



Written submission

Objective:

We want to understand how effectively the Environment Agency (EA) has been monitoring agricultural pollution through farm inspections. Your task is to analyse the **fictional** data in the table below on the number of farm inspections conducted over a five-year period (which you have received in response to a series of FOI requests you have made) and draw insights that could support River Action's campaigning and advocacy efforts.

Task:

1. Data Analysis

- Review the FOI data on farm inspections conducted by the EA over the past five years.
- Identify trends, gaps, or inconsistencies in the data (e.g., changes over time, enforcement actions).
- Assess whether the level of inspections aligns with the scale of agricultural pollution concerns.

2. Insight Development

- Highlight key evidence and takeaways that could inform public awareness campaigns, media engagement, or policy advocacy.
- Suggest possible reasons for any patterns you observe (e.g., policy shifts, budget constraints, enforcement priorities).
- If any data gaps exist, recommend what additional information might be needed and how to obtain it.

3. Presentation of Findings

- Summarise your findings in a clear and engaging format, such as a brief written report (max 2 pages) or a slide deck (4 slides).
- Include compelling data visualisations to illustrate key points.
- Conclude with recommendations on how River Action could use this data as evidence in its campaigns, media work, or lobbying efforts.

Fictional data set for written submission:



These Freedom of Information Requests relate to poultry and egg farms across the River Severn Catchment, specifically the three following sub-catchments partnerships as outlined by the Catchment Based Approach (CaBA): Teme, Severn Uplands, and Shropshire Middle Severn (the 'Sub-Catchments').

FOI Question	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
The number of EA farm inspections of permitted poultry and egg sites across the River Severn sub-catchments	23	79	114	108	79
The number of EA inspections across the sub-catchments where non-compliance with existing environmental regulations was identified	12	28	33	28	27
The number of enforcement actions carried out concerning non-compliance across the sub-catchments	6	9	8	11	13
The number poultry and egg farm inspections have been carried out on Red Tractor certified farms across the sub-catchments?	18	71	102	98	71
The number of inspections on Red Tractor certified farms that found non-compliance with existing environmental regulations?	7	34	22	21	16