

## Annex A

### Request

*I would like to request data relating to physical safety and wellbeing incidents reported to the Food Standards Agency's Health, Safety and Wellbeing Team by Food Standards Agency Official Vets (OV) and Meat Hygiene Inspectors (MH) working in slaughterhouses, spanning the period between January 2017 and July 2020. In particular, I would like to ask:*

- *How many instances of verbal abuse took place?*
- *How many incidents involving aggressive behaviour took place?*
- *How many physical assaults took place?*
- *How many acts of intimidation took place?*
- *On how many occasions was the FSA forced to withdraw inspection staff from slaughterhouses completely because of concerns for the physical safety and welfare of staff?*

*Please provide country (England or Wales) and size of operation, namely small (5,000 Livestock Unit\* / year), Medium (1000-5000 Livestock Units\* / year) and large (>5,000 Livestock Unit\* / year).*

*I would also like to ask what sort of follow up action was taken, and whether any incidents led to legal proceedings.*

*I would be grateful if you could provide the data as a list of incidents with columns for each of the above types of incident [verbal abuse (y/n), aggressive behaviour (y/n), physical assault (y/n), intimidation (y/n)], month incident occurred, year incident occurred, country of premises (England/Wales), size of operation (s/m/l), staff withdrawn due to incident (y/n), follow-up action (free text).*

*If any part of the above information is not available, please provide as much of the requested information (or equivalent) as can be produced as a dataset and/or summary tables.*

*\*Livestock Units:*

*1 cattle = 1 LU (1 LU = 1 cattle)*

*1 calf = 0.5 LU (1 LU = 2 calves)*

*1 pig = 0.2 LU (1 LU = 5 pigs)*

*1 sheep/goat = 0.1 LU (1 LU = 10 sheep/goats)*

*1 poultry = 0.003 LU (1 LU = 333 poultry)*

*1 turkey = 0.006 LU (1 LU = 167 turkeys)*

## Response

Attached below and at Annex B are the details requested.

Regarding slaughterhouses size of operation related to throughput, clarification was sought from you to confirm that small operation is <1,000 Livestock Units/year and this is reflected in the response.

Currently we do not have final confirmed throughput details for the entirety of July 2020, because this information relates to the current charge period. Therefore, the response provides details up to and including 30 June 2020.

Regarding whether incidents led to legal proceedings, the FSA is committed to promoting a positive working environment in which everyone is treated with dignity and respect, and to eliminating all forms of bullying and harassment; this expectation has been widely communicated to Food Business Operators (FBOs) and their trade associations. From July 2017, the Agency has operated a policy; "Dealing with Unacceptable Behaviour by Food Business Operators" which outlines proportionate and measured steps that the Agency's managers will take in response to incidents of bullying and harassment arising from FBOs and the policy also sets out when FSA staff who feel threatened can withdraw for their own safety.

The Agency has not pursued legal proceedings following any incidents within the timeframe of your request.

Where Police Referral is indicated in column J, resultant criminal proceedings *may* have been pursued by the relevant territorial police force, however we do not hold this data.

Within the timeframe of your request a legal challenge has been made by two FBOs regarding withdrawal of service by FSA staff and the FSA's compliance with its Unacceptable Behaviour Policy. Court proceedings are currently ongoing.

In line with this request, the response does not include data relating to physical safety and wellbeing incidents reported to the Food Standards Agency's Health, Safety and Wellbeing Team, when the allegation was made against a party other than the FBO.