

Animal Health Act 1981: Expenditure and Prosecutions - 2021

**Return of expenditure incurred and
prosecutions taken under the Animal
Health Act 1981, and incidences of
Notifiable Disease in imported animals
for the year 2021**



Annual return made under section 80 of the Animal Health Act 1981

This statutory return is required to be made and laid before Parliament in accordance with Section 80 of the Animal Health Act 1981 and includes data relating to Scotland only.

A separate report has been compiled by the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and the Welsh Government for their respective functions.

This return is compiled from information supplied to the Scottish Government and while every effort is made to ensure its accuracy, this cannot be guaranteed.

Scottish Government
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate
March 2022

Contents

Prosecutions under the Animal Health Act 1981 in 2021	2
Compensation paid for animals slaughtered to prevent the spread of animal diseases in 2021	2
Number of imported animals found to be affected by a notifiable disease in 2021 .	2
Formal enforcement actions under the Animal Health Act 1981 and other animal health and welfare legislation by local authorities in 2021	3
Convictions achieved under the Animal Health Act 1981 and other animal health and welfare legislation	3
Number of visits and enforcement action taken	4
Number of complaints, service requests and livestock animals inspected	5
Summary of alternative enforcement interventions taken	5
Key Performance Measure	6
Definitions	6

Prosecutions under the Animal Health Act 1981 in 2021

There were no prosecutions in 2021.

Compensation paid for animals slaughtered to prevent the spread of animal diseases in 2021

Type of Disease	Amount
Bovine Tuberculosis	£1,031,380
Less receipts from salvage of carcasses	£76,932
Total Net Compensation Paid	£954,448
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Avian Influenza	£ 63,342

Notes: All figures have been rounded up to the nearest pound.

Number of imported animals found to be affected by a notifiable disease in 2021

There were no imported animals found to be affected by notifiable disease in 2021

Formal enforcement actions under the Animal Health Act 1981 and other animal health and welfare legislation by local authorities in 2021

Convictions achieved under the Animal Health Act 1981 and other animal health and welfare legislation

Relevant Act, Order or Regulation	Nature of offence	Result (when known)	Decision (including imprisonment, fine etc.)
The Animal By-Products (Enforcement) (Scotland) Regulations 2013	Sheep carcasses which were not disposed of in an appropriate manner	Guilty	Procurator Fiscal warning
The Animal By-Products (Enforcement) (Scotland) Regulations 2013	Sheep carcasses that were not held, pending consignment or disposal, in accordance with the Regulations in that steps were not taken to ensure that no animal or bird had access.	Guilty	Procurator Fiscal warning

Number of visits and enforcement action taken

Category	Subcategory	Number of visits	Oral or Written Advice	Written Notification Warnings	Formal written Notices	Reported to Procurator Fiscal	Other
Welfare (see note 1)	Farm	780	550	33	9	1	3
Welfare	Transport	444	41	6	2	4	9
Welfare	Market	478	71	5	50	0	0
Traceability	Identification, Movement, and Records	700	170	40	4	2	2
Biosecurity (see note 2)	Farm and Transport	134	41	11	0	0	0
Biosecurity	Market	136	47	1	0	0	0
Animal By-Products and Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSE)	Visits and interventions	87	56	7	2	0	0

Notes:

1. This is the number of welfare visit undertaken which were programmed, part of planned interventions, or projects, or in response to complaints
2. This is the number of visits where biosecurity has been considered separately, outwith a general market or farm visit.

Number of complaints, service requests and livestock animals inspected

Category	Total
Number of animal health and welfare complaints made to Service (see note 1)	1,795
Number of service requests made to Service (see note 2)	1,905
Livestock animals inspected (see note 3)	523,444

Notes:

1. This is the number of requests or complaints received which have required action or investigation by local authority animal health and welfare officers.
2. This figure includes request for service from consumers (not complaints), businesses and other agencies.
3. This is the total number of animals which were inspected or assessed in markets and other premises or holdings. This will include animals inspected for fitness, identification or health at markets and does not require that an examination takes place.

Summary of alternative enforcement interventions taken

- Joint working with SGRPID, APHA, SSPCA, SEPA, and FSS;
- Participation in multi-agency groups and industry meetings including the rural crime group, and the BVD advisory group;
- Response to illegal movement of puppies with APHA partners;
- Joint visits with Police Scotland in relation to welfare and straying issues;
- Increased surveillance of animal transport at markets;
- Presence at all agricultural shows when operational such as the Black Isle Show, Nairn Show and Wick Show;
- Remote engagement as required due to ongoing COVID-19 restrictions. Visits and investigations were carried out by phone and some included the use of live video provided by farmers;
- Telephone enquiries were used to update records held and also as a reminder to the farming community of our service as a point of contact;
- Email updates were sent to animal keepers and farms informing them about the preventive measures to be taken in case of high risk outbreaks of disease;
- Pertinent advice to keeper groups was shared via social media;
- Advice and guidance was provided on avian influenza restrictions, including letters to poultry keepers detailing legal requirements and general advice on social media;
- Inspections were carried out based upon a risk score which provides a suggested next inspection date; and
- Dog worrying support and referral for signage.

Notes: Alternative interventions are recorded to highlight additional work and areas covered. This may include attendance at agricultural shows, NFUS meetings; joint initiatives with APHA, police, Scottish Government Rural Payments and Inspections Division (SGRPID); leaflets and information etc.

Key Performance Measure

High Risk Visits

Average of high risk programmed visits inspected	54%
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Notes: This is the figure for High Risk agricultural premises visited by local authorities but also includes visits that have not been carried out as a result of these premises being visited by APHA staff as part of their pre-planned visit plan. As a result this prevents penalising local authorities who are using a joined-up approach to prevent double visits by different enforcers for similar purposes.

Definitions

Oral or Written advice: There is little difference whether the advice is written or oral. If it is advice and for enforcement purposes, should be grouped together. This would also be useful as it gives an indication of the level of complaint businesses.

Written correspondence or warnings: This indicates that there is a need for improvements following the intervention of animal health and welfare officers. This includes all letters and written notifications issued by the officer or the service which require improvements or actions to be taken.

Formal written notices: This should include any formal statutory Notices which are issued under the Animal Health Act 1981, or other animal health and welfare Regulations or Orders.

Reported to Procurator Fiscal: We should record the number of cases reported to Procurator Fiscal as this is not the same as the prosecution reports. There may well be cases which are not progressed by the Crown or they may issue a fiscal warning. It would be helpful to determine this as it will provide an overview on the work of Wildlife and Environmental Crime Unit.

Other: This includes Notices issued by the Sheriff including disposal orders in terms of livestock seizures.



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