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Food
Standards
Agency

Annual report on UK local authority
food law enforcement

1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016

Data summary - Wales

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Food Standards Agency (FSA) is responsible for monitoring and reporting on the performance of local authority (LA) food law enforcement services. This responsibility is mirrored in Scotland by Food Standards Scotland (FSS) who continue to collect data using the UK LAEMS system. Data are collected annually from LAs on food law enforcement activity with food businesses in the UK. The data are reported as Official Statistics. The Official Statistics for the period 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016 (2015/16) comprise the data in this report. This report and individual LA data, as well as data for previous years, are published [here](#)¹.
- 1.2 The arrangements for monitoring LA performance are set-out in the 'Framework Agreement on the Delivery of Official Feed and Food Controls by Local Authorities'.² Data are collected electronically from LAs using a web-based system: the Local Authority Enforcement Monitoring System (LAEMS). LAs that have used the UK Food Surveillance System (UKFSS) to record details of samples taken for the whole of the 2015/16 reporting year have the option to use UKFSS data for the sample part of their LAEMS return.³
- 1.3 LAs provide returns for food hygiene and food standards. These data cover interventions, complaints, premises' risk ratings, sampling and enforcement activities. A summary of the key findings for the returns made in 2015/16 is provided at Section 2.
- 1.4 Sections 3 to 9 provide key data from those returns, together with comparative data from 2011/12 onwards where applicable, and analysis of key trends and variations.
- 1.5 It should be noted that in 2015/16 returns for food hygiene were submitted by all LAs in Wales. In respect of food standards, all but one LA submitted a complete return.

¹ See <https://www.food.gov.uk/enforcement/monitoring/laems/mondatabyyear/>

² See www.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/multimedia/pdfs/enforcement/frameworkagreementno5.pdf

³ Further information on UKFSS may be found at www.food.gov.uk/enforcement/sampling/fss

2. Summary of key findings

2.1 The key findings from the LAEMS data reported by LAs in Wales for 2015/16 and comparisons with data reported for 2014/15, indicated by the directional arrows, are set out below.

Food establishments

- **Numbers of registered businesses** increased by 1.8% from 34,380 to 34,990. This compared with a 0.9% increase across the rest of the UK. ▲
- **Proportion of registered businesses not yet rated for food hygiene risk⁴** increased from 2.3% (780) to 2.6% (896). The proportion of registered businesses not yet rated across the rest of the UK remains unchanged from 2014/15 at 5.1%. ▲

Interventions

- **Food hygiene interventions** decreased by 12.5% from 28,802 to 25,203. This compared with an increase of 1.5% across the rest of the UK. ▼
- **Food standards interventions** decreased by 15.1% from 11,220 to 9,525. This compared with an increase of 11.4% across the rest of the UK. ▼

Enforcement actions

- **Total number of enforcement actions** increased by 2.2% from 14,775 to 15,093.⁵ This compared with an increase of 5.7% across the rest of the UK. ▲
- **The number of establishments subject to:**
 - **Seizure, detention and surrender of food** decreased by 15.7% from 51 to 43. ▼
 - **Remedial action and detention notices** decreased by 15.7% from 51 to 43. ▼
 - **Simple cautions** decreased by 48.8% from 43 to 22. ▼
 - **Prosecutions** decreased by 35.9% from 39 to 25. This compared with an increase of 11.6% across the rest of the UK. ▼
 - **Improvement notices** (food hygiene) increased by 32.4% from 207 to 274. ▲
 - **Written warnings** increased by 2.3% from 14,719 to 15,051. ▲

⁴ Not yet rated (NYR) – those establishments yet to be inspected by the LA and assessed for an intervention rating.

⁵ LAEMS records the number of establishments subjected to the individual types of enforcement action. The total number of individual enforcement actions taken by LAs is likely to be higher.

Official samples

- **Total reported samples** decreased by 18% to 5,484 from 6,676 in 2014/15 (this continues an overall decline since 2010/11, with the exception of 2013/14 when there was an increase, which may have reflected increased activity in monitoring fraud following the horsemeat incident). There was a 0.2% decrease reported in the rest of the UK in total reported samples. ▼
- Samples tested for **microbiological contamination** decreased by 17.7% from 4,623 to 3,806. ▼
- Samples tested for **other contamination** decreased by 33.8% from 465 to 308. ▼
- **Labelling and presentation** analyses decreased by 5.9% from 595 to 560. ▼
- Samples tested for **composition** decreased by 7.9% from 1,497 to 1,378. ▼
- **Other analyses** increased by 55% from 40 to 62. ▲
- There were also 79 **unclassified samples** in the 2015/16 data, which covers samples recorded on UKFSS where it was not possible to identify the analysis type for LAEMS. -

Consumer complaints

- **Complaints** about the safety and quality of food and the hygiene standards of food establishments decreased for the second consecutive year by 8.2% from 3,607 to 3,312. The decrease across the rest of the UK was 4.7%. ▼

Professional staff resources

- **Full Time Equivalent (FTE) professional staff engaged in UK food law enforcement in Wales** decreased by 1.5% from 196 to 193. The decrease across the rest of the UK was 13.3% ▼
- **FTE professional staff engaged in food hygiene** decreased by 4.6% from 152 to 147. The decrease across the rest of the UK was 12.3%. ▼
- **FTE professional staff engaged in food standards** increased by 9.1% from 44 to 48. The rest of the UK decreased by 8.5%. ▲

Hygiene compliance

- **Proportion of rated establishments achieving 'broad compliance'** increased from 94.3% in 2014/15 to 95.1% in 2015/16.⁶ ▲

⁶ LAs assess compliance in accordance with statutory guidance set out in the Food Law Codes of Practice for Wales at http://www.food.gov.uk/wales/regswales/regsguid_wales/codepracticewales. Scores are given for three compliance criteria: hygiene; structure; and confidence in management. Businesses that score not more than 10 under each of these three criteria are defined as 'broadly compliant'. This is equivalent food hygiene ratings of 3 to 5 under the Food Hygiene Rating Scheme operating in Wales.

3. Establishment profiles

3.1 A total of 34,990 food establishments were registered with LAs in Wales at 31 March 2016. Table 1 below shows the breakdown of registered establishments by risk category and premises type.

Table 1: Wales registered food establishments profile for 2015/16 by food hygiene risk and premises type							
Risk category	Primary producers	Manufacturers & Packers	Importers/ Exporters	Distributors/ Transporters	Retailers	Restaurants & Caterers	Total
A	0	26	0	1	25	113	165
B	5	136	0	1	160	1,160	1,462
C	23	326	1	35	1,373	10,974	12,732
D	30	144	3	56	1,216	4,434	5,883
E	207	384	6	312	4,443	7,551	12,903
Unrated	31	57	4	15	202	587	896
Outside⁷	56	35	1	9	321	527	949
Total	352	1,108	15	429	7,740	25,346	34,990

3.2 The total number of registered food establishments increased by 1.8% compared with 2014/15 (34,380 establishments). This increase was reflected across all establishment types.

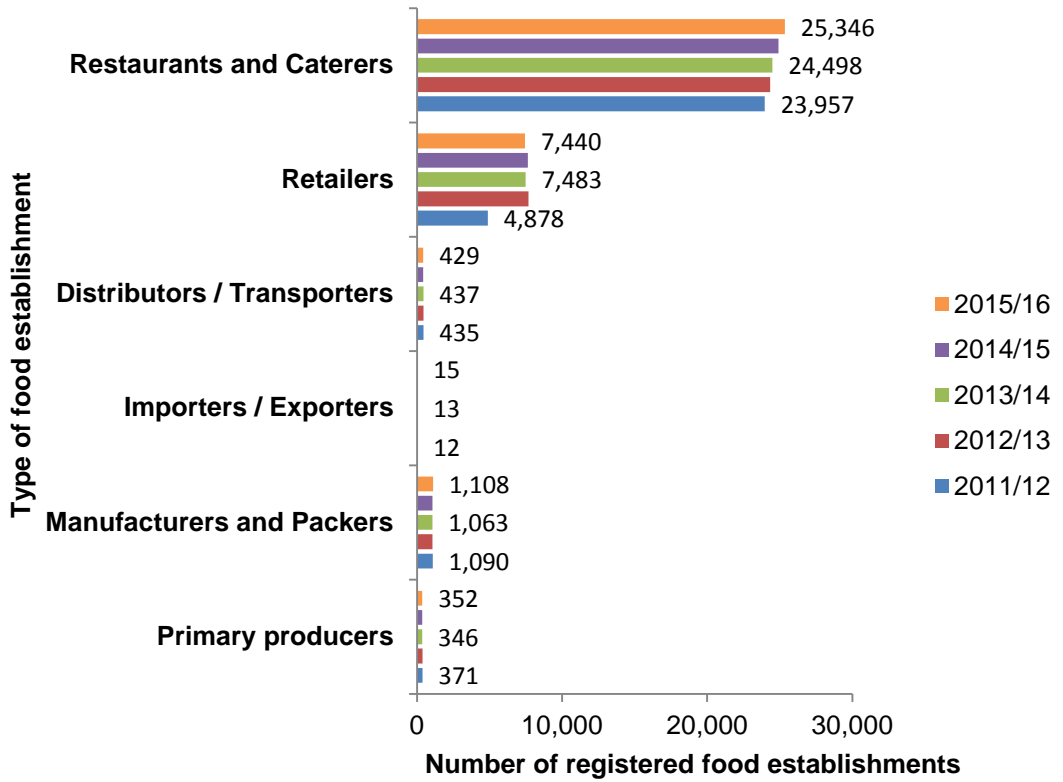
3.3 There was a 1.7% increase in the restaurant and caterers sector with a total increase of 433 establishments (from 24,913 to 25,346). Figure 1 below shows the five-year trend in the numbers of registered establishments by premises type.

3.4 The number of establishments in the Importers/Exporters sector increased from 14 to 15.

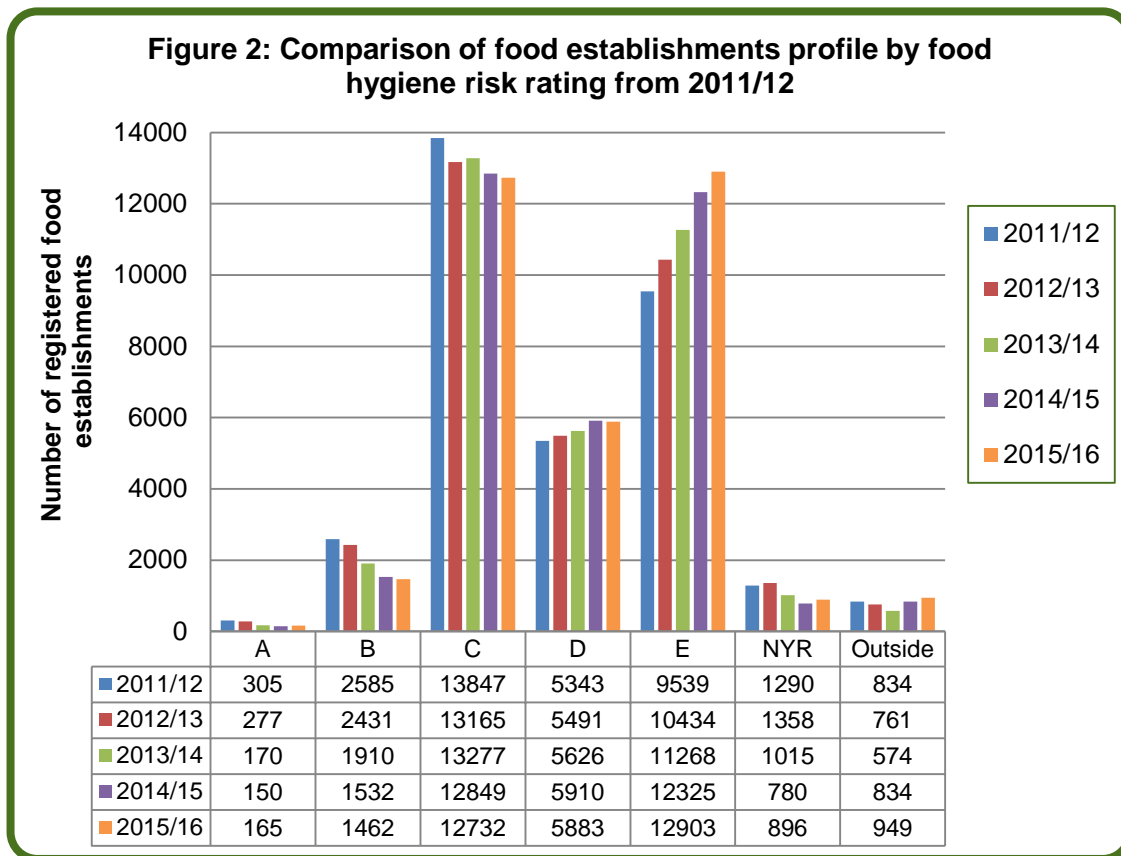
3.5 The increase in the number of food establishments in Wales was also reflected across the rest of the UK.

⁷ Outside – those establishments assessed by LAs to be of such low risk as to not be included in the intervention programme e.g. coffee/refreshments served in betting shops/hairdressers.

Figure 1: Comparison of registered food establishments in Wales by type of establishment from 2011/12



3.6 Figure 2 below shows a comparison of the risk ratings of food establishments⁸ which indicates a reduction of 1.2% in premises rated A to C (from 14,531 in 2014/15 to 14,359), and an increase of 3.1% in premises rated D and E (from 18,235 in 2014/15 to 18,786).



3.7 Over the last five years there has been a reduction in the number of premises rated 'A' to 'C' (from 16,737 in 2011/12 to 14,359 in 2015/16). This trend, which reflects the increasing compliance levels discussed further in Section 9, has resulted in an increase in the number of premises rated 'D' and 'E' (from 14,882 to 18,786) in the same period.

⁸ The system that LAs use to risk rate food establishments is set out in the Food Law Codes of Practice for Wales http://www.food.gov.uk/wales/regswales/regsguid_wales/codepracticewales

Establishments 'Not Yet Rated' for food hygiene

3.8 In Wales, 2.6% of registered food establishments were not yet rated (NYR) for food hygiene at 31 March 2016 (896 out of 34,990). This is a slight increase on the 2014/15 level of 2.3%. However, LAs in Wales have the lowest proportion of NYR establishments in the UK (England 4.8%, Scotland 8.4% and Northern Ireland 3.2%).

Table 2: Comparison of percentage of registered establishments NYR for food hygiene from 2011/12					
	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16
Total number of establishments	33,743	33,917	33,840	34,380	34,990
Number of NYR establishments	1,290	1,358	1,015	780	896
Percentage NYR					
Wales	3.8%	4.0%	3.0%	2.3%	2.6%
Rest of the UK	5.9%	6.0%	5.7%	5.1%	5.1%

4. Local authority interventions

Food hygiene interventions

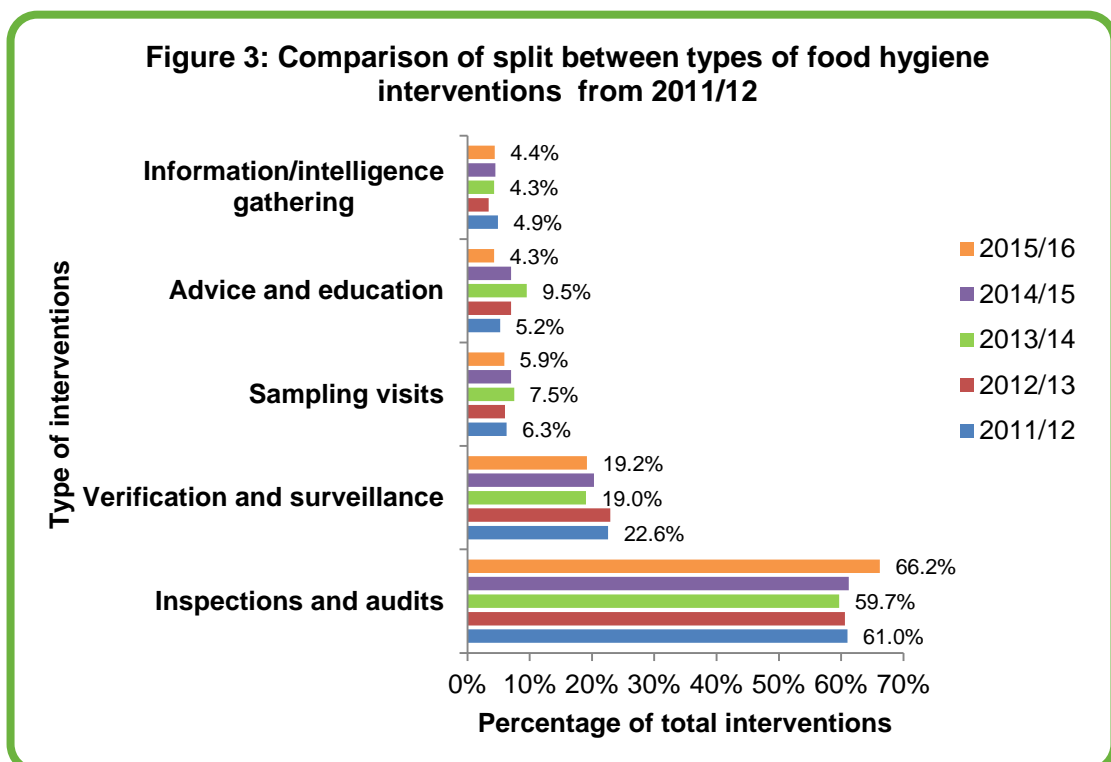
- 4.1 Food hygiene interventions include official controls and interventions which are not official controls. Official controls include, inspections, partial inspections, audits, sampling, verification and monitoring, and surveillance. Interventions which are not official controls include education, advice and coaching, and information and intelligence gathering.
- 4.2 A total of 25,203 food hygiene interventions were reported in 2015/16, which represents 86.3% of all interventions due, compared with 92.5% in the previous year. Whilst there has been a reduction in due interventions achieved, the majority of these related to lower risk, i.e. category 'D' and 'E' rated establishments. This demonstrates that local authorities in Wales are carrying out interventions using a risk-based approach. Table 3 below shows the percentage of food hygiene due interventions achieved in Wales by risk category in 2014/15 and 2015/16.

Table 3: The percentage of food hygiene due interventions achieved in Wales by risk category in 2014/15 and 2015/16							
	A	B	C	D	E	Unrated	Total
2014/15	100%	99.9%	97.9%	80.0%	70.9%	96.3%	92.5%
2015/16	100%	99.8%	97.0%	75.2%	52.7%	95.2%	86.3%

- 4.3 Overall there was a 12.5% decrease in the reported number of interventions carried out in 2014/15 (28,802), 8.6% of which were official controls and 3.9% were interventions which are not official controls. There was a 1.5% increase in the total number of interventions across the rest of the UK. Table 4 below shows the number and type of food hygiene interventions carried out in Wales from 2014/15 compared with the rest of the UK.

Table 4: Food hygiene interventions carried out in Wales from 2014/15						
	Inspections and audits	Verification and surveillance	Sampling visits	Advice and education	Information/intelligence gathering	Total
Wales 2014/15	17,630	5,851	2,003	2,025	1,293	28,802
Rest of the UK	243,135	67,287	14,251	23,069	25,931	373,673
Wales 2015/16	16,679	4,829	1,496	1,091	1,108	25,203
Rest of the UK	252,384	63,836	14,773	20,637	27,718	379,348
Intervention types as a percentage of total food hygiene interventions from 2014/15						
Wales 2014/15	61.2%	20.3%	7.0%	7.0%	4.5%	100.0%
Rest of the UK	65.1%	18.0%	3.8%	6.2%	6.9%	100.0%
Wales 2015/16	66.2%	19.2%	5.9%	4.3%	4.4%	100.0%
Rest of the UK	66.5%	16.8%	3.9%	5.5%	7.3%	100.0%

- 4.4 It is important to note that although the total number of food hygiene interventions decreased, the proportion of interventions that were inspections or audits has increased. The reduction in advice and education, and sampling visits has contributed to the overall decrease in interventions.
- 4.5 Inspections and audits remain the most common food hygiene intervention type (66.2% compared with 61.2% in 2014/15). The proportion of all other types of intervention reduced from their 2014/15 levels.



Food standards interventions

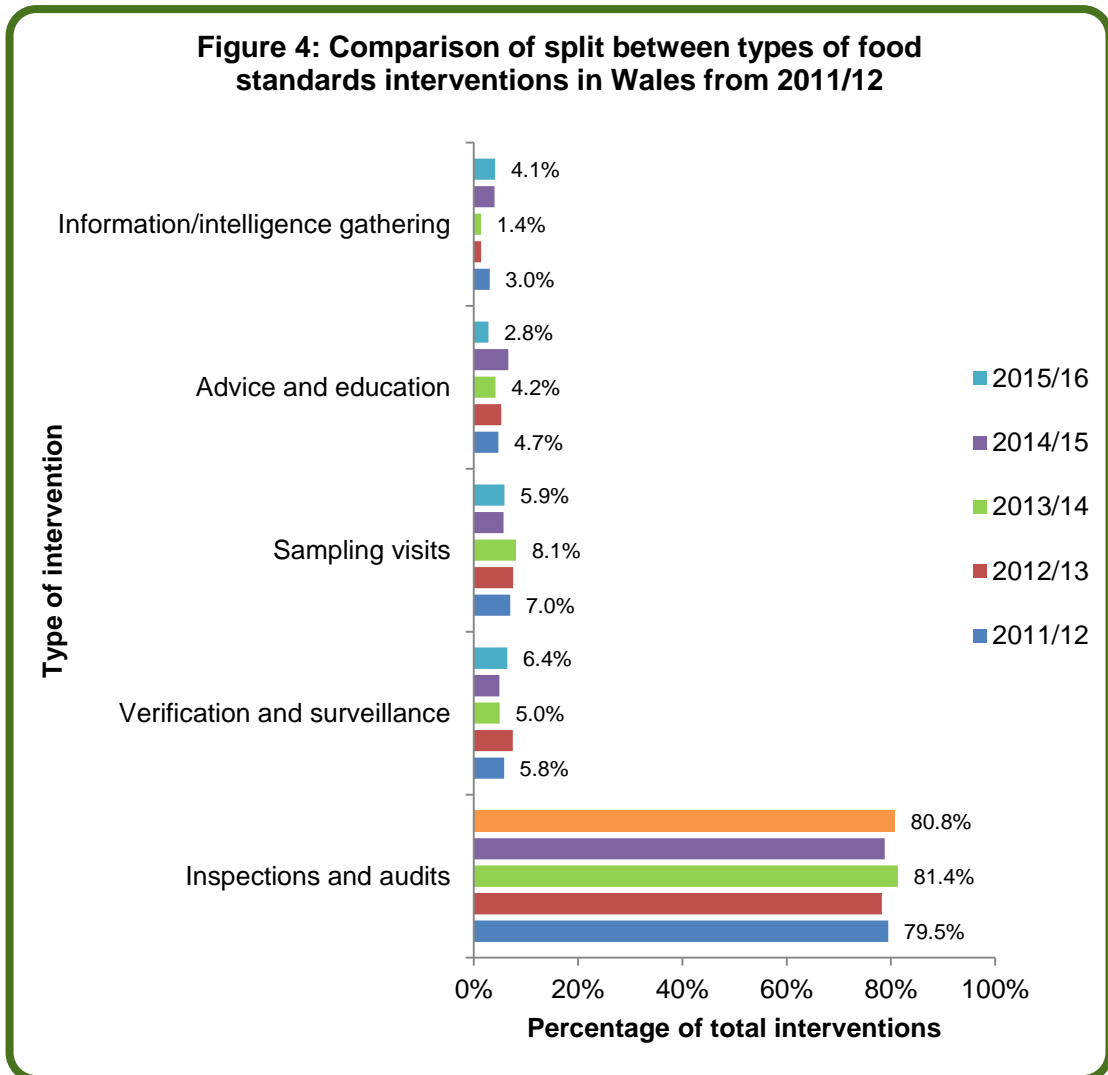
- 4.6 In 2015/16 a total of 9,525 food standards interventions were carried out by LAs in Wales, which represented 64.1% of all interventions due. This was a reduction from 67.3% of all due interventions achieved in the previous year. In common with hygiene interventions, the proportion of food standards interventions that were inspections and audits increased from their 2014/15 levels (see table 6).
- 4.7 Whilst there has been a reduction in due interventions achieved, LAs have continued to target higher risk, i.e. category 'A' rated establishments for food standards interventions. Table 5 below shows the percentage of food standards due interventions achieved in Wales by risk category in 2014/15 and 2015/16.

Table 5: The percentage of food standards due interventions achieved in Wales by risk category in 2014/15 and 2015/16					
	A	B	C	NYR	Total
2014/15	99.3%	72.9%	64.1%	58.3%	67.3%
2015/16	97.2%	65.7%	48.2%	74.5%	64.1%

- 4.8 Overall, there was a decrease of 15.1% on the reported number of food standards interventions carried out in 2014/15 (11,220), 10.4% of which were official controls and 4.7% were interventions which are not official controls. There was an 11.4% increase in the total number of interventions across the rest of the UK.

Table 6: Food standards interventions carried out in Wales from 2014/15						
	Inspections and audits	Verification and surveillance	Sampling visits	Advice and education	Information / intelligence gathering	Total
Wales 2014/15	8,843	548	640	735	454	11,220
Rest of the UK	70,319	10,368	8,229	10,454	7,287	106,657
Wales 2015/16	7,693	605	564	267	396	9,525
Rest of the UK	85,204	11,883	7,919	6,787	7,046	118,839
Intervention types as a percentage of total food standards interventions from 2014/15						
Wales 2014/15	78.8%	4.9%	5.7%	6.6%	4.0%	100.0%
Rest of the UK	65.9%	9.7%	7.8%	9.8%	6.8%	100.0%
Wales 2015/16	80.8%	6.4%	5.9%	2.8%	4.1%	100.0%
Rest of the UK	71.7%	10%	6.7%	5.7%	5.9%	100.0%

4.9 As in previous years, inspections and audits were the most common type of food standards intervention. The numbers of interventions in each category type decreased from their 2014/15 levels, with the exception of verification and surveillance visits. Advice and education visits reduced by 63.7% to 267 in 2015/16 from 735 in 2014/15. Figure 4 shows the trend in the type of food standards interventions carried out in Wales over the last five years.



5. Enforcement actions

Food hygiene enforcement actions

- 5.1 The total number of establishments in Wales subject to food hygiene enforcement actions in 2015/16 was 12,967^{9,10}. This is a decrease of 3% from 2014/15 (13,367).

Table 7: Number of establishments subject to food hygiene enforcement actions in Wales in 2015/16		
Type of enforcement action	Wales	Rest of the UK
Written warnings	12,507	149,522
Hygiene Improvement Notice	274	3,560
Voluntary Closure	74	1,047
Hygiene Emergency Prohibition Notice	5	335
Remedial Action and Detention Notices ¹¹	43	247
Seizure, detention and surrender of food	31	369
Suspension or revocation of approval or license	1	12
Prohibition Order	1	73
Simple caution	12	236
Prosecutions concluded	19	295
Totals	12,967	155,696

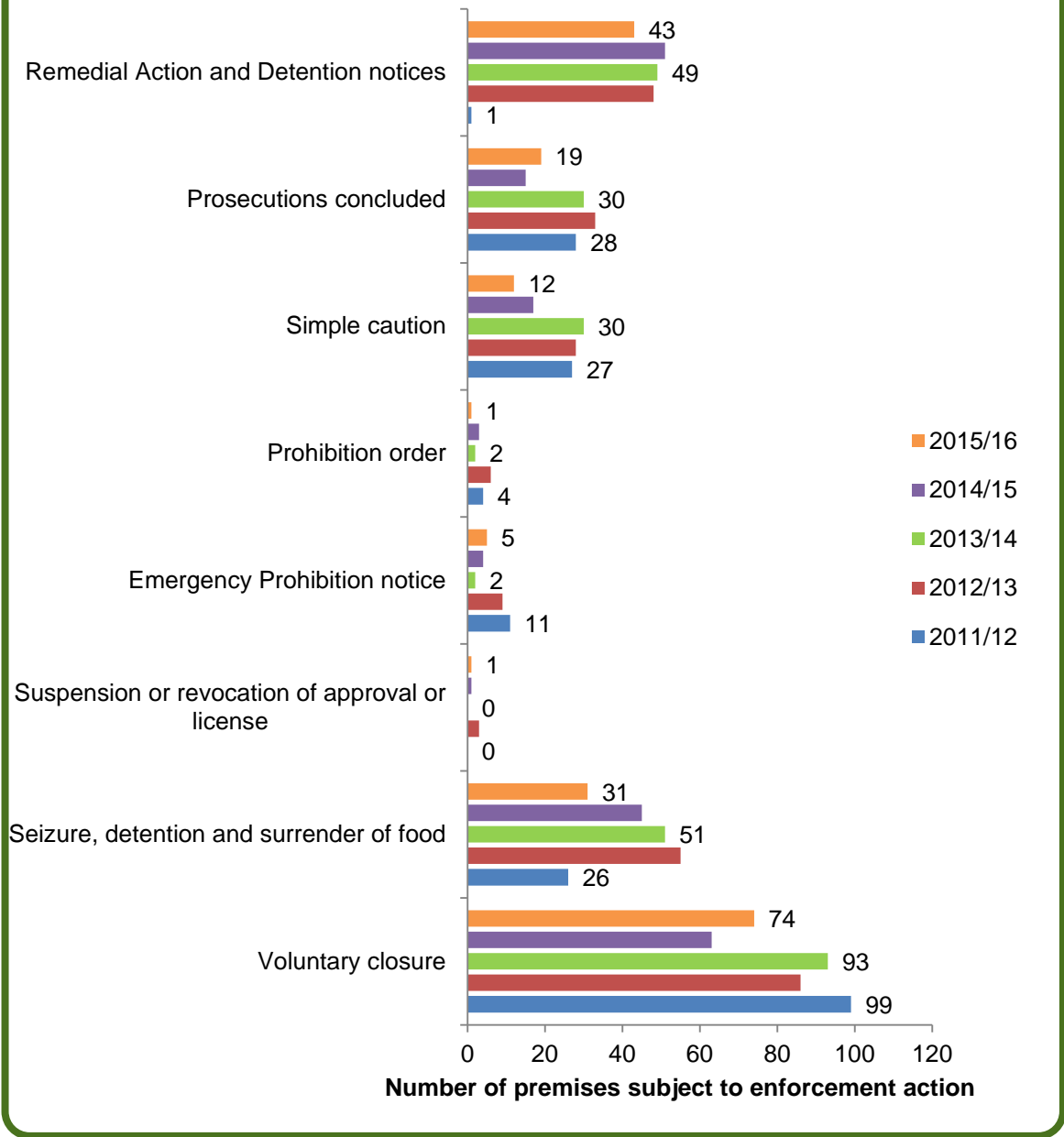
- 5.2 There were 12,507 establishments issued with written warnings. In total, 460 establishments were subject to formal enforcement action, comprising 3.5% of all enforcement actions, an increase of 0.3% from 2014/15.

⁹ LAEMS records the number of establishments subject to the individual types of enforcement action. The total number of individual enforcement actions taken by LAs is likely to be higher.

¹⁰ The figures in this section may include enforcement actions at premises that have subsequently closed.

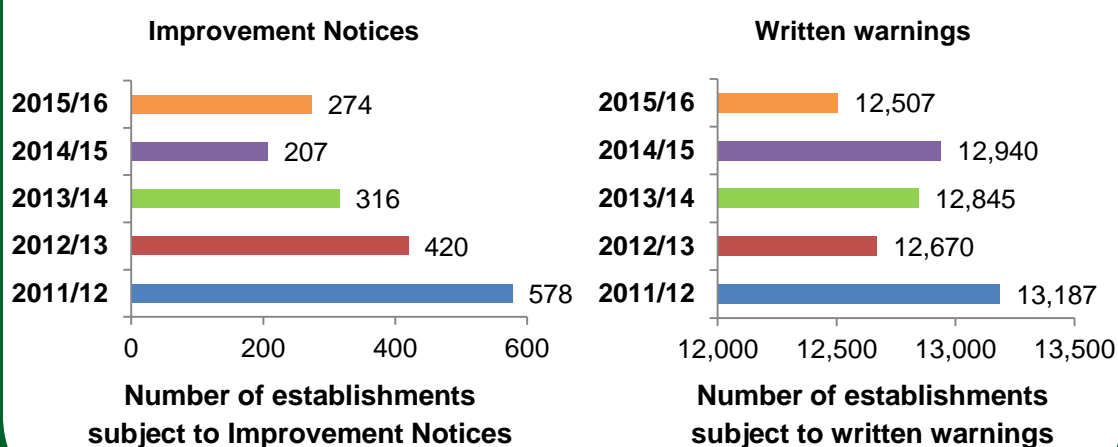
¹¹ From 1 May 2012, enforcement officers in Wales have been able to use Remedial Action Notices to secure compliance at all food establishments. They were previously only available for use in approved premises.

Figure 5: Comparison of food hygiene enforcement actions in Wales from 2011/12



5.3 Figure 6 below shows the number of establishments subject to food hygiene Improvement Notices and written warnings each year from 2011/12. The number of improvement notices served increased 32.4% - from 207 in 2014/15 to 274 in 2015/16 reversing the downward trend seen in the previous three years. Conversely, the number of written warnings decreased by 3.4% - from 12,940 in 2014/15 to 12,507 in 2015/16.

Figure 6: Comparison of establishments subject to food hygiene Improvement Notices and written warnings in Wales from 2011/12



Food standards enforcement actions

5.4 In total, 2,126 establishments in Wales were subject to food standards enforcement actions in 2015/16. This was comprised of 2,084 establishments which received written warnings and 42 which were subject to formal enforcement actions.

Table 8: Number of establishments subject to food standards enforcement actions in Wales in 2015/16

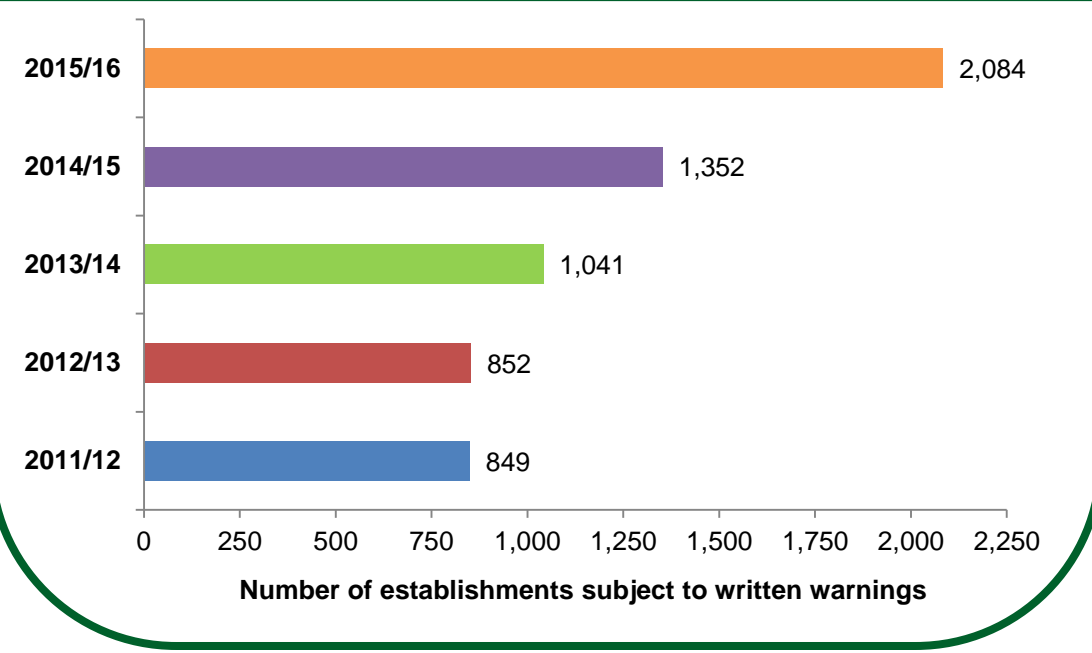
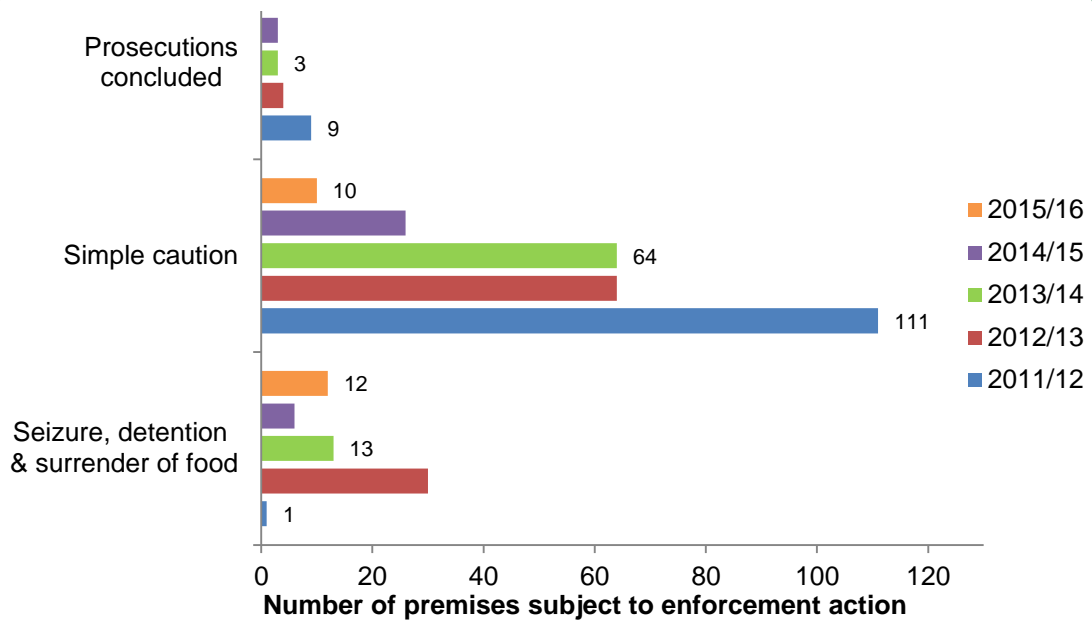
Type of enforcement action	Wales	Rest of the UK
Seizure, detention and surrender of food	12	79
Simple caution	10	119
Prosecutions concluded	6	41
Improvement Notices	14	58
Written warnings	2,084	20,633
Totals	2,126	20,930

5.5 The total number of establishments subject to food standards enforcement actions in Wales increased by 25% from 2014/15 (see figure 7 below). Increases were reported in prosecutions completed from 3 in 2014/15¹² to 6 in 2015/16 and written warnings from 1,352 in 2014/15 to 2,084 in 2015/16.

¹² It should be noted that while care is taken each year to ensure the accuracy of the data provided, the FSA was advised of a reporting error in respect of the number of food standards prosecutions carried out by one authority in 2014/15. Subsequently the figure has been amended in this report.

However there was a decrease in the number of establishments subject to simple cautions from 26 in 2014/15 to 10 in 2015/16.

Figure 7: Comparison of establishments subject to food standards enforcement actions and written warnings in Wales from 2011/12



5.6 Local authorities are now able to serve food standards improvement notices in relation to provisions in the Food Information (Wales) Regulations 2014. These are the domestic regulations that establish the enforcement measures for Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011 on the provision of food information to consumers.

6. Official food samples

- 6.1 A total of 5,484 official food samples¹³ were reported to have been taken in Wales in 2015/16, a decrease of 18% from 2014/15 (6,676).
- 6.2 This significant decrease is compared with an overall decrease of 0.2% across the rest of the UK.

Table 9: Official sampling in Wales from 2011/12					
	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Microbiological contamination	6,135	5,258	6,129	4,623	3,806
Other contamination	470	546	550	465	308
Composition	1,401	1,761	2,051	1,497	1,378
Labelling & presentation	755	999	1,046	595	560
Other	38	21	51	40	62
Unclassified*	0	0	0	200	79
Total analyses	8,799	8,585	9,827	7,420	6,193
Total samples	8,096	7,294	8,736	6,676	5,484

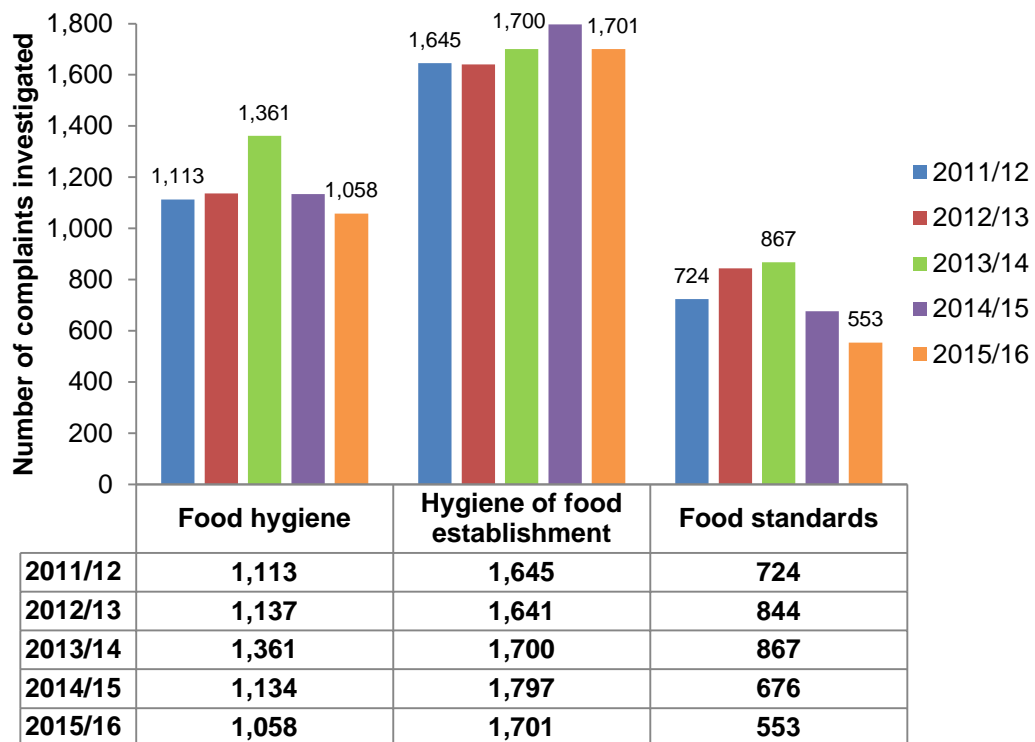
- 6.3 In addition to any microbiological samples taken by LAs in response to local needs, much of the microbiological food sampling in Wales is coordinated through the Welsh Food Microbiological Forum (WFMF). The WFMF is a collaboration of public health organisations and LAs with FSA representation. The aim is to improve the microbiological quality of food available to Welsh consumers. LAs participate in a "shopping basket" survey co-ordinated by the WFMF where foods that have been identified by the Forum as areas of interest or concern are sampled.
- 6.4 Local authority food standards sampling in Wales is largely co-ordinated through the Wales Head of Trading Standards (WHoTS) Food Standards Group. They have regard to national sampling priorities, intelligence, incidents and local priorities when developing the Wales Food Standards Sampling Programme. Local authorities, Public Analysts and the FSA are represented on the Group, which participates in the National Coordinated Food Sampling Programme.

¹³ Official samples are those analysed/tested by official control laboratories. The FSA monitoring returns only collect data on official samples.

7. Consumer complaints about food and food establishments

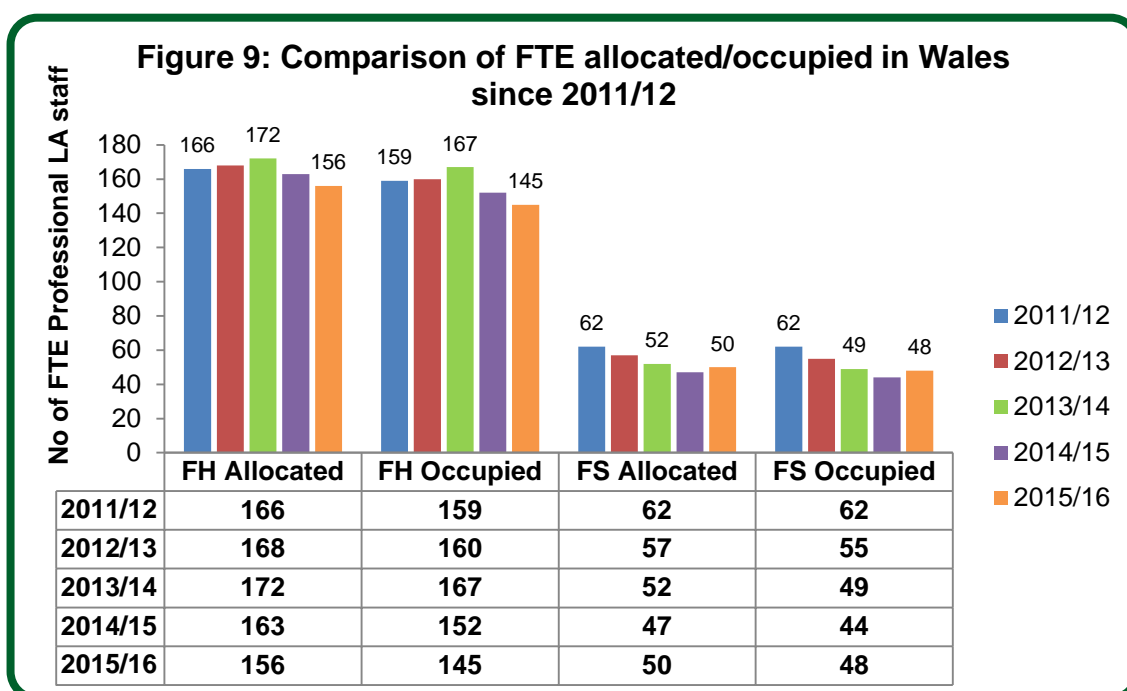
- 7.1 LAs in Wales reported a total of 3,312 consumer complaints about food and food establishments during 2015/16. This represents an overall decrease of 8.2% from 2014/15. This compares to an overall decrease across the rest of the UK of 4.9% with Wales reporting the largest decrease.
- 7.2 In Wales, there was a significant decrease (18.2%) in the number of food standards complaints, while there were marginal decreases in hygiene of food establishment complaints (5.3%) and food hygiene complaints (6.7%).

Figure 8: Comparison of consumer complaints investigated since 2011/12



8. Full time equivalent (FTE) professional staff

- 8.1 A total of 193 FTE professional LA staff were reported as being in post at 31 March 2016, a 1.5% reduction from 196 in 2014/15 and a 12.7% reduction from 221 since 2011/12. There was a decrease of 4.6% in the number of FTE food hygiene (FH) professional staff in post at 31 March 2016 over the previous year and an 8.8% decrease from 159 to 145 between 2011/12 and 2015/16. However, the number of food standards (FS) professional staff in post increased by 9.1% in 2015/16 over the previous year but since 2011/12 the number has decreased by 22.6% from 62 to 48.

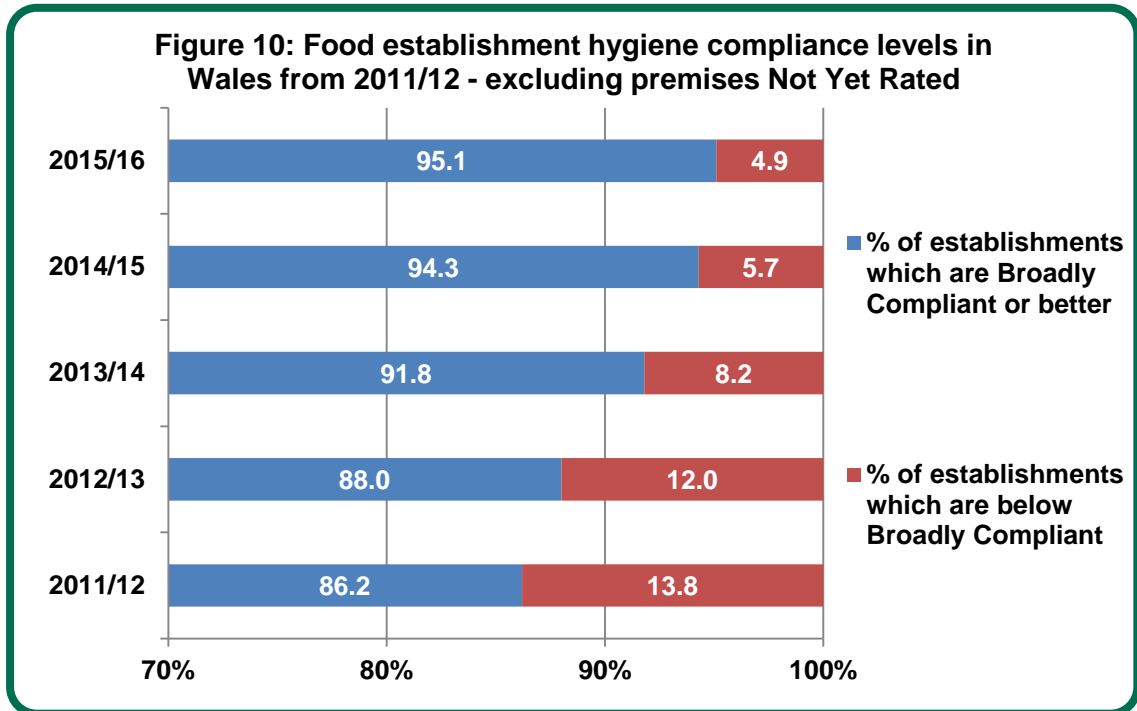


- 8.2 Table 10 below indicates the number of FTE professional staff in post per 1,000 food establishments in Wales over the past five years. Although this number has decreased, it should be noted that there are significantly more staff allocated to food law enforcement per 1,000 food establishments in Wales compared with the rest of the UK.

Table 10: Number of professional FTE staff in post per 1000 food establishments					
	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Wales	7.1	6.3	6.4	5.7	5.5
Rest of the UK	4.4	4.0	3.7	3.6	3.4

9. Food hygiene compliance

- 9.1 Of those establishments which have been rated for food hygiene, the level of 'broad compliance' reported in Wales at 31 March 2016 was 95.1%. This is an increase from 94.3% in 2014/15. The percentage of broadly compliant establishments across the rest of the UK was 93.4%. Figure 10 shows the levels of broad compliance in Wales from 2011/12.



- 9.2 When all food establishments are considered, including establishments not yet rated, the level of 'broad compliance' reported in Wales at 31 March 2016 was 92.7% (see Figure 11). This is an improvement on the 2014/15 level of 92.1%.

Figure 11: Food establishment hygiene compliance levels in Wales from 2011/12 - including establishments Not Yet Rated

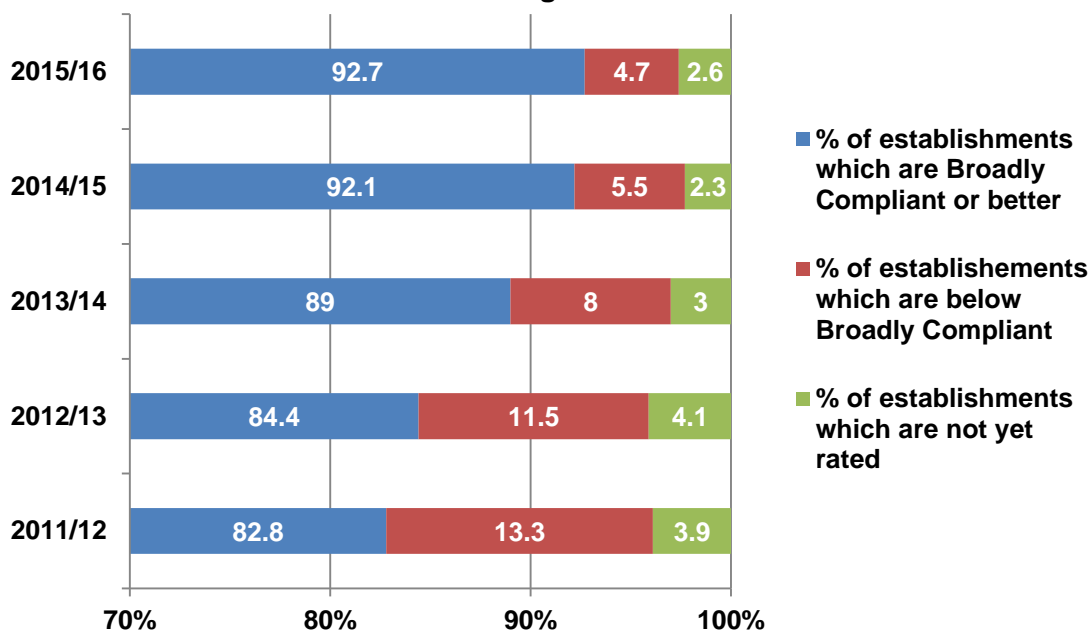


Table 11: Comparison between Wales' and the Rest of the UK's food establishment food hygiene compliance levels since 2013/14

	% 'Broadly Compliant' or Better			% Below 'Broadly Compliant'			% Not Yet Risk Rated		
	13/14	14/15	15/16	13/14	14/15	15/16	13/14	14/15	15/16
Wales	89.0	92.1	92.7	8.0	5.5	4.7	3.0	2.3	2.6
Rest of the UK	86.4	88.0	88.4	7.8	6.8	6.3	5.8	5.2	5.3

Glossary

Note

This covers the main terms used in the report only. More detail can be found on the FSA website, including within the Food Law Code of Practice (FLCoP).¹⁴

Broad compliance: A food establishment with a food hygiene intervention rating score of not more than 10 under each of the following three criteria: Level of (Current) Compliance – Hygiene; Level of (Current) Compliance – Structure; and Confidence in Management.

Enforcement action: The steps, measures and sanctions an LA can take in response to non-compliance with food law at food establishments. Enforcement actions range from informal steps, such as giving a written warning, to formal measures such as: serving notices; prohibiting food operations; closure of a food establishment and prosecution. The action taken is determined by the relevant circumstances of each case and in accordance with the LA's enforcement policy.

Food establishment: Has the same meaning as 'Establishment' in the FLCoP. It does not simply mean 'premises', but is directly linked to the business occupying the establishment.

Food hygiene intervention rating: A score given to each establishment to determine the frequency of intervention by LAs. The intervention rating for food hygiene is based on assessment of a number of elements: type of food and processing; number and type of consumers potentially at risk; current compliance of the establishment; risk of contamination; and confidence in management. The intervention rating is on a scale from 0 to 197. The higher the overall score given to the business, the greater the frequency of intervention by the LA.

Risk Category	Score*	Intervention frequency
A	≥ 92	At least every 6 months
B	72 to 91	At least every 12 months
C	42 to 71	At least every 18 months
D	31 to 41	At least every 24 months
E	0 to 30	A programme of alternative enforcement strategies or interventions every three years

Food standards intervention rating: A score given to each establishment to determine the frequency of intervention by LAs. The intervention rating for food standards is based on an assessment of a number of elements: risk to consumers and other businesses; type of activity; complexity of the law applying; number of consumers potentially at risk; current compliance; and confidence in management.

¹⁴ Food Law Codes of Practice for Wales at http://www.food.gov.uk/wales/regswales/regsguid_wales/codepracticewales.

The rating is on a scale from 0 to 180. The higher the overall score given to the business, the greater the frequency of intervention by the LA.

Risk Category	Score	Intervention frequency
A	101 to 180	At least every 12 months
B	46 to 100	At least every 24 months
C	0 to 45	Alternative enforcement strategy or intervention every five years
Establishments rated as low-risk (45 or less) need not be included in the planned inspection programme but must be subject to an alternative enforcement strategy at least once in every 5 years.		

Formal enforcement action: Any of the following type of actions taken by the LA to secure legal compliance: detention and seizure of food; service of Hygiene Improvement Notices, Remedial Action Notices or Improvement Notices; Simple Cautions; Hygiene Prohibition Procedures, Prohibition Procedures; and Prosecution procedures.

Informal enforcement action: Any action taken by the LA in order to secure legal compliance which is not included under the “Formal enforcement action” entry above.

Interventions: These are visits to food establishments for inspection, monitoring, surveillance, verification, audit and sampling, as well as for education and information gathering purposes. Interventions ensure that food meets the requirements of both food hygiene and food standards law. More than one type of intervention may be carried out during a single visit to a food establishment.

Local Authority (LA): The food authority in its area or district. All LAs in Wales are unitary authorities which are responsible for food safety and hygiene, and food standards.

Not yet rated: Establishments such as new businesses which are trading but are yet to be assessed and rated for risk for either food hygiene or food standards. Initial inspections should normally take place within 28 days of registration or from when the authority becomes aware that the establishment is in operation.

Official sample: A sample of food or any other substance relevant to the production, processing and distribution of food, to verify, through analysis, compliance with food law. Analysis is carried out by an official control laboratory.

Outside the intervention programme: LAs may assess some establishments as being outside the intervention programme, because any food provision is incidental to the main activity and is very low-risk, for example, betting shops and hairdressers serving coffee.

Rest of the UK: Where “Rest of the UK” statistics are given, these figures are calculated from the data for the whole of the UK with the Wales totals removed. These figures give an indication on how Wales is performing compared with the other three home nations combined.

UK Food Surveillance System (UKFSS): A national database for central storage of analytical results from feed and food samples taken by LAs and PHAs as part of their official controls.

Written warning: This is an informal enforcement action. It includes any relevant communication with the proprietor/owner/manager of a food establishment stating that infringements of legislation have been found. It includes written warnings to a trader drawing attention to possible non-compliance with legislation but not correspondence of a purely advisory or good practice nature. This may include written warnings left at the time of inspection/visit.