

FOOD STANDARDS AGENCY: INFORMATION RELEASED UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT. DATE RELEASED 22 JANUARY 2020

Request

I would be grateful if you could provide the following information regarding the Food Standard Agency's inspection regime as outlined below.

1. *Are these figures correct for 2019 for the total number of meat inspectors and OVs in England and Wales?*

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Red Meat Designated</i>	<i>Poultry Meat Designated</i>	<i>Wild Game Designated</i>
<i>MHI</i>	<i>784</i>	<i>729</i>	<i>41</i>
<i>OV</i>	<i>365</i>	<i>365</i>	<i>200</i>

2. *Can you tell me what the figures were in the table above in 2003?*

3. *Are these MHI and OVs employed directly by the FSA?*

4. *How many additional MHI and OVs were contracted by private companies in 2019 to work in England and Wales?*

5. *Can you confirm how many cutting plants there are in England and Wales?*

6. *Can you confirm how many slaughterhouses there are in England and Wales?*

7. *Can you confirm how many slaughterhouses and how many cutting plants, separately, are deemed to be highly compliant?*

8. *How many veterinary auditors are there working in England and Wales?*

9. *How many of these veterinary auditors are capable of doing unannounced inspections?*

10. *How many unannounced inspections took place at cutting plants in 2019 that are deemed:*

Ø Compliant

Ø Highly compliant

Ø Non-compliant but low risk

Ø Non-compliant and deemed major

Ø Non-compliant and deemed critical

11. *What was the total number of unannounced inspections that took place in cutting plants in the first year they were introduced, which I believe was 2004?*

Response

Question 1) The figures in the table included in the request are incorrect.

Table (1) below has the figures as of December 2019 for OV & MHIs for England and Wales.

Employed MHI	338
Employed Official Auxiliary (OA) (role title for MHI recruited in 2019)	18
Employed OV	2
Contract MHI (FTE)	260
Contract (FTE)	232

Table (1) (FTE: Full Time Equivalent December 2019)

Table 2 shows the number of authorised designations for non-veterinary employed staff in the FSA.

There are a number of employed staff who hold positions in the FSA whose role is not an MHI, these staff still hold their authorisations.

Red Meat Designated	75
White Meat Designated	15
Dual Qualified (red & white meat designated)	334
Game Designated	99

Table (2)

Question 2) Figures in table (3) below are taken from published Meat Hygiene Service (MHS) annual report and accounts for 2002/03 and 2003/04. These figures are for England, Wales and Scotland.

It should be noted that the MHS merged with the Food Standards Agency (FSA) in April 2010 and that Scotland was part of the Food Standards Agency until 1st April 2015 when Food Standards Scotland was formed as a separate agency.

	2002/3	2003/4
Employed MHI and Technicians	1343	1354
Employed OV	56	48
Contract MHI (FTE)	65	54
Contract OV (FTE)	349	350

Table (3) (FTE: Full Time Equivalent)

Question 3) Table 1 provides details of the number of staff directly employed by the FSA in 2019

Question 4) Table 1 provides details of the number of contract staff employed by the FSA in 2019.

Question 5) There are currently 813 FSA approved cutting plants in England and Wales.

Question 6) There are currently 259 FSA approved slaughterhouses in England and Wales.

A full list of approved establishments in the UK can be found on Food.Gov

<https://data.food.gov.uk/catalog/datasets/1e61736a-2a1a-4c6a-b8b1-e45912ebc8e3>

The publication (published in December 2019) can be filtered at column AU for cutting plants, at column BK for slaughterhouses and Column H for country.

Question 7) Audit outcomes are published on Food.Gov and can be found using this link;

<https://data.food.gov.uk/catalog/datasets/77b34073-f34e-4a6a-a16e-97aed1711014>

Question 8) There are 13 FSA employed Veterinary Auditors working in England and Wales.

Question 9) All FSA Veterinary Auditors are authorised to conduct unannounced inspections.

Question 10) Between January and December 2019, 718 unannounced inspections were conducted in approved cutting plants. During the visit the UAI inspector will identify and action any deficiencies. This will form part of the evidence for the FSA auditor actions, unannounced inspections are not categorised by outcome.

Question 11) The FSA does not hold the number of unannounced inspections from 2004.