

Annual report on UK local authority food law enforcement

1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014

Data summary – England

FOOD
HYGIENE
RATING

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report, which covers the period 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014, provides a summary of local authority (LA) food law enforcement activity within food businesses in England and on the Food Standards Agency's (FSA) audit of English LAs. The UK-wide report and further data by individual LA is available on the FSA website at <http://www.food.gov.uk/enforcement/monitoring/laems/mondatabyyear/> Data for previous years are also available from this weblink.

2. ESTABLISHMENT PROFILES

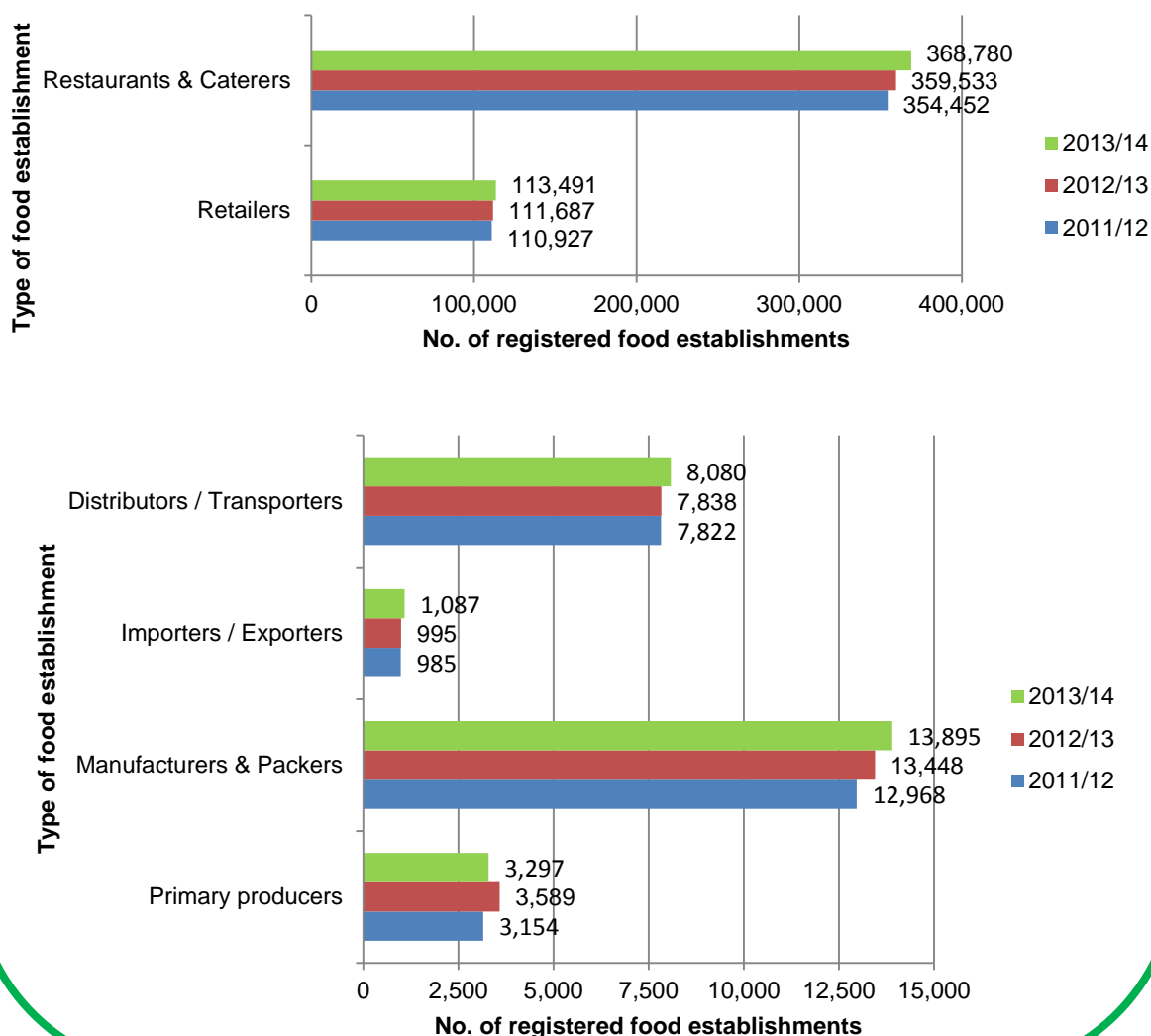
- 2.1 As at 31 March 2014, a total of 508,630 food establishments were registered with LAs in England, an increase of 2.3% on 2012/13 (497,090).

Figure 1.1: 2013/14 registered food establishments profiles in England by food hygiene risk and premises type as at 31 March 2014

	Primary producers	Manufacturers and Packers	Importers/ Exporters	Distributors/ Transporters	Retailers	Restaurants and Caterers	Total
A	8	331	4	12	260	1,823	2,438
B	59	1,719	8	66	1,959	19,479	23,290
C	171	3,785	97	676	21,687	154,963	181,379
D	243	1,891	173	1,310	23,003	63,734	90,354
E	1,299	4,903	528	4,749	59,235	101,452	172,166
NYR	345	947	125	579	5,056	19,955	27,007
Outside	1,172	319	152	688	2,291	7,374	11,996
Total	3,297	13,895	1,087	8,080	113,491	368,780	508,630

- 2.2 A comparison of establishment types over the past three years indicates a gradual increase in numbers across all premises types with the exception of primary producers.

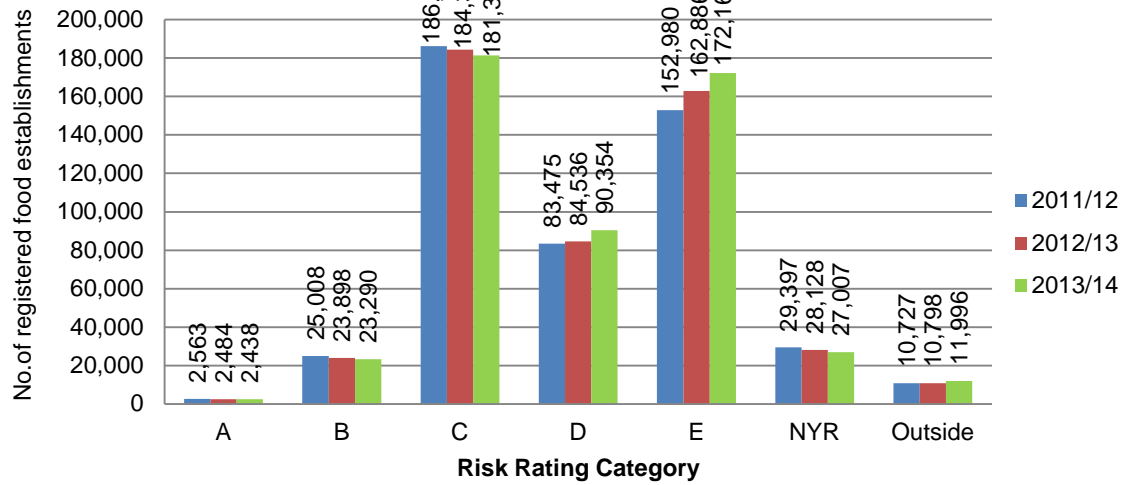
Figure 2.2: Comparison of registered food establishments in England by type of establishment from 2011/12



2.3 A comparison of the split of risk ratings in food establishments indicates a decrease of 1.7% in premises rated A to C (from 210,742 in 2012/13 to 207,107 in 2013/14) and an increase of 6.1% in premises rated D and E (from 247,422 in 2012/13 to 262,520 in 2013/14).¹

¹ This is likely to reflect early implementation of the revision of Code of Practice Annex 4 parameters, see para 4.4 [Annual report](#) on UK local authority food law enforcement 2013/14 for further details

Figure 2.3: Comparison of food establishments profile in England by food hygiene risk rating from 2011/12



Establishments Not Yet Rated²

2.4 In England, 5.3% of registered food establishments were not yet rated (NYR) for food hygiene risk as at 31 March 2014 (27,007 out of 508,630). This is an improvement on the 2012/13 figure of 5.7% (28,128 out of 497,090).

Figure 2.4: Comparison of percentage of registered establishments in England NYR for food hygiene from 2011/12

	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Total number of establishments	490,308	497,090	508,630
Number of NYR establishments	29,397	28,128	27,007
Percentage NYR:			
England	6.0%	5.7%	5.3%
UK	6.2%	5.9%	5.6%

2.5 There has been an increase in the number of LAs in England reporting levels of NYR establishments below 5% (63.6% of LAs, compared with 58.6% in 2012/13).

Figure 2.1: Comparison of percentage of English / UK LAs, by level of registered establishments NYR for food hygiene as at 31 March 2014

	0 - 4.99%	5 - 9.99%	10 - 14.99%	15 - 19.99%	20 - 24.99%	25%+
England	63.6%	28.4%	5.6%	2.2%	0.3%	0%
UK	62.1%	28.0%	6.9%	2.5%	0.5%	0%

² Not yet rated (NYR) – those establishments yet to be assessed for a risk rating i.e. not inspected by LA.

3 LOCAL AUTHORITY INTERVENTIONS

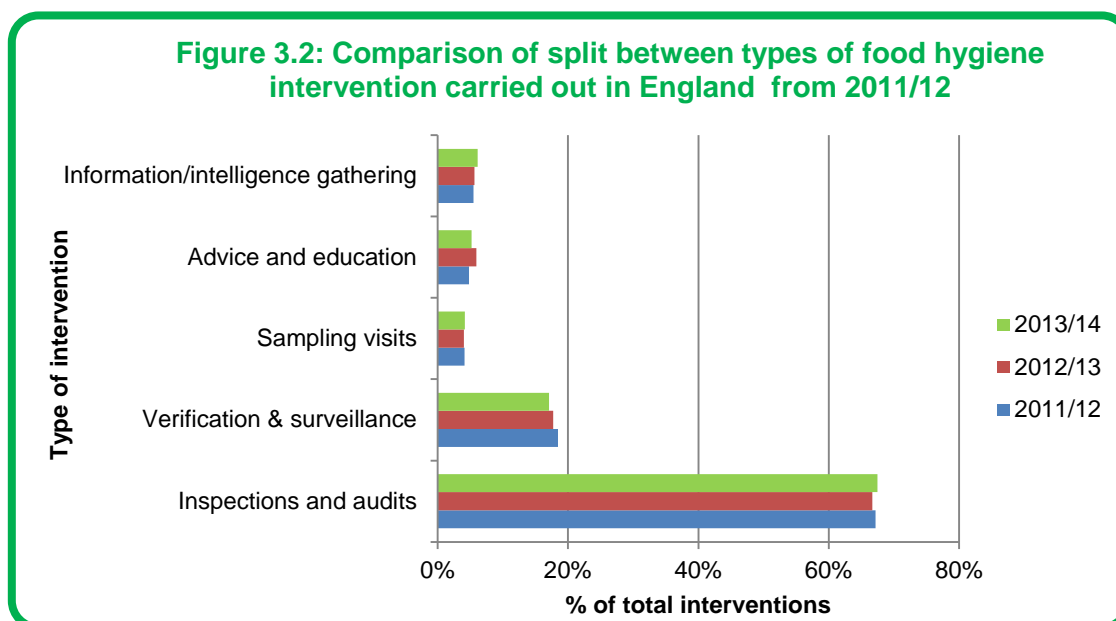
Food hygiene interventions

3.1 During 2013/14, 319,072 food hygiene interventions were carried out in England, a 1.6% decrease on the reported number in 2012/13 (324,394).

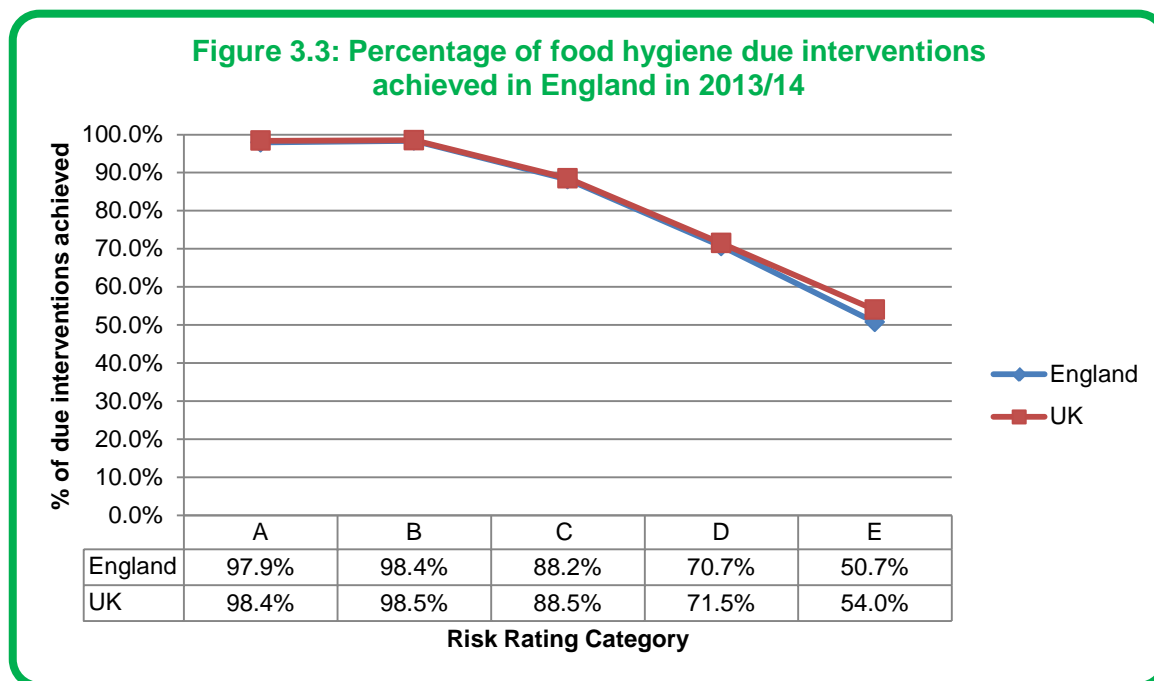
Figure 3.1: Food hygiene interventions carried out in England 2013/14

	Inspections and audits	Verification and surveillance	Sampling visits	Advice and education	Information/intelligence gathering	Total
Interventions carried out						
England	215,205	54,441	13,300	16,584	19,542	319,072
UK	267,154	77,758	20,053	23,932	22,180	411,077
Intervention types as a % of total food hygiene interventions						
England	67.4%	17.1%	4.2%	5.2%	6.1%	100.0%
UK	65.0%	18.9%	4.9%	5.8%	5.4%	100.0%

3.2 Inspections and audits remain the most frequent food hygiene intervention type (67.4%, compared with 66.7% in 2012/13). The number of advice and education visits decreased by 13.8% (from 19,231 in 2012/13 to 16,584 in 2013/14). The levels for all other food hygiene intervention types were within 5% of those reported in 2012/13,



3.3 The trend for LAs to target higher risk establishments (Category A to C) for food hygiene intervention, at the expense of due interventions at lower risk establishments has continued.



Food standards interventions

3.4 During 2013/14, 78,461 food standards interventions were carried out in England, a 3.2% increase on the reported number in 2012/13 (76,020), reversing the decline in previous years.

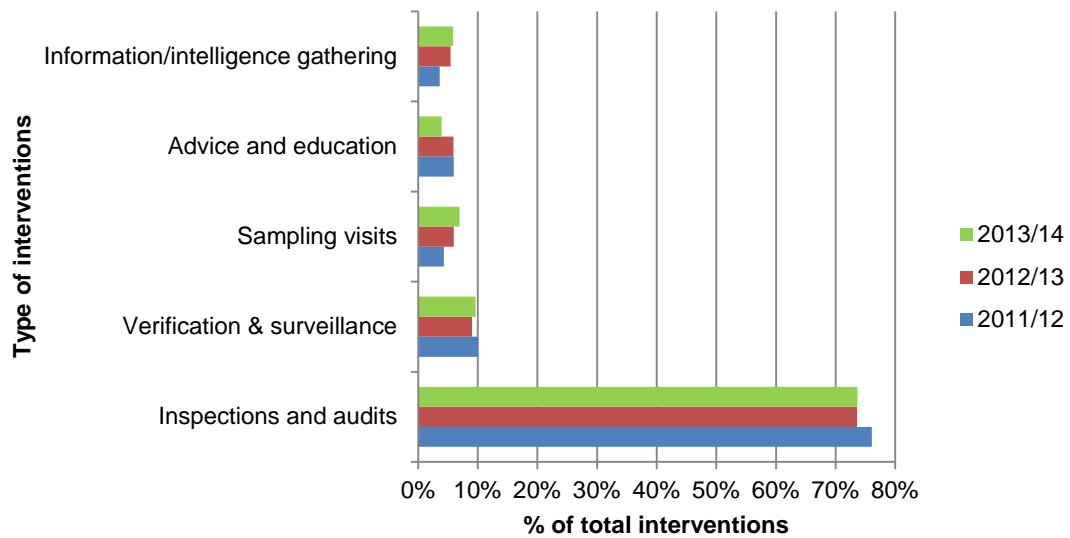
Figure 3.4: Food standards interventions carried out in England 2013/14

	Inspections and audits	Verification and surveillance	Sampling visits	Advice and education	Information/intelligence gathering	Total
England	57,783	7,550	5,427	3,104	4,597	78,461
UK	81,887	10,829	9,588	4,657	6,453	113,414
Intervention types as a % of total food standards interventions						
England	73.6%	9.6%	6.9%	4.0%	5.9%	100.0%
UK	72.2%	9.5%	8.5%	4.1%	5.7%	100.0%

3.5 As in previous years, inspections and audit were the most prevalent food standards intervention type carried out in 2013/14, with the same percentage rate as 2012/13. There was an increase in the percentage of verifications and surveillance; sampling visits and information / intelligence gathering

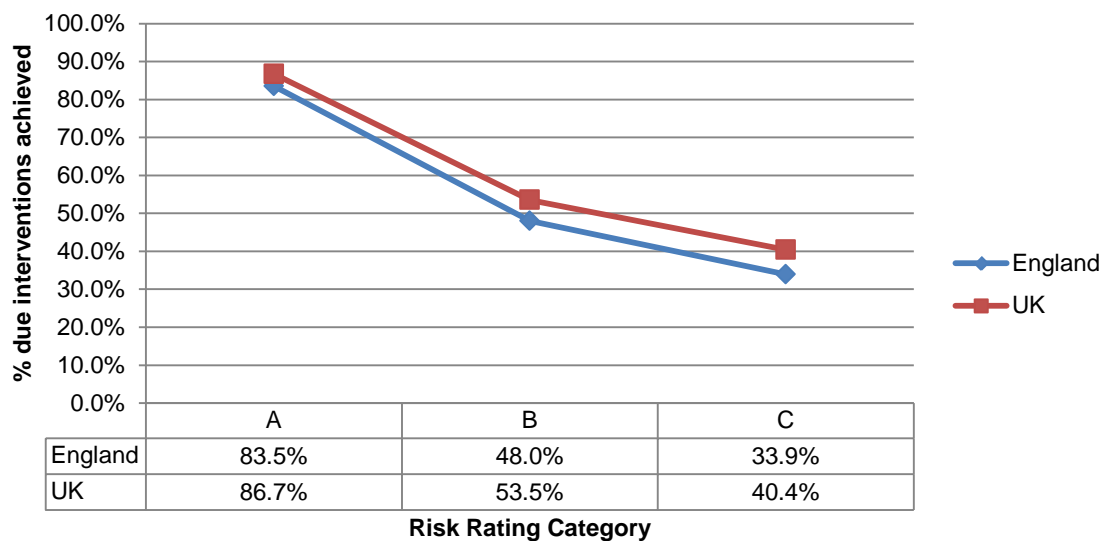
interventions compared with 2012/13. Advice and education interventions decreased by 31.2% in the same period.

Figure 3.5: Comparison of split between types of food standards interventions from 2011/12



3.6 LAs have continued to target higher risk establishments (Category A) for food standards interventions across much of the UK. The figures for England were lower than the UK average.

Figure 3.6: Percentage of food standards due interventions achieved in England in 2013/14



4 ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

Food hygiene enforcement actions

4.1 In 2013/14, 136,668 food hygiene enforcement actions were reported in England, 130,764 written warnings and 5,904 other 'official' enforcement actions.

Figure 4.1: Number of establishments subject to food hygiene enforcement actions in England 2013/14

	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
England	741	438	9	259	75	222	3,786	63	130,764	311	136,668
UK	969	576	14	278	80	258	4,513	252	162,624	350	169,914

4.2 This is an increase of 1.7% on 2012/13 (134,447), although numbers of some types of enforcement action have decreased.

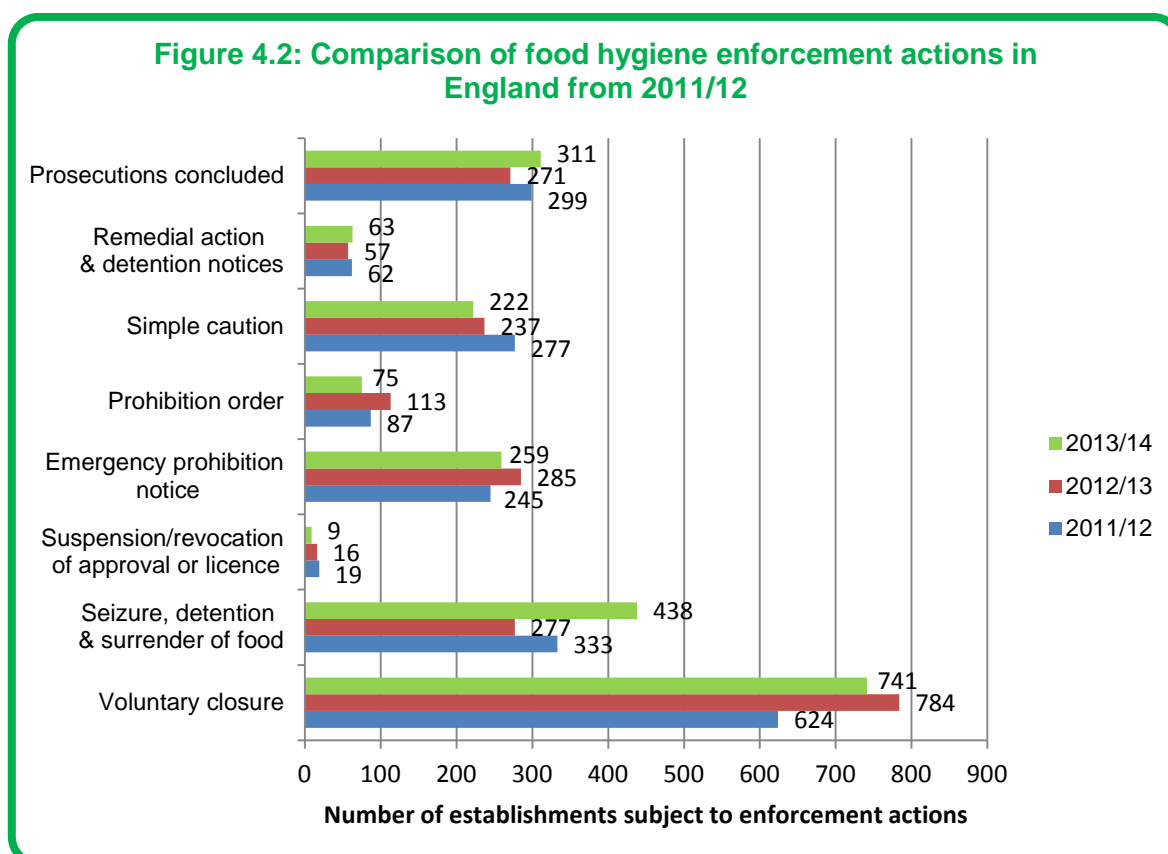
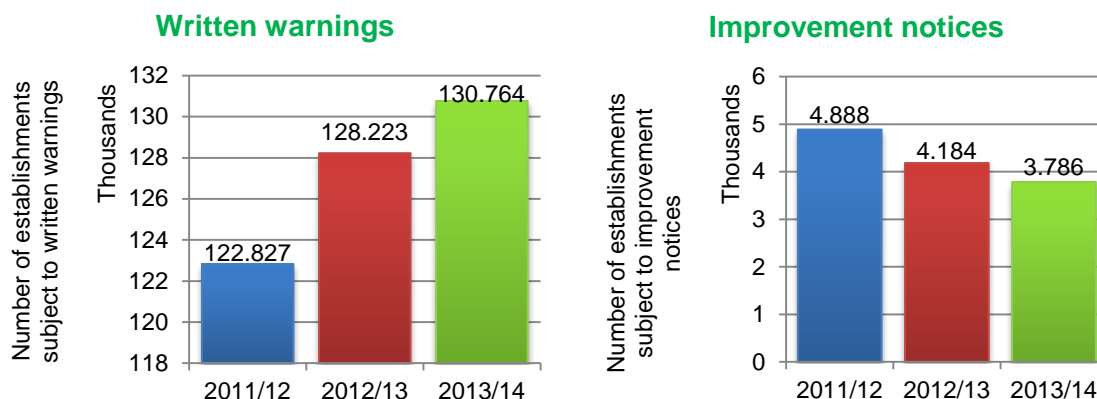


Figure 4.2 (cont.)



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

Food standards enforcement actions

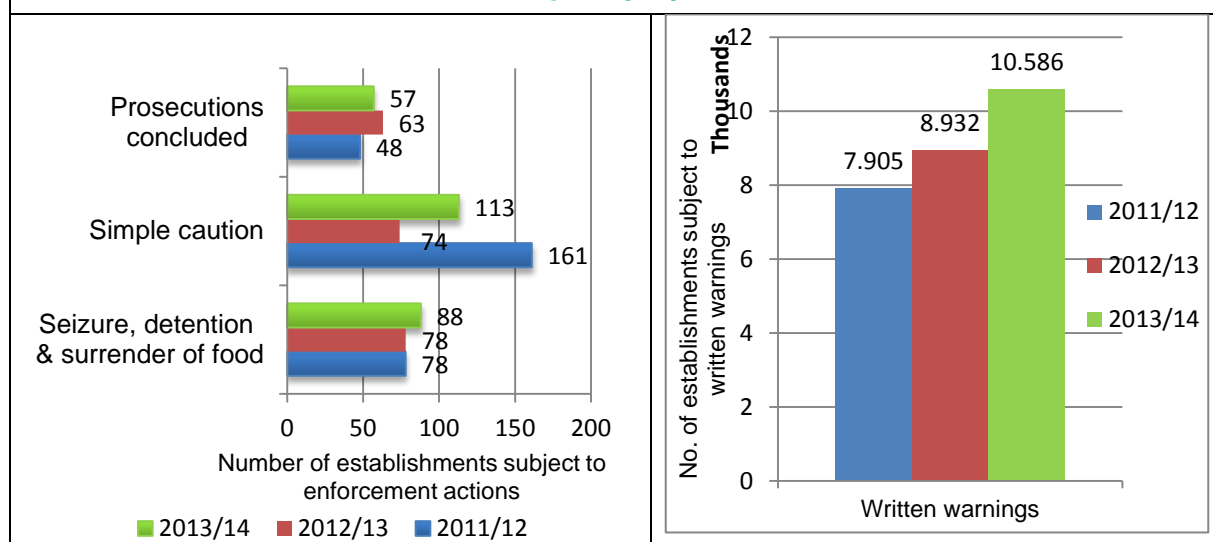
4.3 In total food standards enforcement actions were reported in England in 2013/14, 8,932 written warnings and 215 other 'official' enforcement actions.

Figure 4.3: Number of establishments subject to food standards enforcement actions in England 2013/14

	Seizure, detention & surrender of food	Simple caution	Written warnings	Prosecutions concluded	Totals
England	88	113	10,586	52	10,839
UK	111	181	15,122	57	15,471

4.4 This is an increase of 18.5% on 2012/13 (9,147).

Figure 4.4: Comparison of food standards enforcement actions in England from 2011/12



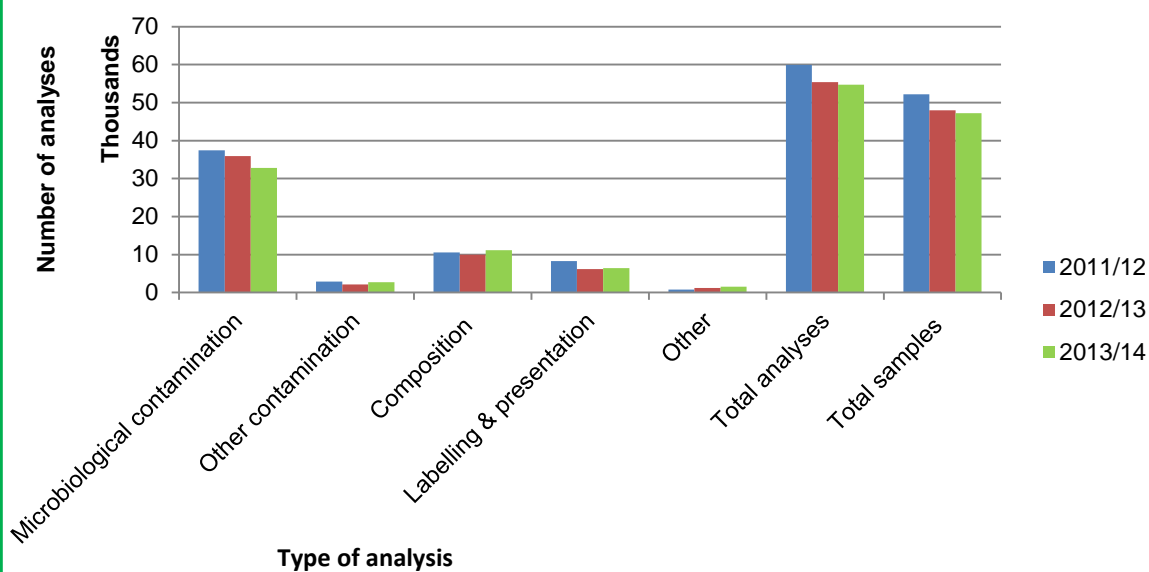
5 OFFICIAL FOOD SAMPLES

- 5.1 A total of 47,207 official food samples were taken in England in 2013/14, a decrease of 1.7% from 2012/13, compared with a UK wide increase of 3.0%.

Figure 5.1: Official samples in England from 2011/12

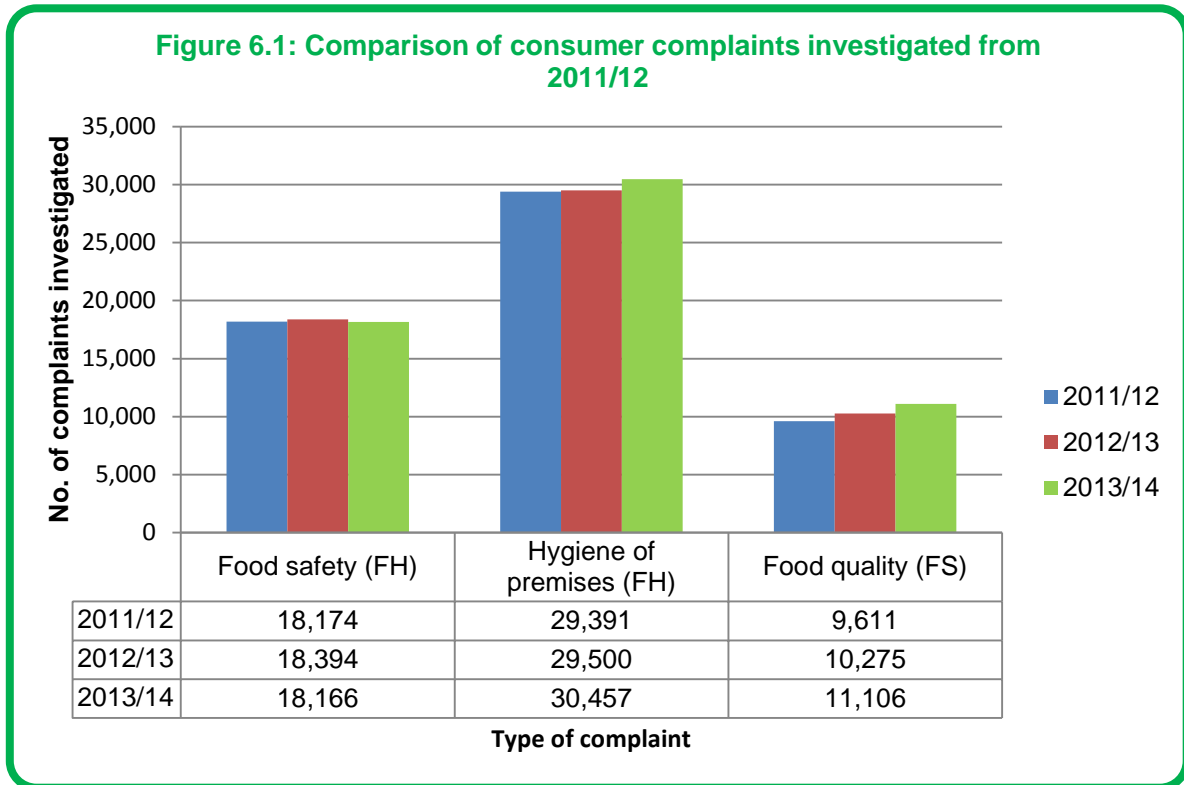
England	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Microbiological contamination	37,463	35,939	32,834
Other contamination	2,869	2,151	2,749
Composition	10,567	9,931	11,179
Labelling & presentation	8,291	6,129	6,423
Other	759	1,219	1,500
Total analyses	59,949	55,369	54,685
Total samples	52,186	48,002	47,207

Figure 5.2: Comparison of official sampling in England from 2011/12



6 CONSUMER COMPLAINTS ABOUT FOOD AND FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS

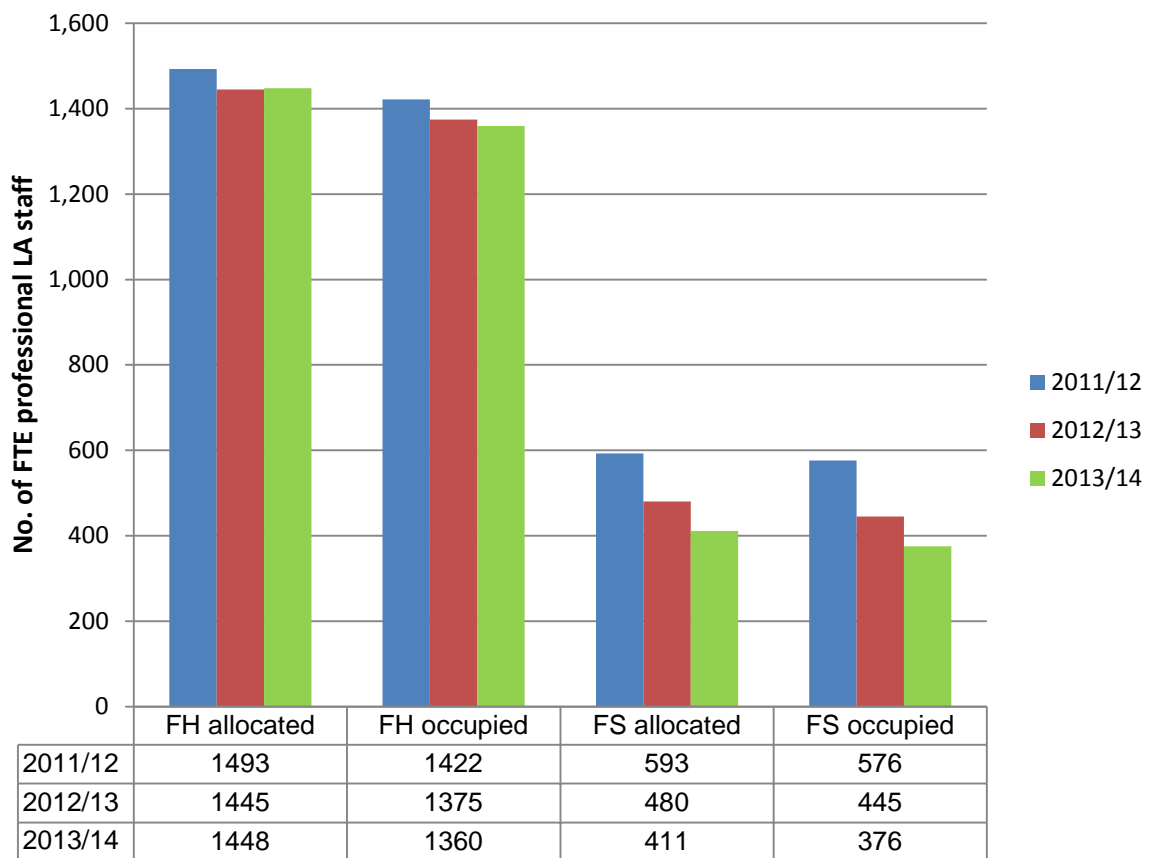
6.1 LAs in England dealt with a total of 59,729 consumer complaints about food and food establishments during 2013/14, an increase of 2.7% (from 58,169) on 2012/13 data.



7 FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE) PROFESSIONAL LA STAFF

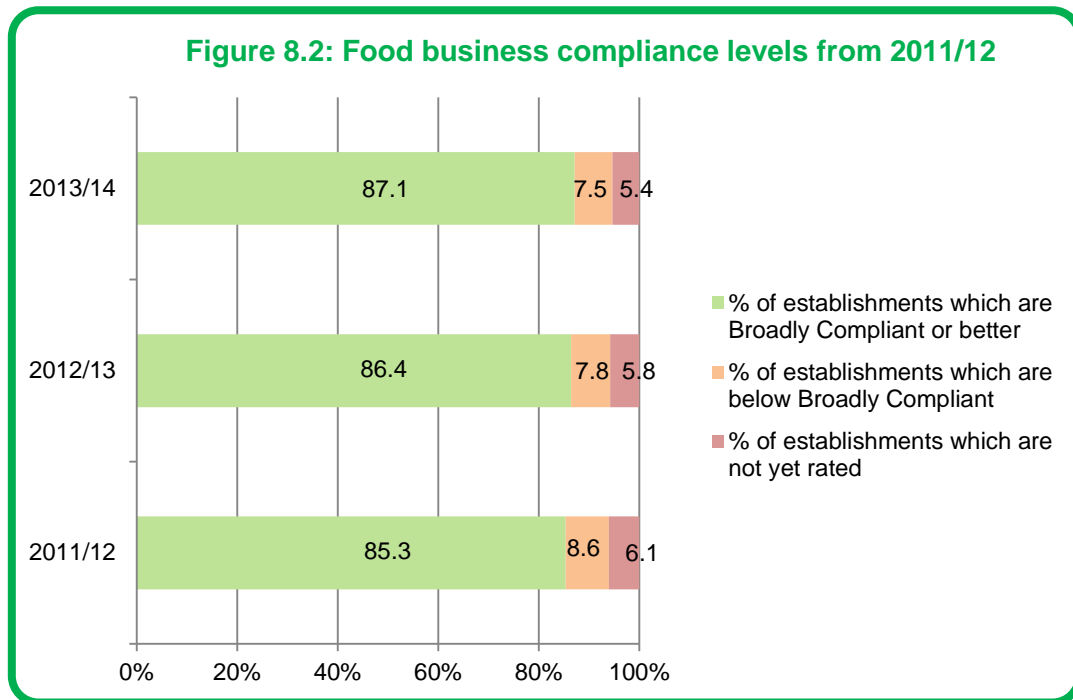
7.1 English LAs reported a total of 1,735 FTE professional LA staff as being in post at 31 March 2014. This represents an overall 4.7% decrease on 2012/13 figures (1,820), compared with a 3.2% reduction across the whole of the UK. A comparison between types of posts shows that there has been a much greater reduction in food standards professional posts (8.5%), with a 1.1% reduction in food hygiene professional posts.

Figure 7.1: Comparison of FTEs allocated/occupied from 2010/11



8 FOOD HYGIENE COMPLIANCE

8.1 The level of Broad Compliance in England as at 31 March 2014 was 92.1% of rated establishments (87.1% of all establishments), compared with a 91.7% level across the UK. This is an increase on the 2012/13 level in England of 91.2% of rated establishments (86.4% of all establishments).



9 AUDIT OF COMPETENT AUTHORITIES

9.1 FSA auditors carried out the following programme of audits of Competent Authorities in England during the period 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014:

Figure 9.1: Audits of Competent Authorities in England during 2013/14

Audit programme	Dates	Number of LAs	Number of related 'reality checks'	Final report(s) issued/published/due
Audit follow-up on LAEMS food hygiene returns	May to June 2013	8	N/A	Outcome letters on findings from LA site visits issued to LAs.
Service delivery and business compliance	June 2013	5	5	Individual LA reports published at: http://www.food.gov.uk/enforcement/auditandmonitoring/auditreports/
Feed controls	July to October 2013	10	10	Individual LA reports published at: http://www.food.gov.uk/enforcement/auditandmonitoring/auditreports/
Service delivery and business compliance	September 2013	1	1	Individual LA report published at: http://www.food.gov.uk/enforcement/auditandmonitoring/auditreports/
Audit follow-up on LAEMS food hygiene returns	September 2013	1	N/A	Outcome letters on findings from LA site visits issued to LAs.
Service delivery and business compliance	October to November 2013	4	4	Individual LA reports published at: http://www.food.gov.uk/enforcement/auditandmonitoring/auditreports/

Figure 9.1: Audits of Competent Authorities in England during 2013/14

Audit programme	Dates	Number of LAs	Number of related 'reality checks'	Final report(s) issued/published/due
Shellfish traceability and authenticity (joint audit with Wales)	November 2013 to March 2014	16	14	Outcome letters on findings from site visits issued to LAs and summary report of findings across England and Wales to be published at: http://www.food.gov.uk/enforcement/auditandmonitoring/auditreports/
Imported food	February to March 2014	5	5	Individual LA reports published at: http://www.food.gov.uk/enforcement/auditandmonitoring/auditreports/
Follow-up audits to assess LA implementation of existing audit action plans (29) and LAEMS desktop assessments of food hygiene (34)	April 2013 to March 2014	63	-	Updated LA audit action plans have been published at: http://www.food.gov.uk/enforcement/auditandmonitoring/auditreports/
Audits escalated for a visit by senior management	January and March 2014	2	N/A	-