



Annual report on UK local authority
food law enforcement
1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013
Data Summary – Northern Ireland

FOOD
HYGIENE
RATING

UK REPORT AVAILABLE AT [HTTP://WWW.FOOD.GOV.UK/MULTIMEDIA/PDFS/BOARD/BOARD-PAPERS-2013/LAFOODLAW-ANNUAL-REPORT-1213.PDF](http://www.food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/board/board-papers-2013/lafoodlaw-annual-report-1213.pdf)

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1. ESTABLISHMENT PROFILES

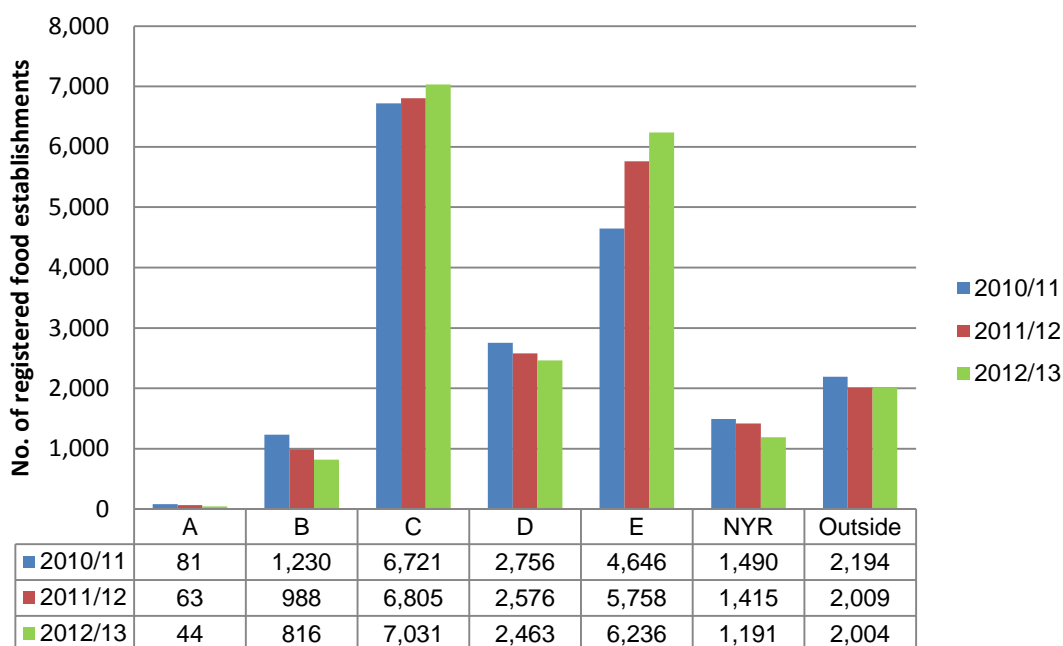
1.1. As at 31 March 2013, a total of 19,785 food establishments were registered with LAs in Northern Ireland, an increase of 0.9% on 2011/12 (19,614).

Figure 1.1: 2012/13 registered food establishments profiles in Northern Ireland by food hygiene risk and premises type

	Primary producers	Manufacturers and Packers	Importers/ Exporters	Distributors/ Transporters	Retailers	Restaurants and Caterers	Total
A	0	26	0	1	4	13	44
B	3	126	0	5	85	597	816
C	10	345	0	37	1,198	5,441	7,031
D	11	169	2	80	655	1,546	2,463
E	24	192	8	206	2,018	3,788	6,236
NYR	4	71	1	44	220	851	1,191
Outside	7	65	30	42	150	1,710	2,004
Total	59	994	41	415	4,330	13,946	19,785

1.1 A comparison of the split of risk ratings in food establishments indicates an increase of 0.4% in premises rated A to C (from 7,856 in 2011/12 to 7,891 in 2012/13) and an increase of 4.0% in premises rated D and E (from 8,334 in 2011/12 to 8,669 in 2012/13).

Figure 1.2: Comparison of food establishments profile by food hygiene risk rating - Northern Ireland



2. Establishments Not Yet Rated¹

2.1. In Northern Ireland, 6.0% of registered food establishments were not yet rated (NYR) for food hygiene risk as at 31 March 2013 (1,191 out of 19,785). This is an improvement on the 2011/12 figure of 7.2% (1,415 out of 19,614).

Figure 2.1: Comparison of percentage of Northern Ireland / UK LAs, by level of registered establishments NYR for food hygiene

	0 - 4.99%	5 - 9.99%	10 - 14.99%	15 - 19.99%	20 - 24.99%	25%+
NI	50.0%	34.6%	11.5%	0.0%	3.8%	0.0%
UK	57.9%	31.1%	6.3%	4.0%	0.5%	0.2%

Figure 2.2: Comparison of percentage of registered establishments NYR for food hygiene from 2010/11

Northern Ireland	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Total number of establishments	19,118	19,614	19,785
Number of NYR establishments	1,490	1,415	1,191
Percentage NYR	7.8%	7.2%	6.0%

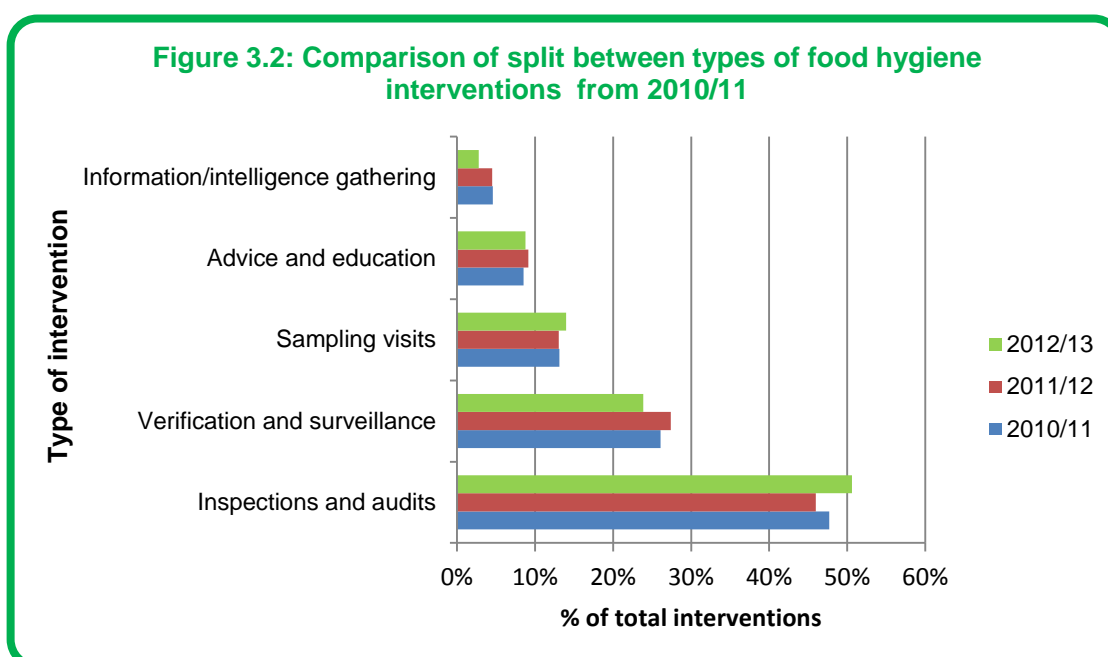
¹ Not yet rated (NYR) – those establishments yet to be assessed for a risk rating i.e. not inspected by LA.

3. LOCAL AUTHORITY INTERVENTIONS

3.1. 18,204 **food hygiene interventions** were carried out in Northern Ireland during 2012/13, an 8.9% decrease on the reported number in 2011/12 (19,989). 95.7% of due food hygiene interventions were carried out during 2012/13, a slight reduction on 2011/12 figures (96.7%).

Figure 3.1: Food hygiene interventions carried out in NI 2012/13							
	Inspections and audits	Verification and surveillance	Sampling visits	Advice and education	Information/intelligence gathering	Total	
NI	9,210	4,346	2,545	1,594	509	18,204	
UK	269,962	80,911	18,737	25,129	20,560	415,299	
Intervention types as a % of total food hygiene interventions							
NI	50.6%	23.9%	14.0%	8.8%	2.8%	100.0%	
UK	65.0%	19.5%	4.5%	6.1%	5.0%	100.0%	
Percentage of food hygiene due interventions achieved							
	A	B	C	D	E	NYR	Total
NI	99.4%	99.2%	97.3%	92.3%	90.8%	91.0%	95.7%
UK	98.9%	98.5%	89.7%	70.6%	55.5%	88.4%	83.7%

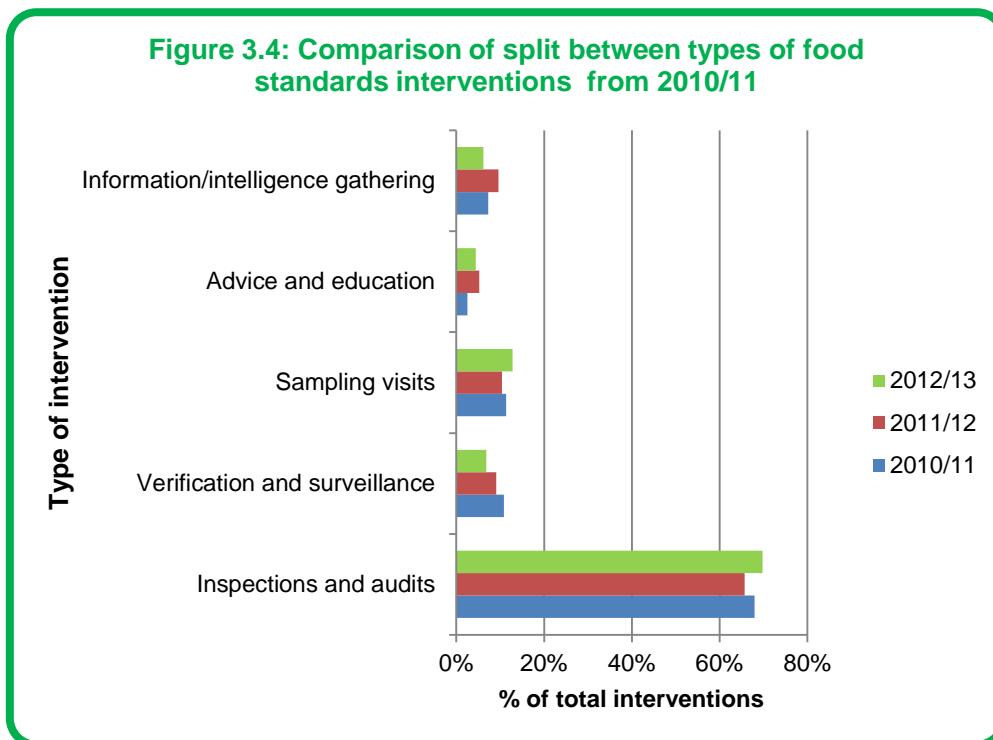
3.2. Inspections and audits remain the most frequent food hygiene intervention type (50.6%, compared with 46.0% in 2011/12). The levels of sampling visits and advice and education visits were similar to those reported in previous years. However, there was a decrease in verification and surveillance visits to 23.9% (from 27.4% in 2011/12) and in advice and education visits to 2.8% (from 4.5% in 2011/12).



3.3. During 2012/13, 5,984 **food standards interventions** were carried out in Northern Ireland, a 13.7% decrease on the reported number in 2011/12 (6,930). 87.5% of due food standards interventions were carried out during 2012/13, a reduction on 2011/12 figures (91.9%).

Figure 3.3: Food standards interventions carried out in NI 2012/13						
	Inspections and audits	Verification and surveillance	Sampling visits	Advice and education	Information/intelligence gathering	Total
NI	4,174	410	765	266	369	5,984
UK	79,725	10,363	8,289	6,056	5,856	110,289
Intervention types as a % of total food standards interventions						
NI	69.8%	6.9%	12.8%	4.4%	6.2%	100.0%
UK	72.3%	9.4%	7.5%	5.5%	5.3%	100.0%
Percentage of food standards due interventions achieved						
	A	B	C	NYR	Total	
NI	96.8%	90.1%	88.0%	80.0%	87.5%	
UK	88.6%	51.8%	39.8%	62.6%	49.5%	

3.4. Although the number of food standards interventions decreased by 8.2% in comparison with 2011/12 data, they remained the most prevalent intervention type carried out in 2012/13 (69.8% of all interventions).



4. ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

4.1. In 2012/13, 5,712 **food hygiene enforcement actions** were reported in Northern Ireland in 2012/13, 5,536 written warnings and 176 other 'official' enforcement actions. This is a decrease of 5.6% on 2011/12 (6,054).

Figure 4.1: Number of establishments subject to food hygiene enforcement actions in NI 2012/13

	Voluntary closure	Seizure, detention & surrender of food	Suspension / revocation of approval or licence	Emergency Prohibition Notice	Prohibition Order	Simple caution	Improvement notice	Remedial action and detention notices	Written warnings	Prosecutions concluded	Totals
Northern Ireland	21	51	0	2	2	11	70	14	5,536	5	5,712
UK	1,024	407	22	318	125	276	5,274	213	161,327	320	169,306

Figure 4.2: Comparison of food hygiene enforcement actions from 2010/11

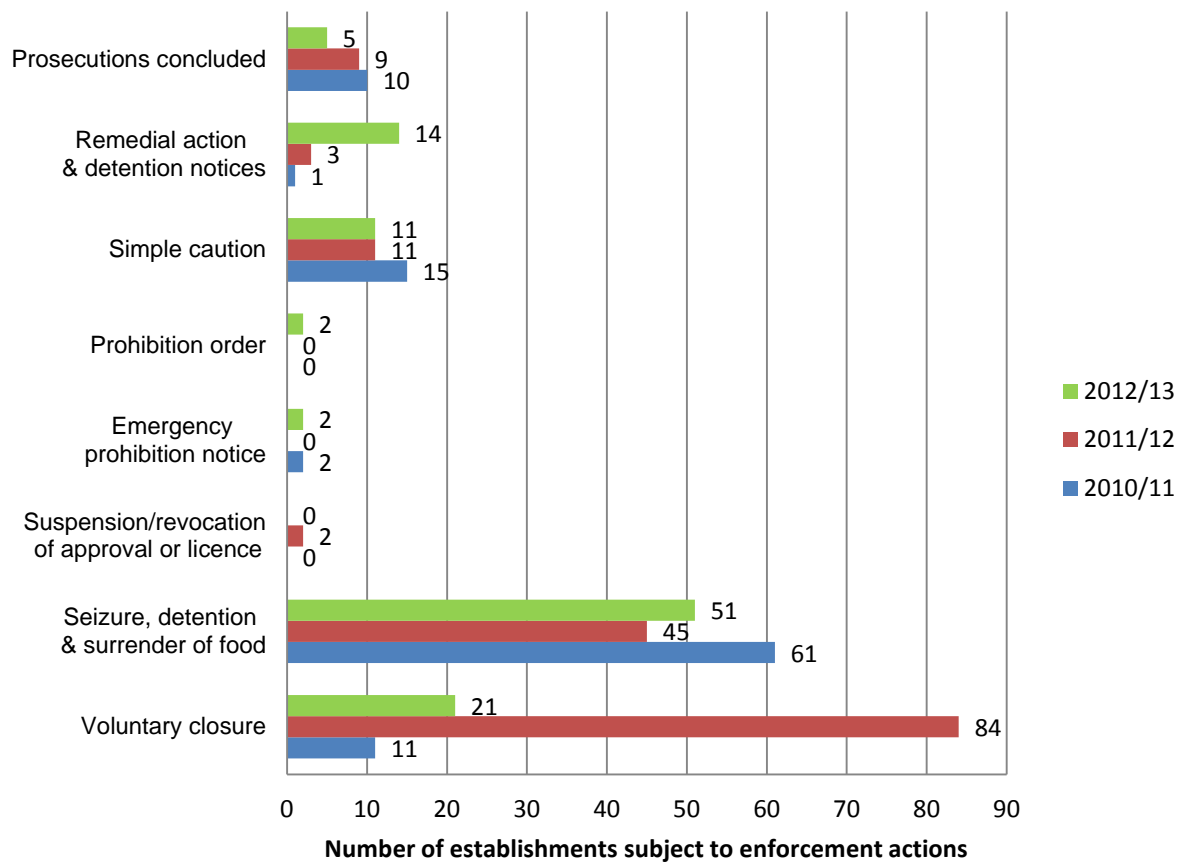
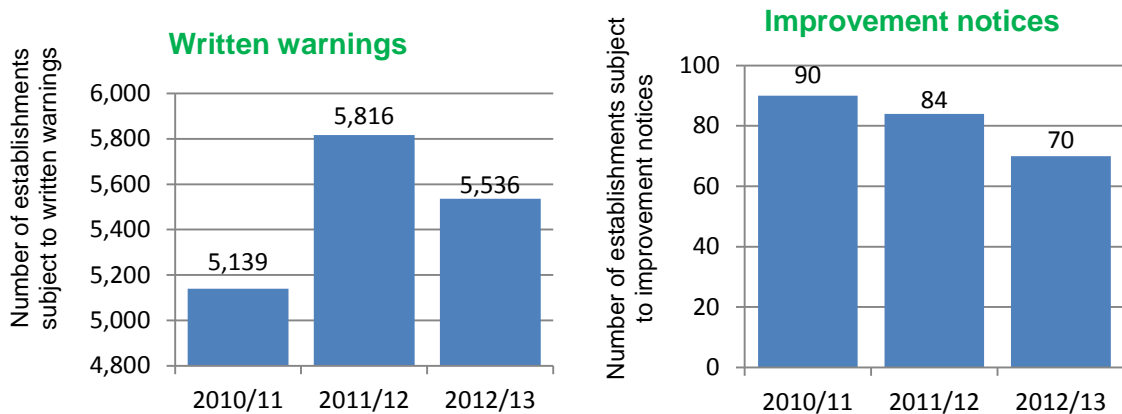


Figure 4.2 (cont.)



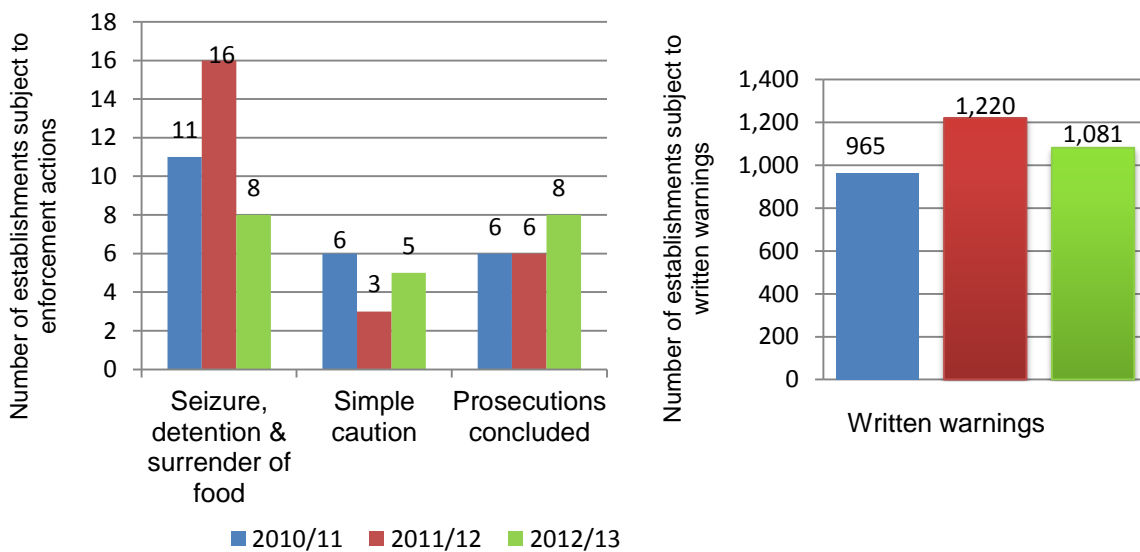
Note: to achieve adequate resolution, the scale does not begin at zero.

4.2. In total 1,102 **food standards enforcement actions** were reported in Northern Ireland in 2012/13, 1,081 written warnings and 21 other 'official' enforcement actions. This is a decrease of 11.5% on 2011/12 (1,245).

Figure 4.3: Number of establishments subject to food standards enforcement actions in NI 2012/13

	Seizure, detention & surrender of food	Simple caution	Written warnings	Prosecutions concluded	Totals
Northern Ireland	8	5	1,081	8	1,102
UK	136	143	13,903	78	14,260

Figure 4.4: Comparison of food standards enforcement actions from 2010/11



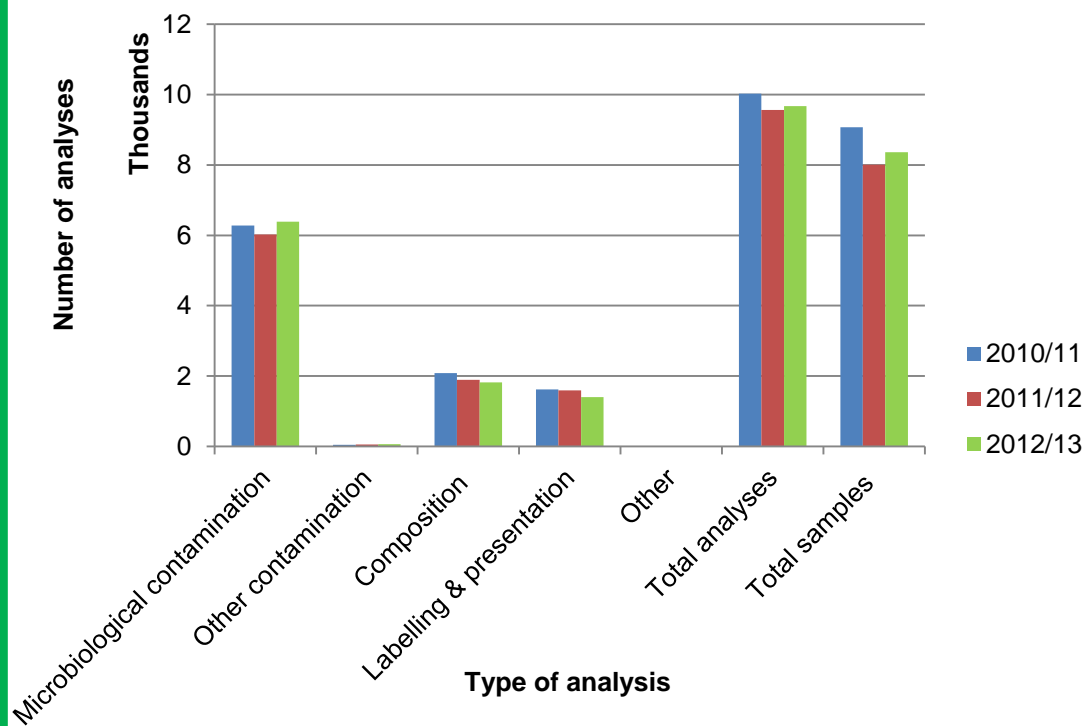
5. OFFICIAL FOOD SAMPLES

5.1. A total of 8,364 official food samples were taken in Northern Ireland in 2012/13, an increase of 4.5% from 2011/12. The number of analyses increased by 1.1%. This varies from the overall UK trend representing a continuing decline in sampling activity.

Figure 5.1: Official Samples in Northern Ireland from 201/11

Northern Ireland	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Microbiological contamination	6,277	6,020	6,388
Other contamination	48	56	63
Composition	2,084	1,892	1,819
Labelling & presentation	1,622	1,597	1,403
Other	0	2	1
Total analyses	10,031	9,567	9,674
Total samples	9,074	8,006	8,364

Figure 5.2: Comparison of official sampling from 2010/11

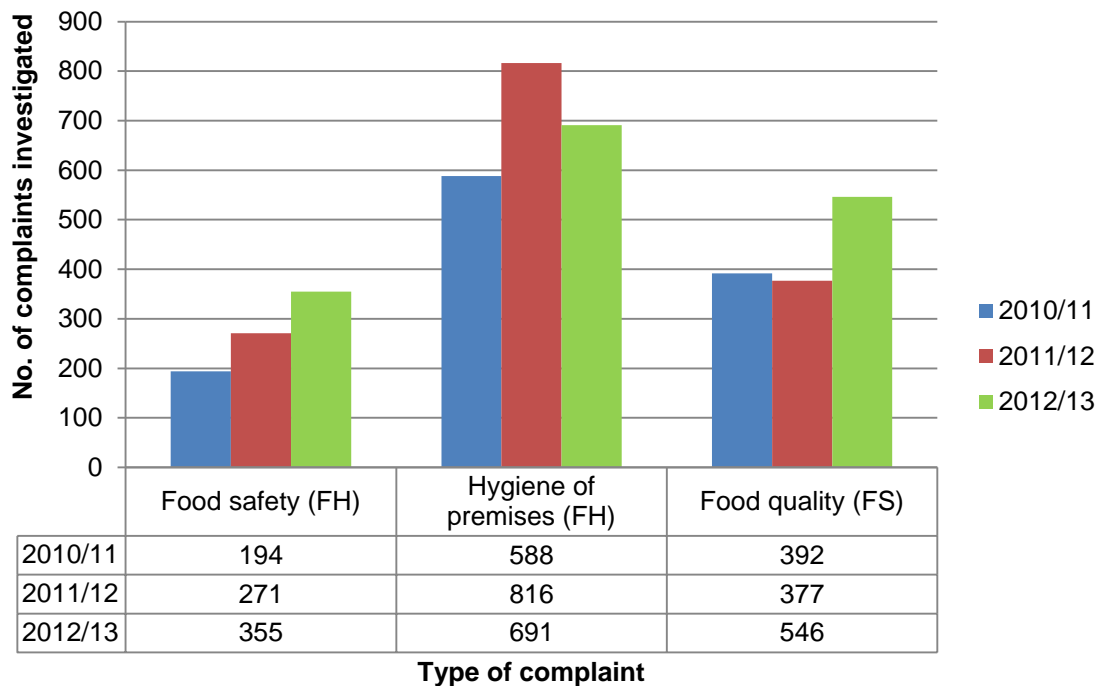


6. CONSUMER COMPLAINTS ABOUT FOOD AND FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS

6.1. LAs in Northern Ireland dealt with a total of 1,592 consumer complaints about food and food establishments during 2012/13, an increase of 8.7% (from 1,464) on 2011/12.

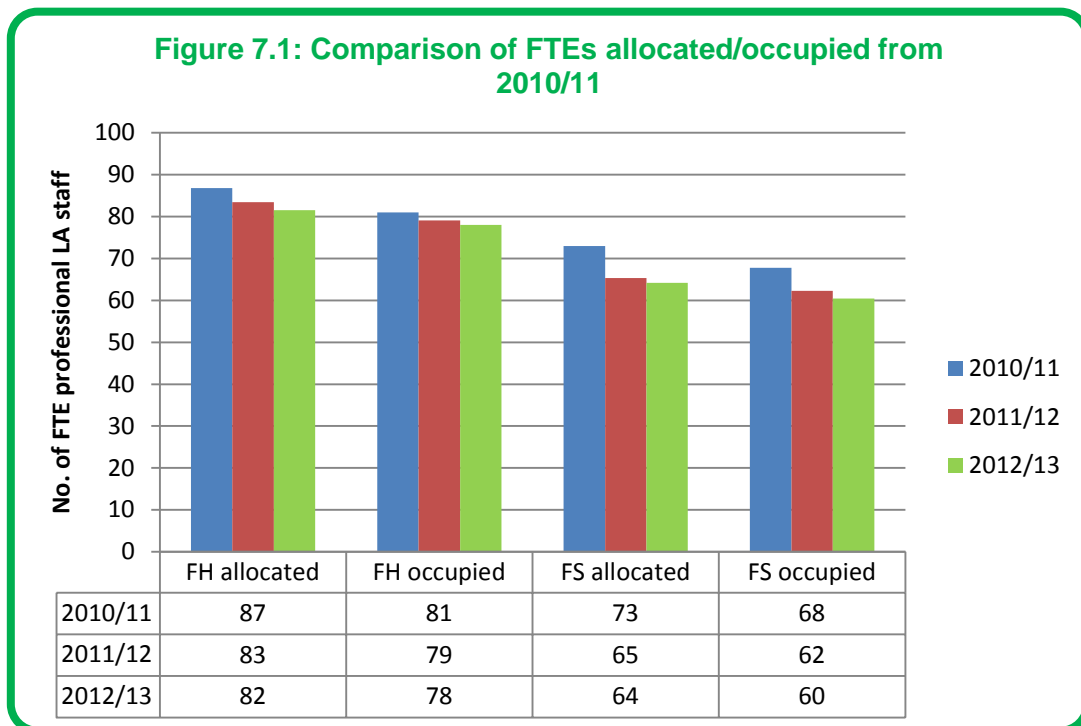
6.2. The levels of complaints in relation to food safety and food quality increased by 31.0% and 44.8% respectively on 2011/12 data; whereas the number of complaints about hygiene of premises decreased by 15.3% in comparison with previous year data.

Figure 6.1: Comparison of consumer complaints investigated from 2010/11



7. FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE) PROFESSIONAL LA STAFF

7.1. A total of 138 FTE professional LA staff was reported as being in post at 31 March 2013. This represents a 2.1% decrease on 2011/12 figures (141).



8. FOOD HYGIENE COMPLIANCE

8.1. The level of Broad Compliance in Northern Ireland as at 31 March 2013 was 94.4% of rated establishments (88.0% of all establishments), compared with a 91.2% level across the UK. This is an increase on the 2011/12 level in Northern Ireland of 92.2% of rated establishments (84.8% of all establishments).

Figure 8.1: Broad compliance levels in Northern Ireland by LA

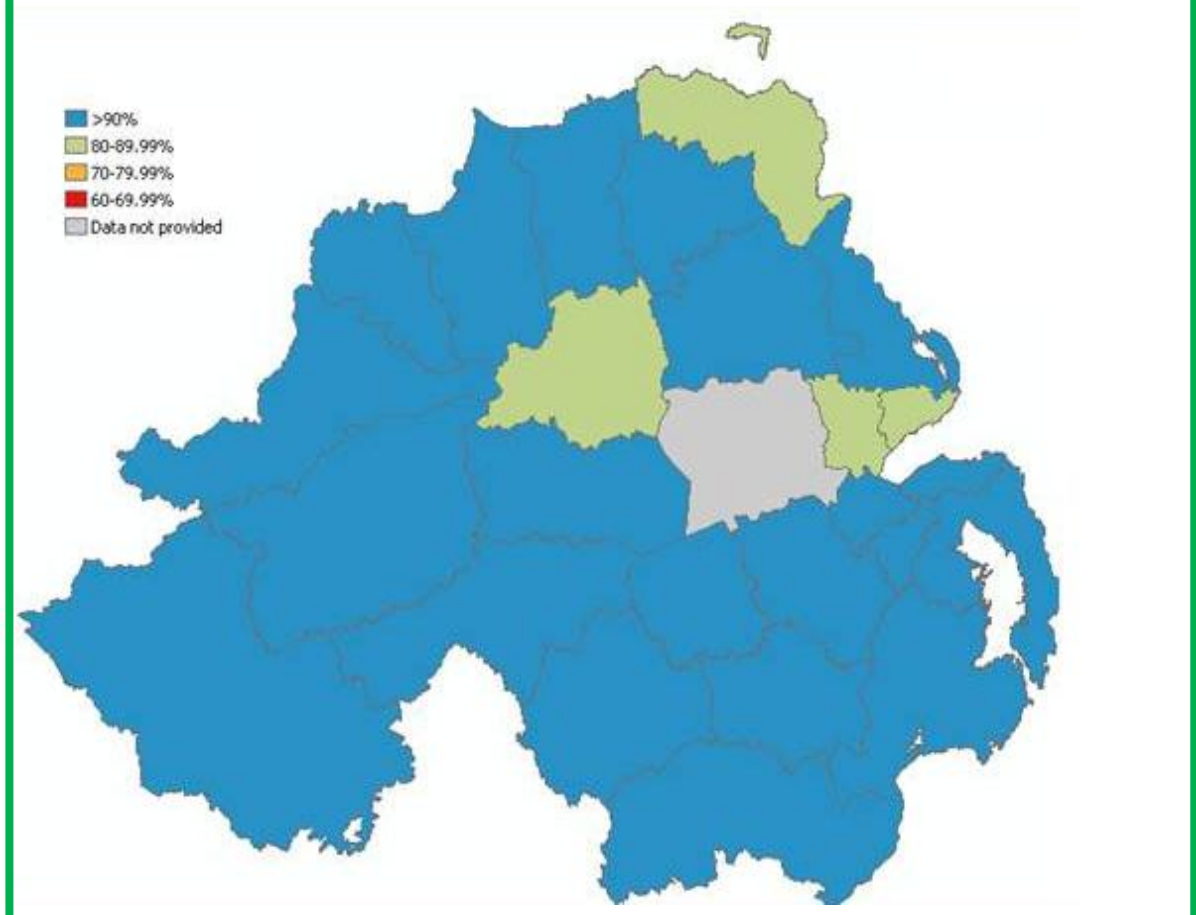
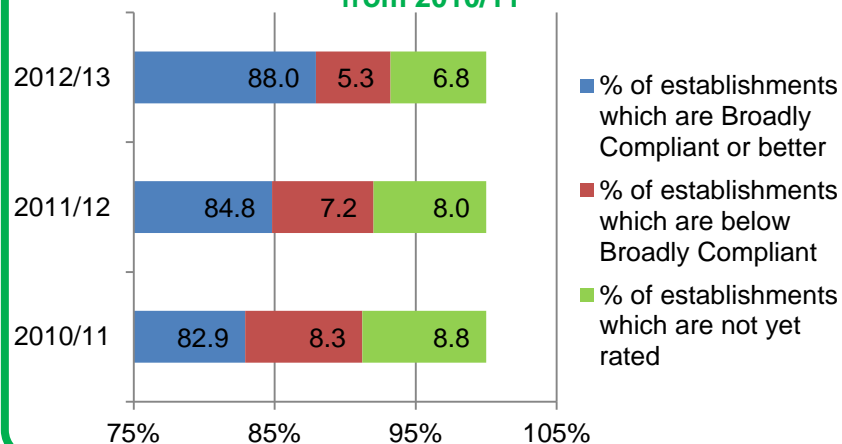


Figure 8.2: Food business compliance levels from 2010/11



9. AUDIT

9.1. In Northern Ireland, two focused audit programmes were carried out during this reporting period:

- **Imported food audit at Inland Authority** – part of the imported food audit programme which included an audit at a port in Northern Ireland. In general imported food controls including interventions such as inspections and sampling were carried out appropriately.
- **Audit of Food Standards Activities** – This is the first time the Agency has specifically carried out a focussed audit on LAs' Food Standards activities. The Food Standards Agency in Northern Ireland has provided support and resources specifically targeting the food standards activities carried out by councils in Northern Ireland.

9.2. This programme of focused audits was developed to assess the impact of providing this additional support and resource to LAs in Northern Ireland. Four LAs were selected for inclusion in the audit programme and each onsite visit included a reality check specifically focusing on food standards activities. Some of the issues identified included:

- Standards expertise - reality check visits indicated there is either a lack of expertise, a reluctance to seek out expertise or an over reliance on FBOs' technical experts.
- Interventions - officers were covering multiple council functions during the same visit. In some cases officers were doing health and safety, hygiene and standards inspections. Almost inevitably this led to standards activities not being assessed appropriately.
- Sampling - the majority of sample programmes did not vary from one year to the next and focused on a small number of standards activities.

Figure 9.1: Audit programme in Northern Ireland 2012/13	
Programmed audits and assessments planned	5
Programmed audits carried out	5
Desktop assessments carried out	-
% of planned audit and assessment programme completed	100%
Reality checks	5 as part of LA audits
Other LA assessments /follow-up audits carried out	0
Number of audits closed during reporting period <i>(NB: includes those for audits carried out prior to the reporting period)</i>	1