

Annex A

Request

You requested the following information:

- A. The number and type of every species killed during 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 at slaughterhouses in England and Wales.*
- B. The number of cows slaughtered between this period at dedicated slaughterhouses in England and Wales whose carcasses were rejected for use as meat, and correspondingly, the number of cows slaughtered during the same period whose carcasses were used for meat (e.g. slaughtered for the purposes of sale as meat).*
- C. Any details regarding why the cow meat was rejected between this period broken down by each year.*
- D. Any instances of cow slaughter where animal welfare laws were found to have been breached (between the same time period), and details of why.*

Response

I will respond to each of your questions in turn:

A: Please see the attached Excel spreadsheet Annex B – Throughput Jan 2015 - Nov 2018. Please note that 2018 is not a full year and covers 1 January – 30 November.

B: Open data on rejected cattle at slaughter is available from 1 July 2016 and is updated every 3 months. This data can be found [here](#). If you filter the data on 'Inspection type', (Column B) looking at only 'Total Rejections', this will give you records relating to bovines that were rejected. Column F 'Number of Conditions', gives the number of carcasses rejected, whilst column G 'throughput' gives the total throughput for the noted species (column A) corresponding to the Year/month (column D). Column F can be subtracted from column G to give the remaining total of meat destined for the food chain.

Data held from January 2016 – end June 2016 has not been supplied as this is incomplete. It therefore does not give an accurate account of

rejections for that period. This is due to damage sustained by the FSA's IT systems and main servers during the floods affecting York.

For 2015 data please see the attached spreadsheet at Annex C, please be aware the layout is slightly different as this was extracted from a different (historic) database.

C: This data can be found at the link provided above in the answer for question B. Column C 'condition' specifies the reason for rejection and can be filtered by year (column D). Annex C provides the same data for 2015. And can be filtered in the same way.

D: Please see the attached Excel spreadsheet Annex D. This includes any recorded instances of animal welfare breaches for cattle at the time of killing for Jan 2015 - Dec 2018 in England and Wales.

A number of reported animal welfare non-compliances relate to the suitability of transport facilities and condition of the animals upon arrival at an abattoir from a farm. These are separate to any issues occurring at the abattoir, but are detected by FSA officials on the animals' arrival. The findings are referred to Local Authorities / Trading Standards Officers in the case of welfare in transport issues, and the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) where the issue originated on farm. Local Authority / Trading Standards Officers have enforcement responsibility for transport, with APHA enforcing welfare issues on farm. For these reasons we have not included data relating to transport or on-farm related non-compliances as these are the enforcement responsibility of either Trading Standards or APHA.

Background

Article 3(1) of 1099/2009 states that 'Animals shall be spared any avoidable pain, distress or suffering during their killing and related operations'. Council Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009 provides key animal welfare standards which must be achieved. It places a responsibility on the Business Operator to ensure animals are provided with physical comfort and protection; protected from injury; handled and housed appropriately; do not show signs of avoidable pain or fear or exhibit abnormal behaviour; do not suffer prolonged withdrawal of food or water; and are prevented from avoidable interaction with other animals which may harm their welfare.

The FSA and Food Business Operator (FBO) must have a system in place to ensure that the results of ante and post-mortem inspections are recorded and can be identified to the batch of animals, or in some cases

to the individual animal. Results of post-mortem inspection are recorded on FSA's IRIS system.

Meat may be declared unfit for human consumption for a number of reasons, these are outlined in chapter 2.4, section 2.4.3, page 14-16 of the [FSA Manual for Official Controls](#).

Where there is **total rejection**, the whole carcass, offal and blood and the rest of body parts must be disposed of as an animal by-product. Regulation: (EC) 854/2004 Annex I Section II Chapter V 1.

The FSA monitors and enforces animal welfare compliance in approved slaughterhouses on behalf of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) in England and Wales through a Service Level Agreement. The FSA and Defra have a zero-tolerance approach to animal welfare breaches.

FSA Official Veterinarians and Meat Hygiene Inspectors are authorised officials under the welfare at slaughter legislation and are typically present during processing of animals from their arrival at the slaughterhouse through to their death.

All staff take prompt and proportionate enforcement action where breaches are identified. This means that we apply an enforcement hierarchy in a way that allows us to escalate enforcement informally where breaches are minor and where we believe that this will be effective in avoiding future non-compliance or take formal action, such as serving formal enforcement notices in cases where non-compliance falls into the most severe categories which may have caused unnecessary pain, distress or suffering or where informal enforcement has not resulted in subsequent compliance by the business operator.

Individuals who handle animals or undertake specific activities with respect to their slaughter are required to be trained and hold a certificate of competence. The FSA will take action against such individuals who breach the legislation through causing an animal to experience avoidable pain, distress or suffering during their slaughter or a related operation. This action will be to suspend or revoke the certificate to prevent the person from engaging in any activities for which a certificate is required.

Formal enforcement action may also involve referring a case for criminal prosecution.