

Day to day responsibility for enforcement of food law in the UK, for the most part, rests with local authorities.

Local authorities carry out a range of proactive and reactive interventions at food establishments throughout the year and these are recorded in the Local Authority Enforcement Monitoring System (LAEMS). The number of interventions due in the year for all establishments is based on the risk rating or risk score (A to E) – this determines how often premises should receive a food hygiene intervention. The number of interventions due at businesses rated A to E also includes any outstanding interventions from any previous years. This data shows the numbers of overdue hygiene interventions for each local authority and for each risk rating.

Request

The number of overdue hygiene interventions visits per local authority in 2017/18, and per risk rating. If possible, please send the length of time by which each intervention is overdue.

Response

Numbers of overdue hygiene interventions

The numbers of overdue hygiene interventions for each local authority and for each risk rating – categories A to E – are provided in the enclosed Excel spreadsheet.

It is important to note that there may be an explanation for some authorities that have reported high overdue interventions, such as staff resource issues, incidents an authority had to deal with during the year, or data integrity issues following a change to their information management systems etc. In view of this, before quoting the information for individual authorities, you should contact the authority concerned.

Length of time by which each intervention is overdue

We do not have information on the length of time by which each intervention is overdue. This depends on the establishment's risk rating - an explanation is provided below.

Background information

The following background information will help to put the data supplied in context and explains how the frequency of intervention is determined.

- Local authorities carry out a range of proactive and reactive interventions at food establishments throughout the year and these are recorded in the Local Authority Enforcement Monitoring System (LAEMS) under five categories: inspections and audits; verification and surveillance; sampling visits; advice and education; and information/intelligence gathering.

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- The number of interventions due in the year for all establishments is based on the risk rating or risk score (A to E) – this determines how often premises should receive a food hygiene intervention.
- The figures reported take account of any in-year changes, e.g. if an A rated premises is re-rated to B at the first inspection, the number of interventions due reported would be reduced from two to one.
- The number of interventions due at businesses rated A to E also includes any outstanding interventions from any previous years.
- The number of interventions undertaken (interventions achieved) includes any additional inspections carried out, e.g. following a complaint, so the number of interventions achieved at some establishments may exceed the number due.
- The risk category for an establishment is determined by the assessment and scoring of a number of criteria: 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.
- Overall scores for establishments range from 0 to 197 and the higher the overall score, the greater the frequency of intervention by the local authority – see the table below.

Risk category	Score*	Intervention frequency
A	≥ 92	At least every 6 months
B	72 to 91	At least every 12 months
C	52 to 71	At least every 18 months
D	31 to 51	At least every 24 months
E	0 to 30	A programme of alternative enforcement strategies or interventions every 3 years

*In Wales the score for Risk Category C is 42 to 71 and for Risk Category D is 31 to 41.