency	10	10.35
Forestry Commission	67	67
Fera Science Ltd	141	157
Pirbright Institute	18	18
Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science	32	32
Marine Directorate	26	25
Marine Management Organisation	106	90
Total (to nearest whole figure)	7,572	7,282.85

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

The FSA published a revised Food Law Codes of Practice and Practice Guidance in October 2025. Publication followed a consultation held in February 2025, which closed in May 2025, and a summary of responses was subsequently published. These changes provide LAs with ways in which they can target their resources as effectively as possible.

In Scotland, work to update, amalgamate and streamline the Food Law Code of Practice and the Intervention Code, into a single concise Code, began in 2025/26. The review includes updates to legislation, qualification and competencies for authorised enforcement officers and the incorporation of intervention frequencies for approved establishments. Content removed from the existing Codes will be retained and provided to enforcement officers in updated supporting guidance documents. The revision continues into 2026/27 and will be completed in March 2027.

To address the risks associated with the current local authority food law delivery model in Scotland, FSS has launched its SAFER programme. SAFER is a programme of reform to secure improved public health outcomes through model redesign, developing and embracing new and more efficient ways of working, better use of data and digital technologies, and ensuring financial sustainability.

Following approval of the programme's Research and Evidence Strategy, work is underway, including a large-scale survey of food businesses and food law professionals, to inform the development and assessment of future options for a modernised and sustainable food law delivery system in Scotland.

The transitional and implementation phase of the programme will take place in 2028/29, with further improvement and enhancements over time.

FSS received funding from the Scottish Government's Public Sector Reform (PSR) Invest to Save (ITS) initiative for the 2025/2026 financial year.

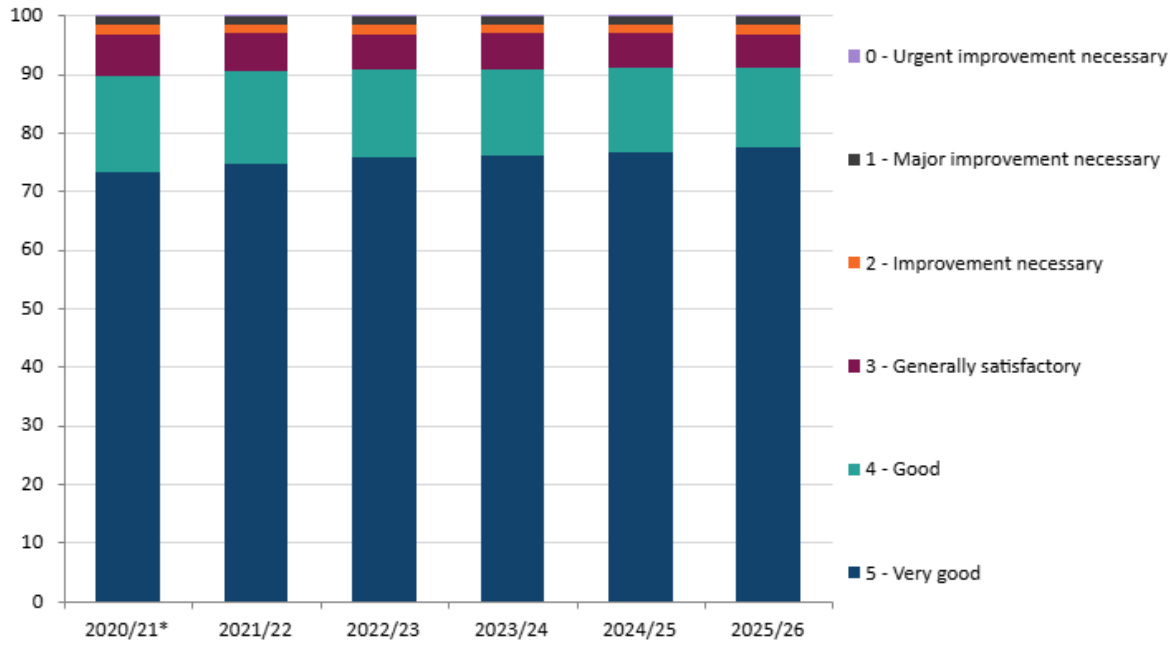
Food Hygiene Rating and Food Hygiene Information Schemes

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.

At the end of 2024/25 (31st March 2025), there were records for approximately 528,000 food businesses in England and Wales published on the FHRS website. In Scotland, records for approximately 58000 food businesses are available on the FSS website.

Figure 62 shows a steady improvement in businesses achieving the highest FHRS rating of five in England and Wales.

Figure 62: Chart showing the percentage distribution of FHRS ratings in England and Wales from 2020 to 2026



In total, 97% of food businesses in England and Wales achieved FHRS ratings of three and above, unchanged from 2024/25.

Allergen labelling

The FSA continued its work to improve the provision of allergen information for consumers and people with food hypersensitivities, with a focus on precautionary allergen labelling and the provision of information for non-prepacked foods.

In December 2025, the FSA Board considered advice on precautionary allergen labelling, including the UK's position in relation to international developments and potential next steps.

Preparatory work was undertaken to support the planned evaluation of the best practice guidance on the provision of allergen information for non-prepacked foods, published in March 2025. Fieldwork is scheduled to commence in early summer 2026, with findings expected to be reported in early 2027. The review will assess the implementation and effectiveness of the guidance and inform future policy development, including consideration of whether further regulatory or legislative action is appropriate.

Guidance for Enforcement Officers

FSS has developed guidance for enforcement officers on Grey Market goods (goods not formulated, labelled, or intended to be sold on the market in Great Britain), and which may be non-compliant with Great Britain's domestic and assimilated EU legislation. Of most concern are non-compliant labelling and use of unauthorised food additives, or additives not used in accordance with legislation.

FSS developed enforcement guidance on the use of additives in food businesses. The guidance highlights the importance of assessing additive use in different businesses, outlining the approach to additive authorisation and how officers can navigate the authorisation system to ascertain the permitted use of additives in different food types.

Food fraud and food crime

Each year, the National Food Crime Unit (NFCU) conducts an intelligence review to assess food crime threats, informing its Control Strategy priorities for the year ahead. In 2025/26, these focused on the misrepresentation, adulteration and substitution of meat, poultry and dairy products; waste diversion within meat, poultry, dairy and feed supply chains; and supply chains posing high authenticity risks to the UK.

The NFCU set new targets for Strategic Intelligence Requirements (SIRs). SIRs are identified intelligence gaps relating to the Control Strategy priorities and help the NFCU to focus resource to advance understanding of food crime. NFCU achieved an

overall improvement rate[15] of 83% across 36 identified SIRs, against the target of 65%.

National Disruptions[16] and NFCU Outcomes[17] are a key measure of the NFCU's effectiveness against food crime. In 2025/26 the NFCU set new targets to enhance this focus, achieving 83 Disruptions (8 over target) and 157 NFCU Outcomes (27 over target).

Key disruptions included the seizure of 90 pallets (over 67,000 bottles) of misrepresented or counterfeit wine and prosecco valued at around £500,000, leading to an arrest. Another important disruption was the removal of 16 tonnes of misrepresented basmati rice in counterfeit packaging, resulting in five arrests through an NFCU-led operation with LAs and police.

The NFCU achieved strong judicial outcomes in 2025/26, disrupting serious organised crime. A complex, NFCU-led multi-agency investigation into the impersonation of legitimate UK food businesses led to a 2.5 year custodial sentence for handling over £500,000 of stolen food and a seven-year director disqualification. An NFCU-led investigation into waste diversion offences secured convictions against four individuals and a food business for returning unfit meat to the food chain. The NFCU also removed 1.9 tonnes of illicit animal by-products, with total sentences exceeding eight years imprisonment.

The Scottish Food Crime and Incidents Unit (SFCIU) and the NFCU continue to support joint working across the UK and devolved governments on a four-nation approach to tackle the risk from illegally imported meat entering the UK food supply chain via ports. This work is focused on information and intelligence sharing between key agencies as part of tackling this criminal activity and the potential animal and human disease risk.

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[15] The overall improvement rate is measured using a RAG system: Red indicates insufficient intelligence to understand the SIR issue; Amber indicates partial intelligence with ongoing development; and Green indicates sufficient intelligence and clear understanding of the identified issue or vulnerability.

[16] National Disruptions are a validated law enforcement framework that measure when the NFCU has had a direct impact on serious organised food crime relating to UK food supply chains.

[17] An NFCU Outcome is defined as any action led, supported or co-ordinated by the NFCU that falls short of disrupting serious organised crime and therefore a national disruption but still, develops capacity and capability to identify and deal with food crime or; deters potential offenders from acting dishonestly or; improves awareness of vulnerabilities and promotes the taking of action to improve protection thereof.

During 2025/26, this activity led to the removal of 51.2 tonnes of unfit product, valued at £0.5 million, from the food chain by the NFCU.

An NFCU-led investigation targeting illegally imported meat products resulted in the seizure of 38kg of frozen bushmeat in December 2025 and of 11kg of bushmeat in March 2026. Seized species included pangolin, cane rat, porcupine and antelope.

In 2025/26, the NFCU strengthened food crime prevention, with a greater focus on small and medium enterprises at higher risk of food fraud. It delivered 10 in-person sessions to 151 industry partners and launched targeted training for third-party food safety auditors, reaching 48 participants to improve understanding and reporting.

Additionally, 23 presentations were delivered to businesses, industry bodies and universities, and three Food Crime Alerts were issued to highlight serious fraud risks to UK businesses. These efforts contributed to five National Disruptions, helping improve business preparedness and resilience against food crime.

The NFCU disrupted organised crime by working with the Insolvency Service, the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency to target illegal meat distribution, and the National Rural Crime Unit to stop stolen livestock entering the food chain.

The NFCU and SFCIU strengthened global horizon scanning through delivering Strategic Food Safety Dialogue priorities with the Global Alliance on Food Crime, expanding partnerships with Italy's ICQRF (*Ispettorato centrale della tutela della qualità e della repressione frodi dei prodotti agroalimentari* / The national law enforcement authority responsible for protecting agri-food quality standards and combating fraud), the Netherlands' NVWA (Nederlandse Voedsel- en Warenautoriteit / Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority) and the European Food Fraud Community of Practice. Agreements support joint operational activity to address emerging threats and enable knowledge transfer on intelligence gathering, digital techniques and prevention.

Through annual participation in Operation OPSON, NFCU coordinated with 32 UK LAs in 2025, testing over 300 samples and delivering recalls, intelligence development and enforcement action in the UK and internationally.

The Scottish Food Crime and Incidents Unit (SFCIU) has introduced a streamlined reporting mechanism via a digital webform with QR code access. This allows partner regulatory agencies to submit intelligence directly into the Unit's case management system, significantly improving the volume, quality, and timeliness of reporting. As a result, the Unit has seen a marked increase in actionable intelligence and associated enforcement outcomes.

Recent enforcement activity indicates an ongoing and evolving risk from the illicit handling and diversion of animal by-products, posing threats to both regulated supply chains and informal markets. Intelligence shows some actors are deliberately exploiting regulatory gaps, while coordinated multi-agency enforcement has proven effective in disrupting this activity at operational and tactical levels.

Targeted SFCIU interventions have prevented unsafe material entering supply chains, reducing risks to public and animal health and consumer confidence. However, repeat non-compliance persists despite prior engagement, indicating that disruption alone is insufficient and that enforcement and prosecution are sometimes required.

The SFCIU has a long-standing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with local authorities Food Teams, incorporating a 'Scottish Food Crime' model which formalises partnership working to maximise the effectiveness of food crime investigation. This has been successfully applied in the following examples:

- In 2024 the SFCIU worked in close collaboration with local authorities and other partner agencies in seizing potentially lethal counterfeit alcohol from retail establishments across the central belt of Scotland. In 2025, further seizures were made which prompted the issuing of a Food Alert for Action by FSS which led to 1700 premises around Scotland being visited by LAs. As a result of these joint activities a number of food business owners have been reported for consideration of prosecution and has led to the revocation of premises and personal alcohol licences. More recent test-purchasing activity across high-risk supply chains found no evidence of counterfeit products, indicating a measurable deterrent effect.
- An SFCIU investigation found an individual fraudulently selling imported tea as "Scottish-grown" and supplying over 22,000 misrepresented plants while fabricating credentials, awards, and a plantation business. Evidence showed tea and plants were sourced cheaply from England and Europe, then repackaged and sold at inflated prices, defrauding consumers and growers of over £550,000 combined. The individual was convicted and sentenced to 3.5 years' imprisonment and Proceeds of Crime is pending.

The SFCIU contributes to the Scottish Multi-Agency Strategic Threat Assessment and continues to participate in the Police Scotland chaired Multi-Agency Tasking and Delivery Board, supporting coordinated action against organised crime, reflected in the Unit's intelligence and tactical support during Operation MACHINIZE 2.

Intelligence considerations meetings

The fortnightly Intelligence considerations meetings (ICM) continue to provide a cross FSA forum for sharing information and signals on developing food and feed standards threats. The meeting is regularly attended by FSS ensuring a four-nation discussion to work to solve identified problems appropriately.

Examples of referrals accepted and progressed in 2025 include:

- ICM assessed intelligence relating to food standards non-compliance and food safety risks associated with imported products marketed as ‘Dubai chocolate’. Through intelligence development, targeted sampling and cross-FSA coordination, concerns were identified regarding allergen labelling, undeclared peanuts, mycotoxin contamination and non-compliant product information. Sampling results found multiple products unsatisfactory, with multiple failures relating to allergens, labelling and contamination. ICM enabled the sharing of an intelligence profile with enforcement partners, supported public communications warning consumers with allergies of potential risks, and brought together incident prevention, enforcement and industry stakeholders to promote awareness and improve compliance, helping to strengthen consumer protection and inform future regulatory action.
- ICM discussed intelligence relating to Swedish Fish confectionery products containing mineral oil hydrocarbons and recurring incidents of non-compliance. Following reports of products remaining available for sale and concerns raised through incident investigations and consumer enquiries, ICM co-ordinated targeted sampling through the Directed Sampling Programme. Testing identified Mineral Oil Aromatic Hydrocarbons (MOAH) and Mineral Oil Saturated Hydrocarbons (MOSH) in sampled products at levels assessed as being of toxicological concern. ICM facilitated cross-FSA working with Food Incidents colleagues to support risk assessment and the development of appropriate risk management actions, helping to strengthen the evidence base for regulatory intervention and protect consumers.
- ICM assessed intelligence relating to *salmonella* risks in pistachios and pistachio-based products imported from Iran and Türkiye, following international outbreak reports in North America and multiple food safety incidents reported to the FSA. Through collaboration with Imported Foods and Incidents Prevention teams, import data identified significant volumes of pistachio products entering the UK, resulting in the products being prioritised within the Early Warning System and targeted sampling being commissioned. Local authority and Fera sampling programmes tested for *salmonella* and aflatoxins, with only a single failure identified and all local authority samples found to be satisfactory. This work provided evidence that existing import

controls and surveillance arrangements were operating effectively, supporting continued risk assessment and helping to protect consumers.

- ICM assessed significant QUID (Quantitative Ingredient Declaration) discrepancies identified through FSA Wales sampling of pre-packed supermarket sandwiches, which found differences of between 2% and 21% between declared and actual meat content. In response, ICM co-ordinated further targeted sampling through the Directed Sampling Programme and FSA Wales, which identified a 59% non-compliance rate, with composition discrepancies of up to 25% from labelled ham content. Traceability work identified three manufacturers supplying at scale across the sector, enabling engagement with businesses and enforcement partners to address the underlying causes of non-compliance. Through collaboration between local authorities, FSA Wales, LAICT and the NFCU, corrective action was implemented, audits and checks were undertaken, and businesses worked to improve compliance, demonstrating the value of ICM in co-ordinating intelligence-led interventions to protect consumers and support accurate food information.

Incident management protocols

In 2025 the FSA:

- introduced a new PRISM case management system for recording and handling food safety incidents and signal data sources. The new system streamlines the uploading of documents, case handling, and the use of data for decision making. The FSA and FSS continued to review and develop Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to support the crisis management processes.
- delivered 24 activities aimed at strengthening organisational resilience. These activities formed part of a coordinated programme of strategic and tactical initiatives, including several cross-government exercises. The programme was designed to enhance crisis management capability and capacity through targeted interventions, ensuring that the FSA continues to develop and enhance its capability and capacity to respond and effectively manage crises and emergencies.
- significantly expanded and strengthened the system focus and capability to prevent incidents. Root Cause Analysis (RCA) has been a critical systematic tool to understand incident causes, improve system intelligence, and identify recurring drivers of failure, enabling prioritised upstream interventions.
- received a total of 260 RCA submissions following FSA requests in response to food and feed incidents. Analysis of this data identified systemic issues, supporting targeted risk-mitigation actions and informing incident prevention

plans. An RCA programme, overseen by strategic and tactical industry and FSA/FSS working groups, was established to drive the agenda forward and support a shift from sustained incident response towards effective prevention. A series of subject-matter expert-led initiatives strengthened the RCA framework, enabling enhanced analysis and generating more valuable regulatory and industry learning. Development of a revised RCA categorisation system was initiated to harmonise data standards across the food system, with insights from RCA data published to provide sector-wide intelligence.

The Signals team proactively scans a variety of international data sources to identify emerging risks or issues which might impact the UK. These checks prioritise the processing of ‘signals of interest’, enabling assessments of UK risks and the determination of appropriate mitigating actions.

The team processed 12,700 signals during the 2025/26 period, identifying and referring 129 signals to Incidents teams for information or action. A total of 39 referrals were made to enforcement authorities or Government departments for further investigation, 29 referrals were made to online marketplaces to instigate the removal of products, and 18 referrals were communicated with others for action or awareness. Additionally, 458 signals were also shared for information.

FSS participated in number of exercises and training opportunities to continue to strengthen its incident response capability. This included:

- A Feed Incident Workshop which brought together colleagues from FSS, APHA and VMD to strengthen joint working during feed-related incidents. Through presentations, a tabletop exercise and group discussions, participants developed a shared understanding of roles and responsibilities, identified strengths and improvement opportunities within current arrangements, and began discussions on developing or updating a Memorandum of Understanding to support effective multi-agency incident response.
- Management of Foodborne outbreak training workshop brought together partners to share expertise on the management of foodborne disease outbreaks and strengthen multi-agency collaboration. The session focused on how evidence is gathered, assessed and used to inform risk management decisions, identified training and capability needs across organisations, and explored opportunities for enhanced engagement. It also helped identify potential updates to Scotland's outbreak management guidance and informed the development of a future exercise to test key outbreak response principles.

FSS has also carried out an extensive review of FSS's Incident Management Framework (IMF) which was completed to ensure that FSS continues to build on the organisation's incident response resilience and capacity. FSS incidents team has also enhanced the induction process and training materials to ensure staff involved in the management of incidents have the necessary skills to respond effectively. A programme of training will continue to be delivered in the coming year to ensure FSS remains effective in its response to future food and feed incidents.

The Scottish Food Crime & Incidents Unit (SFCIU) Support Team continues to embed a structured approach to post-incident review, ensuring that organisational learning is captured and translated into measurable improvements in both incident response capability and risk management practices.

During the reporting period, seven incident reviews have been completed, spanning a diverse range of incidents.

FSS has also delivered a suite of e-learning courses on:

- Introduction to Incidents
- FSS Incident Management Framework
- Introduction to FSS Incident Management System. This training has been made available to both internal FSS staff and key stakeholders who are involved in the management of incidents in Scotland.

Scottish Food Crime & Incidents Unit (SFCIU) has developed an Incident Prevention Strategic Plan 2024 to 2027. The plan sets out a framework with the aim of identifying effective long term preventative actions. An integral part of this is the sharing of information and learning between FSS, industry and key stakeholders. FSS will look to identify potential issues through horizon scanning and intelligence capture, coupled with identifying common themes through data analysis, best practice and lessons learned from incidents as well as utilising information shared by industry.

This strategy will take cognisance of other Incident prevention work elsewhere in the UK and around the world to help ensure the furthest reaching data sets and prevention activity feed into FSS analysis and preventative action plans. It is important to understand how the use of our data can be optimised across industry to prevent incidents. FSS has begun to develop proactive engagement and interaction with industry through communication and information sharing, as well as growing a collaborative approach to incident prevention with UK stakeholders and international partners.

Actions in the plant and plant health sectors

In total there are 26 pest specific contingency plans that have been published for agricultural and horticultural pests. A new contingency plan for *Lycorma delicatula* was published in 2025. The contingency plans for *Clavibacter sepedonicus*, *Epitrix* spp. potato flea beetles, and *Leptinotarsa decemlineata* were also revised.

The Forestry Commission has a formal process for the review of pest-specific tree health contingency plans (CPs) as agreed with the UK Plant Health Risk Group. There are a total of 14 tree health contingency plans, published on the Plant Health Information Portal. A review of the CP for *Agrilus anxius* (Bronze Birch Borer) was carried out in 2025/2026.

In March 2026 the Forestry Commission introduced a Demarcated Area in Devon in response to a finding that sweet chestnut blight was reproducing sexually and had the potential to spread rapidly and over longer distances through the movement of airborne spores. The measures restrict the felling and movement of sweet chestnut trees and other susceptible material capable of spreading the disease, helping to prevent further spread.

In October 2025 a Spruce Site Assessment (SSA) grant opened in England. The grant is funding is for landowners to assess their woodland to understand the amount and condition of spruce present and to plan for potential felling and restocking within the proactive spruce removal area. Separate grants were already available to support landowners with the cost of removing and replanting sites affected by *Ips typographus*.

Scotland has its own generic contingency plan for plant health, and two specific contingency plans to deal with pests of potatoes published on SASA website. In the absence of any other pest specifics 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. Also, inspectors rely on the survey guidance applicable to soft fruit, orchard fruit and vineyards that was produced in 2023.

APHA

APHA launched three new surveys at wheat, bean and protected vegetable/salad growers in 2025 to 2026.

Plant and plant health sector - incident management protocols

APHA successfully responded to several pest outbreaks and interceptions, including an outbreak of *Leptinotarsa decemlineata*, which was declared eradicated in December 2025.

In Scotland, plant health inspectors responded effectively to multiple pest outbreaks and interceptions, undertaking comprehensive traceback and trace-forward investigations.

Actions in the animal health and welfare sectors

Animal Welfare

The Mandatory Use of Closed-Circuit Television in Slaughterhouses (Wales) Regulations 2024 came into force in 2024 to 2025. The regulations require all slaughterhouses in Wales to install and operate CCTV systems in areas where live animals are unloaded, kept, handled, stunned and killed.

Slaughterhouse operators were required to install a CCTV system by 1 June 2024 and ensure they are fully operational by 1 December 2024. Guidance on the requirements and implementation was provided. Pre- and post- implementation surveys of slaughterhouses were conducted. Low level enforcement was required at three slaughterhouses to ensure that all slaughterhouses in Wales were compliant with the regulations.

FSS, in partnership with APHA Scotland and Trading Standards Local Authority colleagues, organised several workshops for staff delivering animal health and welfare controls at different stages of the processing chain. Topics covered during the reporting period includes notifiable disease reporting and course of action, incidents response that involve animal health, welfare and food safety and welfare breaches in relation to imported animals. These sessions have provided a good understanding of controls applied at different stages and triggered actions to ensure operational guidance is consistent across the different authorities.

Animal Health and Welfare Framework

The Animal Health and Welfare Framework has been developed by the Animal Plant and Health Agency working in partnership with local authority officers from the NAHWP, supported by the Association of Chief Trading Standards Officers (ACTSO) and Defra.

The Framework builds on existing working practices and relationships to improve the delivery of animal health and welfare controls in England.

Bovine Tuberculosis (bTB)

The following initiatives were undertaken within the framework of the 2014 bTB eradication strategy for England in 2025.

Refreshed recommended strategy:

Work, which started in 2024, continued to refresh the bovine TB strategy for England, originally launched in 2014 and previously reviewed in 2018. The new strategy is being co-designed between farmers, veterinarians, industry groups, scientists, animal welfare and wildlife groups, and government. The co-design process continued to be overseen by a steering group, originally made up of Bovine TB Partnership members, and to ensure the co-design process is working collaboratively to ensure the strategy is inclusive, transparent, and science led.

Cattle vaccination field trials:

The planned third and final phase of field trials for a new cattle TB vaccine and allied DIVA skin test (to Detect Infected among Vaccinated Animals) commenced in 2025.

Badger vaccination:

In England, more than 4,000 badgers were vaccinated against TB in both 2024 and 2025, the highest number ever vaccinated in a single year and a more than 30% increase compared to 2023. To increase the rollout of badger vaccination, work began with a range of organisations on large-scale vaccination delivery by APHA field teams, and an industry delivered vaccination approach in East Sussex.

Badger culling:

In 2025, Natural England (NE) re-authorised culling operations to resume in 11 intensive badger control areas in the High Risk and Edge Areas of England, and one licence was re-authorised in the Low Risk Area. All remaining intensive and supplementary badger culling licences will end by January 2026.

Cattle controls:

From 1 September 2025, the Animal and Plant Health Agency began offering government-funded voluntary interferon-gamma blood testing of Officially Tuberculosis Free Withdrawn TB breakdown herds in the High Risk Area and six-

monthly testing parts of the Edge Area of England that did not qualify for a mandatory herd test.[18]

Data sharing:

The Tuberculosis in Animals (England) (Amendment) Order 2025 came into force on 15 July 2025. This amendment enabled Defra and APHA to share animal-level TB risk data with cattle keepers. It supports farmers to make more informed purchasing decisions. A new version of the interactive bovine TB mapping application ibTB (www.IbTB.co.uk) went live in September 2025, displaying additional information for herds in England such as animal-level data (DOB, sex, breed & date/type of last TB test) and details about current and supplier herds.

The Welsh Government continued to pursue its programme to eradicate bovine TB in Wales, through a comprehensive suite of measures aimed at tackling all sources of TB infection. The Welsh Government published a refreshed TB Eradication Delivery Plan in March 2023, setting out actions on TB for the next five years. Partnership working is at the heart of the delivery plan, recognising the benefits of working together to achieve our goals. The delivery plan committed to new governance arrangements with the establishment of a publicly appointed TB Eradication Programme Board and Technical Advisory Group.

In 2023, the Welsh Government approved the use of Approved Tuberculin Testers to deliver TB testing. A full evaluation is underway alongside the pilot to inform whether this approach will be adopted nationally on a permanent basis.

The delivery plan also committed to the following:

- taking forward recommendations of the task and finish group on farmer engagement, including a comprehensive review of letters issued by APHA to simplify content.
- an epidemiological review of regionalisation against targets.
- the Pembrokeshire Project – continues to deliver on its aims to empower farmers and vets to take back control of TB. A key aspect of the approach is focussed on identifying residual disease risk in clear testing cattle and develop a pathway for mitigating risk from cattle-to-cattle transmission.
- based on the success of the Pembrokeshire project a similar initiative in North Wales to empower veterinarians and farmers, and implement measures to prevent the introduction of disease is supported by Welsh Government.

[18] For more information see: https://tbhub.co.uk/tb-testing-cattle/blood-testing/interferon-gamma-blood-testing-of-cattle/

Other key measures underway in Wales during 2025 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 as well as 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 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 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 promotion of ibTB mapping system and making information available on cattle herds affected by bovine TB.
- continued with appropriate enforcement action on farmers who fail to test their cattle on time and those suspected of carrying out illegal activity.
- enhanced management of chronic (persistent and recurrent) TB breakdown herds
- continuation of badger vaccination projects across Wales through Grant provision.
- continuation of the All Wales Badger Found Dead Survey to increase knowledge on the disease in badgers.
- continued involvement in Great Britain TB Cattle Vaccine Research projects.

In Scotland, tighter controls to reduce the risk of spreading Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) came into force on 18 May 2023 under changes to the Tuberculosis (Scotland) Order 2023 as part of the Scottish Government’s commitment to maintaining the current low levels of TB and to safeguard our OTF status. The amendments taken forward were:

- ending the practice of accepting a clear final short interval test (‘release from restrictions test’) at the end of all TB breakdowns as a valid pre-movement test.
- shortening the period during which a pre-movement test with negative results remains valid, from the current 60 days to 30 days after tuberculin injection.
- reducing compensation for unclean cattle at slaughter by 50%.
- including requirements for ‘isolation’ in legislation to ensure that proper isolation of reactors and inconclusive reactors is undertaken.

- reducing compensation for reactors or inconclusive reactors which are not properly isolated by 95%.

In 2023 the Scottish Government wrote to all cattle keepers in Scotland to make them aware of the new requirements. The Scottish Government also engaged with several organisations directly to provide briefing on the changes ahead of the coming into force date. Appropriate engagement and communication with stakeholders continued in 2025.

Bee health

The Healthy Bees Plan 2030 Implementation Plan containing actions agreed with key stakeholders was published in October 2021. Following a three-year milestone review, a refreshed implementation plan has been published, detailing actions for beekeepers, bee farmers, associations and government to work on together to achieve the outcomes in the Healthy Bees Plan 2030. During 2025, the Bee Health Advisory Forum met quarterly to discuss bee health matters and progress on the Implementation Plan.

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 the Strategy) details the specific actions under each of the Strategy's key pillars, which the BHIP will take to achieve the desired outcomes for honey bee health in Scotland. In 2025, the BHIP convened every quarter to review honey bee health issues and monitor progress on the implementation plan.

Aquatic animal health

FHI supported improvements to trade process with the introduction of new GB health certificate models and subsequent review and re-issue of BCP guidance packs to assist colleagues at APHA.

In addition, digital improvement work during 2025 was led by the introduction of FHI Hub, which replaced the legacy STARFISH system. FHI Hub provides a more resilient and future-proof platform, improving data quality and supporting ongoing digital development.

The FHI also continued to enhance FHI Online and associated digital systems, which facilitate the recording of inspections, stock movements, mortality and medicine use. These systems underpin the delivery of regulatory controls, including disease outbreak response, support oversight of compliance with authorisation conditions, and meet statutory reporting requirements.

Development of the FHI Tablet app also continued during 2025, replacing the existing inspection application and enabling inspectors to capture inspection data during fieldwork, with built-in validation improving the quality and completeness of information recorded.

Work also began to transfer FHI PDF application forms to Defra's digital forms platform, replacing PDF-based submission processes with a more streamlined, efficient and consistent online service for industry.

Overall, digital developments in 2025 focused on modernising inspection tools, improving data quality and accessibility, increasing system resilience, and supporting more efficient interaction between the FHI and industry. There were no significant changes to the activities of Scotland's Marine Directorate in 2024.

Animal health and welfare sector - incident management protocols

Exercises (Wales)

Welsh Government regularly participates in training and exercising programmes with partners to test preparedness and response arrangements for animal disease outbreaks.

In 2025, Wales took part in Exercise Pegasus, a Tier 1, UK-wide exercise which explored how governments and partners would respond to a novel infectious disease and Exercise Aspen, a Tier 2, UK-wide Foot and Mouth Disease exercise led by the APHA. These exercises help to test plans, strengthen capability, identify lessons and drive continuous improvement in preparedness arrangements. Lessons identified are used to review and update plans, policies and operational procedures, with further improvements considered as evaluation reports and recommendations become available.

Aquatic Animal Health – England and Wales (Cefas FHI)

The FHI and reference laboratory colleagues undertook an internal desk-based test for preparedness based on escalation of an IHN outbreak scenario. The exercise identified potential resource risks and highlighted the need for further development of risk-ranking and surveillance prioritisation for contact tracing in lower risk registered waters.

Aquatic Animal Health – Scotland (SG – MD)

Further progress continued during 2025 with updates to disease specific contingency plans for the freshwater parasite *Gyrodactylus salaris*.

Bee Health - Scotland

There were no significant updates in relation to bee health in 2025.

Endemic Zoonotic Disease – England

The Contingency plan for managing certain animal related endemic zoonotic disease incidents in England was last reviewed and updated by Defra and published in July 2022. The plan has been redrafted and is currently being reviewed prior to publication.

Training delivered by Competent Authorities during 2025 to 2026

In 2025 to 2026, the following training programmes, courses and exercises were organised and held across the different CAs.

Competent authority	Course provider	Delivery method	Staff trained	Purpose of training
APHA	Bond Solon	Online (webinar)	192 people attended across 22 sessions	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
APHA	Bond Solon	Online (webinar)	100 people attended across 16 sessions	Enforcement Journey Statement Writing for Inspectors: modular learning, covers creation of witness statements, regulatory engagement, delivering statements in a courtroom environment as well as the legislation surrounding enforcement
APHA	Bond Solon	Online (webinar)	73 people attended across 12 sessions	Enforcement Journey Courtroom Skills: modular learning, covers creation of witness statements, regulatory engagement, delivering statements in a courtroom environment as well as the legislation surrounding enforcement

APHA	Bond Solon	Online (webinar)	41 people attended across 7 sessions	Enforcement Journey Practical Skills for Regulatory Engagement: modular learning, covers creation of witness statements, regulatory engagement, delivering statements in a courtroom environment as well as the legislation surrounding enforcement
APHA	APHA SMEs	Online (e-learning)	7 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	Online (e-learning)	54 people requested access to this learning.	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	Online (e-learning)	44 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	Online (e-learning)	10 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
APHA	Internally through Gomo e-learning platform	Online (e-learning)	16 people accessed the learning.	Postmortem of Pigs Refresher: this course will refresh and outline key working practices, principles and techniques that are called upon when investigating potential notifiable diseases in this species
APHA	Internally through Gomo e-learning platform	Online (e-learning)	19 people accessed the learning.	Postmortem of Poultry Refresher: this course will refresh and outline key working practices, principles and techniques that are called upon when investigating potential notifiable diseases in this species
APHA	Internally through Gomo e-learning platform	Online (e-learning)	16 people accessed the learning	Plant Health Imports Documentary and ID Checks: this learning covers information such as why we complete documentary and identity checks, requirements for phytosanitary and documentary checks as well as examples of phytosanitary check and Seaway Bills etc
APHA	Livestock Wise	Face-to-Face	43 people attended across 4 sessions	Cattle Handling: attendees will increase their knowledge of instinctive cattle behaviours, reactions, handling and restraint practices in our statutory work with cattle. The training considers handling from the animal's viewpoint and how

				best to manipulate their instinctive behaviours and reactions to it. The training also focusses on current mandatory APHA operational and safety standards that will enable attendees to better understand the parameters in which our work can safely be done. Events also support field colleagues in continued professional development in delivery on latest handling techniques and equipment
APHA	Internally through the People Alchemy learning platform	Online	51 people accessed	Animal Food Control Pathways: career learning pathways are a training package used to train staff in APHA in a specific area of work. They are intended to ensure competence and confidence of staff undertaking tasks in that work area. The pathways are made up of modules, and the aim of these modules is to create a learning workflow. This means that in each module, the learner goes through the content, then some activities, and then has the opportunity for reflection and feedback with their assigned mentor
APHA	Internally through the People Alchemy	Online	107 people accessed	Animal By-Product Pathways: career learning pathways are a training package used to train staff in APHA in a specific area of work. They are

	learning platform			intended to ensure competence and confidence of staff undertaking tasks in that work area. The pathways are made up of modules, and the aim of these modules is to create a learning workflow. This means that in each module, the learner goes through the content, then some activities, and then has the opportunity for reflection and feedback with their assigned mentor
APHA	Internally through the People Alchemy learning platform	Online	61 people accessed	Exotics Pathways: career learning pathways are a training package used to train staff in APHA in a specific area of work. They are intended to ensure competence and confidence of staff undertaking tasks in that work area. The pathways are made up of modules, and the aim of these modules is to create a learning workflow. This means that in each module, the learner goes through the content, then some activities, and then has the opportunity for reflection and feedback with their assigned mentor
APHA	Internally through the People Alchemy	Online	45 people accessed	Imports Pathways: career learning pathways are a training package used to train staff in APHA in a specific area of work. They are intended to ensure competence and confidence of staff undertaking tasks in that work area. The

	learning platform			pathways are made up of modules, and the aim of these modules is to create a learning workflow. This means that in each module, the learner goes through the content, then some activities, and then has the opportunity for reflection and feedback with their assigned mentor
APHA	Internally through the People Alchemy learning platform	Online	64 people accessed	Quality Pathways: career learning pathways are a training package used to train staff in APHA in a specific area of work. They are intended to ensure competence and confidence of staff undertaking tasks in that work area. The pathways are made up of modules, and the aim of these modules is to create a learning workflow. This means that in each module, the learner goes through the content, then some activities, and then has the opportunity for reflection and feedback with their assigned mentor
APHA	APHA SMEs	Online (webinar)	15 learners over 1 face-to-face event.	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 or field practical	22 learners over 2 face-to-face events.	To provide Case Officer Core training to prepare staff to undertake the role in the event of an animal disease outbreak
APHA	APHA SMEs	Classroom or field practical	20 learners over 2 face-to-face 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	11 learners over 2 face-to-face events.	To provide Field Operations Manager training to ensure staff remain suitably skilled to undertake the role in the event of an animal disease outbreak
APHA	APHA SMEs	Online	207 learners over 4 online events.	The Gate Officer Case Officer Workshop is an optional online workshop to provide additional support and context to learners following the full training courses
APHA	APHA SMEs	Classroom or field practical	37 learners over 2 face-to-face events.	To provide Poultry Culling Officer training to staff to undertake the role in the event of an animal disease outbreak
APHA	APHA SMEs	Field practical	11 learners over 1 face-to-face event.	The Poultry Culling Officer Workshop event was an opportunity for trained Poultry Culling Officers to practice handling culling equipment

APHA	APHA SMEs	Classroom or field practical	19 learners over 3 face-to-face events.	To provide Swine Culling Officer training to staff to undertake the role in the event of an animal disease outbreak
APHA	APHA (National Bee Unit)	Blended (Online and in-person conference)	53	Technical Training at the start of the beekeeping season
APHA	One Health team, NRL and SMEs	2 day face to face course at APHA Weybridge	80	Training event focused on the *Salmonella* National Control Programmes (NCPs). Main programme for everyone, but included separate streams for field vets, for VIOs, for technical staff and for field managers, and with course materials available on SPOL afterwards so participants could cascade to their colleagues
CEFAS FHI	CEFAS Internal Leads	Presentation, in-person desk-based stress test	19	Outbreak Preparedness Escalation - IHN
CEFAS FHI	CEFAS Internal Leads	Presentation / practical dissection	All inspectors (9)	Finfish sampling training
CEFAS FHI	CEFAS FHI (Internal Leads)	Presentation	12	FHI Enforcement training

CEFAS FHI	CEFAS FHI (Internal Leads)	Presentation	12	Waste handling
CEFAS FHI	CEFAS FHI (Internal Leads)	Presentation	12	Disinfectant listing
FSA	CTSI	Online course delivery	48 LA Delegates	Training on HACCP
FSA	CTSI	Online course delivery	80 LA Delegates and recording available for future delegates	Training on allergens
FSA	CTSI	Online course delivery	80 LA Delegates and recording available for future delegates	Training on enforcement sanctions: standards
FSA	FSA RSPH Registered Training Centre	Theory and practical application	24 qualified during the period and 9 still in training	Deliver, assess and award NVQ in Meat Hygiene Inspection
FSA	CIEH	4 webinars (July to November 2023)	100 Local Authority delegates	Imported Food Legislation and Enforcement

FSA (Wales)	Abacus	Online course delivery	78 Local Authority delegates	Enforcement Sanctions Training
FSA (Wales)	Abacus	Online course delivery	40 Local Authority delegates	HACCP Training
FSA (Wales)	FSA	Online course delivery	58 Local Authority delegates	Intelligence Training
FSA (Wales)	Abacus	Online course delivery	25 Local Authority delegates	Foundation to Microbiology
FSS	Dumfries & Galloway College	Online	24	HACCP Advanced Course
FSS	Verner Wheelock	Online	9	Lead Auditor
FSS	FSS	E-learning	13	Exports General
FSS	FSS	E-learning	12	Fish & Fishery Products
FSS	FSS	E-learning	25	Ready to Eat foods
FSS	FSS	E-learning	23	Wild and Farmed Game
FSS	FSS	E-learning	200	Introduction to Food and Feed Incidents

FSS	FSS	E-learning	134	FSS Incidents management Framework
FSS	FSS	E-learning	6	Allergens awareness
FSS Feed	APHEYA	Online	38	R7 Feed Hygiene in Retail Premises and Food factories supplying former foodstuffs as feed
FSS Feed	APHEYA	Online	32	Primary Production of Feed
FSS Feed	APHEYA	Online	31	Practical HACCP for On Farm Mixers
FSS Feed	APHEYA	Face to Face	27	Feed Labelling
FSS Feed	APHEYA	Online	50	Imported Feed
FSS Feed	APHEYA	Online	35	Feed Hygiene and Co-Products Producer
FSS Feed	APHEYA	Online	42	Productions Control Systems in Feed Manufacturing
FSS Feed	APHEYA	Online	31	Feed Additives
FSS Feed	FSS	Workshop	10	Feed Enforcement
FSS Feed	FSS	Workshop	20	Feed Incidents
HSE	IAM	Face to Face	1	Mandatory driving course for all visiting staff
HSE	TL Training Ltd	Face to Face	8	First aid training
HSE	TL Training Ltd	Face to Face	8	Training to deal with chemical spills

HSE	TL Training Ltd	Face to Face	8	Training to deal with a fire in the chemical store
HSE	JS Transport	Face to Face	2	Training in the transport of dangerous goods
Scottish Government	Marine Directorate – Fish Health Inspectorate	In person	7 staff	Official control training was provided by FHI to border control post (BCP) staff/veterinarians, with focus on new health certificates and the updated susceptible and vector species list.
Scottish Government	Marine Directorate – Fish Health Inspectorate	In person – site inspections	10 staff	On site audits of inspection procedures to ensure maintenance of standards under UKAS accreditation.
Scottish Government	Plant Health	Internal course	15	It ensures staff involved in plant health official controls can effectively fulfil their roles

Abbreviations and acronyms

*[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 tuberculosis

*[CA]: competent authority

*[Cefas]: Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science

*[CO]: certifying officer

*[CSO]: certifying support officer

*[CP]: control point

*[CPC]: commonwealth potato collection

*[CPH]: county parish holding

*[CSFS]: compulsory scrapie flock scheme

*[Defra]: Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

*[DHSC]: Department of Health and Social Care

*[DOA]: dead on arrival

*[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 (for example, farmers)

*[FC]: Forestry Commission

*[FeBO]: feed business operator (Animal)

*[FHI]: Fish Health Inspectorate

*[FHIS]: Food Hygiene Information Scheme

*[FHRS]: Food Hygiene Rating Scheme

*[FLCoP]: Food Law Code of Practice

*[FLRS]: Food Law Rating Scheme

*[FSA]: Food Standards Agency

*[FSS]: Food Standards Scotland

*[FTE] full-time equivalent

*[GIAA]: Government Internal Audit Agency

*[GM]: genetically modified

*[GMO]: genetically modified organism

*[HACCP]: hazard analysis and critical control point

*[HIN]: hygiene improvement notice

*[HRA]: high-risk area

*[HSE]: Health and Safety Executive

*[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 Programme (for Salmonella in poultry)

*[NFA]: National Feed Audit

*[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]: place 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

*[SAFER]: Scottish Authorities Food Enforcement Rebuild

*[SASA]: 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]: UK Food Surveillance System

*[VMD]: Veterinary Medicines Directorate

*[VMP]: veterinary medicinal products

*[WATOK]: welfare of animals at time of killing

*[WG]: Welsh Government

*[WG LGHCCRA]: Welsh Government Local Government, Housing, Climate Change and Rural Affairs

*[WPM]: wood packaging material (for example, pallets and dunnage)

Contact details

Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at:

mancp@Defra.gov.uk

or by post to:

Animal and Plant Health and Welfare Directorate

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Seacole Building

2 Marsham St

London

SW1P 4DF