

**THE EXTENT OF AUDIT OF THE MHS**

1. At the November 2005 MHS Board meeting, members expressed an interest in seeing a summary of the extent to which the MHS is audited by external and internal audit bodies. The attached report provides the summary information for consideration.
2. Numerous audit bodies carry out assessment of MHS business activities. The scope of audit varies widely, from assessment of the whole MHS business system's compliance with the principles of accredited external standards to detailed audit of specific technical areas of service delivery.
3. Members will see from the table at annex 1 that eight audit bodies expend 2163 man-days on audit of the MHS, the substantial majority of the audit days are under the control of the MHS and FSA.

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## Summary of internal and external audit of MHS for 2005/06

## Annex 1

Assessment Body	Area of Assessment	Number of Audits	Audit man days	Notes
MHS VAU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Business Processes</li> <li>Service delivery                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>440 audits in plant</li> <li>30 contractor audits</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	20 470	350 1200	20 audit days in support of service delivery contractor audit
FSA	<p>England/Wales</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Service delivery in plant</li> <li>Processes supporting service delivery                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review of MHS internal audits</li> <li>Audits of MHS Regions</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Scotland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Service delivery in plant</li> </ul>	73 5  20	378 57  60	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increases to 100 plant audits (600 days) 2006/07</li> <li>Estimate for FSA Scotland – no plan established</li> </ul>
IIP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MHS investment in employees</li> </ul>		2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6 day audit every 3 years</li> </ul>
BSI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MHS business system compliance with                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ISO 9001:2000 standard</li> <li>BS7799 standard</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	2 1	12 2	
Charter Mark	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Customer Service Delivery</li> </ul>	1	2	
EU Food & Veterinary Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MHS delivery of official controls</li> </ul>	5	24	
National Audit Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Financial controls</li> </ul>	1	75	
Civil Service Recruitment Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recruitment policies and procedures</li> </ul>		1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ad hoc - 10 days in past 10 years</li> </ul>
<b>Total days</b>			<b>2163</b>	