

Annex

Request

1) *The number of people prosecuted and convicted for fraudulently supplying untraceable horsemeat labelled as 'beef' to children*

2) *The number of schools/school children who were victims of the horsemeat scandal*

3) *The present status of your investigation into the horsemeat scandal*

I note that you stopped publishing industry test results following the 29 January 2014 report (). Please also disclose to me*

4) *The quarterly reports for each quarter since 29 January 2014*

5) *Details of ongoing testing procedures that will ensure people responsible for similar crimes in future are likewise prosecuted and convicted for fraud and contamination of the food chain*

Response

Your request is being answered in the order in which it was made:

1. The number of people prosecuted and convicted for fraudulently supplying untraceable horsemeat labelled as 'beef' to children.

The FSA does not hold information related to prosecutions regarding the supply of mislabelled products containing horsemeat specifically to children.

Criminal investigations are currently being undertaken by the City of London Police into the horsemeat incident and the FSA is assisting with these investigations. There are a number of individuals who are assisting police with ongoing enquiries. In July 2013, the investigation team arrested two men on suspicion of conspiracy to defraud, and later that month two other men were interviewed under caution. Prosecutions are ongoing against four individuals accused of mislabelling and meat traceability offences that were identified during the horsemeat incident. They were due to appear at Southwark Crown Court on 28 January 2015 for a Plea and Case Management Hearing.

In September 2014, Kent County Council successfully prosecuted a food import company after sausage meat was found to contain horsemeat. The company was fined £5,000 ordered to pay £2,500 costs.

2. The number of schools/school children who were victims of the horsemeat scandal.

The FSA does not hold information regarding the number of school children affected by the supply of mislabelled products containing horsemeat. From our records, we are aware of 47 schools that were supplied with beef products containing horsemeat. Our records also indicate that there were other schools within the UK that were supplied with products containing horsemeat but we do not hold information regarding the total number of schools affected.

3. The present state of your investigation into the horsemeat scandal

Information relating to the present state of the City of London police's investigation into the horsemeat incident is in Question 1.

The FSA has put in place arrangements and plans since the horsemeat incident in order to improve our capacity and capability to prevent, identify and respond to similar significant incidents in the future. Much of this work has been developed in parallel with the various reviews and inquiries which have been undertaken into the horsemeat incident.

Further information is provided in the paper discussed by the FSA's Board in November 2014: <https://www.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/fsa141106.pdf>

4. The quarterly reports for each quarter since 29 January 2014.

We have published two quarter industry test results since January 2014, which are provided in the link below. The latest, and final, report was published in July 2014. The link also refers to a follow up EU commissioned round of testing. You may wish to note that in both cases no horsemeat was found. <https://www.food.gov.uk/news-updates/news/2014/6126/horse-meat>.

5. Details of ongoing testing procedures that will ensure people responsible for similar crimes in future are likewise prosecuted and convicted for fraud and contamination of the food chain.

The FSA is the central competent authority for food safety. The majority of food law enforcement is delegated to local authorities throughout the UK who carry out checks of food businesses in their area to ensure compliance with food safety/traceability and labelling requirements. These checks include routine food sampling and analyses.

Measures to co-ordinate food standards enforcement across local authorities are kept under continual review by the FSA to improve effectiveness of delivery and we work closely with Local Authorities (LAs) and trading standards and environmental health professional bodies.

The FSA provides additional assistance and resources to UK LAs to support their sampling activity, including the provision of central advice and training. FSA works closely with other Government Departments, LAs and industry to support this.

The FSA makes specific additional funding available to UK Enforcement Authorities for sampling and surveillance of food to help ensure risk-based targeted checks are carried out at ports and LA monitoring throughout the food chain. This programme supports two of the FSA's key strategic outcomes - 'that imported food is safe to eat and also that food produced or sold in the UK is safe to eat'. Food labelling and food adulteration issues are prioritised in consultation with DEFRA.

In 2013 -14, the FSA made £1.6 million additional funding available to LAs and ports plus, including £700,000 specifically for authenticity issues such as meat speciation. For 2014-15, the FSA has provided £2 million additional funding to LAs and ports to support their sampling work and this support and prioritisation for this work will continue into the next year's sampling programmes.

You will also wish to note that in April 2014 the FSA announced an additional programme of priority LA testing of lamb dishes from takeaway restaurants across the UK following the publication by Which? of a survey that found that of the 60 lamb takeaways (lamb curry and lamb kebab), 24 contained meat of another species other than lamb, though none were found to contain horsemeat. 307 samples were taken as part of the FSA's 2014 -15 National Food Sampling Programme. The results of the National Food Sampling Programme will be published on www.food.gov.uk very shortly.

Over the last 12 months, FSA and DEFRA have worked with the [Authenticity Steering Group, which includes government officials and scientists, and consumer and food industry representatives](#), to address and prioritise analytical method development for the Food Authenticity Research Programme. Current activities include knowledge transfer sessions, which have been joint-funded by FSA and DEFRA, to enhance the range of analytical methods available to support LA enforcement activity.

You may also wish to be aware that the 2013\14 [Local authority enforcement activity data](#) shows that 75,547 official food samples were taken by local authorities in 2013/14, an increase of 3.0% from 2012/13 (73,321), reversing the general decline in LA sampling activity shown in previous years. Further information on this can be found in the [2013/14 data](#).

The FSA Board paper of November 2014 also highlights additional international work taking place to combat fraud and contamination, including the establishment in 2013 of the European Commission Food Fraud Unit which has established a network of contacts to facilitate sharing of intelligence across Member States.