

Annual report on UK local authority food law enforcement

1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014

Data summary – Northern Ireland

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 Northern Ireland and on the Food Standards Agency's (FSA) audit of Northern Ireland authorities. 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

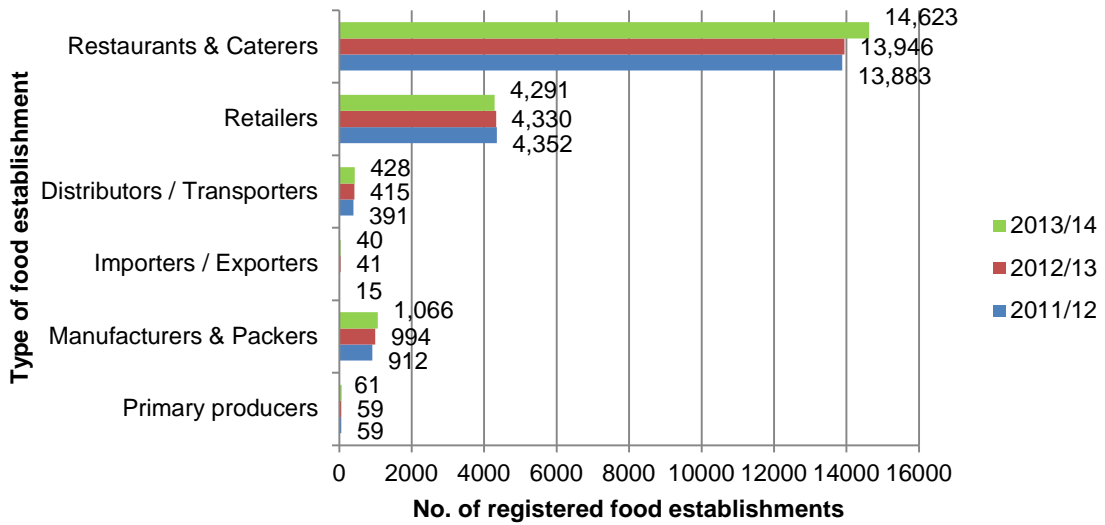
- 2.1. As at 31 March 2014, a total of 20,507 food establishments were registered with LAs in Northern Ireland, an increase of 3.6% on 2012/13 (19,785).

Figure 2.1: 2012/13 registered food establishments profiles in Northern Ireland 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	0	22	0	0	3	12	37
B	1	135	1	4	55	582	778
C	10	368	0	34	1,183	5,563	7,158
D	8	154	2	72	625	1,620	2,481
E	27	265	7	227	2,098	3,615	6,239
NYR	7	76	1	47	192	765	1,088
Outside	6	46	29	44	135	2,466	2,726
Total	59	1,066	40	428	4,291	14,623	20,507

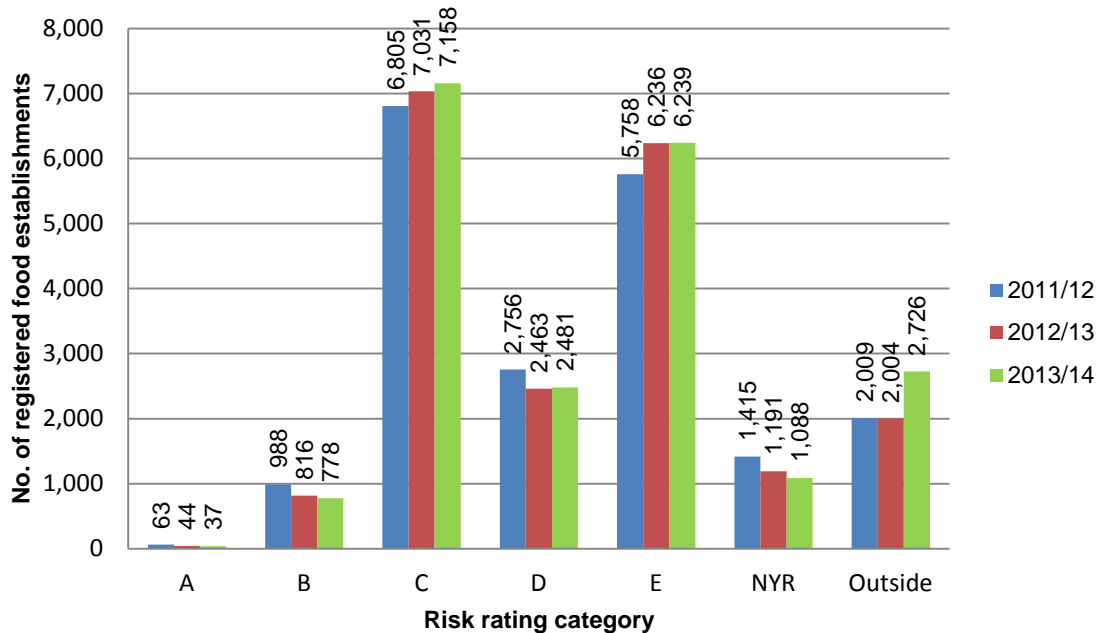
- 2.2 A comparison of establishment types over the past three years indicates a gradual reduction in the number of retailers, whilst the number of restaurants and caterers; distributors / transporters; and manufacturers and packers has risen year on year.

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



2.3 A comparison of the split between risk ratings in food establishments indicates a reduction of 5.2% in premises rated A and B in 2013/14 (from 860 in 2012/13 to 815) and an increase of 0.9% in premises rated C to E (from 15,730 in 2012/13 to 15,878).

Figure 2.3: Comparison of food establishments profiles in Northern Ireland by food hygiene risk rating from 2011/12



Establishments Not Yet Rated¹

- 2.4 In Northern Ireland, 5.3% of registered food establishments were not yet rated (NYR) for food hygiene risk as at 31 March 2014 (1,088 out of 20,507). This is an improvement on the 2012/13 figure of 6.0% (1,191 out of 19,785).

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

	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Total number of establishments	19,614	19,785	20,507
Number of NYR establishments	1,415	1,191	1,088
Percentage NYR:			
Northern Ireland	7.2%	6.0%	5.3%
UK	6.2%	5.9%	5.6%

- 2.5 There has been an increase in the number of LAs in Northern Ireland reporting levels of NYR establishments below 5% (53.8% of LAs, compared with 50.0% in 2012/13); however this is below the UK average of 62.1%. There were no LAs with levels of NYR above 15% in Northern Ireland as at 31 March 2014.

Figure 2.1: Comparison of percentage of Northern Ireland / 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%+
Northern Ireland	53.8%	30.8%	15.4%	0%	0%	0%
UK	62.1%	28.0%	6.9%	2.5%	0.5%	0%

¹ 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

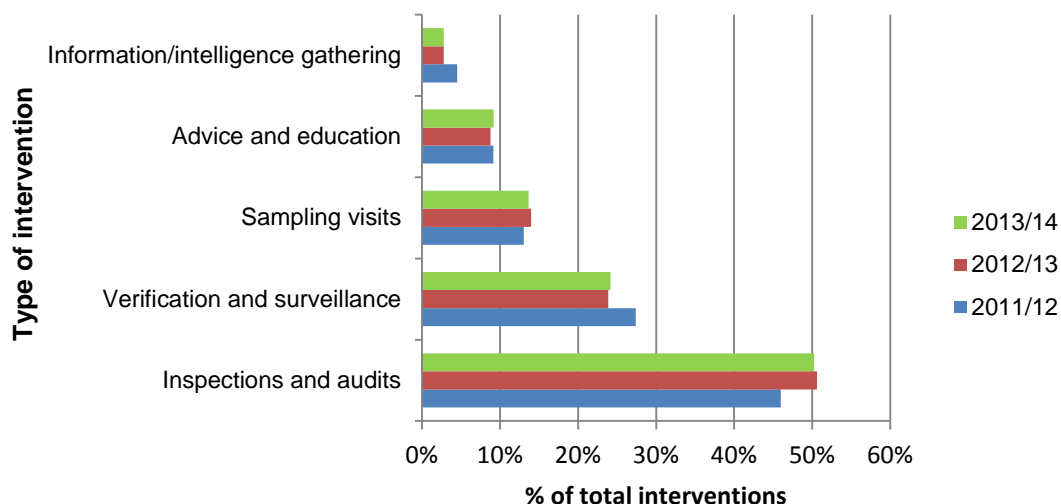
3.1 During 2013/14, 19,681 food hygiene interventions were carried out in Northern Ireland, an 8.1% increase on the reported number in 2012/13 (18,204).

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

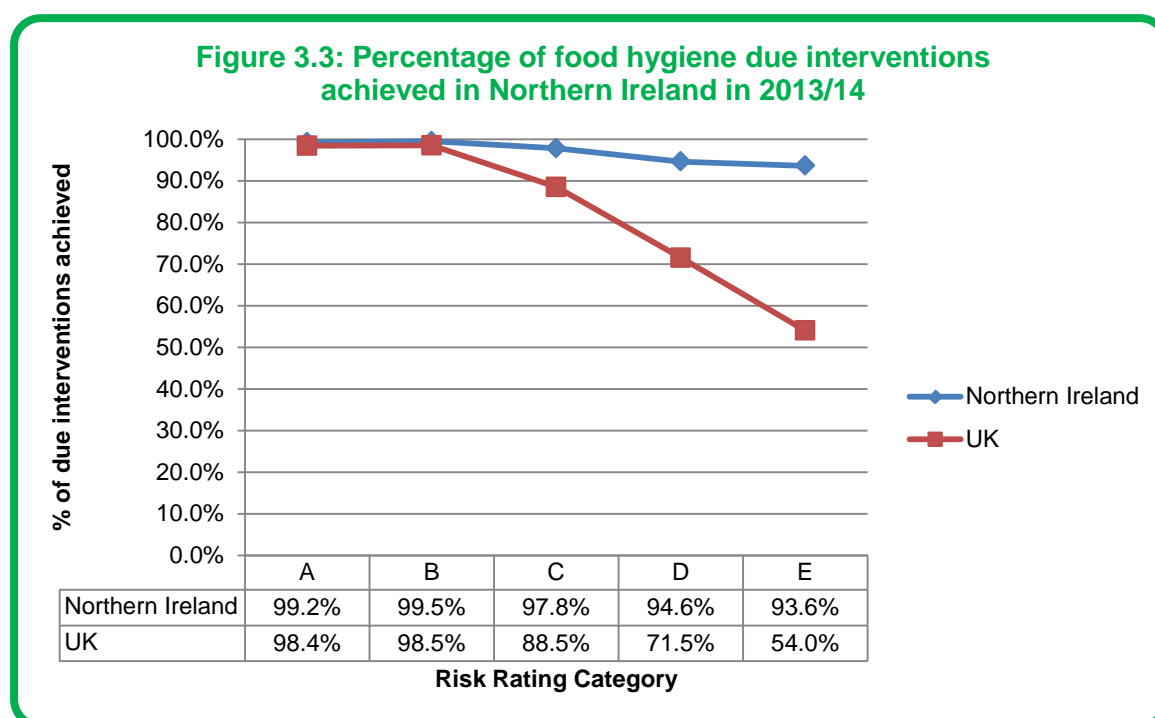
	Inspections and audits	Verification and surveillance	Sampling visits	Advice and education	Information/intelligence gathering	Total
Northern Ireland	9,891	4,757	2,686	1,803	544	19,681
UK	267,154	77,758	20,053	23,932	22,180	411,077
Intervention types as a % of total food hygiene interventions						
Northern Ireland	50.3%	24.2%	13.6%	9.2%	2.8%	100.1%
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 (50.3%, compared with 50.6% in 2012/13). The split between all types of intervention remains similar to previous years.

Figure 3.2: Comparison of split between types of food hygiene interventions from 2011/12



3.3 The percentage of due food hygiene interventions achieved has remained at a level exceeding 90% across all risk rating categories in Northern Ireland. This compares favourably with the rest of the UK.



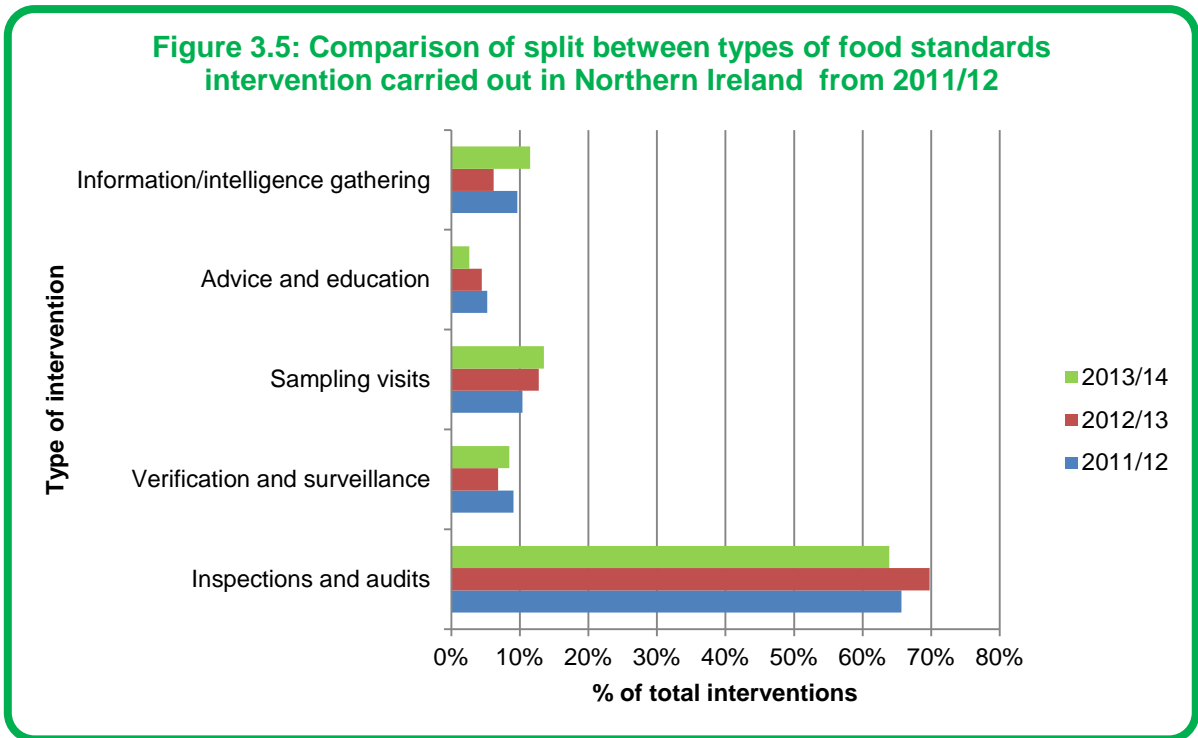
Food standards interventions

3.4 During 2013/14, 6,991 food standards interventions were carried out in Northern Ireland, a 16.8% increase on the reported number in 2012/13 (5,984) reversing the decline in previous years.

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

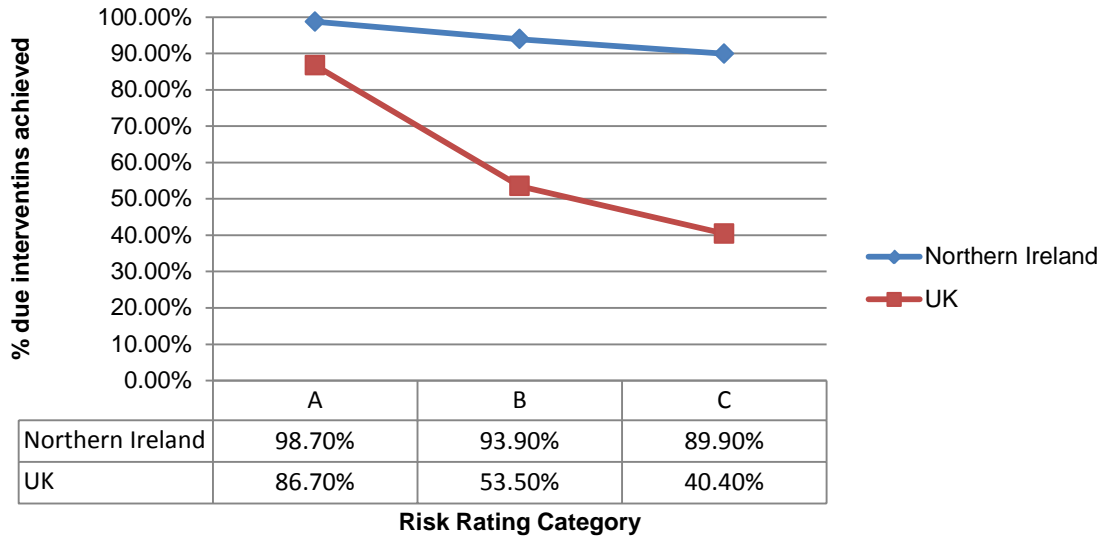
	Inspections and audits	Verification and surveillance	Sampling visits	Advice and education	Information/intelligence gathering	Total
Northern Ireland	4,467	591	945	183	803	6,991
UK	81,887	10,829	9,588	4,657	6,453	113,414
Intervention types as a % of total food standards interventions						
Northern Ireland	63.9%	8.5%	13.5%	2.6%	11.5%	100.0%
UK	72.2%	9.5%	8.5%	4.1%	5.7%	100.0%

3.5 As in previous years, inspections and audits were the most prevalent food standards intervention type carried out in 2013/14 although the percentage rate is lower than previous years. However there has been an increase in the percentage of verification and surveillance; sampling visits; and information / intelligence gathering.



3.6 The percentage of due food standards interventions achieved has remained at a level exceeding 90% across all risk rating categories in Northern Ireland. This compares favourably with the rest of the UK.

Figure 3.6: Percentage of food standards due interventions achieve in Northern Ireland in 2013/14



4 ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

Food hygiene enforcement actions

4.1 In 2013/14, 6,259 food hygiene enforcement actions were reported in Northern Ireland, 6,119 written warnings and 140 other 'official' enforcement actions.

Figure 4.1: Number of establishments subject to food hygiene enforcement actions in Northern Ireland 2012/13

	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
Northern Ireland	17	42	0	2	2	6	52	12	6,119	7	6,259
UK	1,024	407	22	318	125	276	5,274	213	161,327	320	169,306

4.2 This is an increase of 9.6% on 2012/13 (5,712), although numbers of some types of enforcement action have decreased.

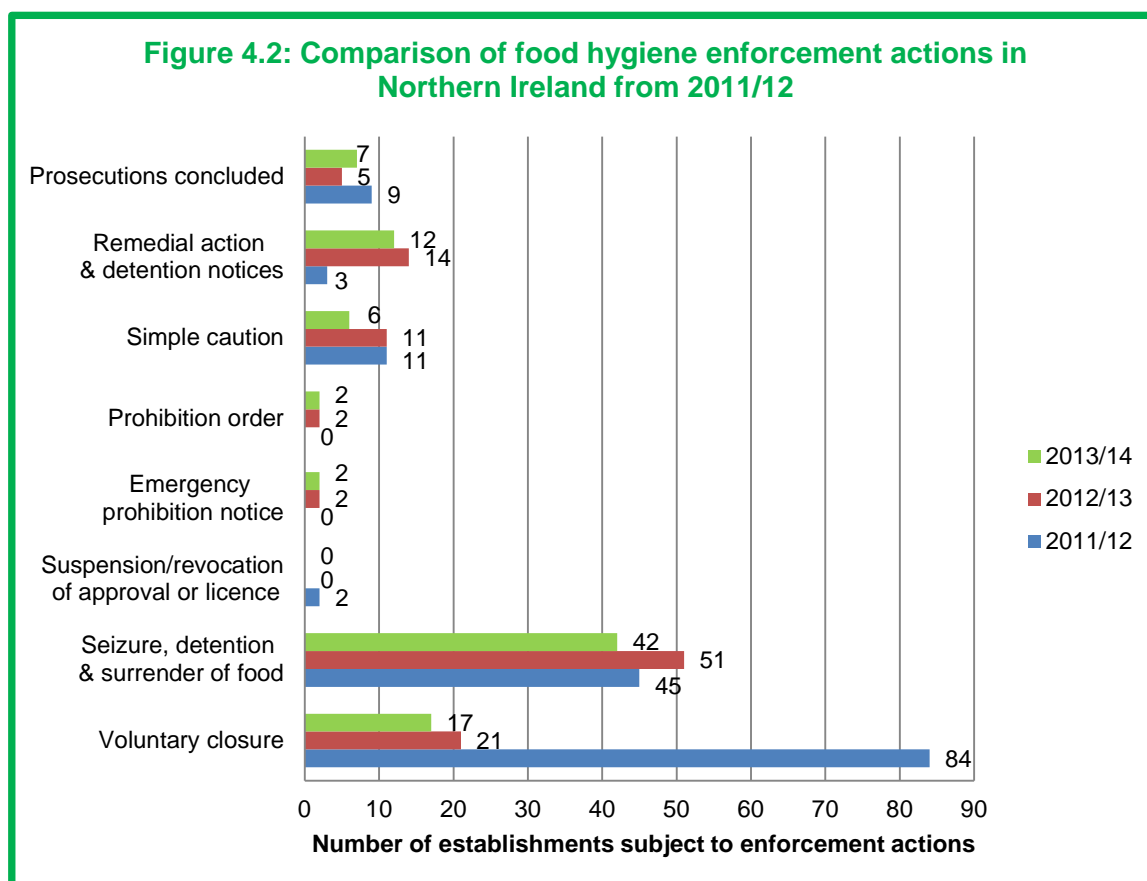
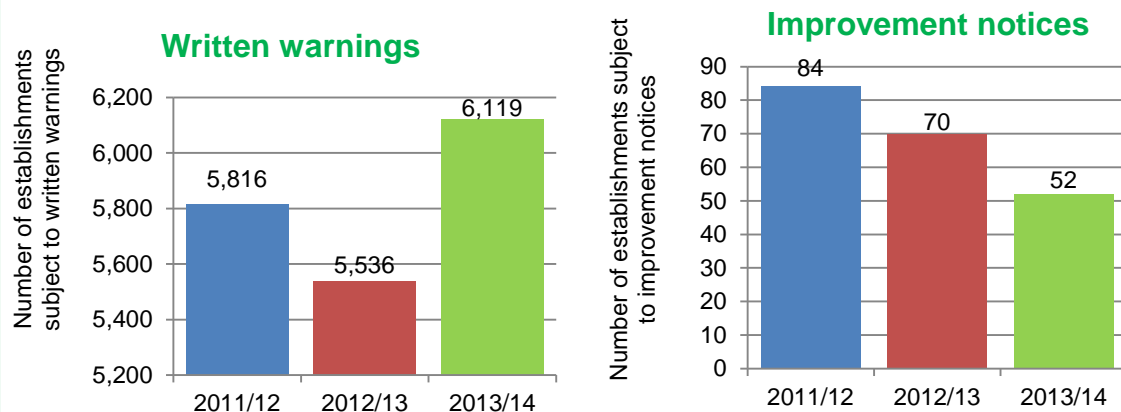


Figure 4.2 (cont.)



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

Food standards enforcement actions

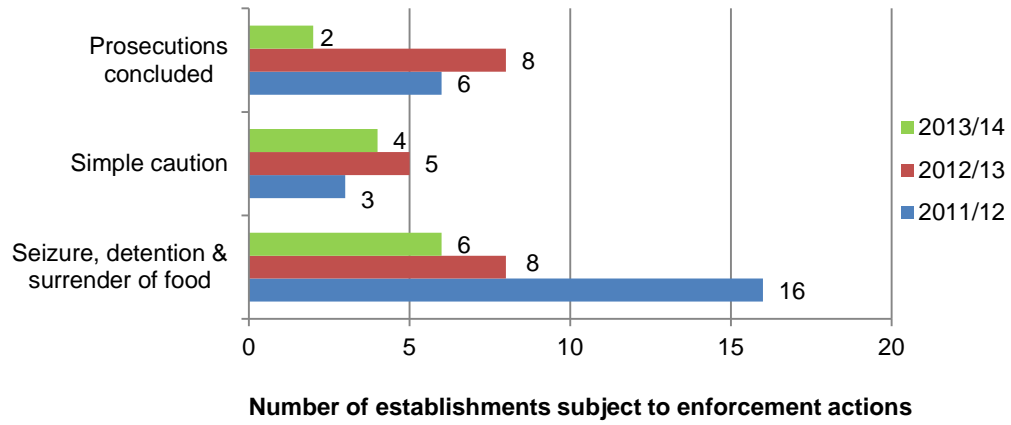
4.3 In total 1,276 food standards enforcement actions were reported in Northern Ireland in 2013/14, 1,264 written warnings and 12 other 'official' enforcement actions.

Figure 4.3: Number of establishments subject to food standards enforcement actions in NI 2012/13

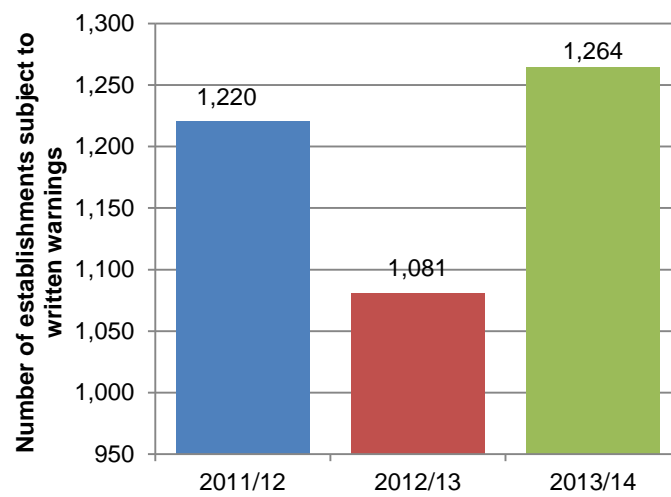
	Seizure, detention & surrender of food	Simple caution	Written warnings	Prosecutions concluded	Totals
Northern Ireland	6	4	1,264	2	1,276
UK	111	181	15,122	57	15,471

4.4 This is an increase of 15.8% on 2012/13 (1,102) although this is due to an increase in the number of written warnings, all other types of food standards enforcement have decreased.

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



Written warnings



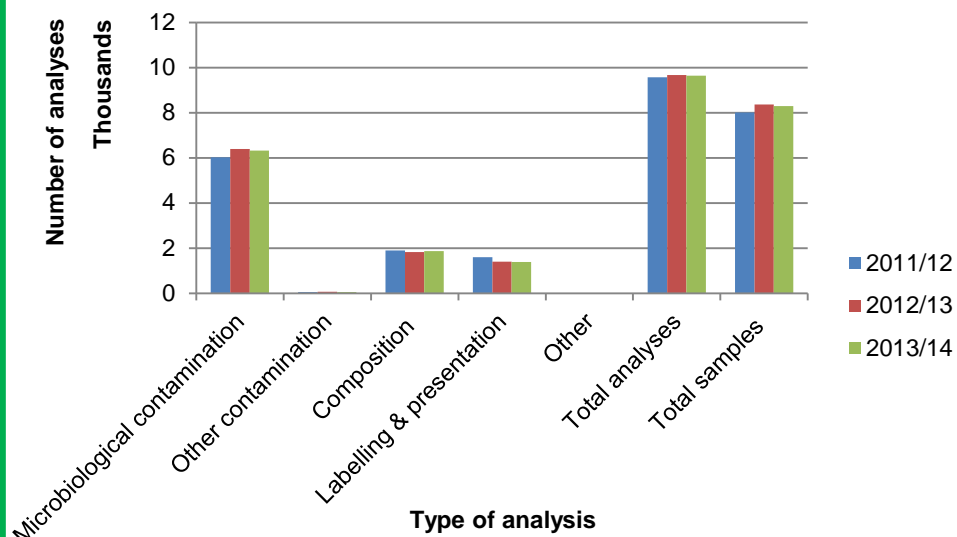
5 OFFICIAL FOOD SAMPLES

- 5.1 A total of 8,291 official food samples were taken in Northern Ireland in 2013/14, a decrease of 0.9% (from 8,364) on 2012/13. The number of analyses decreased by 0.3% although there was a 2.9% increase in compositional analyses carried out. This varies from the overall UK trend representing a 3.0% increase in sampling activity compared with 2012/13.

Figure 5.1: Official Sampling in Northern Ireland from 2011/12

Northern Ireland	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Microbiological contamination	6,020	6,388	6,325
Other contamination	56	63	58
Composition	1,892	1,819	1,871
Labelling & presentation	1,597	1,403	1,379
Other	2	1	8
Total analyses	9,567	9,674	9,641
Total samples	8,006	8,364	8,291

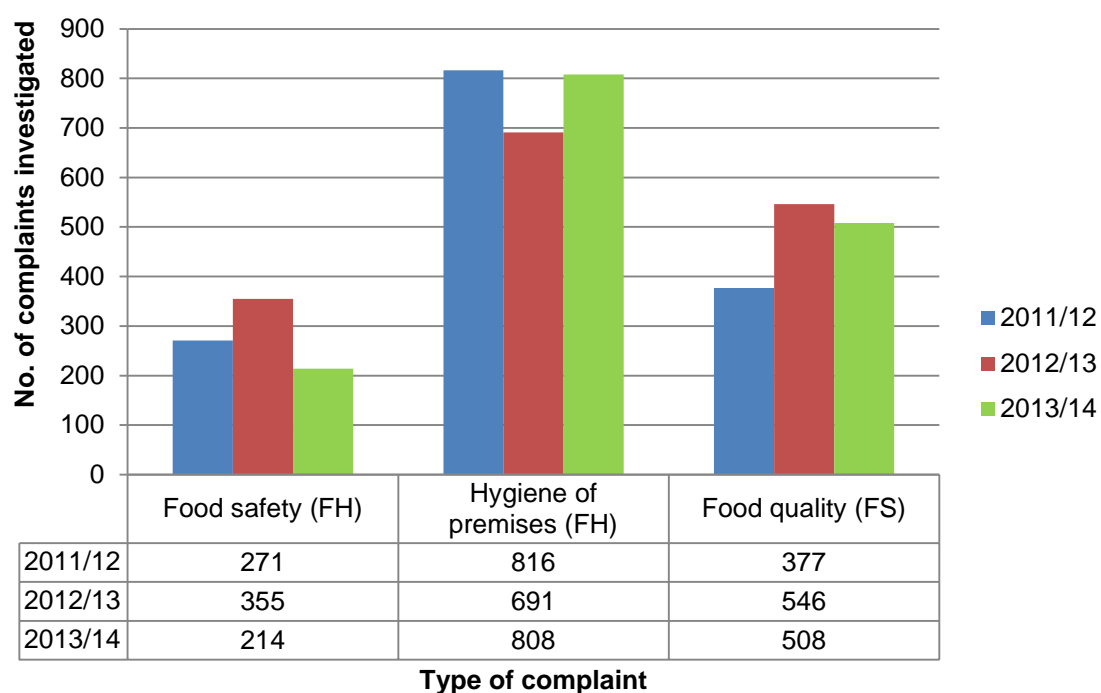
Comparison of official sampling in Northern Ireland from 2011/12



6 CONSUMER COMPLAINTS ABOUT FOOD AND FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS

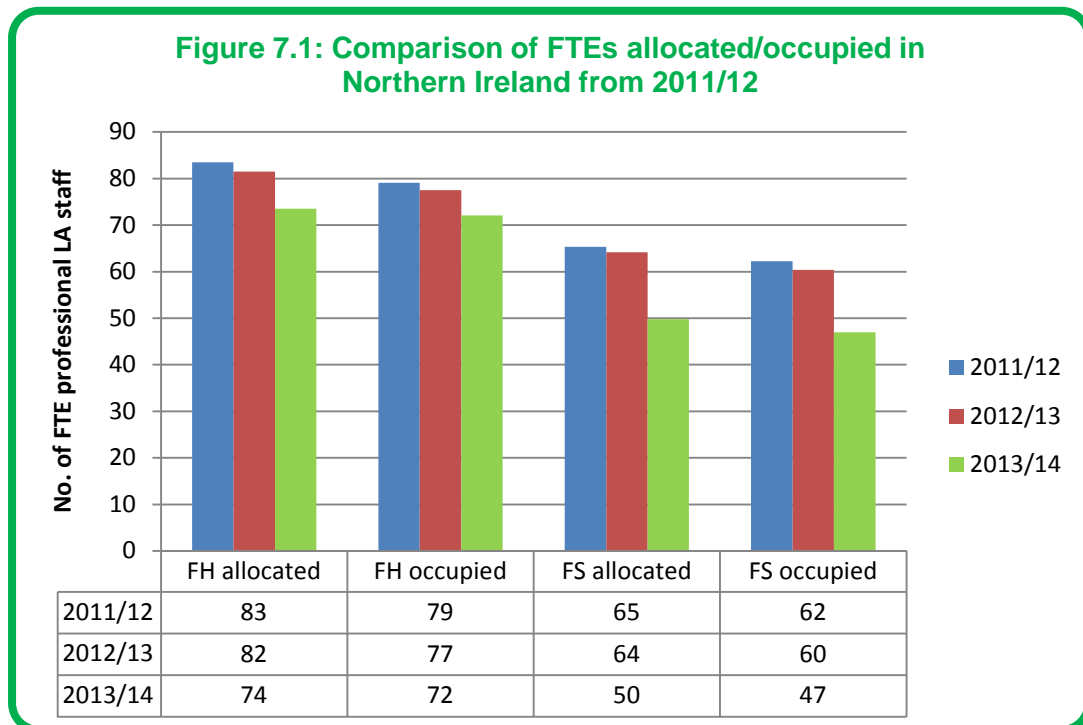
- 6.1 LAs in Northern Ireland dealt with a total of 1,530 consumer complaints about food and food establishments during 2013/14, a decrease of 3.9% (from 1,592) on 2012/13.
- 6.2 The levels of complaints in relation to food safety and food quality decreased by 39.7% and 7.0% respectively on 2012/13 data; whereas the number of complaints about hygiene of premises increased by 16.9% in comparison with 2012/13. In each case, this reverses the trend from the previous year.

Figure 6.1: Comparison of consumer complaints investigated by LAs in Northern Ireland from 2011/12



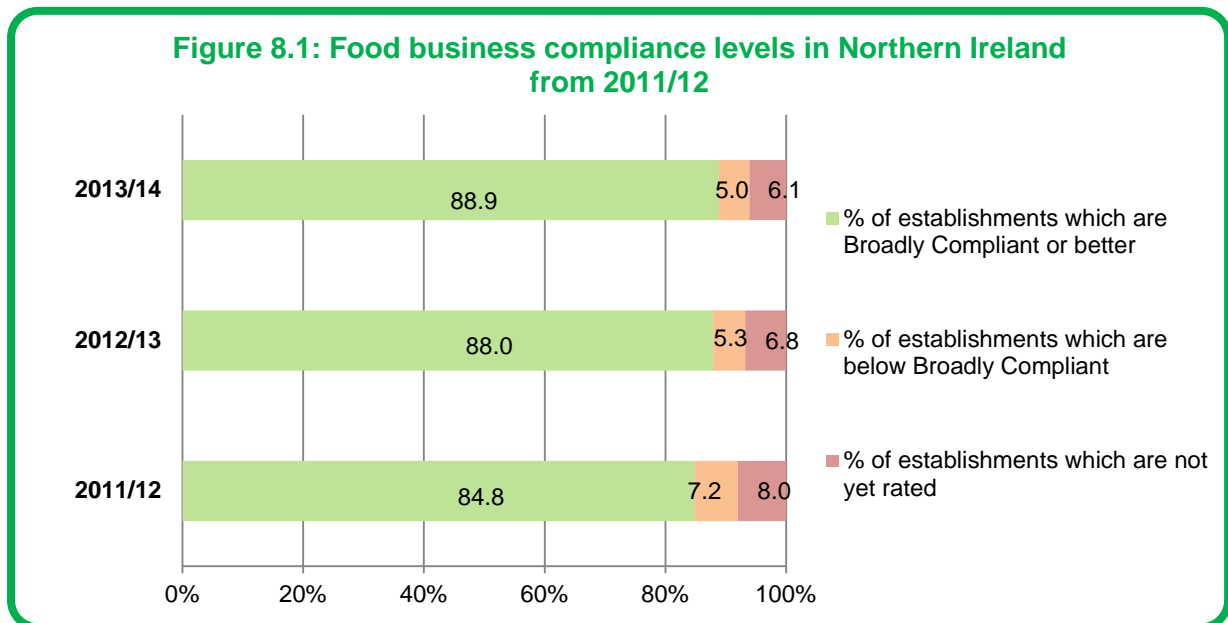
7 FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE) PROFESSIONAL LA STAFF

7.1 LAs in Northern Ireland reported a total of 119 FTE professional LA staff in post as at 31 March 2014. Although this would appear to show a 13.1% decrease on 2012/13 figures (137), based on the achievements by LAs in Northern Ireland across Official Controls, this would appear to be due to inaccuracies in the calculation of FTEs that have now been corrected, rather than an actual reduction in resources.



8 FOOD HYGIENE COMPLIANCE

8.1 The level of Broad Compliance in Northern Ireland as at 31 March 2014 was 94.7% of rated establishments (88.9% of all establishments), compared with a 91.7% level across the UK. This is an increase on the 2012/13 level in Northern Ireland of 94.4% of rated establishments (88.0% of all establishments).



9 AUDIT OF COMPETENT AUTHORITIES

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

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

Audit programme	Dates	Number of LAs	Number of related 'reality checks'	Final report(s) issued/published/due
Focused audit of local authority reporting and monitoring of food law enforcement activities to the FSA	December 2013	8	N/A	Desk-based assessment of LAEMS returns and LA service plans to inform selection of local authorities for focused audit (see next entry). No report produced.
Focused audit of local authority reporting and monitoring of food law enforcement activities to the FSA	March 2014	1	N/A	Final report published at: http://www.food.gov.uk/enforcement/auditandmonitoring/auditreports/