

Annual report on UK local authority food law enforcement

1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014

Data summary – Wales

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 Wales and on the Food Standards Agency's (FSA) audit of Welsh 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

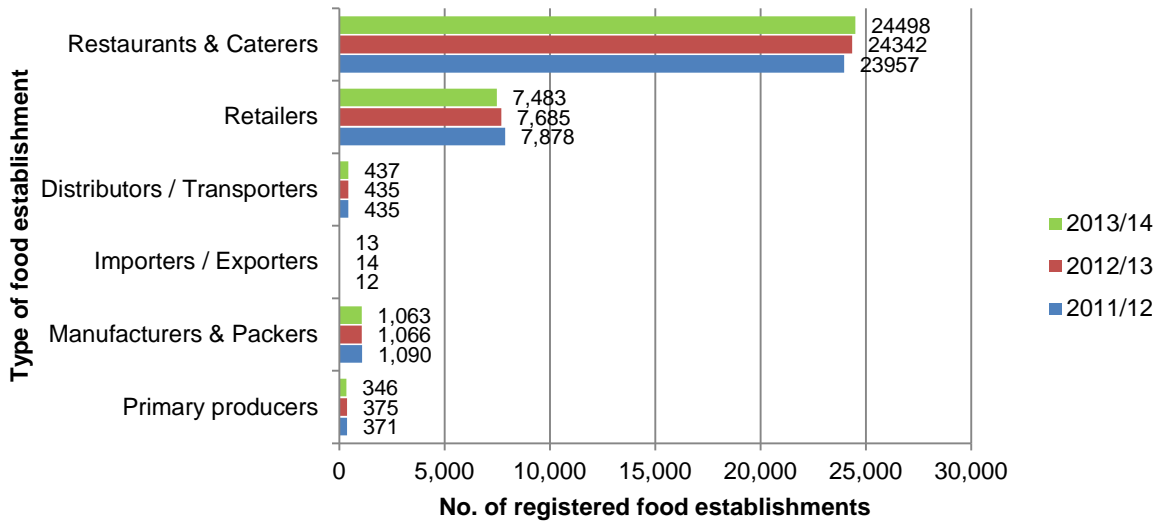
- 2.1. As at 31 March 2014, a total of 33,840 food establishments were registered with LAs in Wales, a decrease of 0.2% on 2012/13 (33,917).

Figure 2.1: Registered food establishments profiles in Wales 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	32	0	1	18	119	170
B	11	149	0	11	163	1,576	1,910
C	19	321	1	42	1,587	11,307	13,277
D	36	167	2	90	1,375	3,956	5,626
E	210	320	6	269	3,915	6,548	11,268
NYR	16	43	4	18	166	768	1,015
Outside	54	31	0	6	259	224	574
Total	346	1,063	13	437	7,483	24,498	33,840

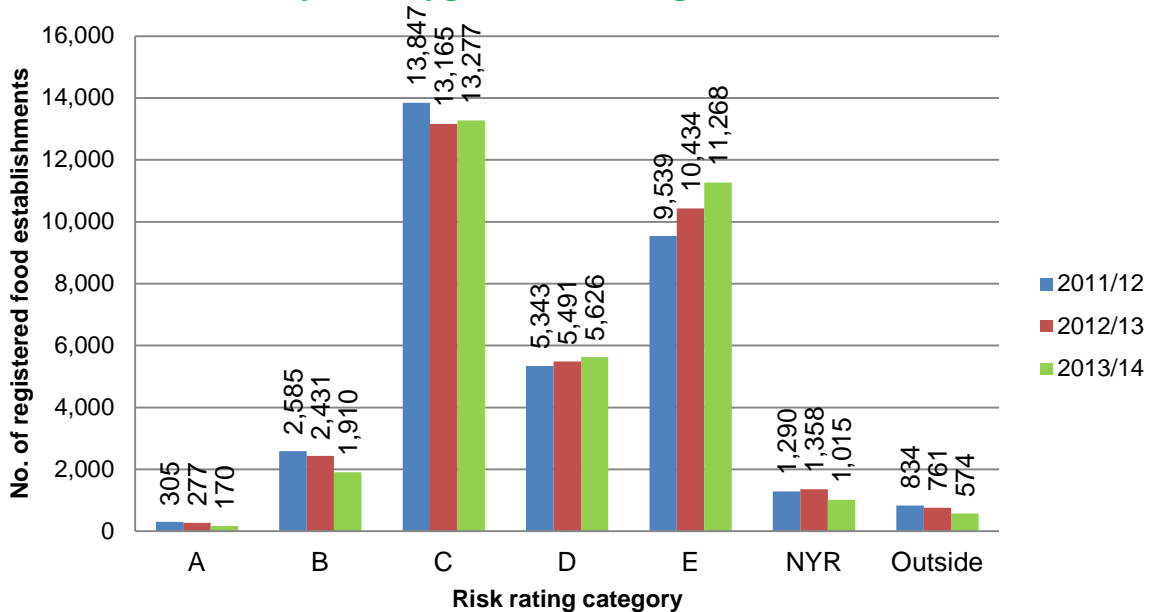
- 2.2. A comparison of establishment types over the past three years indicates a gradual reduction in the number of registered primary producers; manufacturers and packers; and retailers whilst the number of restaurants and caterers has risen year on year.

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



2.3. A comparison of the split between risk ratings in food establishments indicates a reduction of 3.3% in premises rated A to C in 2013/14 (from 15,873 in 2012/13 to 15,357) and an increase of 6.1% in premises rated D and E (from 15,925 in 2012/13 to 16,894).¹

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



¹ This is likely to reflect the introduction of the [Food Hygiene Rating \(Wales\) Act 2013](#) which requires food hygiene ratings to be displayed by food businesses.

Establishments Not Yet Rated²

- 2.4. In Wales, 3.0% of registered food establishments were not yet rated (NYR) for food hygiene risk as at 31 March 2014 (1,015 out of 33,840). This is an improvement on the 2012/13 figure of 4% (1,358 out of 33,917).

Figure 2.4: Comparison of percentage of registered establishments in Wales NYR for food hygiene from 2011/12			
	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Total number of establishments	33,743	33,917	33,840
Number of NYR establishments	1,290	1,358	1,015
Percentage NYR:			
Wales	3.8%	4.0%	3.0%
UK	6.2%	5.9%	5.6%

- 2.5. There has been an increase in the number of LAs in Wales reporting levels of NYR establishments below 5% (72.7% of LAs compared with 63.6% in 2012/13). There were no LAs with levels of NYR above 15% in Wales as at 31 March 2014.

Figure 2.5: Comparison of percentage of Welsh / 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%+
Wales	72.7%	22.7%	4.6%	0%	0%	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.

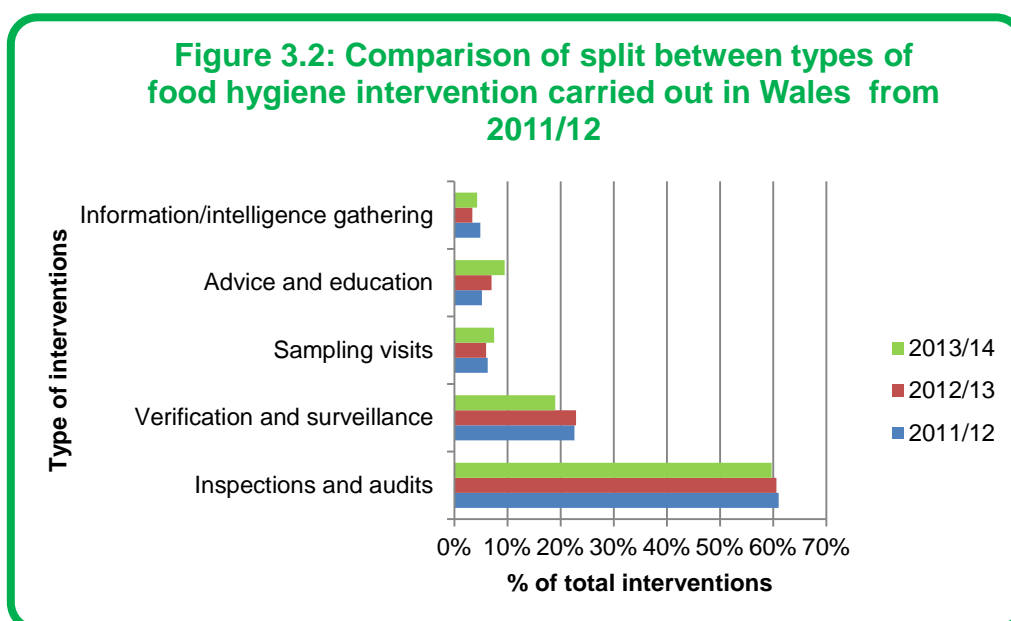
3. LOCAL AUTHORITY INTERVENTIONS

Food hygiene interventions

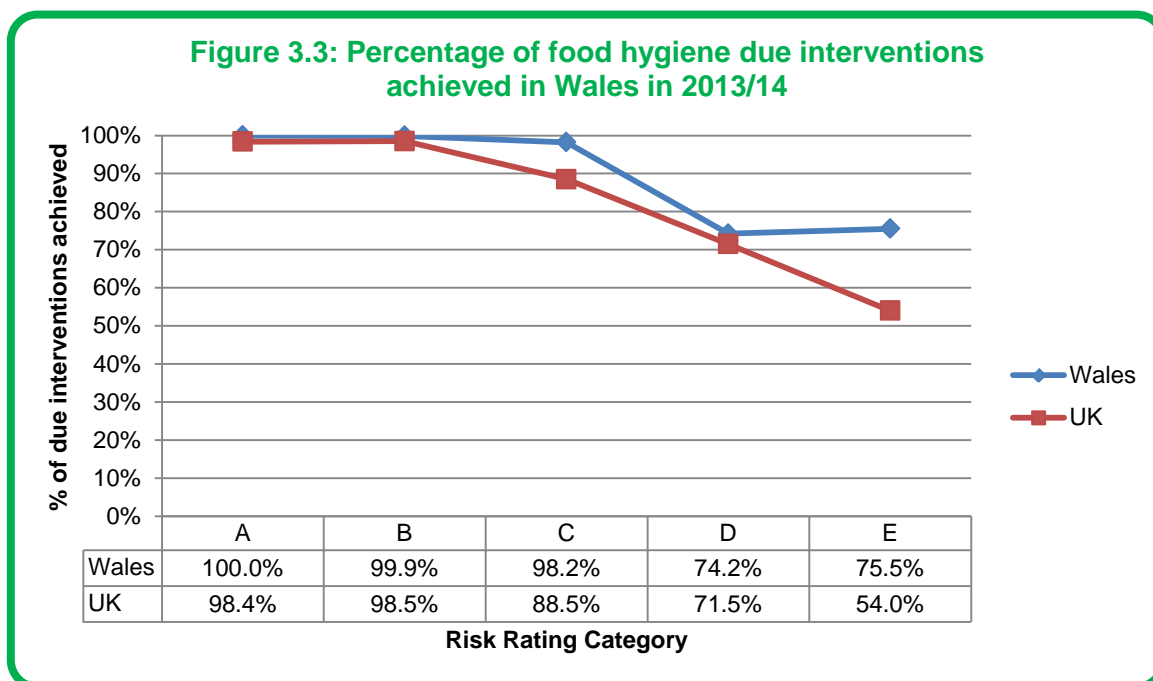
3.1. During 2013/14, 30,689 food hygiene interventions were carried out in Wales, a 6.5% increase on the reported number in 2012/13 (28,822).

Figure 3.1: Food hygiene interventions carried out in Wales 2013/14						
	Inspections and audits	Verification and surveillance	Sampling visits	Advice and education	Information/intelligence gathering	Total
Wales	18,314	5,835	2,303	2,920	1,317	30,689
UK	267,154	77,758	20,053	23,932	22,180	411,077
Intervention types as a % of total food hygiene interventions						
Wales	59.7%	19.0%	7.5%	9.5%	4.3%	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 (59.7%, compared with 60.6% in 2012/13). The levels of verification and surveillance visits have reduced slightly to 19.0% (from 22.9% in 2012/13). However, there has been an increase in sampling visits to 7.5% (from 6.0% in 2012/13), advice and education interventions to 9.5% (from 7.0% in 2012/13) and in information/intelligence gathering activity to 4.3% (from 3.4% 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, although figures for Wales were higher than the UK average across all risk rating categories.



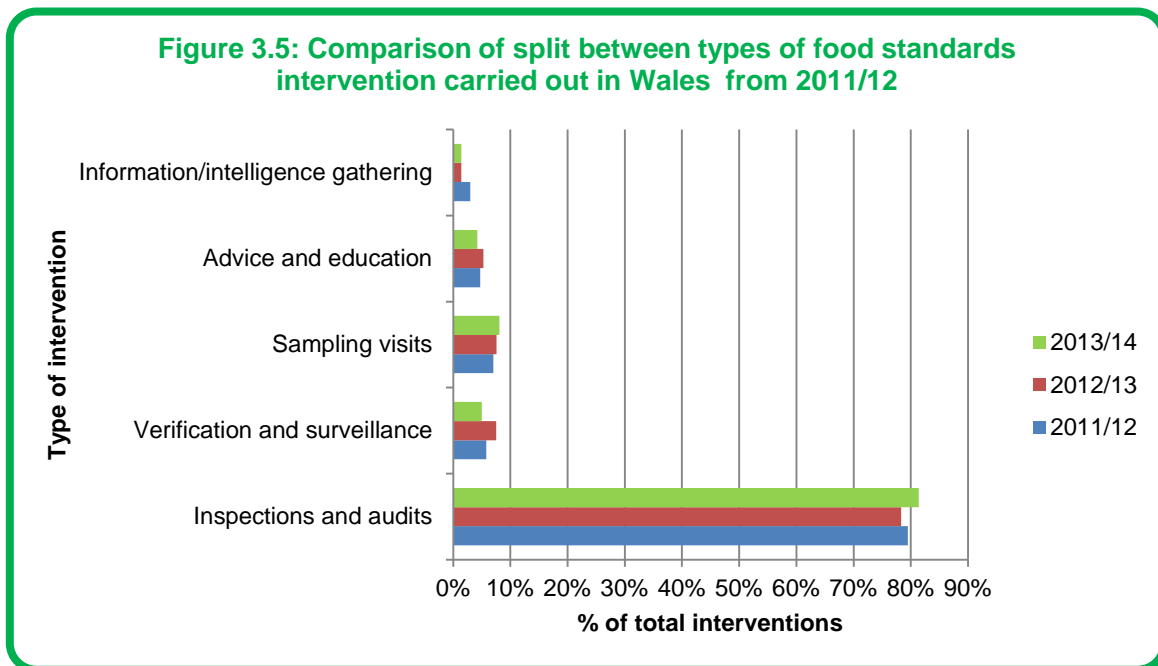
Food standards interventions

3.4 During 2013/14, 10,548 food standards interventions were carried out in Wales, an 18.0% increase on the reported number in 2012/13 (8,940) reversing the decline in previous years.

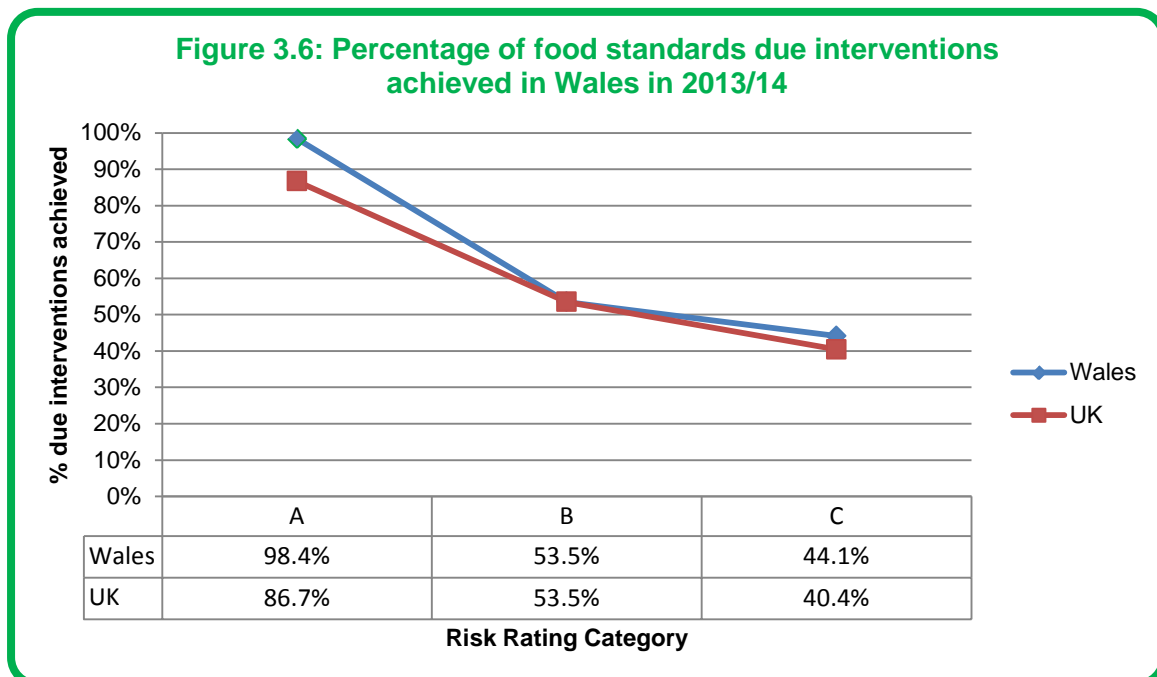
Figure 3.4: Food standards interventions carried out in Wales 2013/14

	Inspections and audits	Verification and surveillance	Sampling visits	Advice and education	Information/intelligence gathering	Total
Wales	8,582	526	856	439	145	10,548
UK	81,887	10,829	9,588	4,657	6,453	113,414
Intervention types as a % of total food standards interventions						
Wales	81.4%	5.0%	8.1%	4.2%	1.4%	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.



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



4. ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

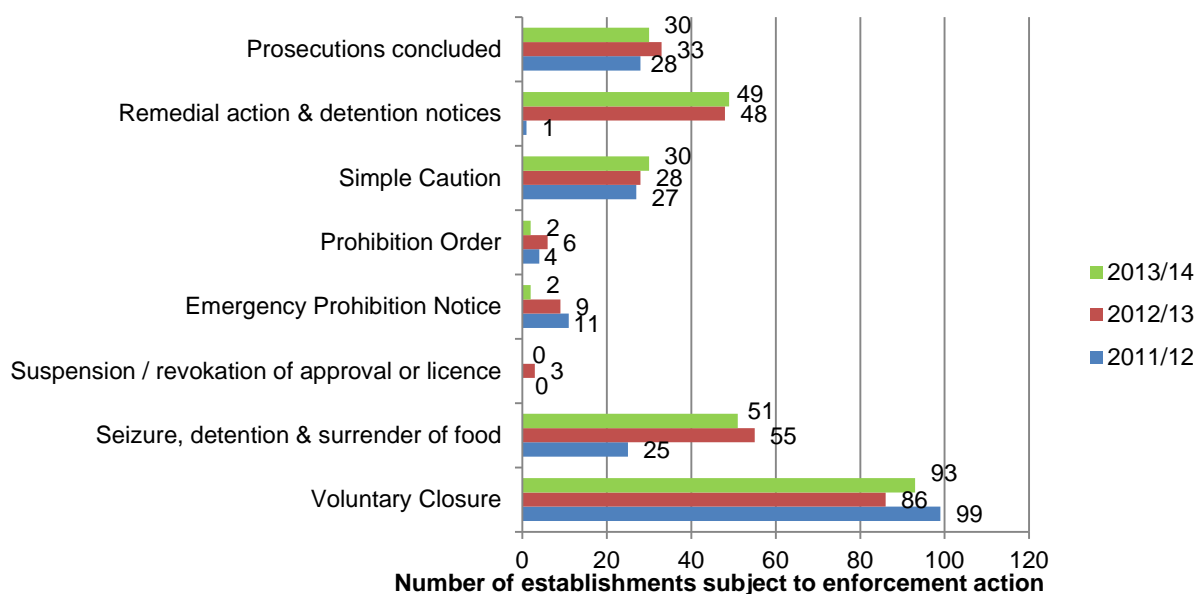
Food hygiene enforcement actions

4.1 In 2013/14, 13,418 food hygiene enforcement actions were reported in Wales, 12,845 written warnings and 573 other 'official' enforcement actions (see Figure 4.1). This is an increase of 0.4% on 2012/13 (13,358), although some types of enforcement action have shown decreases (see Figure 4.2).

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

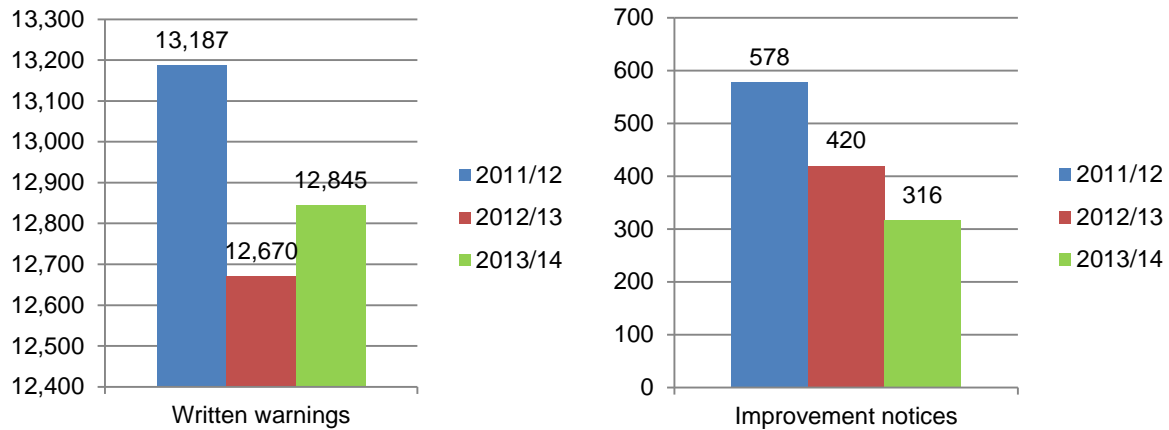
	Voluntary closure	Seizure, detention & surrender of food	Suspension / revocation of approval or licence	Emergency Prohibition Notice	Prohibition Order	Simple caution	Improvement notice	Remedial action and detention notices ³	Written warnings	Prosecutions concluded	Totals
Wales	93	51	0	2	2	30	316	49	12,845	30	13,418
UK	969	576	14	278	80	258	4,513	252	162,624	350	169,914

Figure 4.2a: Comparison of food hygiene enforcement actions in Wales, from 2011/12



³ From 1 May 2012 enforcement officers in Wales have been able to use Remedial Action Notices to secure compliance at all food establishments. They were previously only available for use in approved premises.

Figure 4.2b: Comparison of food hygiene improvement notices and written warnings in Wales, from 2011/12



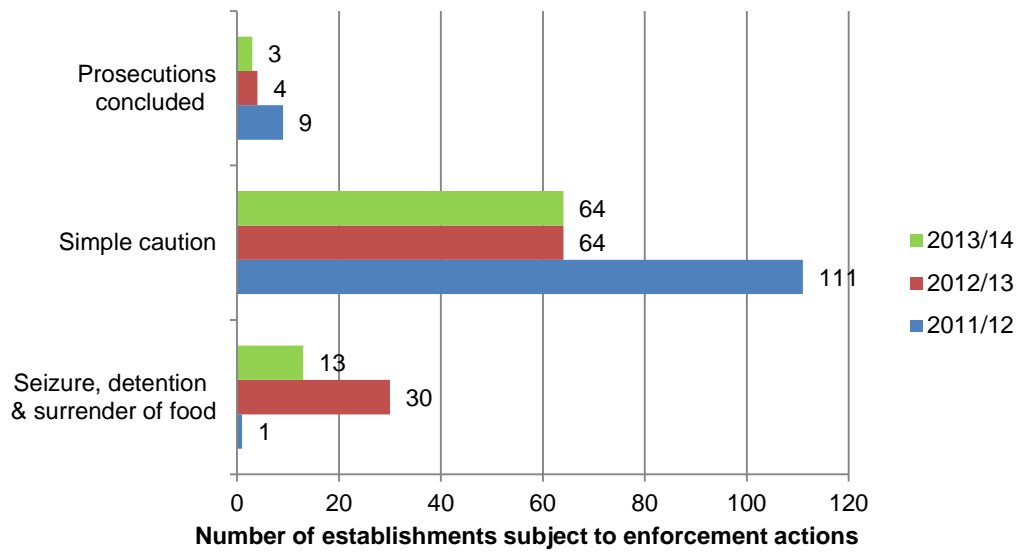
Food standards enforcement actions

4.2 In total 1,121 food standards enforcement actions were reported in Wales in 2013/14, 1,041 written warnings and 80 other 'official' enforcement actions (see Figure 4.2). This is an increase of 2.7% on 2012/13 (950), although some types of enforcement action have shown decreases (see Figure 4.4).

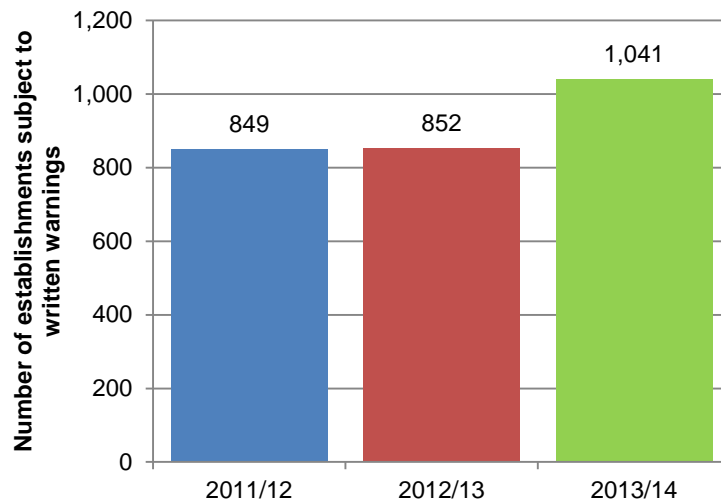
Figure 4.3: Number of establishments subject to food standards enforcement actions in Wales 2013/14

	Seizure, detention & surrender of food	Simple caution	Written warnings	Prosecutions concluded	Totals
Wales	30	64	852	4	950
UK totals	136	143	13,903	78	14,260

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



Written warnings



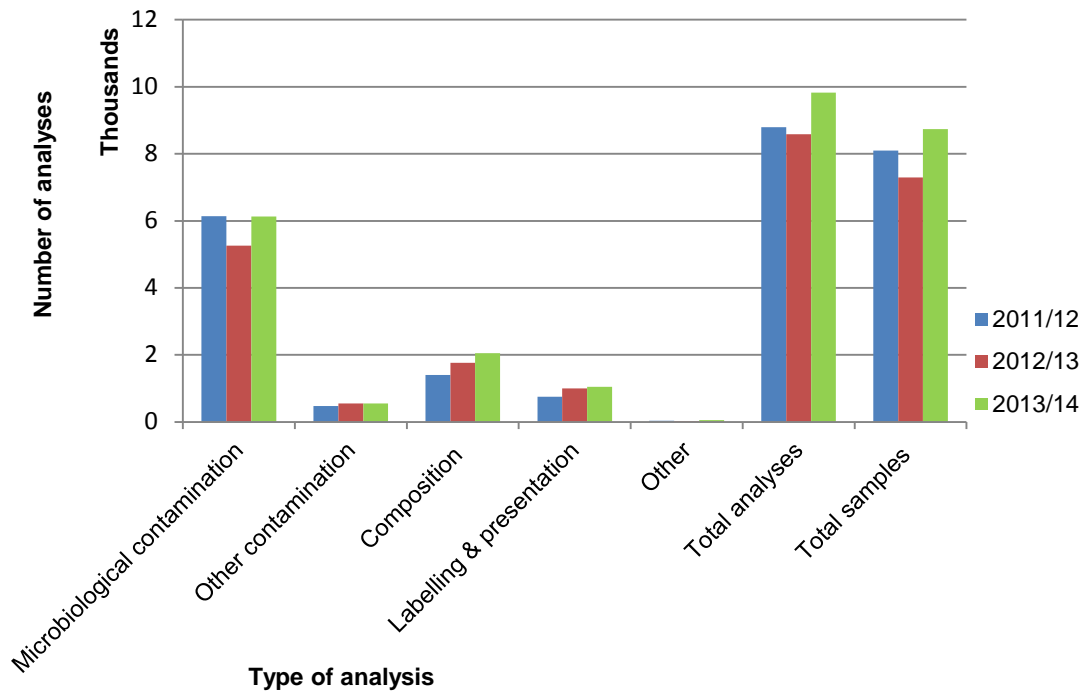
5. OFFICIAL FOOD SAMPLES

- 5.1 A total of 8,736 official food samples were taken in Wales in 2013/14, an increase of 19.8% from 2012/13, compared with a UK wide increase of 3.0%.
- 5.2 Microbiological food sampling is coordinated through the Welsh Food Microbiological Forum. The WFMF is a collaboration of public health organisations and local authorities in Wales with FSA representation. The aim is to improve the microbiological quality of food available to Welsh consumers. This is achieved by using the innovative "shopping basket" protocol with a nominated list of foods of interest and by completing targeted surveys that address current food related issues.
- 5.3 Food standards sampling in Wales is coordinated through the Wales Head of Trading Standards Food and Agriculture Panel. LAs, Public Analysts and the FSA are represented on the Panel, which participates in the National Coordinated Food Sampling Programme.

Figure 5.1: Official Sampling in Wales from 2011/12

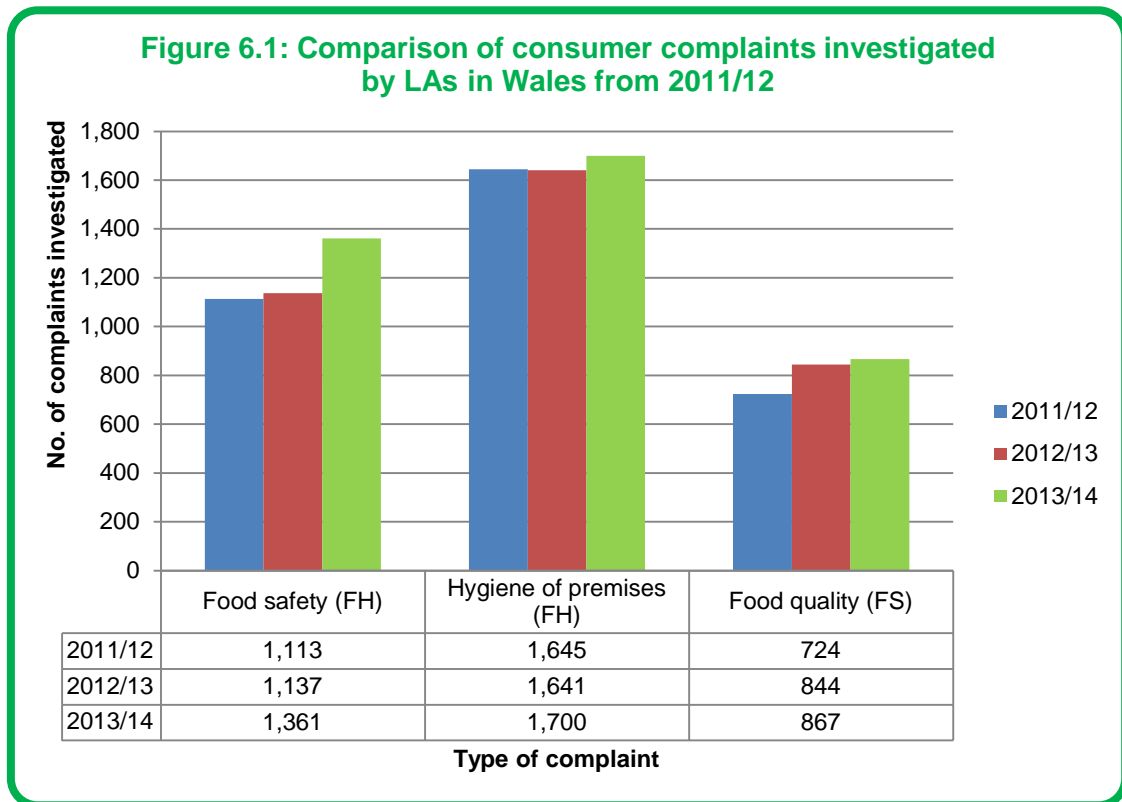
	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Microbiological contamination	6,135	5,258	6,129
Other contamination	470	546	550
Composition	1,401	1,761	2,051
Labelling & presentation	755	999	1,046
Other	38	21	51
Total analyses	8,799	8,585	9,827
Total samples	8,096	7,294	8,736

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



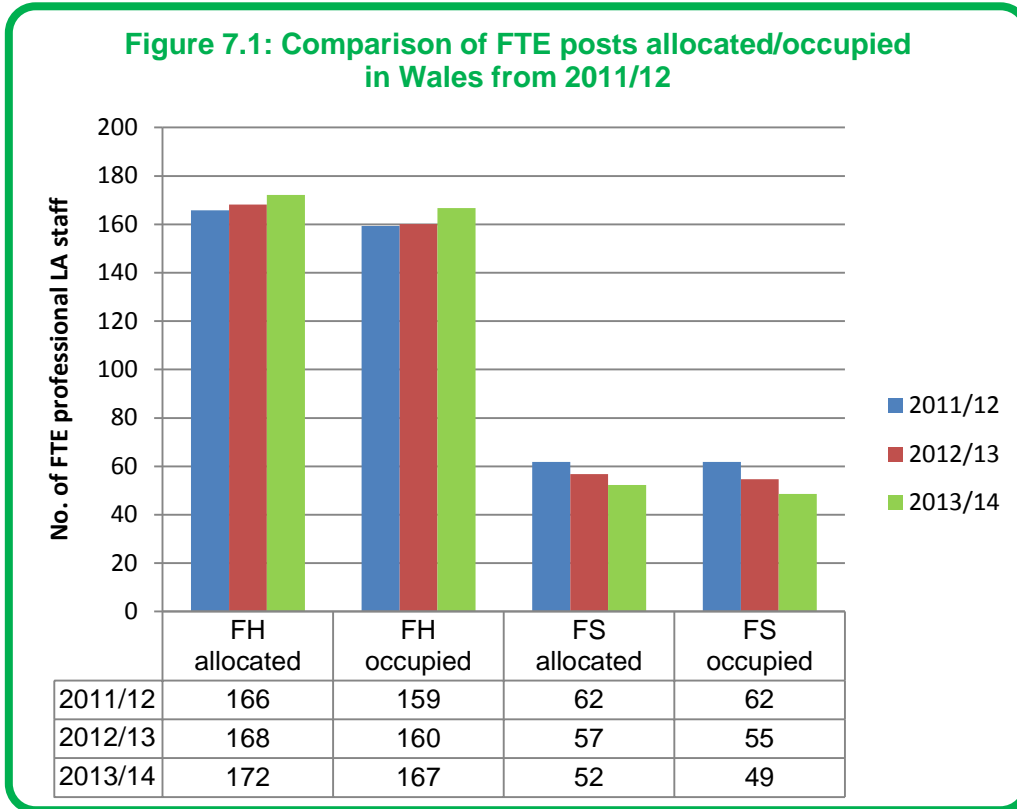
6. CONSUMER COMPLAINTS ABOUT FOOD AND FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS

6.1. Welsh LAs dealt with a total of 3,928 consumer complaints about food and food establishments during 2013/14, an overall increase of 8.4% (from 3,622) on 2012/13. There was a large increase (19.7%) in food safety complaints in Wales, compared with an overall decrease of 0.2% across the UK.



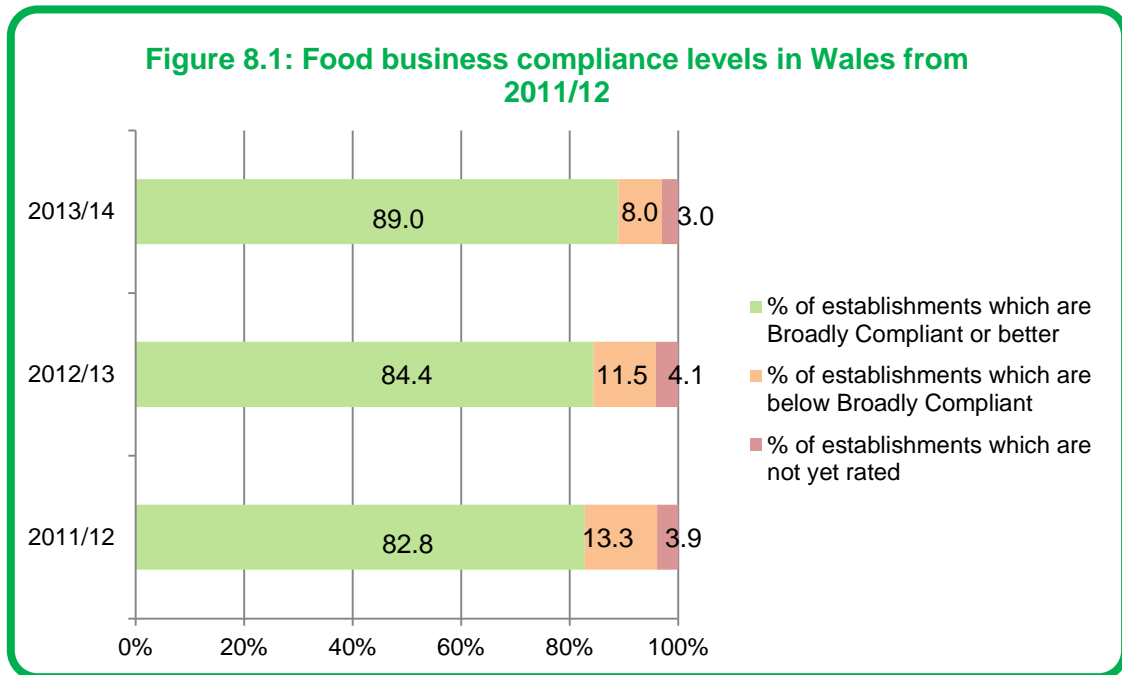
7. FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE) PROFESSIONAL LA STAFF

7.1. A total of 216 FTE professional LA staff was reported as being in post at 31 March 2014, a comparable figure to that reported for 2012/13 (215).



8. FOOD HYGIENE COMPLIANCE

8.1. The level of Broad Compliance in Wales as at 31 March 2014 was 91.8% of rated establishments (89.0% of all establishments), compared with a 91.7% level across the UK. This is an increase on the 2012/13 level in Wales of 88.0% of rated establishments (84.4% of all establishments).



9. AUDIT OF COMPETENT AUTHORITIES

9.1 FSA auditors carried out a programme of audits of Competent Authorities in Wales during the period 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014 as follows:

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

Audit programme	Dates	Number of LAs	Number of related 'reality checks'	Final report(s) issued/published/due
Full audits on the delivery of food and feed law enforcement services	July 2013 to March 2014	4	18	Final reports published at: http://www.food.gov.uk/enforcement/auditandmonitoring/auditreports/
Shellfish traceability and authenticity (joint audit with England)	March 2014	3	7	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/
Focused audit on local authority management of interventions at newly registered food businesses	January to March 2014	22	4	Findings included in report to the Minister of Health and Social Services <i>Food and Feed Law Enforcement in Wales</i> at: http://wales.gov.uk/docs/phhs/publications/140721foodandfeeden.pdf Summary report published at: http://www.food.gov.uk/enforcement/auditandmonitoring/auditreports/

Focused audit on local authority implementation of Pennington's recommendations.	January to March 2014	22	4	Findings included in report to the Minister of Health and Social Services <i>Food and Feed Law Enforcement in Wales</i> at: http://wales.gov.uk/docs/phhs/publications/140721foodandfeeden.pdf Summary report published at: http://www.food.gov.uk/enforcement/auditandmonitoring/auditreports/
Desktop audit to test local authority and port health authority arrangements for responding to food and feed related incidents out-of-hours	March 2014	23	-	Findings included in report to the Minister of Health and Social Services <i>Food and Feed Law Enforcement in Wales</i> at: http://wales.gov.uk/docs/phhs/publications/140721foodandfeeden.pdf
Follow-up audits to assess local authority implementation of existing audit action plans	April 2013 to March 2014	5	-	Updated LA audit action plans have been published at: http://www.food.gov.uk/enforcement/auditandmonitoring/auditreports/