

Date released: 2 August 2016

Annex A Request

1. The number of animal welfare breaches / non compliance recorded by FSA veterinary inspectors based at slaughterhouses / meat processing plants in England, Wales and Scotland in 2016 so far, with details of the breach / problems found.

Note: to include any breaches relating to condition of livestock presented at the slaughterhouse itself, or thought - as far as veterinary officials can deduce - to have arisen during transport or on farm.

Note: to include the name / location of the plants in question (if possible)

2, The same information for 2015, and 2014.

I have attached to this response the requested data, which has been taken from the animal welfare database. In Annex C the data is taken from the animal welfare database for the period 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015. Annex D contains the data requested for the year 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016. Annex E contains data for the period 1 April 2016 to 30 June 2016 which is the latest information we have.

Please note that from the 1 April 2015 Food Standards Scotland (FSS) became an independent body and for data relating to Scotland after this date you would need to contact FSS directly.

As explained above some of this data is exempt from disclosure under the Act. Information on the use of these exemptions has been provided in Annex B.

The animal welfare database provides information on non-compliances in relation to animal welfare legislation.

We currently use a system of exception reporting. The categories of non-compliances that we report are 'Major' non-compliances which are likely to compromise animal welfare but there is no immediate risk to the animal - although the non-compliances may lead to a situation that poses a risk to animals. 'Critical' non-compliances are considered to pose a serious and imminent risk to animal welfare or are ones where avoidable pain distress or suffering has been caused. There is another instance of reporting and this is when an isolated low risk situation is observed against the requirements of legislation but is not non-compliance likely to cause risk of injury, avoidable

pain, distress or suffering. In this instance the exception would be recorded as a minor non-compliance with a score of 2.

As you will see from the Annexes, a number of reported animal welfare issues 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, and findings are referred to Local Authorities / Trading Standards Officers and the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) for follow up. Local Authority / Trading Standards Officers have enforcement responsibility for transport, with APHA addressing issues on farm.

Please also be aware that in the sections where the same exception has been recorded at a specific location, there may be one action dealing with all the relevant non-compliances. For example not each 'referral for investigation' or 'written advice' would necessarily relate to a separate and individual incident if it was for the same issue in a similar period of time. Similarly an exception may cover more than one animal.