



RIVER TEES PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

SERVICE PLAN

2025 – 2026

Approved June 2025

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1. INTRODUCTION

The River Tees Port Health Authority (RTPHA) Service Plan covers the elements of food hygiene and safety, and imported food and feed, for which the authority has statutory enforcement responsibility. The Service Plan also covers objectives relating to non-enforcement activity including the mosquito surveillance programme and jetty water sampling programme.

The Service Plan is an expression of this authority's' commitment to the development of the Port Health Service and is a requirement of the Food Standards Agency as the body that monitors and audits local authorities' activities on food enforcement.

The Food Standards Agency's' (FSA's) Framework Agreement sets out the planning and delivery requirements for feed and food official controls, based on the statutory Codes of Practice. It ensures that national priorities and standards are addressed and delivered locally.

The RTPHA Service Plan has been drawn up in accordance with the guidance in the Framework Agreement and follows the Service Plan template. This is to enable the FSA to assess the Authority's delivery of its service and to allow local authorities to compare service plans written in the common format for any fundamental performance reviews under the local government Best Value agenda. This Service Plan also takes into account the Food Law Code of Practice and Practice Guidance.

The FSA requires the Service Plan to be submitted to members for approval to ensure local transparency and accountability. This is done annually through (RTPHA) Board Member Briefing.

The Authority operates the food hygiene rating scheme where food premises receive a score of between 0 and 5.

RTPHA sits within the Environmental Health (Commercial) Team at Redcar and Cleveland Council and is managed by the Principal Environmental Health Officer. The Environmental Health (Commercial) Team is part of the Health Protection and Health Care Quality Service in the Growth, Enterprise and Environment Directorate.

Port Health Officers are trained to high levels of competency consistent with the competency framework in the Food Law code of practice, including ongoing staff training and support systems in place.

This plan details the delivery of the performance of the port health service during 2025/26, which includes the inspection of ships, enforcement of food, feed and environmental protection laws, and the prevention and control of infectious diseases.

Effective partnerships with stakeholders, including UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) – Consultant in Health Protection / Port Medical Officer and Food Examiner, the appointed Public Analyst and Agricultural Analyst and the Food Standards Agency (the Agency), are important in the achievement of the aims and objectives of the plan.

2. SERVICE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Aims

- To ensure that food and feed entering the UK through Tees Port has been legally imported and complies with relevant food and feed laws.
- To ensure that the port maintains its status as a Border Control Post (BCP).
- That conditions on ships entering Tees Port comply with the International Health Regulations 2005.
- Risks to health from communicable diseases are effectively managed and controlled.
- Ensure that food hygiene and standards legislation is enforced in food premises at the port.
- To ensure that environmental protection legislation is enforced within the port.

Objectives

- To carry out manifest and documentary checks relating to third country food, feed and other relevant products.
- To ensure that all imported products are subject to the required legislative requirements.
- To ensure importers and shipping agents are kept informed of import restrictions, changes in legislation, emergency control measures and new guidance.
- To carry out a risk-based approach to the inspection of ships and respond to all requests for ship sanitation certificates.
- To investigate the incidence of food poisoning and food-borne disease at the port and on ships entering the port.
- To monitor the wholesomeness and sufficiency of water supplies at the port and on-board ships entering the port.
- To carry out appropriate food hygiene and standards interventions at the food premises at the port.
- To operate the national Food Hygiene Rating Scheme for food premises at the port to improve and maintain good hygiene standards.
- To ensure the prescribed processes at the port comply with environmental protection legislation and permits are issued accordingly.

4. BACKGROUND

4.1. Profile of the Port Health Authority

River Tees Port Health Authority (RTPHA) (the Authority) represents the four riparian authorities of Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council, Middlesbrough Council and Hartlepool Borough Council. The Authority is managed by Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council.

The River Tees Port Sanitary Authority was first constituted by an Order of the Local Government Board in 1886. The present Authority was established by The River Tees Port Health Authority Order 1982, which defines the port health district over which the joint board has jurisdiction. The Order was further amended in 2016 to reflect changes in legislation.

The Port Health area consists of those parts of the Port of Tees and Hartlepool together with such land and water as is specified in the Order, including:

- a) the part of the Port of Tees and Hartlepool which lies upstream of a line drawn from the most northerly point of the North Gare Breakwater (reference point NZ5442 2843) and the South Gare Buzzer House (reference point NZ5580 2840), including those waters of the River Tees as far as the tide flows up stream to the Tees Barrage (reference point NZ4624 1903);
- b) any wharf, dock, jetty or similar structure on the riverside of, or projecting into, that part of the Port of Tees and Hartlepool and the River Tees; and
- c) any structures and buildings on areas within the gates of any wharf, dock, jetty or similar structure within the districts of the relevant riparian authorities.

4.2. Organisational Structure

The relevant riparian authorities must appoint members to the joint board at meetings to be held in May of each year. The members of the joint board must be appointed annually by the relevant riparian authorities from the members of their respective councils as follows:

- a) five members from Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council,
- b) five members from Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council,
- c) five members from Middlesbrough Council, and
- d) two members from Hartlepool Borough Council.

As the managing authority, the structure of Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council showing where the service sits are detailed in Appendix 1.

The Port Health service carries out the following functions:

- Imported Food and Feed Controls,
- Food Hygiene and Food Standards enforcement,
- Food and food premises complaints,
- Ship Sanitation Inspections,
- Environmental permitting, and
- Water Sampling.

The team comprises of the following:

- 0.5 x FTE Principal Environmental Health Officer
- 1 x FTE Trading Standards Officer
- 0.8 x FTE Environmental Health Officer

- 2 x FTE Official Veterinary Surgeon (agency)
- 1 x FTE Port Health Technical Officer
- 3 x FTE Business Support Officers

4.3. Public Analysts and Food Examiners

The following Analysts have been appointed by the Authority.

Public and Agricultural Analysts

Public Analyst Scientific Services
i54 Business Park
Valiant Way
Wolverhampton. WV9 5GB

Food Examiners are agreed and approved through a Service Level Agreement with the UKHSA - Food Water and Environmental Laboratory.

4.4. Scope of the Feed and Food Service

The Port Health team are responsible for the following services:

- Carrying out official controls on imports of food and feed that come through the Port of Tees.
- Carrying out a programme of food hygiene and standards interventions in accordance with the Food Law Code of Practice and Practice Guidance.
- Investigating and resolving complaints about food and food premises.
- Taking informal and formal action, where appropriate including the service of notices, seizure of food, voluntary and emergency closures, and any other action deemed necessary to secure compliance with legislation.
- Identification and assessment of premises requiring approval in respect of specific processes and food products.
- Maintaining database accuracy by ensuring all food premises trading within the authority are registered, and all information is recorded appropriately on the Philis database.
- Receiving FSA Food Alerts, disseminating to all relevant officers and actions taken and recorded where necessary.
- Provide advice and assistance to importers, exporters, and agents on imported food related issues.
- Investigate incidents of food borne disease and take action where necessary, including liaison with the UKHSA and other stakeholders to determine the source and prevent further infection.
- Provide and operate the Food Hygiene Rating Scheme in accordance with the Brand Standard, to process and respond to appeals and re-rating requests, and upload data in a timely manner to ensure data is up to date and accurate.

- Carry out appropriate food sampling in accordance with the annual sampling plan, which will include inspection and investigation-based sampling as well as cross-regional studies and;
- Carry out a programme of feed interventions in accordance with the Feed Law Code of Practice.

4.5. Demands on the Feed and Food Service

The authority has, as of 1st April 2025, 4 food premises located within the port on its database that are subject to programmed food hygiene interventions; two are catering establishments, one is a wet sales venue, and the other is ad-hoc catering by Border Force. All of the businesses are rated '5' – Very Good. They are placed in risk bands for frequency of inspection based on risk to the consumer, 2 are in Band D (inspection every 2 years), and two are in Band E (inspection every 3 years). All are in Band C for Food Standards with inspections due every 5 years.

The details of all food businesses and all imports of food and feed are maintained on the Civica database.

The authority will also respond to any credible information passed to it suggesting any rogue food activities within the Port Area, for example referrals from the Food Fraud Unit. <https://www.food.gov.uk/safety-hygiene/food-crime>.

4.6. Regulation Policy

The Port Health Service endorses and adopts the principles laid down in the Enforcement Concordat which recognises that enforcement must be fair, consistent and equitable. The service also has regard to the 'Code for Crown Prosecutors' guidelines. These documents will form the basis of decision-making processes in deciding the most appropriate enforcement action.

The Authority's Enforcement Policy outlines the various enforcement options ranging from advice/education to formal action including the service of notices and prosecution for non-compliance with legislation.

5. SERVICE DELIVERY

5.1. Interventions at Food and Feeding establishments

It is the intention of the Port Health team to inspect all premises due for feed or food intervention within 28 days of their inspection due date and monitor all container and bulk food and feed traffic through the Tees during the financial year. Officers determine the frequency of inspection at each premises according to the feed or food code of practice and check all imported food and feed against relevant legislation to determine whether official controls are required.

During food hygiene inspections, any premises that are not broadly compliant, i.e., those achieving Food Hygiene Rating of 0, 1 or 2 will automatically have a revisit to ensure they have carried out the necessary improvements to satisfy the officer that standards have improved since the initial visit. On occasion, more than one officer may attend a revisit.

The team has one full time Environmental Health Officer and one full time Trading Standards Officer who are both authorised to carry out inspections across a range of businesses and imports.

5.2. Feed and Food Complaints

The authority will respond to food and feed complaints on the same working day of receipt of the complaint, where practicable. Should initial enquiries warrant a visit to the food or feed premises at the port, officers will visit the same day, or when the business is next open and trading.

5.3. Home Authority Principle and Primary Authority Scheme

The Home Authority principle offers advice and guidance to these businesses at source to maintain their high standards of food hygiene and standards compliance. The Authority does not have any home authority agreements in place, and should a business be interested in this type of agreement, they would be encouraged to apply for the Primary Authority Scheme.

The Primary Authority Scheme allows businesses to form a statutory partnership with a single local authority, which would provide robust and reliable advice for other councils to take into account when carrying out inspections or dealing with non-compliance. The Authority does not have any primary authority agreements in place however it would actively explore such arrangements where suitable businesses are identified.

5.4. Advice to Businesses

The Authority encourages businesses to seek advice whenever they have any questions or queries about their particular business as we believe it resolves any issues at an earlier stage before a situation becomes serious. The service would like to be recognised by food businesses as supportive and helpful. Advice will be in the form of verbal advice over the telephone, advisory visits and email/postal communications, where necessary.

5.5. Feed and Food Sampling

The service participates in food sampling programmes co-ordinated by the UKHSA and the Food Standards Agency (FSA) and the Tees Valley Food Liaison Group, which includes organised sampling initiatives, and targeted sampling, depending on local priorities.

The Authority will carry out further sampling during routine inspections at randomly selected premises, and reactive sampling where required, or when non-compliance has been identified.

The UKHSA Laboratory at York will process all food samples procured for microbiological purposes and provide a low cost courier service for this. All standards samples and imported food and feed samples requiring non-microbiological analysis will be submitted to Public Analyst Scientific Services, however this service does incur a charge for analysis and where specified in legislation, will be recovered from the importer.

5.6. Control and Investigation of Outbreaks and Food Related Infectious Disease

The service will respond promptly and as a priority to all notifications of infectious disease, particularly if they are suspected to be food borne. Officers will respond according to initial assessment based on information available at the time. Officers will liaise with UKHSA with regards to submission of stool samples, and liaise with other members of the riparian authority, where required. Should a vessel be implicated in an outbreak, quarantine measures may be required to prevent the spread of disease.

5.7. Feed/Food Safety Incidents

All Officers have signed up for the FSA alerts system on Smarter Comms and will receive notifications directly to their email accounts. Alerts for information are read by each officer, alerts for action are logged and any action required, are taken by officers. The FSA has the contact details of the Port Health Authority lead officer should any urgent action need to be taken in the authority's area.

5.8. Liaison with Other Organisations

Arrangements are in place to ensure that the Port Health service keeps up to date with legislation, guidance, and good practice relevant to its duties. This includes.

- Tees Valley Food Liaison Group meetings on matters such as food hygiene and standards inspections, food hygiene and standards sampling, enforcement action, and any other operational matters.
- Tees Valley Health Protection Group Meetings with UKHSA for Health Protection issues such as infectious diseases, food poisoning outbreaks and emerging issues.
- Attending regional meetings to discuss the Food Hygiene Rating Scheme.
- Attending/teleconferencing into Port Health Liaison Meetings;
- Review of planning applications with regards to port premises.

5.9. Feed and Food Safety and Standards promotional work, and other non-official controls interventions

The service does not plan to carry out any promotional work in 2025/26.

6. RESOURCES

6.1. Financial Allocation

The Authority is funded by the Riparian Authorities as set out in the Order. The table below shows the budget for 2025/26 (approved by RTPHA Board at their meeting in Dec 2024).

| Areas of Spend | 25/26 Budget |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| Staffing | |
| Salaries - Basic Pay | 189,900 |
| Salaries - National Insurance | 27,300 |
| Salaries - Overtime | 2,000 |
| Salaries - Superannuation | 19,900 |
| Other Allowances | 2,750 |
| Car Allowances | 500 |
| | 242,350 |
| Other Costs | |
| External Training | 500 |
| General Equipment | 1,100 |
| Clothing & Uniforms | 500 |
| Printing & Stationery | 100 |
| MFD Recharge (Printing) | 50 |
| Services – Veterinary Contract Fees | 239,200 |
| Analysts Fees | 9,250 |
| External Audit Fees | 1,050 |
| SLA Agreement | 123,350 |
| Mobile Phones | 750 |
| Computer Software | 18,550 |
| Subscriptions | 1,300 |
| Insurance | 1,200 |
| | 396,900 |
| Expected Income | |
| Products of Animal Origin | (553,500) |
| Catch Certification | (66,950) |
| Sanitation Certificates | (28,350) |
| High Risk Products Imports | (250) |
| Organic Certificates | (800) |
| RTPHA Permits (annual fee) | (700) |
| Plastic Declaration | (700) |
| Water Sampling | (9,250) |
| | (660,500) |

The budget allocated to the Authority covers all areas of statutory and non-statutory work. Relative to the intentions expressed within this service plan the budget is adequate for these purposes.

6.2. Staffing Allocation

The following staff are planned to form the Port Health team throughout 2025/26, however this may change throughout the year depending on throughput of imports and exports of Products of Animal Origin.

| Role | FTE |
|--|------------|
| Principal Environmental Health Officer | 0.5 |
| Environmental Health Officer | 0.8 |
| Trading Standards Officer | 1 |
| Official Veterinary Surgeon (agency staff) | 2 |
| Port Health Technical Officer | 1 |
| Business Support Officer | 3 |

All Officers are authorised to enforce Port Health legislation consistent with their qualifications and competency/experience in accordance with the relevant Code of Practice and competency framework. Selected officers from the riparian authorities have been trained in Port Health activities should they need to be called upon.

6.3. Staff Development Plan

All staff have an annual appraisal to assess performance, set targets and to identify any training needs. Officers are required to complete the relevant parts of the Competency Framework as required by the Code of Practice and Quality Management System.

7. QUALITY ASSESSMENT

7.1. Quality assessment and internal monitoring

Continuous monitoring of the service is carried out to ensure inspection targets are met and random checks and accompanied visits are also carried out with individual officers. The performance of the Port Health Service is reported each quarter to the RTPHA Board meeting.

The standard of service provision is monitored on a regular basis by the PEHO. The type of activities monitored is based on the risk and potential impact of non-compliance with service procedures and standards. Monitoring will also be carried out on the activity and workload of each officer to ensure correct and consistent delivery of individual duties.

8. REVIEW

8.1. Review against the Service Plan

The commitments to the service plan, and associated performance indicators are monitored monthly by the team and discussed during team meetings. The performance is also reviewed during quarterly meetings with the Riparian Heads of Service and reported to the RTPHA Board.

The attached appendices report the performance of the service during 2024/25.

8.2. Identification of any Variation from the Service

The monthly reviews against the service plan will identify any significant variations against the service plan. The PEHO and the Head of Service will then identify any remedial action if required.

8.3. Areas of Improvement

The service has always carried out its routine food hygiene and standards inspections, has never refused a request for a renewal of a ship sanitation certificate, and all permitted processes have been audited annually, as required.

Performance review 2024-2025

Ship arrivals

A total of 2,899 ships visited the Tees during last year and this is broken down per authority as in the table below. There has been a decrease of 29 ships from the previous year.

| Authority | 2024 Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | 2025 Jan | Feb | Mar | Grand Total |
|--------------------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|------------|------------|----------------|
| Hartlepool | 96 | 99 | 98 | 104 | 104 | 100 | 106 | 90 | 89 | 105 | 93 | 102 | 1186 |
| Middlesbrough | 124 | 125 | 133 | 127 | 126 | 123 | 130 | 113 | 103 | 123 | 118 | 148 | 1493 |
| Redcar & Cleveland | 16 | 10 | 12 | 18 | 12 | 13 | 9 | 13 | 12 | 13 | 23 | 19 | 170 |
| Stockton | 4 | 8 | 3 | 9 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 0 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 50 |
| Grand Total | 240 | 242 | 246 | 258 | 246 | 240 | 250 | 219 | 204 | 246 | 237 | 271 | 2899 |

Ship inspections

A total of 78 ship sanitation inspections were carried out during 2024/2025. All 78 were exemption certificates, no control certificates were issued in 2024/2025.

A breakdown of inspection type and authority is listed in the table below.

| | 2024 Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | 2025 Jan | Feb | Mar | Grand Total |
|-------------------------------|-------------|----------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-------------|----------|----------|----------------|
| Hartlepool | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Exemption | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 4 |
| Routine | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Control | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Middlesbrough | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Exemption | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 8 |
| Routine | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Control | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Redcar & Cleveland | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Exemption | 2 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 30 |
| Routine | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Control | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Stockton | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| Exemption | 4 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 35 |
| Routine | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Control | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Grand Total | 10 | 6 | 2 | 10 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 9 | 3 | 12 | 6 | 4 | 78 |

Imported Food and Food Contact Materials

Since 30 April 2024, imports of Products of Animal Origin (POAO) from outside of Great Britain have been subject to official controls, this includes all POAO from the European Union. POAO is split into low, medium and high-risk imports with low and medium being the

majority of imports for the Authority. These are brought in under a Common Health Entry Document (CHED-P)

All of the imported food arrives via containers or trailers into the Redcar and Cleveland district and is detailed in the table below.

| | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar | Total |
|---------------------|-----|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| IUU Fish Imports | 114 | 112 | 99 | 120 | 64 | 86 | 125 | 117 | 67 | 90 | 111 | 68 | 1173 |
| HRFNAO | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 12 |
| CHED-P | 0 | 2080 | 1788 | 1989 | 1897 | 1962 | 2287 | 2088 | 1470 | 1838 | 1820 | 2018 | 21237 |
| Plastic Kitchenware | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Organics | 2 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 36 |
| | 116 | 2194 | 1890 | 2112 | 1969 | 2056 | 2418 | 2207 | 1543 | 1931 | 1933 | 2091 | 22460 |

Imported Feed

A total of 6888 consignments of animal feed were brought into Teesport in containers during 2024/25.

| Type of Feed | Number of Consignments |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| Pet Food | 6862 |
| Feed Mixture | 26 |
| Grand Total | 6888 |

Consignments of feed are brought in via containers and bulk ships, with quantities ranging from 15 tonnes in a container to 50,000 tonnes in a bulk vessel. Documentary and physical checks were carried out on all bulk imported feed consignments.

Philis (Port Health Interactive Live Information System) allows the team to report in more detail on feed imports this year which has dramatically increased our imports on previous years.

Infectious disease control

The global Covid-19 pandemic continued to decline throughout 2024/25 with all official controls lifted.

There were no incidents of infectious diseases notified during 2024/25.

Potable water analysis and jetty water analysis

Potable water samples are taken both following a request from the ship/agent, or by the officer attending the ship. The jetty locations are split between the authorities as detailed below. All jetty companies were visited, however, not all jetty points were in use or available at the time of sampling.

| Samples | Apr 24 | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan 25 | Feb | Mar | Total |
|-------------------|--------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------|-----|-----|-------|
| Ship Bact - Satis | 12 | 0 | 2 | 12 | 5 | 2 | 14 | 6 | 0 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 70 |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|----|---|---|----|----|---|----|----|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Ship Bacti - Unsatis | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 4 |
| Ship Legi - Satis | 13 | 4 | 2 | 14 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 61 |
| Ship Legi - Unsatis | 5 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 13 |
| Jetty Supplies - Satis | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8 |
| Jetty Supply - Unsatis | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 31 | 4 | 4 | 32 | 11 | 5 | 22 | 14 | 0 | 7 | 10 | 16 | 156 |

If any ship water samples are found to be unsatisfactory, we inform the ship or shipping agent without delay and provide advice on cleansing and disinfection of the water tanks and supply to all outlets. The ship is advised to resample after works are carried out.

Should any jetty samples be found to be unsatisfactory, we will provide advice on cleansing and disinfection of pipework, including regular flushing. Additional sampling would be carried out until a satisfactory result is obtained. The particular jetty supply cannot be used to supply potable water to ships until a satisfactory result is obtained.

Food hygiene and standards inspections

Of the four food premises under the authority's jurisdiction, four had a planned inspection. All registered food businesses are currently rated '5' – Very Good.

Environmental Protection

All three prescribed processes are on a planned inspection of once every two years. All three inspections were carried out during 2024/2025, as well as ad hoc visits carried out throughout the year to ensure compliance with permit conditions. No complaints were received relating to any of the permitted processes.

SERVICE DELIVERY 2025-2026

Ship arrivals

Around 3000 ships are expected to pass entrance into Teesport during 2025/2026 including small support vessels, sand dredgers, small cargo ships, LPG tankers, oil tankers, container ship and other specialised vessels.

All ships arriving into the Tees will be reported to the Board on a quarterly basis.

Ship inspections

Routine ship inspections will be carried out on a risk-based process depending on previous history or intelligence led information. All ships requesting a ship sanitation control/exemption certificate will be visited and an inspection carried out. Requests either come from the shipping agent or from the Captain of the vessel.

Imported Food

The service is keeping up to date with stakeholders on the impacts of the Target Operating Model implemented on 30 April 2024.

Port Health officers will ensure they are fully up to date with any new and emerging risks by reviewing and responding to Food Standards Agency alerts and notifications.

Bulk imported Feed

The authority has an agreement with PD Teesport bulk imports to advise PHA of any bulk consignments of feed from third countries that enter into Tees Dock. Depending on the type of feed and country of origin, documentary, identity and physical checks will be carried out as per legislative requirements. Bulk checks are carried out on potential offloading berths for feed from third countries.

The Philis IT system can also identify any containers/trailers of feed entering the UK.

Imported plastic kitchenware

Plastic kitchenware imports have declined over the years since the introduction of the 2011 legislation, the authority will carry out all documentary, identity and physical checks as per legislative requirements.

Organic certification

Any products requiring organic certification must provide the original organic certificate for authentication and verification.

Products of animal origin

Official controls for Products of Animal Origin (POAO) from the EU came into force at 00:01 on 30 April 2024. Following the first year of imports of this kind, the service anticipates around 6,500 medium risk and 14,500 low risk consignments will enter the Tees during 2025/26.

Manifest enquiries

Following the implementation of Philis, any ambiguously manifested items are automatically placed on hold, and require submission of commercial documents prior to release.

General enquiries

We will respond to all enquiries in a timely manner that provides minimal impact on the importer.

Infectious disease control

Under the International Health Regulations, the Master of a ship has a duty to notify the Port Health Authority of any infectious disease on board. We will investigate any reports of infectious disease and work with the Port Medical Officer in the UKHSA to prevent the spread of any infectious disease.

Potable water analysis

Potable water sampling will be undertaken at the request of ships' masters or shipping agents. Ship waters are analysed for microbiological safety, chemical content and presence of legionella. Requests are charged to the vessel, however should an officer highlight any concerns about a ships water supply, routing samples can be taken and these are free of charge through the UKHSA sampling allocations.

Jetty water analysis

There are 48 jetty and dockside water supply points around the port area that are sampled on at least a yearly basis. These points are sampled free of charge for microbiological quality and are paid for through UKHSA sampling allocations.

Food safety inspections

There are 4 food premises within the boundaries of River Tees Port Health Authority. Three of these are programmed to be inspected for food hygiene during 2025/2026.

If a complaint is received about food consumed on the premises, or the condition of the premises itself, an investigation will be carried out.

Food sampling at port premises may be carried out depending on intelligence, local and regional requirements and surveys.

Food Standards Inspections

There are three food standards inspections programmed for 2025/2026.

Food standard sampling may also be carried out depending on intelligence, local and regional requirements and surveys.

Environmental Protection

There are currently three prescribed processes within our jurisdiction, all of which will be subject to their annual programmed inspection. Any complaints or queries regarding the processes will be investigated by officers.

HORIZON SCANNING

Imports of Products of Animal Origin from the EU and Rest of World is a new service and income stream for the Port Health Authority which came into force on 30 April 2024. The impacts of this on the service continue to be closely monitored both from a staffing and financial perspective.

At the beginning of 2025, Germany lost its status as a Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) free country following an outbreak related to water buffalo. Following this incident, Hungary lost its FMD status, along with Slovakia and Austria as these countries were in the affected zones. This impacted the Authority as increased official controls were put in place.

An outbreak of Peste de Petit Ruminants in Bulgaria and Hungary also saw increased checks for products from the countries.

The Authority will keep up to date with new and emerging diseases that could have an impact on the authority.

Appendix 1 - Organisational Structure

