

Annex

Request

You requested the following:

Please may you provide figures for the calendar year 2013 in relation to the following questions:

1. *How many prosecution proceedings did the FSA commence for deficiencies in compliance with animal welfare legislation at approved slaughterhouses?*
 - a. *Of those proceedings, how many were for major deficiencies in compliance?*
 - b. *Of those proceedings, how many were for critical deficiencies in compliance?*
 - c. *Of those proceedings, how many resulted in successful prosecution?*
2. *How many CoC/WASK licences did OVs/OHVs suspend for deficiencies in animal welfare compliance?*
 - a. *Of those suspended, how many were reinstated upon appeal?*
3. *How many CoC/WASK licences did OVs/OHVs revoke for deficiencies in animal welfare compliance?*
 - a. *Of those revoked, how many were reinstated upon appeal?*
4. *How many Welfare Enforcement Notices requiring immediate action were issued in:*
 - a. *Wales; and,*
 - b. *Scotland?*

Response

Your request is being answered in the order in which you have made it.

1. It should be noted that the FSA does not undertake prosecutions for animal welfare offences. We undertake enforcement of animal welfare legislation at approved slaughterhouses on behalf of Defra, the Scottish Government and the Welsh Government. FSA carries out investigations into alleged breaches of the legislation and submits the results to the Crown Prosecution Service (who prosecute on behalf of Defra), the Welsh Government or the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (in relation to offences in Scotland). Decisions on whether to pursue prosecutions are taken by the relevant prosecuting authority. During 2013, the FSA referred 8 cases to the CPS for alleged breaches of animal welfare legislation. These cases were not subject to categorisation as major or critical deficiencies in compliance. There were no referrals made to the Welsh Government or to the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service.

The CPS initiated prosecutions in 2 cases, although both were subsequently withdrawn. Of the remaining cases, two resulted in the issue of a warning letter to the food business operator and the remaining four cases were not pursued by the CPS.”

2. During 2013, one slaughterer’s license was suspended for deficiencies in animal welfare compliance. This was not appealed by the applicant nor has the applicant been reinstated.
3. During 2013, there were no revocations of CoC/WASK licenses.
4. No Welfare Enforcement Notices were issued either in Wales or in Scotland during 2013.