

Annual Review of Controls on Imports of Animal Products

April 2010 – March 2011

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Presented to Parliament pursuant to section 10A of the Animal Health Act 1981 (as amended by the Animal Health Act 2002).

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Foreword by Jim Paice



Following my first year as Minister of State for Agriculture and Food, I welcome the opportunity again to report on the actions made by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and other Government Departments and agencies during the past year aimed at reducing the risk of disease entering the country via imports of animal products.

The Government remains committed to strong action to prevent illegal imports of animal products from outside the European Union (EU) that may bring the risk of diseases that can threaten animal and public health, for example Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and highly pathogenic avian influenza type H5N1 respectively.

There is also the substantial risk to the economy as we know from the outbreak of FMD in 2001 which is estimated to have cost £3 billion relating to agriculture and the food chain.

Following the spending review, Defra with UKBA, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and the Food Standards Agency (FSA), albeit at low or no cost, have continued to undertake a joined-up approach on the overall communications strategy and seek opportunities to help raise travellers' awareness of the rules on personal imports of animal products.

It is also pleasing to report the existing intelligence framework between UKBA and the FSA has been strengthened to improve the flow of risk information available for border and inland enforcement activities to target illegal animal products.

We can never have a zero risk but we continue to monitor and assess the changing threats from around the world. We therefore continue to work closely with the UK Border Agency (UKBA) to ensure that its anti-smuggling controls at the Great Britain (GB) border are responsive to new or changing animal health risks and to ensure it focuses on the most high risk routings and goods.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Jim Paice'. The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Jim Paice
Minister of State for Agriculture and Food

Introduction

1.1.1 This is the ninth annual review of controls on imports of animal products, also known as Products Of Animal Origin (POAO), into the United Kingdom (UK) in accordance with section 10A of the Animal Health Act 1981 (as amended by the Animal Health Act 2002). It reports on the developments in activities of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), the Devolved Administrations (DAs) and other Government Departments and agencies in 2010/11 to reduce the risk of disease entering the UK via imports of POAO.

Roles and responsibilities

These are the main developments since those we reported at paragraphs 1.2.1 to 1.2.10 in the 2009/10 Review:

1.2.1 The European Union (EU) continues to operate a system of strict controls on legal imports of POAO. POAO from non-EU countries can only be imported through designated Border Inspection Posts (BIPs), where they undergo veterinary checks by an Official Veterinary Surgeon (OVS) to ensure that import conditions are met. All consignments are subject to documentary and identity checks at the BIP, and to prescribed levels of physical checks according to the type of product and country of origin.

1.2.2 Imports are only permitted from those non-EU countries and product plants that have been authorised by the EU for the importation of the product in question. Such authorisation is based on guarantees to the EU about animal health and hygiene standards. All imported POAO for human consumption must be accompanied by animal and public health certification.

EU legislation allows us to take appropriate safeguard action which may include a ban on imports of POAO of susceptible species from all or parts of a country if there is an outbreak of disease likely to present a risk to human or animal health.

This legislation also permits imports of meat from certain countries where Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) is present, but only where the disease is restricted to specific areas. Imports are permitted either from parts of the country that are free of disease or under strict conditions that ensure the meat does not come from any animal that may have come into contact with FMD before, during and after slaughter.

1.2.3 From 1 April 2010, staff of the Food Standards Agency (FSA) Operations group have had the function of providing supervision, inspection and health marking in all domestic licensed fresh meat establishments in Great Britain (GB), which was formally undertaken by the Meat Hygiene Service. The OVS is responsible for veterinary supervision in full throughput slaughterhouses. Where FSA staff find meat in approved cutting plants that they suspect is illegally imported, they have the primary responsibility and powers to deal with it. They report any such findings to Defra so that information on seizures can be shared between all enforcement agencies.

1.2.4 The Service Level Agreement (SLA), formalising the relationship and responsibilities between Defra, UK Border Agency (UKBA), Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC), the FSA, Animal Health and the DAs was revised during the year to specifically cover POAO, live animals and animal pathogens only (from 1 October 2010 to 31 March 2011). The functions and working arrangements in place between the Food and Environment Research Agency (Fera), the Forestry Commission, UKBA, HMRC, Defra and the DAs for regulatory and anti-smuggling controls for plants and plant products, forestry, wood and wood products, regulatory controls for hops and fruit and vegetable quality will in future be covered in a separate SLA.

Review of controls on imports of meat and other animal products

The Animal Health Act 1981 (as amended by the Animal Health Act 2002) requires a return to be made against five main headings as given below:

1. Review of activities of all Government Departments directed to the prevention of the introduction of disease

These are the main developments since those reported in the 2009/10 Review:

Understanding the risk

1.3.1 Defra continues to monitor and assess the changing threats from around the world such as the evolving FMD situation in the Middle East and South East Asia as well as African Swine Fever (ASF) in Russia and work with UKBA and other enforcement partners to ensure that enforcement activity is targeted at the current risks.

1.3.2 In 2010/11 Defra conducted and published 24 Preliminary Outbreak Assessments (POAs) on outbreaks of diseases such as African Horse Sickness, ASF, Aujeszky's Disease, Brucellosis, FMD, Glanders, Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza and West Nile Virus. Further information can be found at <http://archive.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/farmanimal/diseases/monitoring/index.htm>.

1.3.3 Between 1 April 2010 and 31 March 2011, the UK issued 70 'alert' and 'information' notifications via the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF) which is used by the FSA to inform and prompt for action to be taken by the European Commission (EC) or other EU Member States, including when food products from non-EU countries that breach public and animal health safety requirements are rejected. The EC has a procedure in place to alert non-EU countries about problems affecting food. RASFF automatically alerts Port Health Authorities (PHAs) and Local Authorities (LAs) at ports and airports for them to target their checks on imported food.

Enforcement

2.1.1 UKBA remains committed to working closely with Defra and will continue to implement its overall POAO enforcement strategy in line with agreed priorities following the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR). We consider that it is important that the public are aware that Defra and UKBA will continue to work closely together to ensure that the agency delivers an enforcement strategy that targets entry routes that pose the greatest threat of introducing animal disease to the UK. Both Defra and UKBA monitor the risk assessments to enable them to respond flexibly to changing patterns of risk.

2.1.2 UKBA anti-smuggling controls at the border are carried out on the basis of the latest risk assessments and any available intelligence about illegal imports. Officers are supported by detector dogs specifically trained to detect POAO and also by x-ray technology.

2.1.3 Following the CSR, UKBA along with other Government Departments, is looking critically at ways in which to modernise the workforce to deliver best value for money. This is increasingly important in the current financial climate. This programme of workforce modernisation will include the development of a smaller, more flexible core workforce combined with improved and more innovative ways of delivering risk-based anti-smuggling controls.

2.1.4 UKBA also responds to specific disease notifications, such as serious disease outbreaks for which they can increase controls if necessary. For example, following outbreaks of FMD in Bulgaria from January 2011, Defra worked with UKBA to reduce the risk of unregulated products entering GB from the affected regions.

Personal imports of meat, meat products (including game, hides and skins), milk and dairy products derived from FMD susceptible animals (principally cattle, deer, goats, pigs and sheep) originating from the restricted areas were banned¹.

Temporary measures were therefore put in place to monitor the personal luggage of passengers from the Burgas region of Bulgaria with banned products liable to seizure by UKBA officers at GB points of entry. Department of Agriculture and Rural Development for Northern Ireland (DARDNI) was responsible for controls at Northern Ireland (NI) points of entry. This was an exceptional measure as customs powers do not normally apply to intra-EU movements of POAO goods.

2.1.5 The FSA continues to work closely with LAs to improve LA enforcement of imported food controls. Inland LAs receive, via the FSA, information relating to seizures and detentions made by UKBA concerning the illegal import of POAO from non-EU countries. The disseminated intelligence enables inland LAs to act upon the information and for a complementary flow of information from inland LAs to UKBA via the FSA to inform the targeting of anti-smuggling checks at the border. The submitted intelligence also enables the FSA to carry out analysis to identify trends in illegally imported POAO and to work together with the aim of improving local liaison arrangements at the border, particularly in developing any localised intelligence that might help the targeting process both for UKBA controls and for checks by PHAs at BIPs.

The existing intelligence framework between UKBA and the FSA has been strengthened during the year to improve the flow of risk information available for border and inland enforcement activities to target illegal POAO. UKBA made 70 referrals of risk information to the FSA during the year which led to additional POAO seizures by a number of LAs.

2.1.6 Food fraud is the deliberate placing on the market, for financial gain, of foods that are falsely described or otherwise intended to deceive the consumer. It includes the substitution and adulteration of foods with cheaper, often inferior, ingredients and the sale of foods that may have public health implications, such as foods that are unfit for human consumption or are knowingly contaminated.

The FSA's Food Fraud Branch has responsibility for assisting LAs with their investigations into food fraud. These can often be resource intensive and the FSA offers a number of resources to assist them. These include financial assistance through application to its Fighting Fund, access to the expertise and experience of members of its Food Fraud Advisory Unit, intelligence produced through its national Food Fraud Database (FFDB) and the facilitation of training for food law enforcement officers via its "Evidence Gathering and Interview Skills" course.

During 2010/11 the FSA approved 18 applications from LAs requesting financial assistance from their Fighting Fund.

The FSA continues to develop its FFDB and, as a direct result, in 2010/11 there were nearly 900 records created on the system, a comparable amount to that for 2009/10 and more than twice the number for 2008/09. It is important that this trend continues and the FSA encourages LAs, industry and consumers to routinely send information concerning food fraud, irrespective of how insignificant it may appear. Through the analysis of a significantly larger data set, the FSA have been able to produce better intelligence, enabling them to provide greater assistance with LA investigations. Additionally, in times of budgetary restraint, the intelligence that they have provided has proved to be invaluable in helping LAs effectively target their food law enforcement work. In turn, this has resulted in a number of successful operations.

¹ In accordance with Commission Decision 2011/44/EU of 19 January 2011 (as amended) concerning certain protection measures against FMD in Bulgaria.

2.1.7 There were press reports at the end of February 2011 about an alleged seizure of chimpanzee meat in the Midlands. The FSA investigated this claim with all of the LAs in the area and found no evidence that any such meat was found.

2.1.8 The FSA's web-based GRAIL (Guidance and Regulatory Advice on Import Legislation) database, previously launched in March 2008, continues to provide enforcement officers with a searchable up-to-date database of:

- All imported food guidance and legislation relating to products not of animal origin and fish and fishery products;
- A summary of import controls on specific products/countries;
- An A-Z of relevant contacts;
- Useful weblinks on imported food.

In recognition of the fact that enforcement of imported food controls is the responsibility of all inland LAs as well as those at point of entry, the FSA encourage all enforcement officers to have access to GRAIL – see <https://grail.foodapps.co.uk/grail/general/home.aspx>.

2.1.9 The FSA continues to provide regional based training across the UK and an online training package to ensure that enforcement officers, both at ports and inland, are kept up-to-date with current legislation and practical guidance on the implementation of imported food official controls.

Raising Awareness

2.2.1 From May 2010, both Defra and UKBA no longer had dedicated budgets for publicity campaigns due to the freeze on government advertising and marketing spend. We have therefore worked together with other Government Departments such as the Foreign and

Commonwealth Office (FCO) to explore the use of free/low cost communication media to continue to help raise travellers' awareness of the rules on personal imports of POAO. A variety of public awareness raising mechanisms were deployed with Defra mainly responsible for targeting inland audiences and UKBA leading on information for travellers (i.e. those intending to travel to the UK) through publicity at points of entry, and departure in the UK and overseas. DARDNI is responsible for raising public awareness of the rules on personal imports of POAO in NI.

Defra publicity

Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) campaign

2.2.2 Leaflets for China (Simplified Chinese) and Generic English and appropriate websites were amended in autumn 2010 to take into account the current ban on personal imports of raw eggs from China (not including Hong Kong or Macao), Malaysia, South Korea or Thailand².

2.2.3 In October 2010, Defra joined the FCO's stand at the Amazing Africa event in Trafalgar Square and distributed 600 leaflets. The FCO also ensured that Defra weblinks were still appearing on the FCO website and have agreed to include information about the campaign in their 'Visiting friends and families' leaflet. The FCO also included a link to the Directgov 'foodimports' website within their Cricket World Cup information, which took place in India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh between mid-February and early April.

2.2.4 A press release and Tweet via the Defra Twitter feed were issued in November 2010 warning against bringing back food from Hajj.

General traveller campaign

2.2.5 Since its launch in August 2008, the Defra-led TV filler 'Don't bring me back' continues to be shown and is still performing well.

2 In accordance with Commission Decision 2005/692/EC (as amended) which imposes certain protection measures to prevent the spread of Bird Flu into the EU.

From 1 April 2010 until 1 February 2011 it has returned £228,000 worth of airtime from 34,000 transmissions with a TVR (Television Rating) of above 80. In terms of value, this is an increase of 26% on the same period year on year. TVR measures the popularity of a particular programme or advertisement by comparing its audience to the population as a whole. One TVR is numerically equivalent to 1% of a target audience/viewers in the surveyed area in a given minute, so a TVR of 80 means that on average during the programme, more than 80% of the target audience watched the filler.

Highlights included transmissions on BBC1 valued at over £10,000 and, on average, a play a day on Channel 4 valued at over £42,000. In addition to this, it also generated £4,000 worth of coverage on a number of Out of Home Screens and the content is extensively used by Councils up and down the country.

2.2.6 The Food Checker – launched in May 2009 – continued to be a popular tool on the Directgov website, as well as partner sites such as The Sun and Virgin websites. The tool was used approximately 2,700 times per month via the Directgov website, and had a lower profile on The Sun and Virgin websites.

2.2.7 Press office online activity, including an online video and Twitter, was used during the Football World Cup in South Africa in June and July 2010 to help raise awareness of the personal import rules (including hides and skins used for making drums).

2.2.8 We included questions relating to personal food imports in the June 2010 FCO Travel Habits Tracking Research. This Research found that there was a 52% awareness of publicity about not bringing meat/dairy products to the UK from countries outside the EU, a drop in awareness since the last wave (59%). There was a reduction of awareness via programmes, articles and advertising. However, the main reason that would stop travellers bringing in illegal food products

is simply that it is illegal (48%). 9% of people were unsure of the rules, while 7% knew it could spread diseases and pests to the UK.

UKBA publicity

2.2.9 Leaflets summarising the rules for personal imports of POAO continue to be made available to travellers at ports and airports. The leaflet was rebranded in 2010 and is available on UKBA's website at www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/travellingtotheUK.

2.2.10 Approximately 49,000 of these leaflets were distributed to ports and airports during the year for use by UKBA officers.

2.2.11 Posters continue to be displayed at high visibility sites at ports and airports alerting travellers to the import rules. This includes appropriate messages on Liquid Crystal Display (LCD) screens in baggage halls and other public areas in certain terminals. The posters are also displayed at primary checkpoints on entry to the UK, which integrate customs and immigration control into one focal point at the border.

2.2.12 The personal import rules for POAO were part of a suite of messages displayed on internet desks, LCD screens and screen savers at various ports and airports. This activity ran until January 2011.

2.2.13 UKBA has been utilising upstream communications to educate and inform those intending to travel of the restrictions on bringing illegal food products into the UK. Messages were incorporated into the UKBA booklet 'Playing By the Rules' and approximately 400,000 were issued to successful UK visa applicants before they travelled to the UK. The booklet has now been refreshed and renamed 'Your Stay in the UK'.

Posters were also displayed at visa offices overseas aimed at Indian, Pakistani, Nigerian, Bangladeshi, Chinese, Afghan, Zimbabwean, Iranian, Sri Lankan, Jamaican, Ghanaian, Brazilian, Malaysian and Mauritian nationalities.

2.2.14 UKBA enforcement work to prevent illegal imports of POAO has continued to be featured in a number of national TV programmes during the year. The BBC1 TV series 'Food Fighters' was broadcast during March and April 2010 and followed UKBA officers at Heathrow Airport. The second series of the Sky TV documentary 'UK Border Force' was broadcast and continued to be repeated during the year and showed seizures of prohibited foods made from passengers also at Heathrow. In October 2010, BBC Radio 4's 'Farming Today' programme was given access to POAO detection work by UKBA officers at Birmingham Airport as part of a week-long series looking at food security. Officers highlighted the type of illegal POAO that are seized. The short films developed for use in visa application centres abroad also reflect this element of the UKBA's work. Furthermore, a new TV series looking at the UKBA's enforcement efforts, including detecting POAO, was filmed during 2010 and will be broadcast in 2011 on Sky Living.

2.2.15 Directgov websites – www.direct.gov.uk/dontbringmeback (targeted at the general travelling public) and www.direct.gov.uk/foodimports (BME targeted) – were linked from both the Defra and UKBA websites, while both Defra and UKBA have worked with the FCO to promote the relevant weblinks on their website and include information on the campaign within their publicity collateral.

DARDNI publicity

2.2.16 DARDNI has continued to raise the profile of the threat of introduction of disease from POAO in a number of ways. Updated leaflets have been produced to reflect the changes in personal import rules, giving information to the travelling public on which POAO can and cannot be brought back to NI. Posters are displayed at points of entry providing information on the rules regarding personal imports of POAO.

2.2.17 Active surveillance beyond risk based searching in the form of questioning passengers continues to raise awareness. Engagement with local community groups such as the Chinese Welfare association and student groups also provided an opportunity for DARDNI to raise awareness.

2.2.18 During the year the DARDNI Minister visited Belfast International Airport to view controls and a subsequent press release was issued on dangers of bringing food back from holidays. Other press releases have been issued reminding the public not to bring back illegal POAO when returning from holidays and informing of changes to personal import rules. Relevant updated advice has also been placed on the DARDNI website and on the NI Direct website (the official Government website for NI).

Customer involvement

There have been no further developments since those we reported at paragraphs 2.3.1 to 2.3.4 in the 2009/10 Review.

2. Statistics on illegal products

2.3.1 In order to reach the smaller, more flexible core workforce outlined in paragraph 2.1.3, there has been a need to restructure and refocus UKBA efforts across all border activities. This has had an impact on seizure levels but Defra/UKBA are confident that UKBA are in a strong position to ensure that they address the highest risks at the border.

2.3.2 UKBA will continue to target their efforts on the basis of risk assessments provided by Defra's veterinary experts. These assessments categorise countries according to the prevalence of animal diseases that could be spread by illegal imports and the most high risk source countries and products. This approach ensures that UKBA resource is deployed to the highest known risks.

2.3.3 Most illegal imports detected by UKBA are small amounts and continue to be typically gifts by travellers visiting family (or returning from visiting family abroad), or seizures from tourists, business people and students travelling to the UK for the first time with foodstuffs for a special occasion or simply as 'a taste of home'. Most do not involve deliberately smuggled goods but are made from passengers who, in spite of our publicity campaigns, are simply not aware of the current rules and prohibitions in place for POAO imports.

2.3.4 Statistics relating to total seizures, in this and previous years (where records are available) are set out in Annex 1.

3. Legislation: powers

There have been no further developments since those reported at paragraph 2.5.1 in the 2009/10 Review.

4. Legislation: effectiveness

There have been no further developments since those reported at paragraph 2.6.1 in the 2009/10 Review.

5. Future action

Government action

2.4.1 Defra and UKBA with the FSA and the DAs will carry out an illegal imports strategy review during 2011/12 encompassing the major strands of intelligence, enforcement, publicity and preventative action. We will aim to achieve the correct balance and continue to ensure that UKBA enforcement efforts are targeted to where the greatest risk lies.

2.4.2 Animal Health and the Veterinary Laboratories Agency (AHVLA) will merge from 1 April 2011 bringing services, expertise and scientific capability around animal health into one agency. This will therefore improve resilience in

the delivery of important services, including the emergency response capability for animal disease and science requirements for animal health. It will also lead to more efficient ways of working.

2.4.3 Defra will continue to work with PHAs, AHVLA and UKBA to ensure compliance with EU and GB rules for the commercial importation of POAO from outside the EU, through BIPs.

2.4.4 From 25 May 2011, the POAO (Third Country Imports) (England) Regulations 2006, the Animals and Animal Products (Import and Export) (England) Regulations 2006 and the POAO (Import and Export) Regulations 1996 will be replaced in England by the Trade in Animals and Related Products Regulations 2011. The conditions for and controls on imports of POAO will remain unchanged by the introduction of the new Regulations but the Regulations will update references to EU rules and simplify the legislation for enforcement officers. The Scottish and Welsh Governments will also be implementing similar legislation later in 2011.

Understanding the risk

2.4.5 Defra will continue to monitor the international disease situation, producing assessments as necessary to help inform enforcement activity.

To assist with the intelligence and risk picture, UKBA will monitor seizure levels throughout the year but their priority is to ensure that they deploy to areas that present the highest risk.

Raising public awareness

2.4.6 Defra, UKBA, the FSA and the FCO will maintain a joined-up approach across Government in this area and will meet at regular intervals to review the publicity strategy for 2011/12, taking into account successes and lessons learned from 2010/11 and any changing priorities as the year progresses, to ensure that target audiences will be reached at key travel/holiday times and making best use of the resources available.

2.4.7 There are plans for Defra to redevelop the Food Checker available on the Directgov website until the end of March 2011 and the Personal Import Rules database – currently located on the Defra website at: <http://importdetails.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Location=None&Module=IDDSearch> – to provide a more up-to-date and cost effective tool for travellers to use when they need to check the personal import rules.

International co-operation and information exchange

2.4.8 Defra and UKBA will continue to support all efforts to encourage closer co-operation between customs and veterinary authorities in other EU Member States. UKBA will seek opportunities to facilitate the exchange of intelligence and other risk information to detect illegal imports.

2.4.9 Defra will continue to work at EU and international level to influence other EU Member States and non-EU countries and minimise the risk of introducing disease into the UK.

Working in partnership with customers

2.4.10 Defra will continue to work with customers to assist in the development of its policies.

2.4.11 All enforcement partners will review the current SLA and revise it as appropriate for 2011/12.

2.4.12 We will be working with industry and delivery partners to reduce burdens on importers following the Pre-Budget report on trade facilitation.

2.4.13 A new Animal Health and Welfare Board will be created for England. For the first time, people affected by Government policy on animal health and welfare will be able to make recommendations on those policies directly to Ministers. The new board is being created based on the findings from the Independent Responsibility and Cost Sharing Advisory Group chaired by Rosemary Radcliffe, which published

the findings of their work on how animal keepers can play a greater role on tackling animal disease.

The new Defra owned Animal Health and Welfare Board will consist of around 12 members and will be assembled in the second half of 2011. It will bring experts – including farmers, veterinarians, welfare experts and others from outside Government – together with Nigel Gibbens, Chief Veterinary Officer and civil servants to make direct policy recommendations on policy affecting the health and welfare of all kept animals such as farm animals, horses and pets. Final decisions on animal health and welfare policy will remain in the hands of Government Ministers.

The Board and its members will have to represent the views of all stakeholders so will be expected to communicate with them regularly.

The Board's responsibilities will include:

- Setting the policy priorities;
- Development of key policies and how they should be funded;
- Assessing the risk of threats from animal disease and how to manage them;
- Determining the surveillance and research priorities;
- Reviewing and developing contingency plans for dealing with new disease outbreaks; and
- Considering what, if any, charging mechanisms should be introduced.

Monitoring progress

2.4.14 The Government will continue to monitor the effectiveness of all these activities.

Funding

2.4.15 Funding continues to be available for the FSA for work on inland controls.

Annex 1 – Statistics on imports of illegal products

Background

Statistics relating to total seizures from non-EU countries, in this and previous years (where records are available), are set out in this Annex.

The statistics for this year also include seizures made by UKBA as a consequence of the exceptional measures put in place for Bulgaria (an EU country) during the year (see paragraph 2.1.4).

For the purposes of these statistics 'illegal' refers to POAO seized as items from individuals being in contravention of the personal concessions permitted or commercial consignments that have sought to evade correct entry procedures by not being declared at a BIP. The statistics also include items voluntarily surrendered by passengers at ports and airports.

Tables 1 and 2 show the number, weight and volume of seizures by UKBA at points of entry (and by staff funded by Defra until 11 April 2003), those made by DARDNI at points of entry in NI and those made by inland LAs and PHAs.

On occasions more than one POAO product at a time will be seized (e.g. meat, fish, dairy and honey). This is referred to as a 'multiple seizure'. Up until 31 March 2006 (see Tables 3a and 3b), this was only recorded as one seizure against the product of highest weight although the weight of the other products seized was included in the weight recorded for that category. However, the number of seizures by product for 2006/07 and following years in Tables 3c and 3d reflect the number of times each product was seized including those from a 'multiple seizure'. This means that the sum total of the number of seizures for each of the four product categories will be higher than the overall seizure total for those years. However, the total number of seizures remains directly comparable to the figures for previous years (see Table 1).

Table 1: Total number of POAO seizures and weight (2001-2011) and volume (2006-2011)

Period	No. of seizures	Wgt (kg)	Vol (ltrs)
01/04/01-31/03/02	2,053	114,790	N/K
01/04/02-31/03/03	7,819	109,211	N/K
01/04/03-31/03/04	15,838	185,889	N/K
01/04/04-31/03/05	25,610	220,155	N/K
01/04/05-31/03/06	32,795	272,121	N/K
01/04/06-31/03/07	35,001	239,773	63,165
01/04/07-31/03/08	24,956	183,483	12,463
01/04/08-31/03/09	20,660	191,937	16,405
01/04/09-31/03/10	21,267	163,013	1,467
01/04/10-31/03/11	16,828 ³	140,433	794

Table 2: POAO seizures, weight and volume by region (2010-2011)

Region ID/Name	No. of seizures	Wgt (kg)	Vol (ltrs)
1 Eastern Europe	1,040	4,265	2
2 Eastern Africa	568	2,861	3
3 North Africa	239	1,012	1
4 Central Africa	69	710	0
5 Southern Africa	245	600	0
6 Western Africa	627	14,620	1
7 North America	527	27,272	0
8 Caribbean	143	2,304	2
9 Central & South America	168	1,095	2
10 Eastern Asia	3,304	14,475	380
11 Southern Asia	3,235	23,247	107
12 South East Asia	114	238	0
13 Near & Middle East	3,341	22,736	266
14 Oceania	65	2,490	0
15 European	14	47	0
16 Unknown	3,129	22,461	30
Totals	16,828	140,433	794

³ Of this number approximately 4% were made in freight and cargo. These seizures account for approximately 55% of the total weight of seizures, and approximately 95% of the total volume of seizures.

Table 3a: POAO seizures, including weight, by product (2001-2003) – old reporting format

Period	Meat		Fish		Dairy		Multiple		Other	
	No. of seizures	Wgt (kg)								
01/04/01-31/03/02	1,242	18,955	353	32,691	63	3,784	361	55,791	34	3,569
01/04/02-31/03/03	2,986	31,301	1,837	21,267	759	19,807	2,172	36,170	65	666

Table 3b: POAO seizures, including weight, by product (2003-2006) – old reporting format

Period	Meat		Fish		Dairy		Honey	
	No. of seizures	Wgt (kg)						
01/04/03-31/03/04	6,810	72,734	5,325	76,179	3,168	28,052	535	8,924
01/04/04-31/03/05	10,987	78,664	8,322	85,757	5,127	40,685	1,174	15,049
01/04/05-31/03/06	14,826	106,135	9,740	100,840	6,759	48,011	1,470	17,135

Table 3c: Number of times POAO seized, including weight and volume, by product (2006-2011) – new reporting format

Period	Meat			Fish			Dairy			Honey		
	No. of times seized	Wgt (kg)	Vol (ltrs)	No. of times seized	Wgt (kg)	Vol (ltrs)	No. of times seized	Wgt (kg)	Vol (ltrs)	No. of times seized	Wgt (kg)	Vol (ltrs)
01/04/06-31/03/07	19,254	90,326.72	20,867.00	10,644	65,545.11		10,231	67,717.64	42,298.08	2,029	16,183.86	
01/04/07-31/03/08	14,158	76,718.40		7,140	47,030.44		7,196	48,232.96	12,462.81	1,487	11,501.38	
01/04/08-31/03/09	11,356	76,903		5,673	52,991		6,304	53,372	16,405	1,332	8,671	
01/04/09-31/03/10	12,943	87,714		942	22,156		9,108	47,260	1,467	657	5,883	
01/04/10-31/03/11	10,186	42,987		290	22,933		7,640	68,167	794	347	6,346	

Table 3d: Number of times POAO seized, including weight and volume, by region (2010-2011)

Region ID/Name	No. of times seized, Wgt (kg) and Vol (ltrs)	Meat	Fish	Dairy	Honey	Totals
1 Eastern Europe	No. of times seized	775	3	378	29	
	Wgt (kg)	2,764	16	1,352	133	4,265
	Vol (ltrs)			2		2
2 Eastern Africa	No. of times seized	274	3	351	49	
	Wgt (kg)	1,069	106	1,388	298	2,861
	Vol (ltrs)			3		3
3 North Africa	No. of times seized	179	3	87	2	
	Wgt (kg)	555	224	224	9	1,012
	Vol (ltrs)			1		1
4 Central Africa	No. of times seized	59	5	7	0	
	Wgt (kg)	556	137	17	0	710
	Vol (ltrs)			0		0
5 Southern Africa	No. of times seized	234	2	20	1	
	Wgt (kg)	511	50	29	10	600
	Vol (ltrs)			0		0
6 Western Africa	No. of times seized	424	86	162	10	
	Wgt (kg)	2,413	10,929	1,008	270	14,620
	Vol (ltrs)			1		1
7 North America	No. of times seized	413	5	123	4	
	Wgt (kg)	3,563	272	23,419	18	27,272
	Vol (ltrs)			0		0
8 Caribbean	No. of times seized	119	1	25	3	
	Wgt (kg)	888	44	1,341	31	2,304
	Vol (ltrs)			2		2
9 Central & South America	No. of times seized	127	0	60	4	
	Wgt (kg)	433	0	650	12	1,095
	Vol (ltrs)			2		2

Table 3d: Number of times POAO seized, including weight and volume, by region (2010-2011) (continued)

Region ID/Name	No. of times seized, Wgt (kg) and Vol (ltrs)	Meat	Fish	Dairy	Honey	Totals
10 Eastern Asia	No. of times seized	3,058	50	356	14	
	Wgt (kg)	9,305	3,989	1,068	113	14,475
	Vol (ltrs)			380		380
11 Southern Asia	No. of times seized	1,190	49	2,322	28	
	Wgt (kg)	3,739	3,787	15,503	218	23,247
	Vol (ltrs)			107		107
12 South East Asia	No. of times seized	99	0	18	1	
	Wgt (kg)	187	0	41	10	238
	Vol (ltrs)			0		0
13 Near & Middle East	No. of times seized	1,371	26	2,305	126	
	Wgt (kg)	4,541	2,194	13,410	2,591	22,736
	Vol (ltrs)			266		266
14 Oceania	No. of times seized	46	2	13	6	
	Wgt (kg)	404	79	39	1,968	2,490
	Vol (ltrs)			0		0
15 European	No. of times seized	8	0	9	0	
	Wgt (kg)	15	0	32	0	47
	Vol (ltrs)			0		0
16 Unknown	No. of times seized	1,810	55	1,404	70	
	Wgt (kg)	12,044	1,106	8,646	665	22,461
	Vol (ltrs)			30		30
Totals	No. of times seized	10,186	290	7,640	347	
Totals	Wgt (kg)	42,987	22,933	68,167	6,346	140,433
Totals	Vol (ltrs)			794		794

Annex 2 – Glossary of Commonly Used Abbreviations and Acronyms

ASF	African Swine Fever
AHVLA	Animal Health and the Veterinary Laboratories Agency
BIP(s)	Border Inspection Post(s)
BME	Black and Minority Ethnic
CSR	Comprehensive Spending Review
DARDNI	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development for Northern Ireland
DAs	Devolved Administrations
Defra	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
EC	European Commission
EU	European Union
FCO	Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Fera	Food and Environment Research Agency
FFDB	Food Fraud Database
FMD	Foot and Mouth Disease
FSA	Food Standards Agency
GB	Great Britain
GRAIL	Guidance and Regulatory Advice on Import Legislation
HMRC	Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs
LA	Local Authority
LAs	Local Authorities
LCD	Liquid Crystal Display
NI	Northern Ireland
OVS	Official Veterinary Surgeon
PHAs	Port Health Authorities
POA(s)	Preliminary Outbreak Assessment(s)
POAO	Products Of Animal Origin
RASFF	Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed
SLA	Service Level Agreement
TVR	Television Rating
UK	United Kingdom
UKBA	United Kingdom Border Agency

Welsh language versions of this Review are available from the Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer of the Welsh Government. Please contact James Gibbs, Tel: 02920 823831 or E-mail: james.gibbs@wales.gsi.gov.uk.

**ANNUAL REVIEW MADE UNDER SECTION 10A OF THE ANIMAL HEALTH ACT 1981
(AS AMENDED BY THE ANIMAL HEALTH ACT 2002)**

This statutory return is required to be made and laid before Parliament in accordance with section 10A of the Animal Health Act 1981 (as amended by the Animal Health Act 2002). It covers the United Kingdom and copies are also being laid before the Scottish Parliament and the National Assembly for Wales. However, it does not get laid before the Northern Ireland Assembly.

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

The Scottish Government Rural Directorate

Welsh Government – Department for Environment and Sustainable Development

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