

## Annex

### Request

*I refer to your above reply in respect of **Prosecution Proceedings by the FSA** for the calendar year 2013. Is the same information available for 2014? If not when do you expect such information to be available?*

For clarification the questions asked in the FOI Prosecution Proceedings by the FSA as referred to in your original request are as follows;

*[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?]*

*In addition please supply the following:*

*1. How many licensed slaughterhouse are there in England? Of these how many are licensed for halal slaughter?*

*2. How many Official Veterinarians are employed by the FSA to ensure strict slaughter regulations are adhered to? Is this different for halal slaughterhouses?*

*3. Is there any specific number of visits that have to be made to a slaughterhouse to ensure et and are they on a surprise or a pre notified basis?*

*4. How many halal slaughterhouses were reported to the CPA in 2013 and 2014 if these figures are available?*

*5. When was the last time that slaughter procedures were reviewed by the government and do we have to follow EU directives on slaughter methods and if so do these differ from those previously applied by the UK government?*

## Response

I will answer your questions in two parts. Part A refers to the information for 2014 that relates to the previous FOI referred to in your request. Part B refers to the subsequent questions you have asked.

### Part A

1. Please be aware that our response to this question will be the same as that given in the FOI you have referenced. We have however updated the answer to reflect the figures of 2014 as per your request. As stated in the previous FOI response, 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 and the Welsh Government. Until 31 March 2015, we also undertook enforcement on behalf of the Scottish Government.

The FSA carries out investigations into alleged breaches of the legislation and submits the results to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) (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.

- a) & b) During 2014, the FSA referred 6 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.
- b) The CPS initiated prosecutions in 2 cases. One is ongoing whilst the other was withdrawn on evidential grounds. Of the remaining 4 cases referred to, 2 resulted in the issue of warning letters to the Business Operators and the other 2 cases were not pursued by the CPS.

2. In 2014 there was 1 WASK suspension.

- a) Following a review by Defra the license was subsequently reinstated.

3. In 2014 there were 3 WASK revocations.

- a) No license was reinstated after an appeal.

4. In relation to the number of Welfare Enforcement Notices issued please note;

- a) In 2014, 1 Welfare Enforcement notice was issued requiring immediate action in Wales.
- b) In 2014, 4 Welfare Enforcement Notices were issued requiring immediate action in Scotland.

## Part B

1. There are 280 approved slaughterhouses in England. The FSA does not license slaughterhouses for Halal slaughter. There are national rules that set down requirements for religious slaughter (non-stun) and slaughtermen who carry out non-stun slaughter will have been issued a certificate of competence in order to do so. However, having this certificate of competence will not necessarily mean they now work in an abattoir that uses non-stun methods.

Animal welfare legislation permits slaughter without stunning to be carried out in accordance with religious rites, providing specific requirements on killing are met. The FSA's role focuses on ensuring businesses are complying with specific requirements in animal welfare legislation. There are a number of Halal accreditation bodies all setting specific standards. It is the responsibility of the accreditation bodies to verify compliance with these standards.

2. In England and Wales, there are approximately 365 Official Veterinarians (OVs) working in approved abattoirs to ensure slaughter regulations are adhered to. These OVs are employed either directly by the FSA or through the FSA's contracted veterinary practices. The figure is an approximation as the number does fluctuate depending on seasonal trends and processing undertaken by abattoirs within England and Wales. The figure provided does not include the number of OVs employed in Scotland as from the 1st April 2015, the FSA is no longer the competent authority in Scotland, and this role is now undertaken by Food Standards Scotland (FSS). You can contact them at: [openness@fss.scot](mailto:openness@fss.scot) or write to them at FSS, 4th Floor, Pilgrim House, Old Ford Street, Aberdeen, AB11 5RL. More information on contacting FSS can be found at <http://www.foodstandards.gov.scot/freedom-information#sthash.8Unh7cOW.dpuf>

The FSA does not employ extra OVs in halal slaughterhouses directly as a result of the slaughter method used in the plant. The OVs in slaughter houses using the halal method of slaughter will ensure that the Business Operator complies with the specific regulations and will undertake the following specific checks on top of other welfare slaughter checks:

- Monitor slaughter by a non-stun religious method.
- On restraint facilities for non-stun religious slaughter
- Monitor the period of time that the animal remains restrained after neck cut has taken place and ensure this complies with the WASK 1995 in England, WATOK (Wales) and WATOK requirements for restraint times after the neck cut;
- Ensure that animals are checked by persons responsible for slaughtering and they carry out systematic checks to ensure that the animals do not present any signs of consciousness or sensibility before being released from restraint and do not present any sign of life before undergoing dressing or scalding. (Information taken from the Manual of Official Controls Volume 1, Chapter 2.3)

3. Animal welfare is the responsibility of the Business Operator and it is for the FSA to monitor the compliance of the Business Operator with the regulations. OV's and meat hygiene inspectors working under the supervision of OV's are present during processing of animals presented for slaughter. They carry out a range of duties, including ante and post-mortem checks (on live animals, carcasses and offal) and checks on the health and welfare of animals presented for slaughter. These official control duties ensure that food business operators have produced meat in accordance with regulatory requirements, with a health mark applied to show that meat is safe to enter the food chain.

OV's are required to confirm daily that the Business Operator is compliant with animal welfare legislation. They are also required to inspect and verify compliance with welfare legislation during each killing period at least several times daily. Where non-compliances are identified these will then be recorded on an Animal Welfare Database.

We can advise that checks are not prearranged and subsequently the Business Operator/Abattoir owner is not aware that the check is going to take place. For clarification, the OV will conduct checks throughout the day that slaughtering of animals is taking place. These checks will be made at random, either by the OV or an inspector. Consequently a Business Operator or Abattoir owner will know there is an OV or inspectors on site who will be conducting checks, of which animal welfare forms a part of this; however they will not be aware of when specifically such checks will be taking place. Furthermore should the OV feel it is necessary they have available to them the option of conducting unannounced inspections.

4. The FSA does not hold or record this information.

5. Defra holds the policy relating to animal welfare in England. They can be contacted at:

Defra  
7th Floor, Nobel House,  
17 Smith Square, London,  
SW1P 3JR or you can email them at: [defra.helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:defra.helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk).

For Wales and Scotland the respective devolved governments would need to be contacted and for Northern Ireland the respective organisation would be DARD. Please find the contact details below for your ease of reference.

Scottish government website: <http://www.gov.scot/About/Information/FOI/access> or email [ceu@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:ceu@scotland.gsi.gov.uk) or write to them at:

The Scottish Government  
St Andrew's House  
Regent Road  
Edinburgh  
EH1 3DG

Welsh Government website: <http://gov.wales/about/foi/?lang=en> or email [FreedomofInformationOfficer@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:FreedomofInformationOfficer@wales.gsi.gov.uk) or you can write to them at:

Freedom of Information Officer  
Information Rights Unit  
Welsh Government  
Cathays Park  
Cardiff  
CF10 3NQ

Northern Ireland DARD website: <http://www.dardni.gov.uk/index/information-access.htm> or email them at: [dard.informationmanager@dardni.gov.uk](mailto:dard.informationmanager@dardni.gov.uk) or you can write to them at:

Information Management Branch  
Room 507  
Dundonald House  
Upper Newtownards Road  
Belfast  
BT4 3SB