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Consultation package on the implementation of the UK National Control Programme for Broilers (*Gallus gallus*)

The Control of Salmonella in Broiler Flocks Order 2008

September 2008

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Section 1

Summary: Intervention & Options		
Department /Agency: Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	Title: Impact Assessment of The National Control Programme for broilers	
Stage:	Version: 1	Date:
Related Publications:		

Available to view or download at:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/broilers-ncp/index.htm>

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What is the problem under consideration? Why is government intervention necessary?

Salmonella is an important zoonotic pathogen that poses a public and animal health risk. The National Control Programme for broiler flocks puts in place a *Salmonella* monitoring and control programme for broiler flocks. It complies with EU Regulation 2160/2003 on the control of *Salmonella* and other food-borne agents and EU Regulation 646/2007 for the reduction of the prevalence of *Salmonella* Enteritidis and *Salmonella* Typhimurium in broilers.

The NCP cannot be implemented and enforced under existing legislation and administration. It is not likely that we can expect to meet our EU obligations by implementing on a voluntary basis only.

What are the policy objectives and the intended effects?

To bring protection for human and animal health into line with EU requirements the NCP sets out monitoring and controls primary producers must follow to reduce or maintain the prevalence of *Salmonellas* of public health significance in flocks of domestic fowl (*Gallus gallus*) on UK holdings producing chickens for meat for human consumption at least to the target levels set out in Regulation 646/2007. This is a maximum percentage of meat chicken flocks remaining positive for *Salmonella* Enteritidis and *Salmonella* Typhimurium to 1% or less by 31 December 2011.

What policy options have been considered? Please justify any preferred option.

As required by Decision 2005/636 a UK survey was conducted to establish the prevalence of *Salmonella* in chickens reared for meat from 2005 to 2006. This showed that industry was below the reduction target set by the Commission. The options focus how government and industry can work together for the most cost-effective implementation of the NCP. The options will also look in detail at the measures which should be taken by government and industry when *Salmonella* is suspected or detected in a flock. The specific options are described in detail in the evidence base.

When will the policy be reviewed to establish the actual costs and benefits and the achievement of the desired effects? Government will monitor progress of the NCP. The EU legislation provides for a review after its first year of implementation in December 2009.

Ministerial Sign-off For SELECT STAGE Impact Assessments:

I have read the Impact Assessment and I am satisfied that, given the available evidence, it represents a reasonable view of the likely costs, benefits and impact of the leading options.

Signed by the responsible Minister:

..... Date:

Summary: Analysis & Evidence

Policy Option: 1

Description: Implement NCP on voluntary basis only

COSTS	ANNUAL COSTS		Description and scale of key monetised costs by 'main affected groups' (i) Cost to industry: cost of <i>Salmonella</i> testing [£1.01 m] (ii) Cost to government: annual cost of CA sampling to calculate overall <i>Salmonella</i> prevalence rate [£0.06 m]
	One-off	Yrs	
	£ 0	3	
	Average Annual Cost (excluding one-off)		
	£ 0.37 m	3	Total Cost (PV) £ 1.07 m
Other key non-monetised costs by 'main affected groups' (i) Cost of potential infraction proceedings if UK fails to meet required standards. (ii) Potential impacts on public health and export competitiveness if UK <i>Salmonella</i> prevalence rises in future.			

BENEFITS	ANNUAL BENEFITS		Description and scale of key monetised benefits by 'main affected groups' Nil
	One-off	Yrs	
	£ 0	3	
	Average Annual Benefit (excluding one-off)		
	£ 0	3	Total Benefit (PV) £ 0
Other key non-monetised benefits by 'main affected groups' (i) Potential public health benefit from reduced incidence of human salmonellosis cases (ii) Increased competitiveness of UK chicken exports, due to higher costs of chicken production in EU countries that currently have lower levels of <i>Salmonella</i> testing and control than the UK.			

Key Assumptions/Sensitivities/Risks

The voluntary option ruled out because it is not possible to ensure that standards will be met by *all* eligible producers without any enforcement powers for govt. The UK would be open to infraction proceedings if it failed to meet the required standards.

Price Base Year 2008	Time Period Years 3	Net Benefit Range (NPV) £ -1.07 m	NET BENEFIT (NPV Best estimate) -£1.07 m
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What is the geographic coverage of the policy/option?		UK		
On what date will the policy be implemented?		Jan 1, 2009		
Which organisation(s) will enforce the policy?				
What is the total annual cost of enforcement for these		£ 20k		
Does enforcement comply with Hampton principles?		Yes/No		
Will implementation go beyond minimum EU requirements?		Yes/No		
What is the value of the proposed offsetting measure per year?		£		
What is the value of changes in greenhouse gas emissions?		£		
Will the proposal have a significant impact on competition?		Yes/No		
Annual cost (£-£) per organisation (excluding one-off)	Micro £	Small £	Medium £	Large £
Are any of these organisations exempt?	Yes/No	Yes/No	N/A	N/A

Impact on Admin Burdens Baseline (2005 Prices)		(Increase - Decrease)		
Increase	£ TBC	Decrease	£ TBC	Net Impact £ TBC

Key : **Annual costs and benefits: (Net) Present Value Constant Prices**

Summary: Analysis & Evidence

Policy Option: 2

Description: Management of NCP to be under direct govt control

COSTS	ANNUAL COSTS		Description and scale of key monetised costs by 'main affected groups' (i) Cost to industry: cost of <i>Salmonella</i> testing & cost of farm visits by Competent Authority (passed on to industry) [£2.48 m] (ii) Cost to government: annual cost of CA sampling to calculate overall <i>Salmonella</i> prevalence rate [£0.06 m]
	One-off	Yrs	
	£ 0	3	
	Average Annual Cost (excluding one-off)		
	£ 0.87 m	3	Total Cost (PV) £ 2.54 m
Other key non-monetised costs by 'main affected groups' Nil			

BENEFITS	ANNUAL BENEFITS		Description and scale of key monetised benefits by 'main affected groups' Nil
	One-off	Yrs	
	£ 0	3	
	Average Annual Benefit (excluding one-off)		
	£ 0	3	Total Benefit (PV) £ 0
Other key non-monetised benefits by 'main affected groups' (i) Potential public health benefit from reduced incidence of human salmonellosis cases (ii) Increased competitiveness of UK chicken exports, due to higher costs of chicken production in EU countries that currently have lower levels of <i>Salmonella</i> testing and control than the UK			

Key Assumptions/Sensitivities/Risks

Price Base Year 2008	Time Period Years 3	Net Benefit Range (NPV) £ -2.54 m	NET BENEFIT (NPV Best estimate) -£2.54 m
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What is the geographic coverage of the policy/option?		UK		
On what date will the policy be implemented?		Jan 1, 2009		
Which organisation(s) will enforce the policy?				
What is the total annual cost of enforcement for these		£ 20k		
Does enforcement comply with Hampton principles?		Yes/No		
Will implementation go beyond minimum EU requirements?		Yes/No		
What is the value of the proposed offsetting measure per year?		£		
What is the value of changes in greenhouse gas emissions?		£		
Will the proposal have a significant impact on competition?		Yes/No		
Annual cost (£-£) per organisation (excluding one-off)	Micro £0	Small £422	Medium £433	Large £624
Are any of these organisations exempt?	Yes/No	Yes/No	N/A	N/A

Impact on Admin Burdens Baseline (2005 Prices)				(Increase - Decrease)
Increase	£ TBC	Decrease	£ TBC	Net Impact £ TBC

Key : **Annual costs and benefits: (Net) Present Value Constant Prices**

Summary: Analysis & Evidence				
Policy Option: 3		Description: Management of NCP to be shared by govt and		
COSTS	ANNUAL COSTS		Description and scale of key monetised costs by 'main affected groups' (i) Cost to industry: cost of salmonella testing & cost of farm visits by Competent Authority (passed on to industry) [£1.6 m] (ii) Cost to government: annual cost of CA sampling to calculate overall salmonella prevalence rate [£0.06 m]	
	One-off	Yrs		
	£ 0	3	Total Cost (PV) £ 1.65 m	
	Average Annual Cost (excluding one-off)			
	£ 0.57 m	3		
Other key non-monetised costs by 'main affected groups' Nil				
BENEFITS	ANNUAL BENEFITS		Description and scale of key monetised benefits by 'main affected groups' Nil	
	One-off	Yrs		
	£ 0	3	Total Benefit (PV) £ 0	
	Average Annual Benefit (excluding one-off)			
	£ 0	3		
Other key non-monetised benefits by 'main affected groups' (i) Potential public health benefit from reduced incidence of human salmonellosis cases (ii) Increased competitiveness of UK chicken exports, due to higher costs of chicken production in EU countries that currently have lower levels of <i>Salmonella</i> testing and control than the UK				
Key Assumptions/Sensitivities/Risks				
Price Base Year 2008	Time Period Years 3	Net Benefit Range (NPV) £ -1.65 m	NET BENEFIT (NPV Best estimate) -£1.65 m	
What is the geographic coverage of the policy/option?			UK	
On what date will the policy be implemented?			Jan 1, 2009	
Which organisation(s) will enforce the policy?				
What is the total annual cost of enforcement for these			£ 20k	
Does enforcement comply with Hampton principles?			Yes/No	
Will implementation go beyond minimum EU requirements?			Yes/No	
What is the value of the proposed offsetting measure per year?			£	
What is the value of changes in greenhouse gas emissions?			£	
Will the proposal have a significant impact on competition?			Yes/No	
Annual cost (£-£) per organisation (excluding one-off)	Micro £0	Small £245	Medium £256	Large £447
Are any of these organisations exempt?	Yes/No	Yes/No	N/A	N/A
Impact on Admin Burdens Baseline (2005 Prices)			(Increase - Decrease)	
Increase	£ TBC	Decrease	£ TBC	Net Impact £ TBC

Summary: Analysis & Evidence

Policy Option: 4

Description: Firms to establish own control programmes under

COSTS	ANNUAL COSTS		Description and scale of key monetised costs by 'main affected groups' (i) Cost to industry: cost of salmonella testing & cost of farm visits by Competent Authority (passed on to industry) [£1.46 m] (ii) Cost to government: annual cost of CA sampling to calculate overall <i>Salmonella</i> prevalence rate [£0.06 m]
	One-off	Yrs	
	£ 0	3	
	Average Annual Cost (excluding one-off)		
	£ 0.52 m	3	Total Cost (PV) £ 1.52 m
Other key non-monetised costs by 'main affected groups' Nil			

BENEFITS	ANNUAL BENEFITS		Description and scale of key monetised benefits by 'main affected groups' Nil
	One-off	Yrs	
	£ 0	3	
	Average Annual Benefit (excluding one-off)		
	£ 0	3	Total Benefit (PV) £ 0
Other key non-monetised benefits by 'main affected groups' (i) Potential public health benefit from reduced incidence of human salmonellosis cases (ii) Increased competitiveness of UK chicken exports, due to higher costs of chicken production in EU countries that currently have lower levels of <i>Salmonella</i> testing and control than the UK			

Key Assumptions/Sensitivities/Risks

Price Base Year 2008	Time Period Years 3	Net Benefit Range (NPV) £-1.52 m	NET BENEFIT (NPV Best estimate) -£1.52 m
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What is the geographic coverage of the policy/option?		UK		
On what date will the policy be implemented?		Jan 1, 2009		
Which organisation(s) will enforce the policy?				
What is the total annual cost of enforcement for these		£ 20k		
Does enforcement comply with Hampton principles?		Yes/No		
Will implementation go beyond minimum EU requirements?		Yes/No		
What is the value of the proposed offsetting measure per year?		£		
What is the value of changes in greenhouse gas emissions?		£		
Will the proposal have a significant impact on competition?		Yes/No		
Annual cost (£-£) per organisation (excluding one-off)	Micro £0	Small £245	Medium £222	Large £395
Are any of these organisations exempt?	Yes/No	Yes/No	N/A	N/A

Impact on Admin Burdens Baseline (2005 Prices)				(Increase - Decrease)
Increase	£ TBC	Decrease	£ TBC	Net Impact £ TBC

Impact Assessment on the broilers NCP

1. Introduction

1.1 This legislation sets out the monitoring and controls primary producers must follow to reduce or maintain the prevalence of *Salmonellas* of public health significance in flocks of domestic fowl (*Gallus gallus*) on holdings in the UK producing chickens for meat for human consumption, at least to the target levels set out in Regulation (EC) No 646/2007. This is a maximum percentage of meat chicken flocks remaining positive for *Salmonella* Enteritidis and *Salmonella* Typhimurium of 1% or less by 31 December 2011.

2. Definition

- A **zoonotic agent** means any virus, bacterium, fungus, parasite or other biological entity which is likely to cause a zoonosis.
- A **zoonosis** is any disease and/or infection which is naturally transmissible directly or indirectly between animals and humans.
- A **National Control Programme** (NCP) is a framework of measures required by Zoonoses Regulation 2160/2003 for the control and monitoring of zoonoses and zoonotic agents which must be implemented by all EU Member States.
- A **flock** means poultry of the same health status kept on the same holding or in the same enclosure and constituting a single epidemiological unit which, in the case of housed poultry, includes all birds sharing the same airspace.
- A **broiler flock** means a flock of domestic fowl (*Gallus gallus*) kept for the production of meat intended for human consumption. On most broiler holdings a flock is equivalent to a house. The capacity of a house is referred to as “bird places”.
- A **laying flock** means a flock of poultry(*Gallus gallus*) kept for the production of eggs intended for human consumption;
- A **rearing flock** means poultry which are reared for the production of eggs or meat for human consumption.
- **Poultry** means birds of the species (*Gallus gallus*), turkeys, ducks and geese.
- **Competent Authority (CA)** means a government body, or agency of the government body with the overall responsibility for the implementation and enforcement of legislation.
- **Control Body (CB)** is an organisation responsible for management of the NCP which may undertake certain delegated duties on behalf of the CA.
- **Competent Authority Sampling** means sampling which takes place under the control of the Competent Authority (CA). Officials might be responsible for collecting these samples or supervising their collection by a third party or delegating the

- **Salmonella of human health significance** is *Salmonella* Enteritidis (SE) and *Salmonella* Typhimurium (ST). These salmonellas are most frequently found in the human population. In breeding flocks these salmonellas also include, *S. Virchow*, *S. Infantis* and *S. Hadar*.

3. Other legislation referred to in the Regulatory Impact Assessment

3.1 See 2.2.0 of the National Control Programme

4. The Objective

4.1. Defra are working in partnership with key industry representatives to implement National Control Programmes in the pig and poultry sectors under EU Regulation 2160/2003. The overall objective of the NCPs are to improve public health through the detection and control of *Salmonellas* of human health significance in primary production. The enhanced monitoring requirements should ensure that information on *Salmonella* status can be more easily compared across the EU, and the aim for a more unified approach to the control of *Salmonella* can be achieved. NCPs have been introduced for breeding and laying flocks. Over the next three years NCPs will be introduced for, turkeys and fattening pigs (2010) and then breeding pigs in all Member States.

4.2. The broiler NCP as enforced by The Control of *Salmonella* in Broiler Flocks Order 2008 (The Broiler Order) meets the requirements of EU legislation to reduce (and/or maintain) the level of *Salmonella* infection of public health significance on broiler holdings in the EU, and in turn aims to help reduce the level of human infection caused by *Salmonella*. The NCP seeks to accomplish this by ensuring that *Salmonella* serovars of human health significance are detected and controlled in broiler chickens and their environment in order to reduce any risk they may pose to human health further along the food chain. It is likely to apply to all holdings with more than 5,000 chickens, and in some circumstances to holdings with less than 500 chickens. It should be noted that Regulation (EC) 2160/2003 applies to all primary production except where it is a) for private domestic use, or b) leading to the direct supply, by the producer of small quantities of primary products to the final consumer or to local retail establishments directly supplying the primary products to the final consumer.

4.3. Background – Legislation

The establishment of a baseline prevalence of Salmonella

4.3.1. EU Zoonoses Regulation 2160/2003 on the control of *Salmonella* and other specified zoonotic agents was agreed by the Secretary of State in 2003. This was in response to the opinion on zoonoses adopted on 12 April 2000 by the Scientific Committee on Veterinary Measures relating to public health. That opinion found that the measures in place in some Member States at the time to control food-borne zoonotic infections were insufficient and that the epidemiological data that Member States were collecting was incomplete and not fully comparable. It was agreed that the reduction of prevalence levels of salmonellas of public health significance were of particular importance and as a result the EU agreed in 2003 to set targets for reducing prevalence at the farm level.

4.3.2. This Regulation provides for the setting of Community targets for reducing the prevalence of *Salmonella* serovars (infections) of public health significance in pigs

(fattening and breeding) and poultry (breeders, layers, broilers and then turkeys). The breeding flock sector had met this target when the legislation was implemented, the laying flock sector is expected to meet its target during the period of the NCP.

- 4.3.3. Surveys were carried out in all Member States, between October 2005 and September 2006, in order to determine a baseline prevalence level for *Salmonella* Enteritidis and *Salmonella* Typhimurium on commercial broiler flock holdings with at least 5,000 birds, in order to provide the scientific basis for setting a Community reduction target. A similar survey for laying flocks took place from 2004-5 which was also used to set a reduction target.
- 4.3.4. Five faeces samples were taken from the broiler flocks within 3 weeks before leaving for slaughter. In the EU Member States a total of 6,325 holdings corresponding to 7,440 flocks with validated results were included in the survey analysis. In the UK samples of faeces and litter material were collected from 383 farms. Amongst the 25 Member States (including Norway) that took part in the survey, the prevalence of *Salmonella* Enteritidis and Typhimurium ranged from 39% to 0%. The analysis of the results suggest that in some Member States broiler meat is a substantial source of *Salmonella* infections in humans. After the results were examined a baseline figure for reduction was set. This is a maximum percentage of meat chicken flocks remaining positive for *Salmonella* Enteritidis and *Salmonella* Typhimurium of 1% or less by 31 December 2011 across the EU Community as a whole.
- 4.3.5. In the UK *Salmonella* Enteritidis was not isolated from any of the holdings. *Salmonella* Typhimurium was isolated from one of the holdings. With a prevalence of 0.3% the UK has one of the lowest prevalence rates in the EU, which is well below the EU target and demonstrates the success of the UK industry in controlling *Salmonella*. This is supported by other data which is available to government. The number of reported incidents of *S. Enteritidis* and *S. Typhimurium* continues to remain low.

The Establishment of National Control Programmes

- 4.3.6. The first NCP covered breeding flocks of domestic fowl and came into operation in January 2007, after full consultation under The Poultry Breeding Flocks and Hatcheries Order 2007 (which was revoked and replaced with The Control of *Salmonella* in Poultry Order (CSPO)). This set out the official controls necessary to verify the target level established by EU Regulation 1003/2005 which was made under Regulation 2160/2003. This was for a maximum percentage of adult breeding flocks (comprising at least 250 birds) remaining positive for the five serovars (*Salmonella* Enteritidis, *Salmonella* Typhimurium, *Salmonella* Hadar, *Salmonella* Infantis and *Salmonella* Virchow) to be 1% or less by 31 December 2009. In December 2007 when the NCP had been in force for a year Defra was able to report that the breeding flock sector had met the requirements of the NCP and the prevalence estimate for UK flocks was well below the target set. The NCP for laying flocks followed on from the breeders NCP and came into force in February 2008. Defra will also be expected to report on progress under the layers NCP to the Commission.
- 4.3.7. The NCP for broiler flocks complies with Regulations 2160/2003 and 646/2207. It should ensure a consistent approach to the reduction of salmonellas of public health significance across the EU and equivalent protection of human health from chicken meat imported from other European Community Member States. Over the next 2 years another NCP will be drawn up for turkeys. This will be subject to a separate consultation.
- 4.3.8. The UK NCP for broiler flocks was submitted for approval to the Commission in December 2007 after the reduction target was set by Regulation 646/2007. The

Salmonella control programme for flocks of broilers is expected to start in every Member State on 1 January 2009. The NCP for broilers integrates the following requirements:

- To reduce or maintain the prevalence of *Salmonellas* of public health significance in flocks of domestic fowl (*Gallus gallus*) on holdings in the UK producing chickens for meat for human consumption at least to the target levels set out in Regulation (EC) No 646/2007 which is a maximum percentage of meat chicken flocks remaining positive for *Salmonella* Enteritidis and *Salmonella* Typhimurium to 1% or less by 31 December 2011.
- Minimum sampling requirements detailing the phases of production which sampling must cover (Annex II, B). The majority of this sampling is carried out by the operator, although the NCP requires that some samples are collected under the control of the Competent Authority in order to determine progress towards reduction targets set by EU legislation and to monitor the implementation.
- The relevant guides for good biosecurity and animal husbandry which cover issues such as rodent control to reduce the risk of introducing and maintaining *Salmonella* on the farm, the prevention of between-flock transmission (for instance through insufficient disinfection and pest control in poultry houses) and the monitoring of feed production. Guidance produced by the Food Standards Agency (FSA) on feed and food safety is also of relevance.
- The respective responsibilities of the Competent Authorities (CA) and food and feed business operators; also the method of approval of laboratories for analysis of samples.
- The measures to be taken following the detection of zoonoses and zoonotic agents, to protect public health (see annex). These should help prepare producers for the specific measures laid down in Annex II of the Zoonoses Regulation 2160/2003 when a broiler flock is suspected of being infected with *S. Enteritidis* or *S. Typhimurium*. These are likely to be enforced under separate legislation when the microbiological criteria for *Salmonella* absence in 25 grams has been clarified by the Commission (due to come into force at the end of 2010).
- Set out requirements and testing methods under the control of the Competent Authority to verify the achievement of the Community target.
- Ensures that samples are submitted to a laboratory authorised by the Competent Authority (CA), which applies quality assurance systems that conform to the requirements of the current EN/ISO standard.

The registration of poultry operators and record keeping at farms.

4.3.9. Relevant current national legislation is described in page 19 (paragraph 2.2.0) of the NCP. The structure and organisation of the relevant Competent Authorities (CAs) is described in page 12 (paragraph 1.5.0) of the NCP.

5. Rationale for government intervention.

5.1 The NCP will bring UK standards into harmony with those in other Member States. It will ensure that UK producers cannot be undercut through competition with producers without equivalent standards. NCPs are now in place for layers and breeders. This

will ensure that the broiler sector is part of an integrated approach to *Salmonella* control.

- 5.2. The UK is committed to reducing *Salmonella* serotypes of public health significance at national and European Community level. With the completion of the broilers survey in 2006 there is currently no statutory monitoring programme for *Salmonella* in broilers in the UK producing meat for human consumption. Existing surveillance for *Salmonella* involves voluntary monitoring with the requirement for all laboratories which isolate *Salmonella* from a broiler flock or its environment to report the finding, and supply the isolate to the National Reference Laboratory to be recorded and analysed.
- 5.3. These reports provide useful information on the serovars which are most common in the birds, and indicate trends. However they do not give information on the number of holdings or flocks sampled and so it is not possible to monitor the prevalence of *Salmonella* in broiler flocks from these figures. The number of reports which have been made depend on the level and sensitivity of monitoring undertaken by the producers. Therefore, in order to establish whether or not the broiler sector continues to meet the reduction target, government must ensure that all flocks are monitored for *Salmonella* in a regular and consistent manner which complies with the legislation.
- 5.4. It is recognised that some Farm Assurance Schemes in the poultry sector set out monitoring and testing requirements beyond those currently recommended as good practice. The Farm Assurance Schemes are encouraged to incorporate the sampling programme in their codes of practice.
- 5.5. The NCP for breeding flocks establishes comprehensive monitoring and controls which should minimise the risk of *Salmonella* being brought onto holdings from breeding farms. The results of the EU survey of broiler flocks indicate that industry actions to control *Salmonella* over recent years have contributed to the achievement of the reduction target. However non-compliance with the monitoring and controls which other Member States should have in place would undermine future attempts to promote the reputation of the poultry sector. It would also have an impact on producers wishing to trade within the EU. Although some of these products would be redirected into domestic consumption, this may result in them losing value.

5.6 Consultation outside government

- 5.6.1 Regular meetings have been held with major stakeholders in the UK poultry industry (including The British Poultry Council and the National Farmers Union) to discuss the requirements and implications of Regulation 2160/2003 and 646/2007 for the broiler flock sector and the draft NCP.

5.7 Consultation within government

- 5.7.1 During the drafting of the NCP Defra officials have also worked with colleagues in the Devolved Administrations, technical experts at the Veterinary Laboratories Agency and the Food Standards Agency.

6. Application and Scope

- 6.1. The NCP applies to all of the UK and therefore this IA considers UK wide costs. It was agreed that the structured nature of the UK broiler flock industry (the larger companies are UK wide) meant that separating the costs between England and the Devolved Assemblies would be an artificial exercise. Furthermore the assumptions behind the costs and benefits sections are not specific to England. Although The Broilers Order applies to England only, parallel legislation is expected to be introduced in Wales,

Scotland and Northern Ireland. This SI will be made under the powers of the Animal Health Act 1981.

- 6.2. Defra is the Competent Authority (CA) for implementation of this NCP in England. It will be supported by the Veterinary Laboratories Agency, Animal Health, and Food Standards Agency. In Wales the Welsh Assembly Government is the CA for implementation of this NCP, in Scotland it is The Scottish Government Agriculture Department and in Northern Ireland it is the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD).
- 6.3. There are around 1,716 broiler holdings which produce meat for human consumption in the GB with more than 50 birds. The NCP applies to all those who keep broilers on a commercial basis. A significant number of those with fewer than 50 birds would not be operating on a commercial basis. Most broiler holdings have higher number of "bird places" (ie capacity for birds) than layers. This is to be expected since broilers are reared to their market weight within 6 weeks of being hatched. The majority of broiler chickens are housed in large sheds in flocks holding thousands of birds (25,000 - 45,000). For the purposes of the NCP a house can be considered to be equivalent to a flock. 80% of broilers are grown on holdings with 100,000 birds. Data from the GB Poultry Register indicates there are approximately 400 of these holdings. The scope and rigour of implementation is an important issue and is considered in the costs and benefits section of this IA.
- 6.4. Around 80-95% of chicken meat consumed in the UK is covered by the voluntary industry operated Assured Chicken Production (ACP) Scheme. ACP requires its members to collect litter samples and to operate to specified hygiene standards. ACP chicken production standards also cover animal husbandry and welfare. They apply to the whole production chain from breeder replacement farms to transport and abattoirs. ACP inspectors conduct one visit per year to members. Additional visits are conducted by auditors representing the supermarkets: usually a further three visits per annum. These are usually concerned with animal welfare. ACP is closely linked to Assured Food Standards Red Tractor Scheme.
- 6.5. Organic producers are inspected and certified by approved organic inspection bodies. These organisations inspect for organic integrity rather than food safety issues.
- 6.6. It is important that all operators consider what they need to do to meet the requirements of the NCP and, in particular, whether the sampling and testing requirements apply to them. In enforcing these requirements government needs to adopt a risk based approach and focus its resources on companies in which the majority of production takes place or on the operations that present the greatest risk of passing on *Salmonella* infection to the consumer. All broiler holdings with excess of 40,000 birds fall within the requirements of the IPPC Regulations (Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control).
- 6.7. Whilst ACP accounts for a very high proportion of chicken meat consumed in the UK, 40% of producers are not covered by ACP. These are usually smaller producers who supply wholesale markets rather than supermarkets. These markets include producers for the organic market as well as those for Halaal and Kosher. The NCP applies to these producers who are encouraged to take part in this consultation.
- 6.8. All poultry keepers, including broiler operators, are required to register with the GB poultry register. Government may focus enforcement resources on the larger holdings, while retaining powers to investigate any holdings, irrespective of size, on which it is considered that there may be increased risks of chicken meat for direct human consumption being produced from infected flocks. Enforcement of the NCP is an

important issue for industry and consumers. We would be interested to hear the views of all consultees on the approach to auditing compliance which is covered in the implementation options.

- 6.9. This NCP focuses on *Salmonella* Enteritidis and Typhimurium only which are considered to be the serovars of most human health significance due to their occurrence in the human population. It is possible for the NCP to cover other *Salmonella* serovars, however when this was discussed with industry representatives they expressed the view that it should focus on SE and ST.

7. Devolution

- 7.1. As stated earlier whilst this IA covers the costs and benefits to the UK, The Broiler Flocks Order will apply to England only. However it is expected that parallel national legislation will be introduced by the Devolved Administrations to comply with the EU requirements.

8. Risk Assessment

- 8.1. The immediate risk is that the failure to bring the NCP into force could result in the absence of powers to enforce the harmonised monitoring and controls. Without these powers government could fail to support the overarching objective of the European Commission to reduce or maintain the low prevalence of *Salmonella* serovars of major human health significance in broiler flocks of domestic fowl in Member States and could face infraction proceedings. Non-compliance would also reduce government and industry ability to ensure current high standards are maintained and that *Salmonella* does not spread to the wider food chain with subsequent adverse effects on human health. This would be a breach of community obligations and a failure to meet EU standards on health. There could also be a trade restriction on UK exports of chicken meat within the EU, which would have a substantial cost to some producers.

9. Sampling and testing requirements of the National Control Programme

- 9.1. The NCP requires that samples are collected from birds and their environment for the detection of *Salmonella*. These are summarised in Table 1.

Table 1.

Production Stage	Current sampling required by ACP and other Farm Assurance Schemes	NCP requirements from 2009 per flock
Operator sampling	Litter swabs between 21 and 28 days.	2 pairs of boot swabs (or hand drag swabs in small houses with less than 100 birds) within the period of 3 weeks before the start of depopulation on all houses on a holding
Official control sampling	Not required	2 pairs of boot swabs (or hand drag swabs) from one flock of broilers on 10% of holdings with more than 5,000 birds From all flocks on a holding after positive for SE or ST From a replacement flock on holding after positive SE or ST

9.2. In accordance with Regulation 646/2007 and described in the NCP (page 1 paragraph 1.3.8) there are specific circumstances in which an operator may make an application for derogation not to sample all flocks on the holding if certain management criteria are met. This is considered further in the consultation options. See 1.3.8 of the NCP for details on derogation.

9.3. **Operator sampling – detail**

- Within 3 weeks before depopulation.

9.3.1 Regulations 646/2007 and 2160/2003 set out specific minimum sampling requirements for sampling at the initiative of the operator to ensure that the monitoring and control of *Salmonella* is comparable across all Member States. Operator samples are defined as samples which are collected by the operator (or their staff) without direct supervision from the CA.

9.3.2. Litter swabs are currently widely used by industry. Boot swabs are required by the NCP for sampling (apart from specific circumstances where hand drag swabs can be used) as this method was required by the protocol for the broiler survey which sets the baseline that was used to set the target for reduction. This method is considered by the Commission to be the most effective and practical *Salmonella* monitoring methods and was also required for the layers and breeders NCPs.

9.3.3. The detection of *Salmonella* has been shown to be dependent on the number of faecal samples taken and their volume of material (faecal or dust) which is mixed and sub-sampled for testing. The EU baseline survey was designed to detect a prevalence of 1% *Salmonella* positive birds within the flock by collecting faecal material equivalent to about 300 individual faeces of 1 g from any selected holding. To achieve this 5 pairs of boot/sock swabs were taken from any selected flock. This approach was applied to all production types.

9.3.4. This method would be prohibitively expensive and cumbersome for normal use, hence a programme of repeated sampling, using 2 pairs of boot swabs for all flocks on the site before the birds were sent for slaughter was determined by the Commission.

9.3.5. The operator of the flock is required to submit these samples to a laboratory authorised by the Competent Authority which applies quality assurance systems that conform to the requirements of the current EN/ISO standard. A record should be kept of the date when each flock is sampled for *Salmonella*, the identity of the flock sampled and the laboratory which undertook the analysis. The results of the tests should be made available to the Competent Authority or its agent in order to be able to monitor compliance with NCP.

9.4. **Sampling under the control of the Competent Authority**

- In at least one flock per year on 10% holdings which have at least 5,000 birds .

9.4.1. Competent Authority (or 'official control') samples are defined as samples which are collected under the control of the Competent Authority (i.e. the CA officer could collect the sample or supervise the collection of the sample by a third party – for instance a farm operator). Under the NCP these will be collected from one broiler flock on each holding with more than 5,000 birds within three weeks before the birds are moved to slaughter as specified in Commission Regulation (EC) No 646/2007. Sampling carried out under the control of the CA may replace one sampling at the initiative of the

operator. The holdings and flocks can be selected random, although there is scope for selecting on a risk control basis. Such a selection could focus on the larger holdings or those where a *Salmonella* problem is suspected. We would be interested to know industry views on the selection of holdings for official control samples.

9.4.2. These samples consist of 2 pairs of boot swabs. Page 11 (paragraph 1.3.5) of the NCP describes this requirement in further detail. Official control samples will also be collected from all flocks on a holding when a positive for *Salmonella* Enteritidis or Typhimurium is returned.

9.4.3. The use of antimicrobials (as defined in Regulation (EC) No 1177/2006) will be checked when the official sample is taken. If the flock is under antimicrobial medication for animal health or animal welfare reasons the flock will be sampled again after the period of withdrawal for the product given in its Marketing Authorisation. Flock owners are required to keep records of antimicrobial use and to make these records available under the Animals and Fresh Meat (Examination for Residues) Regulation 1988 Statutory Instrument 1998 No 848. When the medication status of flocks is uncertain additional samples may be collected. For the purposes of verification of the EU target and due to the short time period practically available for re-testing a flock before slaughter – flocks where SE or ST are not detected but antimicrobials or bacterial growth inhibitory effect are detected, the flock shall be considered as positive for the purpose of the Community target.

10. Application of the requirements of the National Control Programme

Options for management of the National Control Programme

10.1. The implementation options below focus on the collection, testing and auditing of operator and Competent Authority (CA) samples required by the NCP. Regulations 2160/2003 and 646/2007 require that government or a Control Body acting on the government's behalf should play a substantial role in the monitoring of the NCP.

10.2. The agent of the CA with overall responsibility for the NCP will be staff from Animal Health. Due to the IPPC Regulations AH already has a presence on some broiler farmers. Over the next three years Animal Health officials will manage the monitoring and controls of the NCP by:

- undertaking and/or supervising the collection of CA samples
- monitoring and auditing the operator sampling
- providing support to industry control programmes which operate under the NCP (if industry wishes to adopt these).

10.3. The Broiler Flocks Order as drafted enforce the minimum sampling and record keeping requirements of the EU legislation. Whichever option is implemented government would retain full powers to collect samples and check records to implement the NCP. As previously stated under existing arrangements all samples under the control of the Competent Authority are tested at an approved laboratory.

10.4. Option 1: Implement the NCP on a voluntary basis only.

10.4.1. Under this option the NCP would be implemented on a voluntary basis without the government having powers to enforce. It is possible that a number of larger producers, in particular those which export broiler meat, might be willing to adopt the controls on a voluntary basis.

- 10.4.2. This approach would be a saving to government for enforcement costs and avoidance of on-farm inspections. It would also show a “light touch” approach to implementation in light of industry achieving the target.
- 10.4.3. The viability of this option would be contingent on government being able to ensure that the controls and testing by all eligible producers meets the new requirements without enforcement powers. At the present time this is not possible. If the UK failed to have the same public health measures in place as those other Member States it would be regarded by the Commission as a partial implementation of the legislation and open the UK to infraction proceedings. If *Salmonella* levels on UK holdings increased it might also be considered to be a potential threat to public health. Moves at EU level towards compartmentalisation, whereby areas or companies can be approved as having met specific standards of controls and monitoring mean that this is an option which could be explored in the future.

10.5. Option 2: For management of the NCP to be under the direct control of government.

- 10.5.1. The measures required by Regulations 2160/2003 and 646/2007 cannot be implemented through current legislation and administration. Under this option government would take full responsibility for monitoring and auditing the sampling and biosecurity requirements of the NCP. Such an arrangement would be likely to involve at least annual farm visits to all eligible holdings to check the operator sampling and the operator’s arrangements for requirements such as cleansing and disinfecting between flocks, record keeping and sourcing of feed.
- 10.5.2. This option would have the advantage of ensuring a comprehensive system which could be managed directly by government and minimise possibilities for non-compliance. It would also be a level playing field between companies and be amenable to a quick response to outbreaks from government.
- 10.5.3. The costs to producers and government would be high. In GB there are 1,716 premises to which the requirements of the NCP can be applied. Of these 1,170 have more than 5,000 birds. Official control samples will need to be collected from 10% (117) of these holdings. All of these holdings will need to be audited for the collection of operator samples. Unlike layer flocks government officials do not have a programme for regular visits to broiler holdings (apart from IPPC inspections). There is an expense to government of setting up and maintaining a monitoring system. If the auditing was conducted on a cost recovery basis (which Defra may need to consider) these costs would be passed to industry.
- 10.5.4. These costs could however be partially controlled through a risk based auditing system. In practice this would mean that visits would concentrate on holdings of a substantial size or where there are potential *Salmonella* problems.

10.6. Option 3: For responsibilities for the management and auditing of the NCP to be shared by government and industry.

- 10.6.1. Under option 3 Government would retain full responsibility for the monitoring and controls required by the NCP. However management for the auditing and possibly the collection of official control samples would be shared jointly by the Competent Authority and industry. In practice it would be possible for companies with consistently good records and biosecurity standards to conduct their own audits of the operator sampling and avoid the need for regular inspections. These producers would be required to provide evidence that they are in compliance with the NCP’s requirements by voluntarily sharing records with Animal Health. Producers could, for instance,

forward the results of laboratory testing to Animal Health offices to confirm compliance with the operator sampling or request that their laboratories share the testing results with government. This would be facilitated by The Zoonoses Order 1989 under which laboratories are compelled to report positive samples to the CA. This option would recognise the success of industry in controlling *Salmonella* and lead to a possible cost saving to both government and industry.

10.6.2. This option would involve government working with individual farms, whereas Option 4 would require government to work with an industry control programme. If properly implemented it would have the rigour of Option 2. It would take a light touch approach to the implementation of legislation to a sector where *Salmonella* monitoring and controls have been on a voluntary basis, and demonstrate trust in those producers which consistently work to high standards. It could also ensure that compliance with the NCP was driven by commercial incentives: verifiable adoption of the NCPs requirements would mean a greater chance of avoidance of the costs associated with a farm visit from government. It would provide greater scope for individual producers to apply for the sampling derogation of all flocks on their holdings.

10.6.3. For government it would have the advantage of allowing Animal Health officials to manage their resources more flexibly and to concentrate them on those areas where there was greatest need. Such an approach would be consistent with the principle that food business operators should take responsibility for the safety of their products, which underlies much of the legislation.

10.6.4. Under this arrangement however on-farm inspections would continue to be necessary. These could take the form of auditing "spot checks" to verify that the sampling was taking place. Controls on *Salmonella* positive farms would also be necessary. In this circumstance sampling and testing work conducted to investigate a holding where the presence of *Salmonella* is detected (as in Annex to Regulation 1168/2006) would be overseen by the CA as a standard procedure.

10.6.5. This option would be dependent on industry continuing to meet the reduction target and would be contingent on an adequate information flow on sampling and transparent processes. Such an approach could not be implemented until producers had been given time to accustom themselves to the new testing requirements. It would only then be possible to authorise specific companies to manage the NCP with more independence from the CA. This is not an option that government would wish to require of industry. The onus would be on broiler producers to put forward their own case for greater independence.

10.7. Option 4: For broiler companies to establish their own company control programme as part of the NCP.

10.7.1 Article 5 of Regulation (EC) 2160/2003 provides scope for producers and their representative bodies to put forward their own control programmes for approval to become part of the NCP. The Official Feed and Food Controls Regulation (Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004) provides scope for the delegation of specific tasks related to official controls to Independent Control Bodies. The intention behind article 5 is that producers adopt controls as part of their internal systems (for instance by expanding the codes of practice). Under this option company operating schemes would be updated to include the sampling and controls in the NCP. It should avoid the need for producers affiliated to farm assurance schemes to follow multiple control programmes. It would change the relationship between the CA and a producer, allowing for more independence and delegation. For this option to be adopted we would need to ensure that there was a reliable exchange of information between the CA and the auditors of the industry control programme. This would include reliable data on the audits of

operator samples, and regularly updated lists of holdings covered by the control programme.

10.7.2.If this option was implemented it would mean that although Defra/AH would be the CA for the NCP, the Independent Control Body as the control programme's auditors would be responsible for the day to day management of the sampling programme. This would most likely be proposed or established by industry under a Farm Assurance Scheme. There could be a number of control programmes specific to producers. These might be farmers covered by Assured Chicken Production, or possibly organic farmers certified by appropriately accredited organic inspection bodies.

10.7.3.These bodies would be covered by protocols with the CA to enable proper monitoring and auditing. Their respective roles could be expanded as experience of the NCP grew.

10.7.4.The role of the CA would be to ensure that the industry control programme was managing the monitoring and controls of a holding to an acceptable standard. This would be contingent on external appraisal by Defra (or Animal Health), possibly through a programme of on the spot auditing at broiler farms and other relevant stages of production. It would also mean that the control programme would be prepared to take part in audits by the CA and the Food Veterinary Office. These interventions by the CA would be less frequent than under Option 3.

10.7.5.If properly managed by industry this option could offer the rigour of Option 2 with the flexibility of Option 3. Defra would hope that it would encourage industry acceptance of the case for regulation and give a sense of ownership of the NCP. It should however be noted that the validity and impartiality of official controls outside of direct CA control can be open to challenge by a Food Veterinary Office visit and competitors.

11. Benefits and costs.

11.1. Introduction

11.1.1.*Salmonella* is an important zoonotic pathogen that can lead to disease in human beings. Human salmonellosis cases, although often mild, can sometimes be serious and possibly even fatal. Human salmonellosis cases are usually characterised by fever, abdominal pain, nausea and sometimes vomiting. Symptoms are often mild and most infections only last a few days. However, sometimes the infection can be more serious and even fatal. The disease can also give rise to long-term or chronic conditions such as reactive arthritis.

11.1.2.The disease can therefore impose a significant economic cost, including the cost of medical treatment, possible fatalities, lost work days, and the pain and suffering of affected persons. A potential benefit of the proposed policy would therefore be to reduce the incidence of human salmonellosis in the UK.

11.1.3.Reduction in disease incidence is not expected to occur as a result of actions undertaken within the UK, as the UK National Control Plan is likely to keep *Salmonella* prevalence in broiler flocks in the UK at the existing low level instead of reducing it further. However, since this is EU legislation, similar control plans will be implemented in other EU countries, some of which – such as Poland and Spain – have high *Salmonella* prevalence. Benefits to the UK can therefore be expected as a result of reduced risk of *Salmonella* infection from consumption of meat imported from these countries. There will also be a similar benefit for UK citizens who consume meat while visiting these countries.

11.1.4. It is difficult to monetize the potential benefit, as there are large areas of uncertainty, e.g.

- (i) the reduction in *Salmonella* prevalence in broiler flocks that will be achieved in other EU countries as a result of the control plans implemented in these countries,
- (ii) the impact of the above on the incidence of human salmonellosis cases in the UK, and
- (iii) the cost of the avoided cases, which would depend upon the degree of severity.

The following sections therefore present a more general discussion of the potential (non-monetized) benefit of the policy.

Human salmonellosis in the UK

11.1.5 A total of 14,060 laboratory-confirmed cases of salmonellosis were reported in the UK in 2006. Under-reporting of infectious intestinal disease is common, and it is expected that there are three unreported cases for each confirmed case (Defra, 2007).

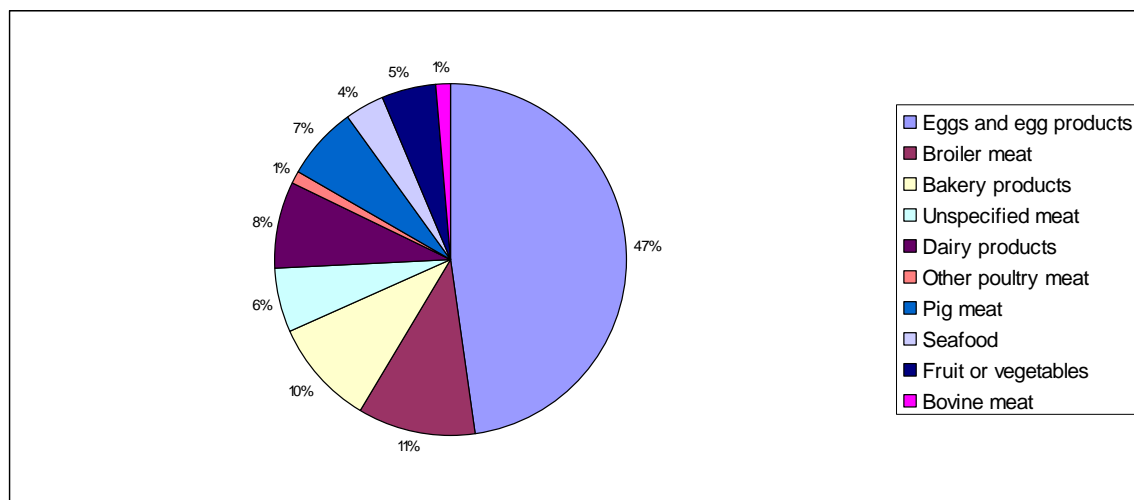
11.1.6. The economic cost of salmonellosis is significant. Cost estimates in the literature imply that the per case cost of cases in which the patient visits a GP is about £736 in current prices. This includes medical costs as well as direct costs to cases and carers, including time off work. The per case cost of cases in which the patient does not visit a GP is estimated to be about £53 in current prices (cost estimates based on Roberts, 2000).

Sources of infection

11.1.7. It is not possible to estimate how many of the salmonellosis cases in the UK arise due to consumption of broiler chickens imported from the EU. Infection can result from consumption of a wide variety of contaminated foods, including but not limited to poultry. It can also be the result of direct contact with a wide range of animal species and contact with faecally contaminated environments. Contaminated poultry was identified as the source of one salmonellosis outbreak in the UK in 2006, while contaminated eggs were responsible for four outbreaks (Defra, 2007).

11.1.8. Within the EU as a whole, figure X shows that broiler chickens are a primary source of *Salmonella* infection, next in importance only to contaminated eggs and egg products.

Figure 1. Main known sources of infection in salmonellosis cases in the EU in 2005



(Source: Adapted from EFSA, 2006)

Salmonella prevalence in the UK and EU

11.1.9.A EU-wide baseline survey of commercial broiler flocks conducted in 2005-06 found that, overall, 11% of broiler flocks in the EU tested positive for *S. Enteritidis* and/or *S. Typhimurium*, the two serovars currently targeted by EU legislation¹. EU countries with a high prevalence of either or both of the targeted serovars included Portugal (39.3%), Poland (32.4%) and Spain (28.2%) (EFSA, 2007).

11.1.10. A total of 3,406 salmonellosis outbreaks occurred in the EU in 2005, accounting for nearly 64% of all food-borne outbreaks. A total of 25,760 people were affected, of whom 14% were hospitalised and 16 people died. Germany, Slovakia, Austria, Spain and Poland accounted for the majority of outbreaks (EFSA, 2006).

Imports from EU countries with high Salmonella prevalence

11.1.11.As noted in the previous section, EU countries with high *Salmonella* prevalence include Portugal, Poland and Spain. Chicken imports from these countries to the UK, and their share in the total supply of chicken to the UK domestic market, are shown in the following table. These countries account for about 9% of total chicken imports from the EU, and comprise about 2.4% of the total supply of chicken to the UK domestic market in the UK. This might indicate that the potential benefit of the policy is likely to be low, on the other hand, since *Salmonella* prevalence in chickens raised domestically is low, it is possible that these imports exert a disproportionate influence on the incidence of human salmonellosis in the UK.

Table 2. Imports, exports and domestic production of chicken in the UK in 2007 (tonnes)²

Category	Quantity
Chicken imports from Portugal, Poland and Spain	34,373
Chicken imports from all EU	384,167
Chicken imports from non-EU	23,192
Total chicken imports to the UK (1) ³	407,360
Total UK exports of chicken (2)	239,304
Domestic chicken production in the UK (3) ⁴	1,265,440
Total supply of chicken to domestic market (3+1-2)	1,433,496
Share of Portugal, Poland and Spain in total supply	2.4%

Other benefits

11.1.12.The presence of voluntary industry initiated assurance schemes that impose requirements for *Salmonella* testing is an important contributory factor for low *Salmonella* prevalence in the UK. About 80% of holdings with broiler chickens in the UK are members of such assurance schemes. While these schemes aim to reassure consumers, they also raise the costs of production as participating holdings are

¹ Other *Salmonella* serotypes with public health significance may be considered only after a transitional three-year period.

² The data are for all chicken meat rather than broiler chicken meat only, because trade data does not distinguish between broiler and boiler chickens.

³ Source of all trade data is www.uktradeinfo.com

⁴ Source: Poultry and Poultry Meat Statistics 2008 <https://statistics.defra.gov.uk/esg/statnot/ppntc.pdf>

required to undertake *Salmonella* testing based on litter testing prior to slaughter. By requiring other EU countries to undertake testing, the policy will have the effect of imposing similar costs on other EU producers, thus improving the competitiveness of broiler chickens produced in the UK. The success of the control programme in breeding flocks means that the day old broiler chicks placed on farm should be free of SE and ST. Whichever of the options from 2 to 4 that can be successfully implemented they should enable the layer flock sector to be part of an integrated approach to food safety through adequate and harmonised monitoring across the EU. It should also be noted that improved farm hygiene and biosecurity to reduce *Salmonella* can be beneficial for other disease control purposes and demonstrably consistent with EU standards.

Conclusion

- 11.1.13. *Salmonella* is an important zoonotic pathogen that is a major cause of food-borne outbreaks. Although we would expect the proposed policy to be more likely to hold *Salmonella* prevalence in the UK at existing levels rather than reduce it further, potential benefits could arise from lowering the rate of *Salmonella* prevalence in EU countries that supply to the UK. Countries such as Portugal, Poland and Spain have high rates of *Salmonella* prevalence at the present time. These countries account for about 2% of the total supply of chicken to the UK domestic market. It is not however possible to monetize the potential benefit due to lack of knowledge about the role of imports from EU countries with high *Salmonella* prevalence on human salmonellosis outbreaks in the UK.
- 11.1.14. Although the NCP is likely to lead to greater costs for producers these are relatively low compared to the economic benefits. By agreeing to meet the same criteria of the Member States – even though the prevalence of *Salmonella* is low – we agree to bear the same costs in return for the benefits to industry and consumers of standards and methods which are equal across the EU for the production of broilers.

References

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Roberts, J A (2000) Economic aspects of food-borne outbreaks and their control. British Medical Bulletin 56(1): 133-41.

11.2. Costs of implementation options

- 11.2.1 Options 2-4 implement the minimum sampling and testing requirements of the NCP. It would not be government policy to consider going beyond these requirements. The cost estimates of these options include baseline costs which will cover the operator sampling. These include the cost of familiarising staff with the new sampling requirements and the cost of collecting and testing the samples. The estimates also cover the cost to government for services in relation to official control sampling where provided by Animal Health and the VLA.

11.2.2. We now estimate these common costs and then consider how costs will diverge for each option later. The costs in this section are estimates based on data available to Defra. We are willing to consider any alternative estimates provided by industry.

11.3. Structure of the Industry

11.3.1. The following industry structure has been used in the estimate of the costs. It is based on the data contained within the GB poultry register.

category (number of broilers)	50-999					1000-4999					5000-14999					15000-99999					100000+					Total				
	premises	Premises not affiliated to assurance schemes	premises affiliated to assurance schemes	Premises affiliated to assured chicken production	total poultry	premises	Premises not affiliated to assurance schemes	premises affiliated to assurance schemes	Premises affiliated to assured chicken production	total poultry	premises	Premises not affiliated to assurance schemes	premises affiliated to assurance schemes	Premises affiliated to assured chicken production	total poultry	premises	Premises not affiliated to assurance schemes	premises affiliated to assurance schemes	Premises affiliated to assured chicken production	total poultry	premises	Premises not affiliated to assurance schemes	premises affiliated to assurance schemes	Premises affiliated to assured chicken production	total poultry	premises	premises affiliated to assurance schemes	Premises affiliated to assured chicken production	total poultry	
All	456	395	61	0	95,937	90	73	17	0	184,137	100	36	64	19	1,083,950	586	191	395	336	29,859,610	484	35	449	424	92,450,747	1,716	986	780	123,674,381	
stated organic premises	91	70	21	0	20,830	14	9	5	0	40,987	42	15	27	0	420,850	38	9	29	DS	1,370,300	0	0	0	0	DS	187	90	DS	>=1,952,967	
Number of Flocks	125	96	29	0	17	11	6	0	60	21	38	0	76	18	58	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
free-range	246	206	40	0	53,274	58	46	12	DS	117,675	63	21	42	15	667,650	103	12	91	69	3,931,800	0	0	0	DS	735,000	>=471	>=186	87	5,505,399	
Number of Flocks	339	284	55	0	69	55	14	0	89	30	60	21	206	24	182	138	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
indoor (barn or cages)	227	201	26	0	48,321	35	28	7	0	68,200	31	10	21	DS	356,900	412	160	252	228	22,185,810	425	32	393	377	80,440,815	1,130	699	>=606	103,100,046	
Number of Flocks	313	277	36	0	42	33	8	0	44	14	30	0	824	320	504	456	2,295	173	2,122	2,036	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
coop or pen	64	58	6	0	10,052	DS	0	0	0	DS	6	1	5	DS	74,500	0	0	0	0	DS	128,500	0	0	0	DS	DS	78	16	7	674,352
Number of Flocks	88	80	8	0	0	0	0	0	9	1	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
data can be used for salmonella control	294	255	39	0	60,561	58	46	12	DS	121,475	69	22	47	15	740,200	363	73	290	252	19,517,005	376	20	356	336	71,757,847	1,160	744	>=604	92,197,088	

Category (number of broilers)	Average number of flocks per holding
50-999	1.38
1,000-4,999	1.19
5,000-14,999	1.42
15,000-99,999	2
100,000+	5

11.4. Costs applicable to all options

11.4.1. All the options considered in this IA have a number of common costs. These costs will be estimated first and the individual option specific costs estimated later. Finally all the relevant costs for each option will be aggregated and presented in a summary table for ease of comparison.

Operator Sampling

11.4.2. The routine costs to operators of the NCP for broilers are:

- The cost of collection of samples within 3 weeks before slaughter
- The cost of testing samples.
- The cost of arranging for the collection of official control sample with the CA if selected (time associated).
- The cost of co-operating with auditing by the CA (time associated).
- The cost of cleansing and disinfection if a flock is positive for SE or ST and the collection of an official control sample from flocks on the holding.

11.4.3. It is anticipated that these costs would be borne by the operator and not by government. The total costs of operator sampling are summarised in the following table against current costs for operators who sample under a farm assurance scheme.

11.4.4. As stated earlier, samples should be collected by the operator from each flock within three weeks before the birds are moved to the slaughterhouse. The cost of one sampling occasion is:

£16.00 x 2 for time taken in collecting the samples
£15.00 for testing the samples (2 pairs of boot swabs pooled into 1 sample)
£1.50 for sampling equipment (2 pairs of boot swabs/hand drag swabs)

Total: £48.50 for one sampling occasion.

11.4.5. As stated earlier many of the larger producers are already sampling under existing farm assurance schemes. However it is likely that the sampling methods required by the NCP will mean that most producers will face some increase in costs. This section looks in detail at the costs to individual producers as well as industry. Broilers are grown to market weight on a holding within 7 weeks. With the usual 2 to 3 weeks empty time between groups, this represents nearly 6 cycles of production annually. The increase in costs for a holding with 15,000 – 99,999 bird places will be:

Crops per year	6
Current cost of litter sampling	£5
Cost of boot swab sampling	£15
Increase in cost	£10
Cost per holding per annum (as multiplied by average no of flocks/houses per holding – see above)	£126
Total cost per annum	£7,685

11.4.6. The sampling costs of the NCP will apply to all producers regardless of the options which are implemented. All holdings will be required to perform a boot swab test for each flock within three weeks of the flock going to slaughter. There is however some scope for reducing them through the sampling derogation. The implementation

options also set out a possible reduction in more general auditing and compliance costs.

11.4.7. The increase in cost of this requirement to the producer will depend on the level of sampling performed at present. We have assumed that members of assurance schemes already perform some degree of sampling (such as litter sampling as is the case for ACP) and therefore they will only face the additional cost that the NCP requirements impose.

11.4.8. Assuming currently assurance scheme sampling costs £5 and the boot swab sampling costs £15 the **total annual cost to assurance scheme members of the sampling requirements will be £189,463.**

	50-999	4999	14999	99999	100000+
Crops Per Year	6	6	6	6	6
Current Cost of Litter Sampling	£5	£5	£5	£5	£5
Cost of Boot Swab Sampling	£15	£15	£15	£15	£15
Increase in Cost	£10	£10	£10	£10	£10
Total Cost Per Annum	£7,685	£1,712	£8,094	£44,640	£127,332
Cost per Holding per annum	£126	£101	£126	£113	£284

Total Industry Cost per Annum £189,463

These costs assume the average number of flocks per holding in page 26.

11.4.9. Assuming non-assurance scheme holdings will face the full cost of the boot swab sampling **the total cost to non-assurance scheme will be £129,331**

	50-999	1000-4999	14999	99999	100000+
Crops Per Year	6	6	6	6	6
Cost of Boot Swab Sampling	£15	£15	£15	£15	£15
Total Cost Per Annum	£66,312	£8,881	£6,007	£32,580	£15,552
Cost per Holding per annum	£168	£122	£167	£171	£444

Total Industry Cost Per Annum £129,331

11.5. Savings from Operator Sampling derogation

11.5.1. If a holding complies with certain criteria (see NCP paragraph 1.3.8) then it can take advantage of a derogation to only perform *Salmonella* sampling on one flock from each holding reducing the cost of the operator sampling requirements.

11.5.2. Assuming 10.00% of holdings take advantage of this derogation the savings available to assurance scheme and non-assurance scheme holdings are £13,084.

Assurance Scheme

category (number of broilers)	50-999	4999	14999	99999	100000+
Average Cost per Holding per Year (no derogation)	£126	£101	£126	£113	£284
Average Number of Flocks per Holding	1.38	1.19	1.42	2.00	5.40
Average Cost per Holding per Year (with derogation)	£91	£85	£89	£57	£53
Saving for Holding Using Derogation	£35	£16	£37	£57	£231
Percentage of Holdings Applying Derogation	10.00%	10.00%	10.00%	10.00%	10.00%
Number of Holdings Applying Derogation	6.10	1.70	6.40	39.50	44.90
Total Saving from Derogation per Year	£210	£27	£239	£2,232	£10,375
<u>Total Industry Saving from Derogation Per Annum</u>	£13,084				

11.5.3. For non-assurance scheme the saving is £5,031

Non-Assurance Scheme

category (number of broilers)	50-999	4999	14999	99999	100000+
Average Cost per Holding per Year (no derogation)	£168	£122	£167	£171	£444
Average Number of Flocks per Holding	1.38	1.19	1.42	2.00	5.40
Average Cost per Holding per Year (with derogation)	£122	£102	£118	£85	£82
Saving for Holding Using Derogation	£46	£19	£49	£85	£362
Percentage of Holdings Applying Derogation	10.00%	10.00%	10.00%	10.00%	10.00%
Number of Holdings Applying Derogation	39.5	7.3	3.6	19.1	3.5
Total Saving from Derogation per Year	£1,816	£141	£178	£1,629	£1,267
<u>Total Industry Saving Per Annum</u>	£5,031				

11.6. Cost if flock tests positive

11.6.1. If a flock tests positive for *Salmonella* action has to be taken to clean up and disinfect the premises before the house is repopulated they will also have to undergo CA sampling and these actions will obviously incur a cost. The overall cost will depend on the number of flocks testing positive and to estimate this we have used the UK baseline *Salmonella* prevalence figure of 0.20%. We have assumed that holdings within assurance schemes currently undergo some form of clean up and disinfection which costs them £500 and under the NCP the cost of this will be £550 therefore they face an additional cost of £50. Non-assurance scheme holdings will face the full clean up cost. All positive holdings will face a CA sampling charge of £171.

Assurance Scheme

11.6.2. The estimated total annual cost for assurance scheme members testing positive for *Salmonella* is £29,288.

	50-999	4999	14999	99999	100000+
Salmonella Prevalence (%)	0.20%	0.20%	0.20%	0.20%	0.20%
Number of Flocks	128.08	28.53	134.90	744.00	2122.20
Crops per Year	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00
Flocks per Year	768.47	171.20	809.40	4464.00	12733.20
Number of Positive Flocks per Year	1.54	0.34	1.62	8.93	25.47
Number of Flocks on Positive Holdings	2.12	0.41	2.30	17.86	137.52
Current Cost Clean Up	£500	£500	£500	£500	£500
New Cost of Clean Up	£550	£550	£550	£550	£550
Change in Clean Up cost	£50	£50	£50	£50	£50
Total Clean Up Cost	£77	£17	£81	£446	£1,273
Cost of CA Sampling	£171	£171	£171	£171	£171
Total Cost of CA Sampling per Annum	£362	£70	£393	£3,053	£23,516
Average Cost per Firm	£7	£5	£7	£9	£55
Total Cost per Annum	£439	£87	£474	£3,500	£24,789
<u>Total Industry Cost per Annum</u>	£29,288				

Non-Assurance Scheme

11.6.3. The estimated total annual cost for assurance scheme members testing positive for *Salmonella* is £15,402.

	50-999	4999	14999	99999	100000+
Salmonella Prevalence (%)	0.20%	0.20%	0.20%	0.20%	0.20%
Number of Flocks	736.80	98.68	66.74	362.00	172.80
Crops per Year	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00
Flocks per Year	4420.79	592.07	400.44	2172.00	1036.80
Number of Positive Flocks per Year	8.84	1.18	0.80	4.34	2.07
Number of Flocks on Positive Holding	12.18	1.41	1.14	8.69	11.20
Current Cost Clean Up	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
New Cost of Clean Up	£550	£550	£550	£550	£550
Change in Clean Up cost	£550	£550	£550	£550	£550
Total Clean Up Cost	£4,863	£651	£440	£2,389	£1,140
Cost of CA Sampling	£171	£171	£171	£171	£171
Total Cost of CA Sampling per Annum	£2,082	£241	£194	£1,486	£1,915
Average Cost per Firm	£18	£12	£18	£20	£87
Total Cost per Annum	£6,945	£892	£635	£3,875	£3,055
<u>Total Industry Cost per Annum</u>	£15,402				

11.7. Cost of Competent Authority sampling for baseline

11.7.1. The EU requires that the CA takes *Salmonella* test samples from one flock on 10% of holdings each year in order to estimate the overall *Salmonella* prevalence rate. We have estimated that the annual cost to Government is estimated to be £20,007.

Number of Holdings with Over 5000 Birds	1,170
% of holding on which one flock will be sampled	10.00%

Cost of Performing CA Sample

Admin	£56
Testing Costs	£15
CA Staff Cost per 30 mins	£25
Number of Hours Required	2
Total CA Staff Costs	£100
Total CA Cost per Sample	£171

Total Cost to Govt of CA Sampling for Baseline £20,007

11.7.2. The testing will also require industry time for a member of staff to be present when the sample is performed. The cost of this is estimated to be £2,122

Farmer Wage Cost per Hour	£9
Number of Hours Require	£2
Total CA Sampling Cost to Industry	£2,122

11.8. Option Specific Costs for inspection and enforcement

Cost of option 1: Implement the NCP on a voluntary basis only.

11.8.1 If implemented successfully (ie producers were willing to implement on a voluntary basis) the same as options 2-4 although there would be lower enforcement costs. However if some producers refused to comply the UK would only be in partial compliance with Regulations 2160/2003 and 646/2007; the broiler industry could incur costs if UK broiler producers could not trade with EU Member States, and it would not fulfil the government's obligations to EU legislation.

Cost of option 2: For management of the NCP to be under the direct control of government.

11.8.2. It is assumed that there are approximately 1,716 holdings in the UK which are eligible for operator sampling. Costs to industry and government inflated by need for an extensive programme of on-farm visits to audit the operator sampling and check biosecurity measures. We have assumed that this will take 5 hours of CA and farmer time per annum in order to perform the inspections. All costs will be passed back to industry through cost sharing. Therefore the additional annual cost to industry is estimated to be £506,821.

11.8.3. The administration costs for operators include the cost of familiarisation with legislation, (two hours per annum at £16 per hour), the costs of keeping records of test results (six hours per annum), the costs of accompanying inspectors around the unit (two hours per annum) and the cost of producing records for inspection (half an hour per annum). The table below is the costs for a single holding with a capacity of 200,000-300,000 birds kept in 5 houses.

	50-999	4999	14999	99999	100000+
Number of Premises	456	90	100	586	484
AH Cost per Hour	£50	£50	£50	£50	£50
Number of Hours	5	5	5	5	5
Farmer Average Wage per Hour	£9	£9	£9	£9	£9
Number of Hours	5	5	5	5	5
Average Cost per Firm	£295	£295	£295	£295	£295
Total Cost per Annum	£134,680	£26,582	£29,535	£173,075	£142,949
<u>Total Industry Cost per Annum</u>	£506,821				

Cost of option 3: For responsibilities for the management and auditing of the NCP to be shared by government and industry.

11.8.4. The costs of operator sampling will be the same as under Option 2. There would be more scope for reducing the frequency and rigour of auditing and inspections by the CA and consequently lower cost to industry and government. With the co-operation of producers proof of compliance with these could be provided by other means. For this we have assumed that the inspection regime will only take two hours of CA and farmer time per annum. There could also be more scope for derogation of sampling requirements. Government would not have to regularly check that criteria is being fulfilled (ie under same management, feed systems etc). If the auditing costs were passed back to industry through cost sharing and we estimate the additional annual cost to industry to be £202,728.

	50-999	4999	14999	99999	100000+
Number of Premises	456	90	100	586	484
AH Cost per Hour	£50	£50	£50	£50	£50
Number of Hours	2	2	2	2	2
Farmer Average Wage per Hour	£9	£9	£9	£9	£9
Number of Hours	2	2	2	2	2
Average Cost per Firm	£118	£118	£118	£118	£118
Total Cost per Annum	£53,872	£10,633	£11,814	£69,230	£57,180
<u>Total Industry Cost per Annum</u>	£202,728				

Cost of option 4: For broiler companies to establish their own company control programme as part of the NCP.

11.8.5. If CA auditing of operator samples are handled by an approved industry control programme, this organisation – if it fulfilled the requirements of the CA - would be able

to report to the CA that its members are in compliance with the NCP. Under this arrangement on farm visits and CA auditing would be on an ad-hoc basis only. There would also be further scope for the derogation from sampling. Whereby the operator can apply not to sample all flocks on the holding. Government would not have to regularly check that criteria is being fulfilled (ie that the birds are under same management, feed systems etc). We have assumed that ACP members would adopt this option and result in half the inspection and enforcement time annually compared with Option 3 leading to a saving for these firms. The saving to ACP members is estimated to be £46,016 this means that the cost under this option would be £156,713.

	50-999	4999	14999	99999	100000+
Number of ACP Premises	0	0	19	336	424
AH Cost per Hour	£50	£50	£50	£50	£50
Reduced Number of AH Hours	1	1	1	1	1
Farmer Average Wage per Hour	£9	£9	£9	£9	£9
Reduced Number of Farmer Hours	1	1	1	1	1
Average Cost Saving per ACP Firm	£59	£59	£59	£59	£59
Total Cost Saving per Annum	£0	£0	£1,122	£19,848	£25,046
<u>Total Industry Cost Saving per Annum</u>	£46,016				

12. Summary of Costs

Costs by Sector

Year	Discount Factor	Cost to all options		Additional Cost for Options (Industry Costs)		
		Industry	Government	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4
1	1	£347,492	£20,007	£506,821	£202,728	£156,713
2	0.966183575	£335,741	£19,330	£489,682	£195,873	£151,413
3	0.9335107	£324,387	£18,677	£473,122	£189,249	£146,293
<u>Total (NPV 3 Years)</u>		£1,007,619	£58,014	£1,469,625	£587,850	£454,419

Total Discounted Costs NPV 3 Years

	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4
<u>Total (NPV 3 Years)</u>	£2,535,258	£1,653,483	£1,520,052

13. Small Firms Impact Test

13.1. There are about 1,716 broiler holdings (with more than 50 birds) that produce meat for human consumption in GB. The NCP applies to all those who keep broilers on a commercial basis. Table 3 shows the size distribution of broiler premises.

Table 3. Size distribution of broiler premises

Category (number of broilers)	Number of premises
50-999	456

1,000-4,999	90
5,000-14,999	100
15,000-99,999	586
100,000+	484

13.2. The costs of the alternative policy options for the different size categories of producers have been calculated and are reported in Table 4.

Table 4. Unit costs per year for broiler premises by size and policy option

Costs	50-999	1,000-4,999	5,000-14,999	15,000-99,999	100,000+
Common costs					
Operator sampling AS*	91	85	89	57	53
Operator sampling non-AS	122	102	118	85	82
Average cost if positive AS	7	5	7	9	55
Average cost if positive non-AS	18	12	18	20	87
Option-specific costs					
Option 2	295	295	295	295	295
Option 3	118	118	118	118	118
Option 4 ACP**	59	59	59	59	59
Option 4 non-ACP	118	118	118	118	118
Total cost per firm per annum					
Option 2	429	405	406	374	408
Option 3	252	228	229	197	230
Option 4	252	228	217	163	179

* AS: Assurance Scheme

** ACP: Assured Chicken Production scheme

13.3. Table 4 shows that, irrespective of the policy option being considered, costs are typically higher for smaller firms (<5,000 birds) than for larger ones. The primary reason for this is because the cost of operator sampling is higher for smaller firms than for larger ones. This is not because the cost of sampling is actually higher for small firms. This effect arises because a high proportion of the larger firms are already affiliated to assurance schemes, and as such already perform some degree of sampling (e.g. ACP members have to perform litter sampling). Therefore the additional costs of complying with the sampling requirements of the broiler NCP are lower for larger firms. In contrast, the vast majority of small firms are not affiliated to assurance schemes and therefore do not currently incur any sampling costs. Table 5 shows the affiliation to assurance schemes and the ACP in each size category.

Table 5. Affiliation to assurance schemes by size of broiler premises (%)

Category (number of broilers)	50-999	1,000-4,999	5,000-14,999	15,000-99,999	100,000+
Premises affiliated to assurance schemes	13	19	64	67	93
Premises affiliated to the ACP	0	0 ⁵	19	57	88

⁵ Treated as zero because data withheld due to confidentiality reasons.

13.4. There is another reason why the cost of the fourth policy option in particular is higher for smaller firms than for larger ones. Cost estimates for option 4 were developed on the basis that only firms that are already part of the ACP would adopt the option of establishing their own company control programme as part of the NCP. This would lead to a cost saving for these firms. Because ACP membership is highly positively correlated with firm size, in effect the cost saving only accrues to larger firms.

14. Cost recovery

14.1. Poultry operators have been charged for services under the NCPs since the introduction of the NCP for breeding flocks in 2009. A new charging scheme enabling government to recover costs in full for the collection and testing of official control samples for layer flocks as well as breeders was introduced in summer 2008. This was enforced and enabled by the Zoonoses and The Animal By-Products (Fees) Regulations 2008.

14.2. Defra will need to consider whether the Fees Regulations should be amended to recover costs for government resulting from any testing and collection of official control samples from broiler holdings carried out by the CA. There is also potential for government to recover the administration and running costs of checking systems to ensure compliance with operator sampling. The time spent auditing operator samples may vary from farm to farm. Any amendment to the Fees Regulations would be discussed in detail with industry.

14.3. Defra will need to look at way of extending controls to abattoirs: making compliance with the NCP contingent on membership of a Farm Assurance Scheme should mean that the requirements will become self-enforcing.

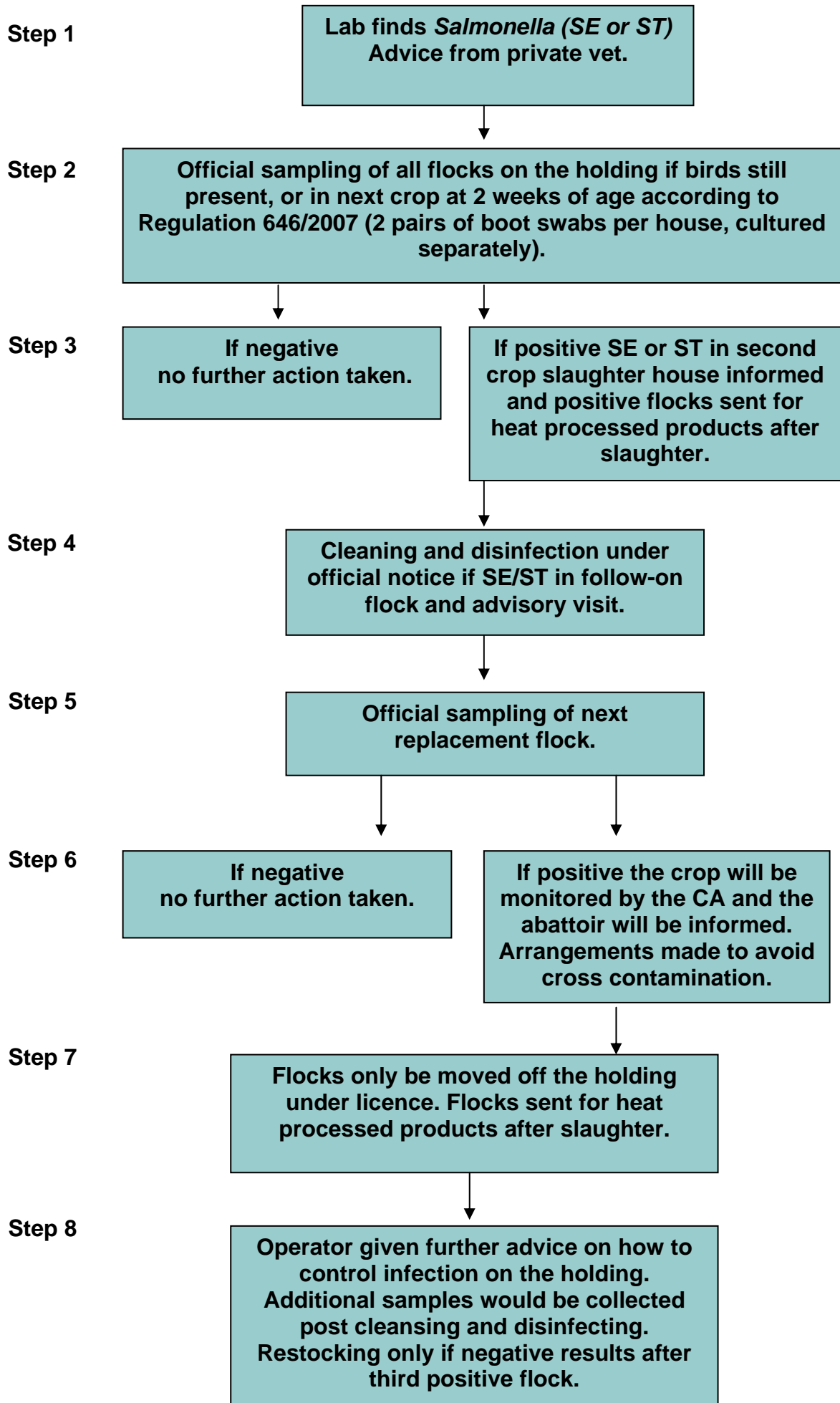
14.4. All samples will need to be tested at Defra approved laboratories. To assist the CA monitor the test results NCP approval laboratories could be required to report negative as well as positive samples. They may also be required to report specific data on the location and holding from where the samples were collected.

15. Procedures to be followed when *Salmonella* is suspected on a holding

15.1. This table summarises the steps which may be taken when SE or ST is detected on a holding. This includes the actions which can be taken by government as well as industry. It is also our intention that these measures should help prepare producers for the specific requirement concerning fresh meat in Regulation 2160/2003.

15.2. As previously stated the results of the broiler survey indicate that biosecurity is strong on most broiler holdings. Under existing assurance schemes (such as Assured Chicken Production) a written cleaning and disinfection procedure must be implemented to ensure eradication of the pathogen once depletion is completed. It is not the aim of government to duplicate operating procedures which are already effective. Therefore although the CA will have the powers to carry out all of the actions below (such as serving notices) these will depend on the circumstances on the ground. The CA is however under an obligation to collect the official control sample. Information is available to Defra from other sectors of the poultry industry which identifies the risk factors that make holdings vulnerable to *Salmonella*. We hope that producers whose flocks return a *Salmonella* positive results will be willing to seek advice and guidance.

Measures to take when *Salmonella Enteritidis* (SE) or *Salmonella Typhimurium* (ST) is detected on a holding.



Section 2

Legislation referred to in the Consultation

The Zoonoses Regulation 2160/2003 the “The Zoonoses Regulation”

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2003/l_325/l_32520031212en00010015.pdf

Regulation (EC) No 1168/2006 on Community target for the reduction of *Salmonella*:

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2006/l_211/l_21120060801en00040008.pdf

Regulation (EC) No 646/2007 on Community target for the reduction of Salmonella in broilers:

[http://eur-](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2007:151:0021:0025:EN:PDF)

[lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2007:151:0021:0025:EN:PDF](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2007:151:0021:0025:EN:PDF)

Decision (EC) No 2004/665 on protocol for layer survey:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:32004D0665:EN:HTML>

Regulation (EC) No 1260/2003 on import duties in the cereals sector:

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2003/l_177/l_17720030716en00090011.pdf

Regulation (EC) No 882/2004:

[http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:32004R0882R\(01\):EN:HTML](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:32004R0882R(01):EN:HTML)

Regulation (EC) No 776/2006 of 23 May 2006 amending Annex VII to Regulation (EC) No 882/2004:

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2006/l_136/l_13620060524en00030008.pdf

All EU legislation can be viewed at:

http://eurlex.europa.eu/RECH_legislation.do?ihmlang=en

The Animal Health Act 1981

The Zoonoses Order 1989

The Animal by Products Regulations 2005 (implementing EU Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002)

The Control of Salmonella in Poultry Order 2007

The Zoonoses (Monitoring) (England) Regulations 2007

UK legislation can be viewed at: www.defra.gov.uk

Or printed copies of both EU and UK legislation can be obtained from (or emailed by):

zdri@DEFRA.GSI.GOV.UK

Tel: 020 7238 6125

Section 3

The Control of Salmonella in Broiler Flocks Order 2008 Statutory Instrument

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2008 No.

ANIMALS, ENGLAND

ANIMAL HEALTH

The Control of Salmonella in Broiler Flocks Order 2008

<i>Made - - -</i>	***
<i>Laid before Parliament</i>	***
<i>Coming into force</i>	1 January 2009

The Secretary of State makes this Order in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 1, 8 and 87(5) of the Animal Health Act 1981⁽⁶⁾.

Title, application and commencement

1. This Order may be cited as the Control of Salmonella in Broiler Flocks Order 2008; it applies in England and comes into force on 1 January 2009.

Interpretation

2. In this Order—

“broiler flock” means a flock kept for the production of meat intended for human consumption;

“flock” means all poultry of the same health status kept on the same premises or in the same enclosure and constituting a single epidemiological unit and, in the case of housed poultry, includes all birds sharing the same airspace;

“holding” means any holding on which one or more broiler flocks of poultry are kept or are intended to be kept;

“occupier” means, in relation to any holding, the person in charge of the holding;

“poultry” means birds of the species *Gallus gallus*.

Competent authority

3. The Secretary of State is the competent authority for the purposes of—

(a) Commission Regulation (EC) No 646/2007 implementing Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 as regards a Community target for the reduction of the prevalence of *Salmonella enteridis* and *Salmonella typhimurium* in broilers and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1091/2005⁽⁷⁾; and

⁽⁶⁾ 1981 c.22. Functions conferred under the 1981 Act on “the Ministers” (as defined in section 86 of that Act) were transferred, so far as exercisable by the Secretaries of State for Scotland and Wales, to the Minister of Agriculture Fisheries and Food by the Transfer of Functions (Agriculture and Food) Order 1999 (S.I. 1999/3141) and were then further transferred to the Secretary of State by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (Dissolution) Order 2002 (S.I. 2002/794).

- (b) Commission Regulation (EC) No 1177/2006 implementing Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards requirements for the use of specific control methods in the framework of the national programmes for the control of salmonella in poultry⁽⁸⁾.

Notification of broiler flocks

4.—33. The occupier of the holding on which one or more broiler flocks are kept must notify the Secretary of State of the information in paragraph (4) of this article—

- (a) within three months of the coming into force of this Order; or
- (b) in the case of such a holding established after the date this Order comes into force, within three months of the establishment of the holding.

(2) The occupier must notify the Secretary of State of any change or addition to that information within three months of the change or addition.

(3) This article does not apply to any occupier who has notified the Secretary of State of that information under any other enactment.

(4) The information to be notified is —

- (a) the name, address and telephone number of the holding;
- (b) the name, address and telephone number of the occupier and of the person who owns each flock on the holding;
- (c) the number of flocks on the holding;
- (d) for each flock—
 - (i) the identification of the flock, where there is more than one flock on the holding;
 - (ii) the number of poultry.

(5) The occupier must notify the Secretary of State of the expected date of arrival at the holding of every flock at least two weeks before the expected date of arrival.

Sampling

5. Sampling must be carried out in accordance with the Annex to Regulation (EC) No 646/2007.

Submission of samples to an approved laboratory

6.—34. The occupier must, on the day a sample is taken under this Order, dispatch it by first class post or courier to a laboratory approved by the Secretary of State for the purpose of testing for the presence of salmonella.

(1) In relation to each sample the occupier must provide the following information—

- (a) the name of the occupier;
- (b) the address of the holding;
- (c) the type of samples;
- (d) the date on which the samples were taken;
- (e) the identification of the flock, where there is more than one flock on the holding;
- (f) the date on which the flock moved onto the holding;
- (g) the age of the flock.

Records of samples

7.—35. The occupier must, as soon as is reasonably practicable after taking a sample, record—

- (a) the type of sample taken;
- (b) the date on which the sample was taken;

⁽⁷⁾ OJ No L 151, 13.6.2007 p 21.

⁽⁸⁾ OJ No L 212, 2.8.2006, p3.

- (c) where there is more than one flock on the holding, the identification of the flock from which the sample was taken;
 - (d) the age of the flock sampled;
 - (e) the laboratory to which the sample was sent.
- (2) The occupier must record the result of each test when it is received from the laboratory.

Records of movements

- 8.** When birds are moved on to or off a holding the occupier must record—
- (a) the date of the movement;
 - (b) whether the movement was on to or off the holding;
 - (c) the number of birds moved;
 - (d) the age of the birds moved;
 - (e) in the case of the movement of an entire flock, the identification of that flock, where there is more than one flock on the holding;
 - (f) the identity of the building or group of buildings in to or from which the birds were moved;
 - (g) the address of the holding that they came from or were sent to.

Duties of the person in charge of a laboratory

9.—36. The person in charge of a laboratory who receives samples must ensure that samples are refrigerated immediately and that the examination begins within 48 hours of receipt.

(1) The samples must be tested in accordance with paragraph 3 of the Annex to Regulation (EC) No 646/2007.

Prohibition on the use of antimicrobials

10. No person may administer any antimicrobial to any poultry as a specific method to control salmonella in breach of Article 2 of Commission Regulation (EC) 1177/2006 (use of antimicrobials).

Prohibition on the use of vaccines

11. No person may administer any live salmonella vaccine to any poultry in breach of Article 3(1) of Commission Regulation (EC) 1177/2006 (use of vaccines).

Records

12. Any person required to keep a record under this Order must keep it for two years from the date it is made and must produce it on demand to an inspector or officer of the Secretary of State and allow a copy of it to be made or an extract from it to be taken.

Tampering with samples

13. A person must not tamper with a sample or do anything to it that is likely to affect the result of any test required to be carried out under this Order.

Powers of Secretary of State in cases of default

14. If any person fails to take any action required by this Order, an inspector may arrange for such action to be taken at the expense of the person in default.

Enforcement

15.—37. This Order is enforced by the local authority.

(1) The Secretary of State may direct, in relation to cases of a particular description or any particular case, that the Secretary of State will enforce this Order instead of the local authority.

Signatory text

Address	<i>Name</i>
Date	Minister of State Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Order)

This Order enforces Commission Regulation 646/2007⁽⁹⁾ and Commission Regulation 1177/2006⁽¹⁰⁾.

It makes provision for registration of broiler flocks of birds of the species *Gallus gallus* and for their testing for *Salmonella*. It also prohibits the use of antimicrobials and live salmonella vaccine.

The Order is enforced by the local authority.

Breach of the Order is an offence under section 73 of the Animal Health Act 1981 (c. 22), punishable in accordance with section 75 of that Act.

A full impact assessment of the effect that this instrument will have on the costs of business and the voluntary sector is available at the Defra website.

⁽⁹⁾ OJ No L 151, 13.6.2007 p 21
⁽¹⁰⁾ OJ No L 212, 2.8.2006, p3