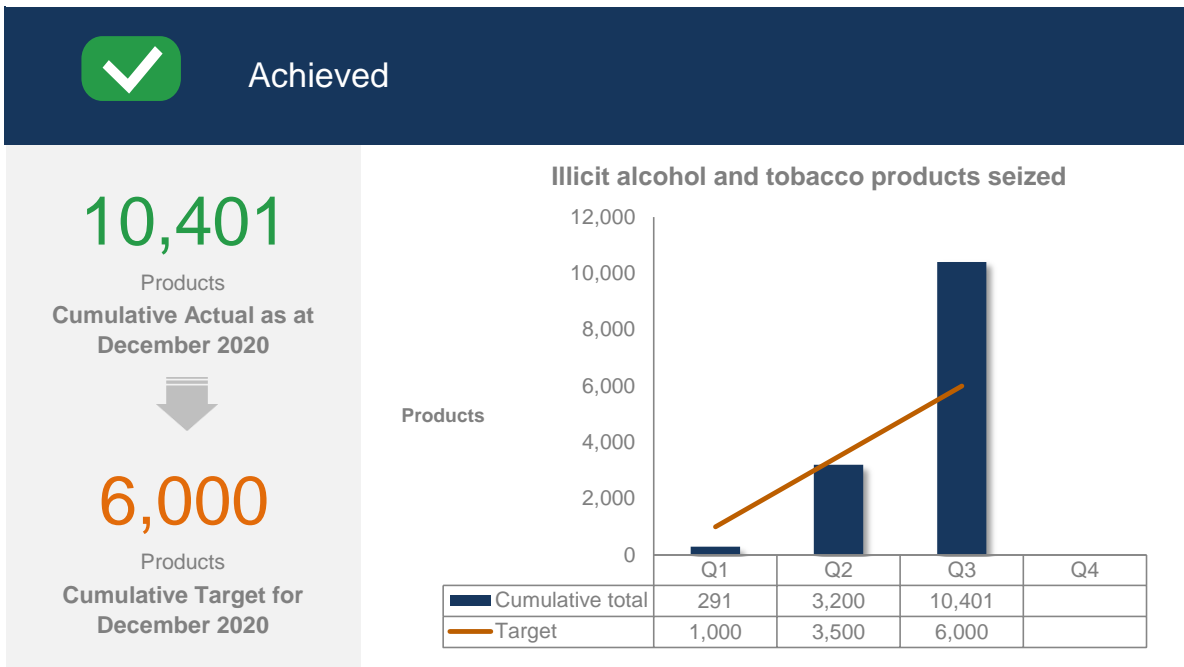


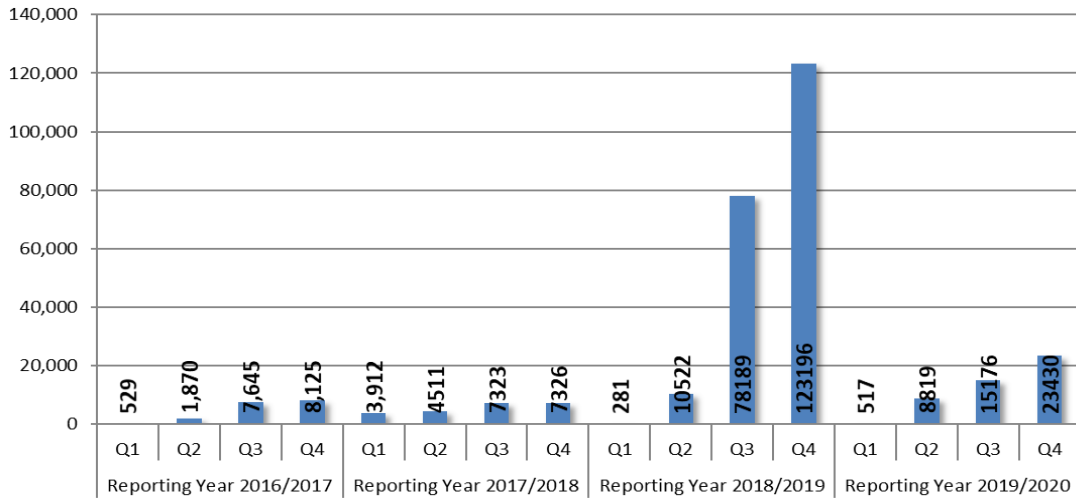
Illicit alcohol and tobacco products seized

Actual products seized (as a count of number of packets of cigarettes and tobacco and number of bottles of alcohol) that are removed from the market in Lincolnshire. Illicit alcohol and tobacco includes counterfeit, non-duty paid, unsafe, incorrectly labelled, and other illicit brands. Unsafe means that the products do not self-extinguish as required by European Standards. Other illicit brands are products which are manufactured for the sole purpose of being smuggled into and sold illegally in another market resulting in significant losses in tax revenue. Products are counted in terms of the most popular sizes of packs. E.g. 20 cigarettes, 50g hand-rolling tobacco, 70cl spirits. These numbers are dependent on successful legal process, meaning forfeiture or surrendering of the products.

A higher number of illicit alcohol and tobacco products seized indicates a better performance. Trading Standards is intelligence led and the number of products seized does not reflect on the level of activity by the service.



Illicit Alcohol and Tobacco Products Seized 2016-2020 (cumulative)



About the target

We aim to increase the amount of illicit and unsafe alcohol and tobacco products removed from the market in Lincolnshire. In 2020/21 a target has been set for 7000 illicit products to be removed from the market. This demonstrates a reduction in the availability of products which in effect is increasing public safety and preventing the funding of organised crime and terrorism.

The annual target is estimated based on products seized in 2019/20.

About the target range

A target range of +/- 2% allows for some fluctuation in market conditions. There is the potential for anomalies with unexpected large-scale seizures or outside constraints on products such as seizures at port.

About benchmarking

This measure is local to Lincolnshire and therefore is not benchmarked against any other area.

Unsafe products removed from the market

This measure is a count of the number of unsafe goods removed from the market in Lincolnshire, reducing the risk of any of these products causing harm to the end-user. This includes counterfeit goods where they are unsafe but does not include alcohol and tobacco, or products removed that are purely counterfeit. Unsafe goods are any products that do not conform to European and/or UK safety standards and regulations or do not meet the definition of a safe product in the General Product Safety Regulations 2005. The measure is a count of the product as sold to the consumer. E.g. a pack of 2 walkie talkies would count as 1. There are many different types of products that could be unsafe and would be within the remit of Trading Standards. This includes electrical items, cosmetics, clothing, furniture and toys. These figures are dependent on successful legal processes, meaning suspension, recall, forfeiture or surrendering of the products or complying with an improvement notice to bring the product into compliance before it is placed on the market. A higher number of unsafe goods removed from the market indicates a better performance. Trading Standards is intelligence led and the number of products seized does not reflect on the level of activity by the service.



About the latest performance

The large increase in unsafe goods removed from the market in this quarter reflects the work of Lincolnshire Trading Standards during the Covid-19 pandemic in ensuring goods sold to protect consumers from coronavirus are safe and effective and comply with the relevant consumer protection legislation. As part of this work we have proactively inspected and advised on goods such as hand sanitiser, face coverings, etc and goods claiming to offer protection from covid. This has been in response to consumer complaints and intelligence received but also in response to requests for advice from businesses and partners in the sale and procurement of such goods. Examples of this work included a Suspension Notice issued under Section 14 of the Consumer Protection Act 1987 to remove hand sanitisers from the market due to failing to comply with applicable safety legislation relating to the labelling, composition and traceability of the goods. We then advised and worked with the business to bring the goods into compliance.

Further details

The definition for this measure was changed with effect from 1st April 2019 to 'Unsafe products removed from the market'. The previous definition was 'Unsafe and counterfeit goods removed from the market'. Therefore it is not possible to make meaningful comparisons with performance data prior to 2019/2020.

About the target

Larger numbers of goods are entering the market and the availability of goods from other countries is increasing. These may not conform to the same safety requirements placed on UK markets. We aim to increase the number of unsafe products removed from the market in Lincolnshire and reduce the risk of harm to the potential end-user.

In 2020/21 an annual target has been set for 3000 unsafe products to be removed from the market. This has been estimated based on products seized in 2019/20.

The availability of unsafe goods can increase in Quarter 3 for Christmas, Halloween and seasonal markets. It can also increase in the summer months due to the influx of tourists to the coast. Large seizures can take a while to catalogue/count and may not always be ready to report in the actual quarter they occurred.

About the target range

Any increase in the number of unsafe products removed from the market would be seen as positive. The +/- 2% target range reflects potential fluctuations in market conditions. There is always the potential for anomalies and this can often depend on consumer trends such as a massively popular children's movie or the popularity of a 'must have' consumer item.

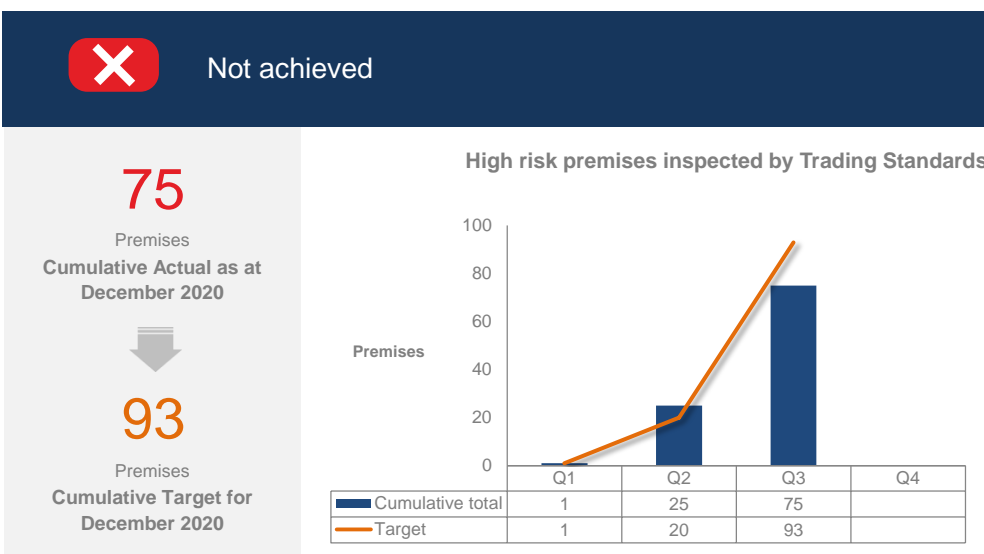
About benchmarking

This measure is local to Lincolnshire and therefore is not benchmarked against any other area.

High risk premises inspected by Trading Standards

This is a count of the number of premises that are categorised as 'High risk' that have been inspected by Trading Standards. A 'High risk' premises is one that has been categorised as such by the Food Standards Agency, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), and the Better Regulation Delivery Office as requiring an annual compliance visit based upon an assessment of the risk posed to the public. Trading Standards then use a combination of this information combined with officer knowledge, the history of the premises over the last 12 months, and intelligence to create an inspection list for the year. Trading Standards will sometimes select premises that are not deemed 'high risk'. This could be due to local or national issues, e.g. we looked at a number of restaurants in previous years in light of the changes to allergen legislation. Trading Standards follow the principals set out in the DEFRA Framework Agreement, which was a working arrangement set up between Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA)/DEFRA and Trading Standards several years ago. As well as identifying traditional 'high risk' premises it also identifies premises which are critical control points for disease and we try to focus resources on these.

A higher number of high risk premises inspected indicates a better performance.



About the latest performance

Performance against this indicator has been hampered in quarter 3 due to Covid 19 lock down restrictions. In total there are 92 outstanding inspections to achieve the end of year target of 167. Some of these will need to be carried forward into 2021/22 so will be delayed, but completed. A breakdown of those outstanding is provided below.

Animal Health

15 inspections outstanding. Some contact has been made remotely with some of the outstanding premises. Assessments could be done this way, although follow-up visits would be needed in most cases when restrictions end. Progression slow in Q3 due to Lockdown#2 and Avian Influenza.

Food

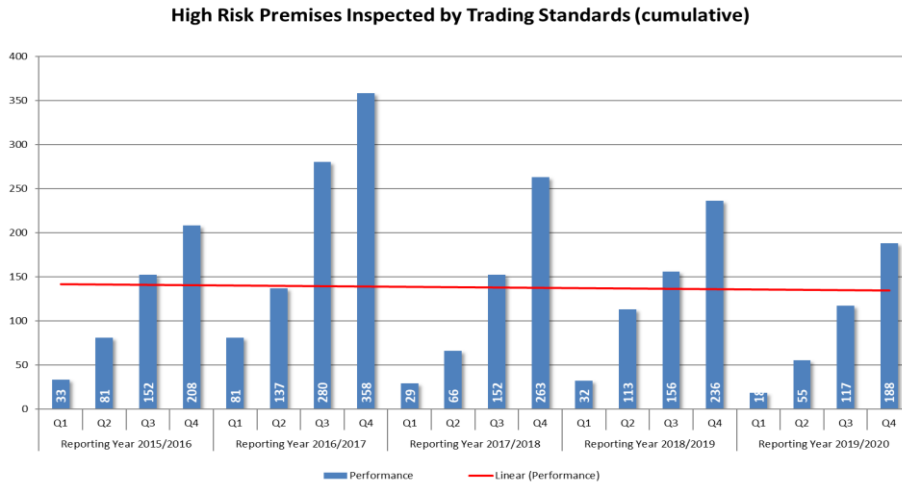
6 inspections outstanding. A decision was made to carry out remote inspections instead of physical inspections due to the Food Standards Agency (FSA) advice of not carrying out physical inspections being extended until the end of March 2021.

Several remote projects were set up. The visits were internet inspections allocated to apprentices and food trainees. 14 of these have been completed in Q3. Many will require follow-up work by a food qualified officer.

Feed

71 inspections outstanding. The FSA have now agreed to all inspections being carried out remotely and this is being progressed. We will need to make a judgement on how many of these we can realistically achieve in quarter 4 and how many we will carry forward to 2021/22.

Further details



About the target

The target is the number of premises that are categorised as 'High risk' by the respective bodies. This can change annually depending on the number of businesses that are operating, some could cease trading and new businesses could emerge. The assessment by the respective bodies could also change.

Quarter 1 figures are generally lower due to the finalisation of numbers and funding with external agencies.

About the target range

A target range of +/- 2% allows for some unpredictability in completion of planned inspections. This can be attributed to different factors such as cancellations, disease outbreak, ongoing investigations or premises that have ceased trading.

About benchmarking

This measure is local to Lincolnshire and therefore is not benchmarked against any other area.