

Food Standards Agency: Information released under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

Date released: 24 July 2015

Annex – Response

Please see the FSA's response below to your request for information under the Act.

1. How many equine passports that had been issued in countries other than the UK, were returned from abattoirs in the UK, to the FSA in the years 2012, 2013 and 2014?

The information below shows the number of passports which were returned to the FSA for horses slaughtered in abattoirs in the UK for human consumption and subsequently tested positive for phenylbutazone.

Please Note: The information provided below details information collated from all horses slaughtered in approved abattoirs in the UK during 2013 & 2014. There is no data for 2012 as the FSA only started retaining passports from January 2013. All the approved abattoirs were located within England with no approved abattoir in Northern Ireland, Scotland or Wales for the slaughtering of horses during this period.

Phenylbutazone is an anti-inflammatory treatment for horses. It is not permitted for horses that are destined for human consumption. All horses treated with this veterinary medicine should be signed out of the human food chain and the passport should be updated to show this medicine has been administered. If slaughtered horses destined for human consumption have tested positive for phenylbutazone then the passport is returned to the FSA. The FSA organises follow-up investigations through the Animal and Plant Health Agency, using information in the passports, to identify how such horses were presented for slaughter instead of being signed out of the food chain.

Passports for all other horses slaughtered in abattoirs are returned directly to the Passport Issuing Organisations from the Official Veterinarians in the abattoirs.

2. Which team within FSA deals with this and who do they return the passports to?

Passports returned to the FSA are provided to the SLA & Contracts Team within the FSA; who then return them to the Passport Issuing Organisations once investigations have been completed by Animal and Plant Health Agency and no further action with the passport is required.

3. If possible please provide a breakdown for the number of any returned passports

Please see the data below. The table has been populated based on the information held in the horse passports against the Passport Issuing Organisation provided to the FSA's SLA & Contracts team.

Country	2013	2014
Austria	0	0
Belgium	0	0
Bulgaria	0	0
Croatia	0	0
Cyprus	0	0
Czech Republic	0	0
Denmark	0	0
Estonia	0	0
Finland	0	0
France	0	0
Germany	2	1
Greece	0	0
Hungary	0	0
Ireland	31	27
Italy	0	0
Latvia	0	0
Lithuania	0	0
Luxembourg	0	0
Malta	0	0
Netherlands	3	1
Poland	0	1
Portugal	0	0
Romania	0	0
Slovakia	0	0
Slovenia	0	0
Sweden	0	0
Third Country*	2	1

****Please Note: in 2013, one passport was returned to Switzerland and one to the USA & in 2014, one passport was returned to the USA.***