

Councillors' Briefing Note No. 139

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Horsemeat in food investigation update

Test results

We thought it would be helpful to provide an update on the current position for local authorities in the ongoing horsemeat investigations.

The Food Standards Agency has published the second set of test results from the food industry, which has been checking for the presence of horse DNA in products labelled as beef.

Overall 3634 results have been received from a range of manufacturers, retailers, caterers and wholesales throughout the UK. The overwhelming majority (over 99%) contained no horse DNA at or above the 1% threshold.

The 13 products found to contain horse DNA at or above the 1% threshold have been named and withdrawn from sale.

No tests to date on samples containing horse DNA have found the veterinary medicine phenylbutazone (bute).

Inspections of meat processing premises

The Food Standards Agency have requested this week that local authorities prioritise inspections to all cold stores and all approved meat processing premises.

Officers from the Food and Safety Team will be visiting all approved meat processing premises in Wiltshire to undertake inspections. These will focus on documentary, physical and identity checks, meat authenticity and traceability, health marks and identity marks, labelling, re-wrapping and packing.

Formal samples will be taken for analysis where inspections indicate concerns about meat authenticity.

Information on the checks carried out and any action taken will be fed back to the Food Standards Agency.

We will keep you updated on progress with these investigations.