

**Food Standards Agency: Information released under the Freedom of Information Act**

**Date released: 26 May 2016**

Your request for information is as follows:

***Under the FOI I am looking to see how many approved premises there are in Wales and the UK (separate figures please) for mince meat that is intended to be supplied raw.***

In your email dated 16 May 2016, in response to a request for clarification from my colleague [REDACTED], you confirmed:

***I'm looking for a figure for establishments who supply minced meats intended for consumption which is not thoroughly cooked.***

The sale and consumption of burgers served less than thoroughly cooked is a trend that has been steadily increasing in the UK. At their 9 September 2015 meeting, the FSA Board were asked to consider the issue of serving less than thoroughly cooked burgers in food outlets and catering settings including restaurants and pubs. The minutes of the 9 September Board meeting can be viewed at: <http://www.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/meeting/minutes/fsa151101-minutes-final.pdf>

Establishments handling, preparing or producing products of animal origin for which requirements are laid down in Regulation (EC) No 853/2004, must be approved by the competent authority in accordance with Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 854/2004. A list of approved premises in the UK can be found at: <http://www.food.gov.uk/enforcement/approved-premises-official-controls/sectorrules>.

In the UK, the approval of establishments for the production of minced meat and meat preparations is undertaken by either the FSA or by Local Authorities (LAs), depending on the nature of their activities.

There are currently seven FSA approved establishments which supply, or have shown an interest in supplying, minced meat/meat preparations to catering settings. All of these establishments are located in England. In Scotland, there is one establishment, approved by Food Standards Scotland (FSS), known to supply minced meat/meat preparations to catering settings which intend to serve less than thoroughly cooked burgers. We are not aware of any establishments in Wales or Northern Ireland that currently supply minced meat/meat preparations intended to be consumed less than thoroughly cooked. The following table provides a breakdown by country and a UK total:

	<b>FSA*/FSS** Approved</b>	<b>Local Authority Approved</b>	<b>Total</b>
Wales	0	0	0
England*	7	0	7
Scotland**	1	0	1
Northern Ireland	0	0	0
<b>United Kingdom</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>

Earlier this month, the FSA published advice to food business operators (FBOs) and LAs on controls and associated verification measures - including sampling - that can be implemented. The published advice can be viewed at: (<http://www.food.gov.uk/business-industry/guidancenotes/meatregsguid/less-than-thoroughly-cooked-beef-burgers>)