

Annex A

Request

1. How many dairy cows are slaughtered in the UK each year?
2. How many dairy cows are slaughtered while pregnant in the UK each year?

I would like the most recent data – is it possible to send this info for 2020 and 2021 so far?

Response

Q1. The FSA only collects throughput records for approved premises in England and Wales. Throughput records are collected by species and not specific subgroups. We are unable to supply specific throughput numbers for dairy cattle, but can supply records for the criteria for cattle, these are:

- Cattle greater than 30 months up to 72 months
- Cattle equal or greater than 8 months including 30 months
- Cattle/calves less than 8 months

Table below shows cattle throughput for January 2020 to July 2021

Cattles ages	Throughput amount
Cattle greater than 30 months to 72 months	554,926
Cattle equal to or greater than 8 months including 30 months	1,913,485
Cattle/calves less than 8 months	116,539

Q2. The FSA does not routinely record any species if found pregnant, but we do have a responsibility to report and take action under [Council Regulation \(EC\) No 1/2005](#) on the protection of animals during transport and related operations

Annex I, Chapter 1 states “Ill, injured, infirm or fatigued animal are not transported e.g., pregnant females for whom 90% or more of the expected gestation period has already passed.”

It is illegal to transport an animal that is unfit for travel. What is deemed as 'unfit for travel' includes heavily pregnant females where more than 90 per cent of the expected gestation period has passed, unless they are being transported for veterinary treatment

When it is suspected that a heavily pregnant animal has been transported, the Official Veterinarian must record this on the daily welfare exception report and refer their findings to the Local Authority.

The FSA will shortly be re-publishing animal welfare on-farm, transport and slaughterhouse non-compliances, as identified in the slaughterhouse, as open data on data.gov.uk. As this publication date will be within the next three months, we are withholding this information under section 22 of the Act. Please see Annex B for further details.

The data will be anonymised, and cover England and Wales only. The data cannot be stratified by county or local authority area, without this level of granularity increasing the likelihood of the identification of an establishment, based on the number of establishments in that area, or the species processed.

Annex B

Section 22 – information intended for future publication

The FSA holds the information in scope of your request relating to non-compliance data, however we are withholding the information in full as we consider it to be exempt under section 22 of the Act.

The public interest in permitting public authorities to publish information in a manner and form and at a time of their own choosing is important. It is a part of the effective conduct of public affairs that the general publication of information is a conveniently planned and managed activity within the reasonable control of public authorities.

As there is a commitment to publish, we are reasonably entitled to make our own arrangements to do so.

Overall, we consider the balance is in favour of withholding this information at this point in time.