

Annex

Request

Number of samples for allergens taken by local authorities over the last three years.

The number of those that failed, broken down by authority and year.

Response

The FSA is the Central Competent Authority for food safety and has a statutory function to protect public health and consumers' other interests in relation to food and drink. However, the day to day responsibility for delivery of controls rests with local authorities and they decide upon their local sampling priorities, conduct the sampling, arrange for relevant testing and carry out appropriate enforcement activity in relation to any unsatisfactory results. It is every LA's responsibility to ensure they are delivering official controls in food businesses and that appropriate resources are allocated, including sampling where appropriate.

In response to your request, the information has been extracted from the Food Surveillance System (UKFSS), a voluntary sampling database which is not used by all Local Authorities (LAs). Collation of sampling data, to analyse national trends, is further complicated by the fact it is not always recorded and reported in a consistent way and our ability to interrogate what is a sizeable dataset is reliant upon how information is coded. As a result, we are unable to collate a full picture of sampling activity and this has limited its value as comprehensive surveillance data from which firm conclusions about food risk or new and emerging threats could be drawn. To address these issues, the FSA is looking to modernise and standardise reporting of LA sampling to enable a more comprehensive dataset to be analysed.

Those LAs that do not use UKFSS report their sampling activity through the annual Local Authority Enforcement Monitoring System (LAEMS). This system only provides high level information on the total number of samples taken by each LA and does not provide details of the parameter tested or the sample results.

The FSA is also developing a new strategic surveillance approach which will give us more data and intelligence to boost public protection. This information will allow us to advise and support LAs to plan their own sampling and analysis to be more targeted and effective

LAs are responsible for developing and implementing their food sampling policy and programme for the year, which should take account of priorities set nationally.

While sampling is a key part of an LA's approach to delivering official controls, it is only one tool available to check compliance in this area, which include inspections, which would cover, checks on food handling practices in relation to allergenic ingredients, menu and description checks, physical checks of the products, including labels. As part of the inspection process, officers will consider if it is necessary to take a sample. This will result in LA sampling activity being targeted to areas of

concern rather than it being random sampling, and skew the results to produce a higher percentage of samples that are found to contain allergen in comparison to if the food samples taken were all random

Where samples are unsatisfactory, LAs are responsible for taking appropriate action. This may include removing the food from the market and advising the business on how to achieve compliance. In some instances, enforcement action such as prosecution or simple cautions may be appropriate. In addition to protecting the public this action also aims to prevent economic or other detriment and improve levels of compliance.

Details of the number of samples analysed for allergenic ingredients from our search of UKFSS are provided in the tables below. We sought to verify these results with all relevant LAs. Given that not all LAs responded and in light of the issues highlighted above, these results do not necessarily reflect the full extent of LA sampling for allergens and this would only be guaranteed by approaching each LA directly.

LA	2016 - Total Allergen Samples	2016 - No. of Unsatisfactory Samples due to presence of undeclared allergenic ingredient	2017 - Total Allergen Samples	2017 - No. of Unsatisfactory Samples due to presence of undeclared allergenic ingredient	2018 - Total Allergen Samples	2018 - No. of Unsatisfactory Samples due to presence of undeclared allergenic ingredient	Total Allergen Samples	Total - No. of Unsatisfactory Samples due to presence of undeclared allergenic ingredient
Antrim and Newtownabbey Council	49	26	7	2	18	5	74	33
Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Council	39	8	42	8	5	3	86	19
Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council	4	2	0	0	0	0	4	2
Belfast City Council	73	29	34	17	26	2	133	48
Birmingham City Council	4	2	11	0	0	0	15	2
Blaenau Gwent County Council	6	0	0	0	0	0	6	0
Bolton MBC	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0
Borough of Southend on Sea	1	0	4	2	0	0	5	2
Bournemouth Borough Council	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0

Bracknell Forest Unitary Authority	4	0	2	2	0	0	6	2
Bridgend County Borough Council	0	0	8	4	0	0	8	4
Buckinghamshire County Council	33	6	1	1	0	0	34	7
Bury Metropolitan Borough Council	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	2
Caerphilly County Borough Council	0	0	3	0	0	0	3	0
Cambridgeshire County Council	5	0	0	0	0	0	5	0
Cardiff Council	10	2	15	7	0	0	25	9
Carmarthenshire County Council	32	0	22	0	0	0	54	0
Causeway Coast and Glens	22	0	13	3	1	0	36	3
Central Bedfordshire Council	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	0
Ceredigion County Council	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Cheshire and West Chester Council	8	7	7	7	0	0	15	14
City of London Council	6	0	0	0	0	0	6	0
Conwy County Borough Council	4	1	11	4	0	0	15	5
Coventry City Council	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
Cumbria County Council	12	2	24	2	1	0	37	4

Darlington Unitary Authority	2	2	0	0	0	0	2	2
Denbighshire County Council	4	1	10	2	3	0	17	3
Derby City Council	0	0	2	1	0	0	2	1
Derbyshire County Council	2	1	2	0	0	0	4	1
Derry and Strabane Council	38	25	9	7	0	0	47	32
Devon County Council	17	2	3	0	0	0	20	2
Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council	9	1	9	1	0	0	18	2
Dorset County Council	17	1	4	0	3	1	24	2
Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Durham County Council	11	4	3	1	1	1	15	6
East Riding of Yorkshire	12	2	12	6	12	2	36	10
East Sussex County Council	5	4	5	2	0	0	10	6
Essex County Council	48	22	25	13	0	0	73	35
Flintshire County Council	9	3	1	1	0	0	10	4
Gateshead Metropolitan Council	14	5	9	2	1	0	24	7

Gloucestershire County Council	1	0	4	3	0	0	5	3
Gwynedd Council	1	0	2	1	0	0	3	1
Halton Borough Council	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Hampshire County Council	9	0	13	6	0	0	22	6
Hartlepool Unitary Authority	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Hereford City Council	3	0	8	1	0	0	11	1
Hertfordshire County Council	59	5	28	3	0	0	87	8
Isle of Anglesey County Council	2	0	2	2	3	2	7	4
Isle of Wight Council	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Kent County Council	30	3	11	1	2	0	43	4
Kingston Upon Hull City	19	0	44	1	15	0	78	1
Lancashire County Council	38	4	92	16	92	7	222	27
Leicestershire County Council	22	3	32	0	3	0	57	3
Lincolnshire County Council	17	3	13	5	0	0	30	8
Lisburn City and Castlereagh Council	45	0	11	0	2	2	58	2
London Borough of Barking & Dagenham	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0

London Borough of Barnet	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
London Borough of Bexley	8	0	2	0	0	0	10	0
London Borough of Bromley	6	1	0	0	1	0	7	1
London Borough of Camden	6	1	1	1	0	0	7	2
London Borough of Ealing	4	0	0	0	0	0	4	0
London Borough of Greenwich	3	0	2	0	3	0	8	0
London Borough of Hackney	14	0	2	0	0	0	16	0
London Borough of Haringey	0	0	3	2	0	0	3	2
London Borough of Harrow	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
London Borough of Havering	0	0	3	0	0	0	3	0
London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham	5	4	0	0	0	0	5	4
London Borough of Hillingdon	6	0	0	0	0	0	6	0
London Borough of Islington	7	0	0	0	0	0	7	0
London Borough of Lewisham	5	0	0	0	0	0	5	0
London Borough of Merton	6	0	0	0	0	0	6	0
London Borough of Redbridge	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0

London Borough of Southwark	6	0	0	0	0	0	6	0
London Borough of Waltham Forrest	7	0	0	0	0	0	7	0
London Port Heath Authority	3	0	1	0	1	0	5	0
Luton Borough Council	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Metropolitan Borough of Knowsley	0	0	3	1	0	0	3	1
Metropolitan Borough of St Helens	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Metropolitan Borough of Wirral	6	2	0	0	0	0	6	2
Mid and East Antrim Council	5	0	15	2	10	0	30	2
Mid Ulster Council	28	5	12	5	2	0	42	10
Milton Keynes Council	0	0	2	1	0	0	2	1
Monmouthshire County Council	2	0	5	0	0	0	7	0
Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council	1	0	23	2	25	6	49	8
Newcastle Metropolitan Council	1	0	3	2	0	0	4	2

Newport City Council	34	1	17	9	0	0	51	10
Newry, Mourne and Down Council	59	21	17	8	0	0	76	29
Fermanagh and Omagh Council	35	3	24	8	6	2	65	13
Norfolk County Council	67	8	42	4	22	5	131	17
North Down and Ards Council	31	6	36	26	5	0	72	32
North East Lincolnshire Council	5	3	5	2	0	0	10	5
North Lincolnshire Council	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
North Somerset Council	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
North Tyneside Metropolitan Council	6	3	0	0	0	0	6	3
Northamptonshire County Council	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Northumberland County Council	6	2	0	0	0	0	6	2
Nottingham City Council	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Nottinghamshire County Council	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council	1	0	60	8	0	0	61	8
Oxfordshire County Council	2	0	6	0	0	0	8	0

Pembrokeshire County Council	7	1	6	5	0	0	13	6
Peterborough City Council	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Plymouth City Council	7	0	0	0	1	1	8	1
Poole Borough Council	2	1	0	0	0	0	2	1
Powys County Council	15	4	16	8	4	0	35	12
Redcar & Cleveland Unitary Authority	2	1	7	0	0	0	9	1
Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council	6	2	24	8	1	0	31	10
Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council	2	0	2	0	0	0	4	0
Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea	5	0	0	0	0	0	5	0
Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council	6	0	0	0	0	0	6	0
Sefton District Council	7	2	1	0	0	0	8	2
Shropshire Unitary Authority	3	3	1	0	0	0	4	3
South Tyneside metropolitan Council	6	2	0	0	0	0	6	2

Southampton City Council	0	0	2	2	0	0	2	2
Staffordshire County Council	61	21	107	36	0	0	168	57
Stockton Unitary Authority	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Stoke-on-Trent City Council	4	0	0	0	0	0	4	0
Suffolk Coastal Port Health Authority	2	2	0	0	0	0	2	2
Suffolk County Council	47	7	27	13	13	9	87	29
Sunderland Metropolitan Council	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	0
Surrey County Council	40	9	2	0	0	0	42	9
Swansea Council	9	0	3	2	1	0	13	2
Telford and Wrekin Council	3	0	3	1	0	0	6	1
Torfaen County Borough Council	14	5	0	0	0	0	14	5
Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council	6	1	0	0	0	0	6	1
Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council	2	1	1	1	0	0	3	2
Wandsworth Borough Council	4	3	0	0	0	0	4	3
Warwickshire County Council	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1

West Sussex County Council	7	1	13	8	1	4	21	13
West Yorkshire Council	20	4	37	7	0	0	57	11
Westminster City Council	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Wigan Council	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Wiltshire County Council	0	0	4	4	12	0	16	4
Worcestershire County Council	5	0	0	0	0	0	5	0
Wrexham County Council	10	1	2	0	2	0	14	1
Total	1454	309	1106	310	302	54	2862	673