

Annex A

Your original request was as follows:

- 1) *I'd like to know how many food businesses in the London boroughs of Bromley, Lewisham, Greenwich, Bexley and Southwark have had action taken against them by the food standards agency after food incidents or alerts since 2012.*
- 2) *I'd like to know what action was taken against these businesses, (penalties or warnings), and the names and categories of the businesses, eg takeaway, butchers or abattoir.*
- 3) *I'd also like to know the number of, and names of, food businesses in the London boroughs of Bromley, Lewisham, Greenwich, Bexley and Southwark, who the Food standards agency have classed as, or in the past three years have considered to be, 'non compliant'. - eg on your website you refer to a national average of 37% of takeaways being 'non-compliant' after a penalty.*

The FSA wrote to you to clarify the remit of the FSA and the role of local authorities in relation to food law enforcement in local premises and to seek further clarification from you about the scope of your request, particularly in relation to food incidents.

You subsequently responded on 16 March 2015 clarifying with the following response:

With regard to the first point of clarification, I had hoped that the FSA would be able to provide information for both food production businesses as well as food retail businesses. If you are only able to provide information on food production businesses then that will suffice and I will contact the local authorities in my areas of interest individually to find out more about food retail outlets.

On the second point of clarification, I was in fact thinking more about food 'incidents' that would have been created due to consumer complaints or failed inspections etc.

Response

1. The FSA is responsible for carrying out official controls in approved meat premises (slaughterhouses, cutting premises, farmed and wild game facilities and co-located minced meat and meat products premises) in England and Wales. The FSA is also directly responsible in England and Wales for carrying out hygiene inspections of milk production holdings. Enforcement at other food premises is the responsibility of the local authority.

2. In regards to those establishments approved by the FSA in the boroughs outlined by you in your request (Bromley, Lewisham, Greenwich, Bexley and Southwark), we have identified the following:

1052	FRESHASIA FOODS LTD	Bexley, London Borough of
6319	EDEN VALLEY GROUP	Bexley, London Borough of
1003	KINDA FOOD LTD	Greenwich, London Borough of
6366	RARE BUTCHERS OF DISTINCTION LTD	Lewisham, London Borough of
2230	NORSTED MANOR FARM MEATS	London Borough of Bromley
1017	R.S. ASHBY LIMITED	Southwark, London Borough of
1070	J. BROTHERS	Southwark, London Borough of
2530	LOBO MEAT AND POULTRY LIMITED	Southwark, London Borough of

3. Please note that these are approved meat establishments approved by the FSA and do not include any establishments approved by the Local Authority. All of the plants listed are cutting plants that may also carry out other activities such as production of meat preparations, meat processing or mince meat. There are no slaughterhouses within the named boroughs. Also please note that there are no dairy establishments approved by the FSA in these boroughs.

4. To obtain information on other food establishments in these areas which are under Local Authority control you would need to contact them directly. I note the contact information has already been provided to you, however I have repeated below for the ease of reference.

LB of Bexley

bexley.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=414

LB of Bromley

bromley.gov.uk/info/200031/data_protection_and_freedom_of_information/727/freedom_of_information

LB of Greenwich

royalgreenwich.gov.uk/info/722/freedom_of_information/795/access_to_information

LB of Lewisham

lewisham.gov.uk/mayorandcouncil/aboutthecouncil/access-to-information/freedom-of-information-act/Pages/default.aspx

LB of Southwark

southwark.gov.uk/foi

5. You have requested in your clarification that *"I was in fact thinking more about food 'incidents' that would have been created due to consumer complaints or failed inspections etc."*

6. For clarification all cutting plants (and dairy establishments) are subject to unannounced inspections. If any areas of concern are identified then appropriate enforcement action will be taken. The FSA carries out auditing inspections and unannounced inspections on a risk based frequency.

Should customer complaints be received by the FSA, we would look into these on a case by case basis and respond to the individual complainant, following an investigation, as necessary, into the complaint. Any action taken will depend on the nature of the complaint and the outcome of the investigation.

7. The FSA follows a hierarchy of enforcement, the stages of which include verbal advice, written advice and service of a formal Notice to deal with non-compliances, before the option to prosecute is explored.

8. In relation to the enforcement action and complaints taken against those establishments identified in the boroughs you have identified, I can provide you with the following based on the information held by the FSA:

- In 2012 the following was recorded for the plants in the boroughs identified in your question: Written Advice was provided on 7 occasions, and no Hygiene Improvement Notices were issued. 1 customer complaint was received by the FSA about a product from one of the plants, but no formal enforcement action resulted from this.
- In 2013 the following was recorded for the plants in the boroughs identified in your question: Written Advice was provided on 16 occasions, and 1 Hygiene Improvement Notice was issued. 1 customer complaint was received by the FSA about a product from one of the plants, but no formal enforcement action resulted from this.
- In 2014 the following was recorded for the plants in the boroughs identified in your question: Written Advice was provided on 14 occasions, and no Hygiene Improvement Notices were issued. No customer complaints were received by the FSA.
- 2015 (January to March): To date, no enforcement action has yet been recorded for the plants in the boroughs identified in your question. No complaints have been received.

9. Information identifying the specific establishments that have received written advice, or been issued with a Hygiene Improvement Notice or been the subject of complaint have been withheld under section 31(1)(g) and (2)(a) and(c) of the FOI Act. Further information is provided in annex B.

Finally, you asked for information regarding assessments of non-compliance. All FBOs are audited and the audits are published on food.gov.uk. They can be accessed at the following link: food.gov.uk/business-industry/meat/audit

10. For information relating to food business premises under Local Authority responsibility, you would need to request this from the Local Authority itself or you may find information on their food hygiene rating of food retail premises (including shops and restaurants) through the Food Hygiene Rating Scheme (FHRS) helpful. This is a scheme which provides Food Businesses a rating based on their hygiene compliance at the time of inspection by Local Authority. You are able to search for FHRS ratings by area, business name, street, town, council and/or Local Authority. Information on FHRS can be accessed at ratings.food.gov.uk/.

11. Furthermore, as you may be aware, the FSA produces an annual report which provides the statistics on local authority (LA) food law enforcement activity within food businesses in the UK and on the checks carried out by port health authorities on food imports from countries outside the European Union. This is known as the LAEMS (Local Authority Enforcement Monitoring System) data. Access to this report, previous reports and further information is available via: food.gov.uk/enforcement/monitoring/laems/mondatabyyear/ocd201314.