



Abattoir provision in Scotland and opportunities for Mobile Slaughterhouses

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Contents

- SAWC and the Working Group
- Current Slaughter Provision in Scotland
- Animal Movement to Slaughter in Scotland
- Discussions with stakeholders
- Summary

Scottish Animal Welfare Commission

Scottish Animal Welfare Commission (SAWC)

- Established in 2020

12 members:

Scientists and researchers

Veterinarians

Policy advisors and lawyers

Practitioners



- Independent of Scottish Government

- Advises Ministers and Committees through reports and recommendations

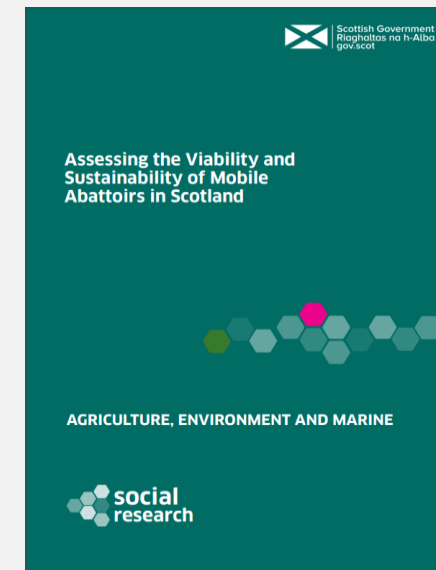
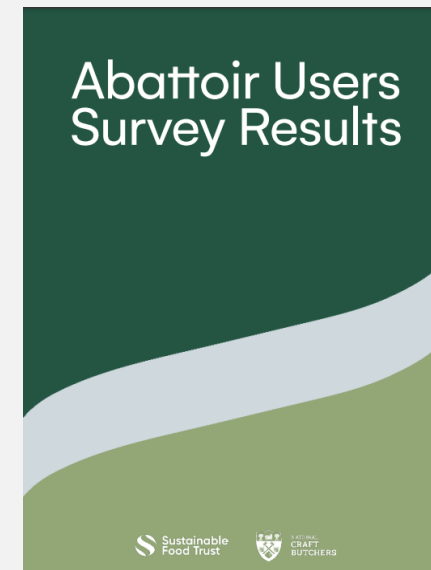
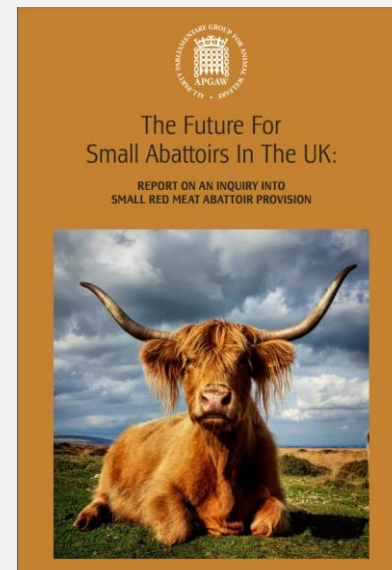
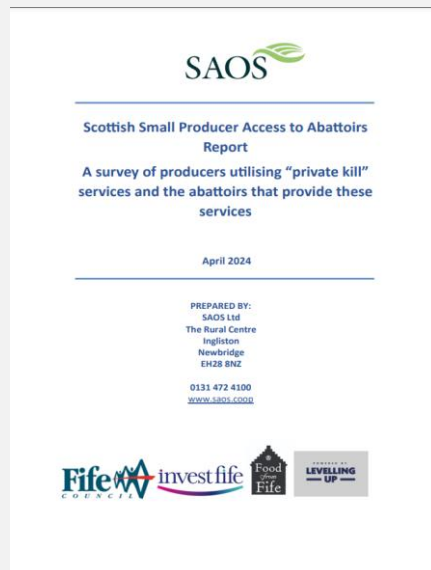
- Provides advice to request but also reports on areas of welfare concern



SAWC – Slaughter Working Group - Oct 2023 - Ongoing

Abattoir provision and opportunities for mobile slaughterhouses

From a Scottish perspective, to review the welfare issues around numbers of abattoirs and their geographical distribution; slaughter journey times; and the welfare of animals killed in mobile slaughterhouses.



Slaughter provision in Scotland - 2019

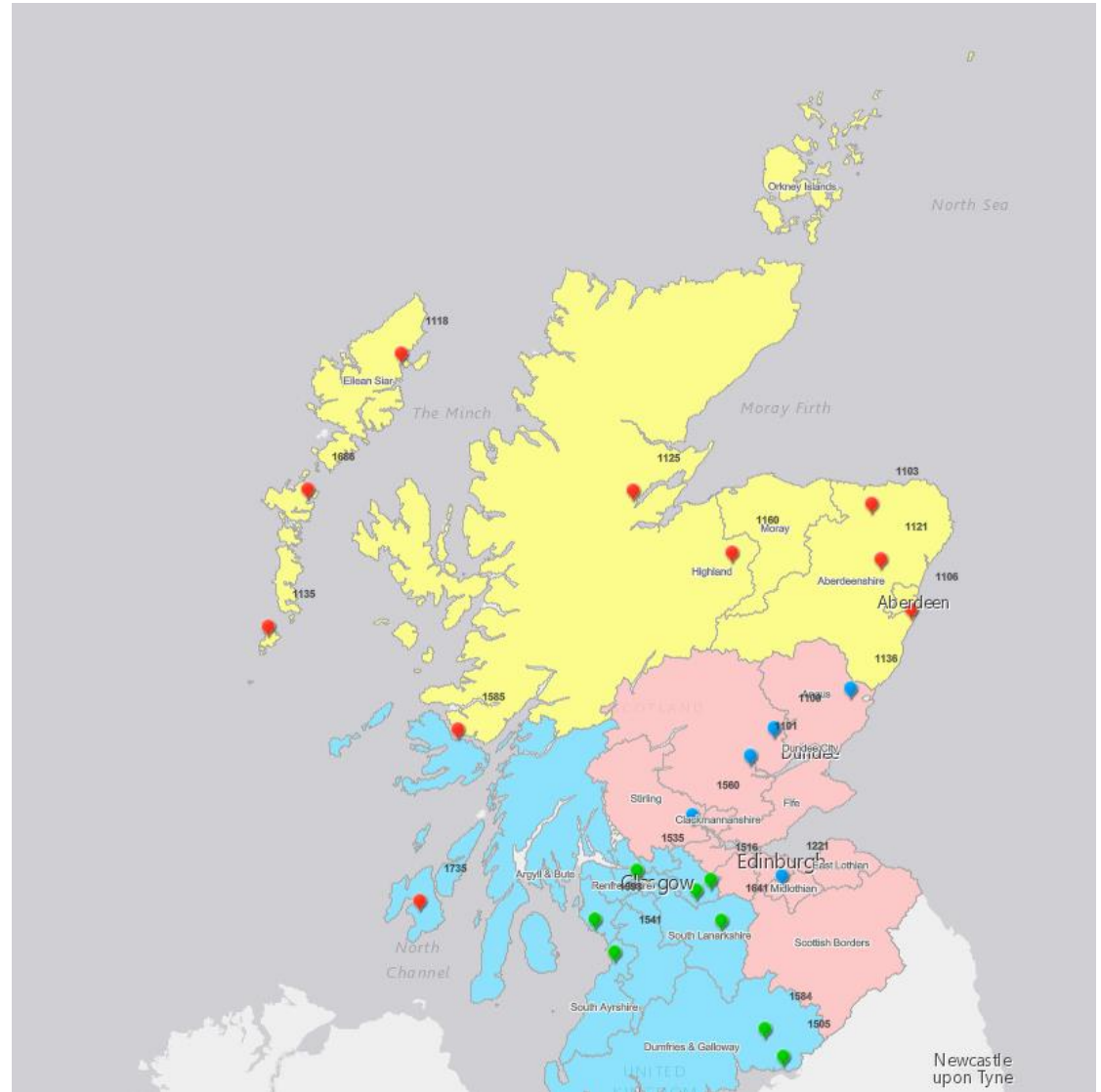
Abattoir Names and Locations		Livestock Slaughtered				Other e.g. Deer	Private Kill?
		Cattle	Sheep	Pigs	Goats		
Scottish Mainland Abattoirs							
Aberdeen	Kepak McIntosh Donald	Y	Y	N	N		No
Paisley, Sandyford	John Scott (Meat) Ltd	Y	Y	N	Y		Yes
Perth	ABP Scotland	Y	N	N	N		Yes
Inverurie	Scotbeef Inverurie Ltd	Y	Y	Y	Y		No
Grantown-on Spey	Millers of Speyside	Y	Y	Y	Y		Yes
Wishaw	PR Duff	Y	Y	Y	Y		Yes
Bridge of Allan	Scotbeef Ltd (Bridge of Allan)	Y	Y	N	N		No
Brechin	Quality Pork Scotland (Brechin)	N	N	Y	N		No
Turriff	Woodhead Bros	Y	Y	Y	Y		No
Lockerbie	Border Meats	Y	Y	Y	Y		Yes
Saltcoats	Dunbia Highland Meats (Dawn Meats)	Y	N	N	N		No
Ayr	AK Stoddart Ltd	Y	Y	Y	N		No
Dingwall	John M Munro	Y	Y	Y	Y		Yes
Ardrossan	J. Robertson & Sons (Hamcurers)	N	N	Y			No
Shotts	James Chapman	Y	Y	Y	Y		Yes
Nr Glenrothes	Stagison/Downfield	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Yes
Nr Melrose	Hardiesmill (Pasture to Plate)	Y	N	N	N		No
Island Abattoirs							
North Uist	Lochmaddy abattoir	Y	Y	Y	Y		Yes
Mull	Mull abattoir	Y	Y	Y	Y		Yes
Barra	Barra abattoir	Y	Y	Y	Y		Yes
Lewis	Western Isles Council	Y	Y	Y	Y		Yes
Islay	Avonvogie abattoir	Y	Y	Y	Y		Yes
Shetland	Shetland abattoir	Y	Y	Y	Y		Yes

Slaughter provision in Scotland

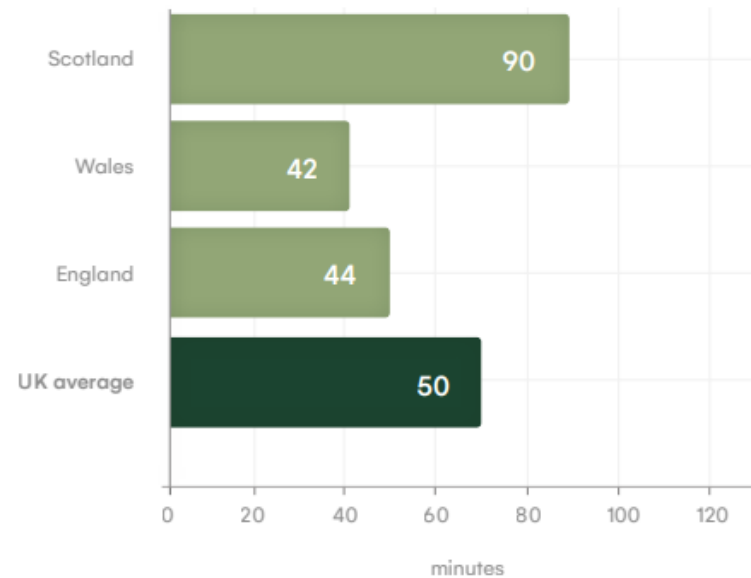
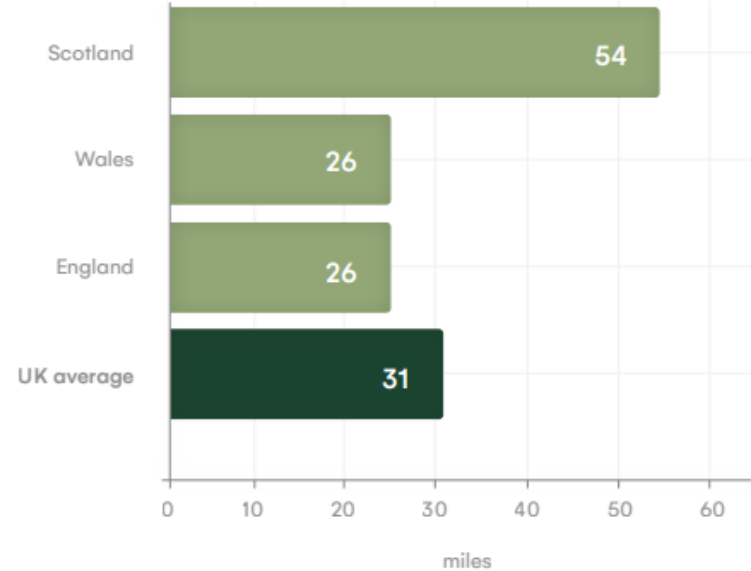
24 Approved Slaughter Establishments

18 on mainland – 6 on the Islands

Cattle (cattle only)	17 (3)
Sheep (sheep only)	18 (1)
Pigs (pigs only)	11 (1)
Broilers (poultry only)	2 (2)
Wild game (wild game only)	4 (0)
Mixed Species	17
Emergency Slaughter	6



Animal movement to slaughter



Animal Movement

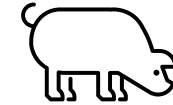
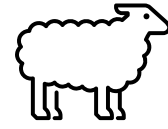
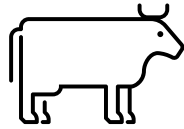


EPIC analysed livestock movement data from ScotEID for past 3 years to answer 4 questions.

1. **Number** of animals and journeys, **distance** and **duration** (average and maximum) per annum, of animal journeys originating in Scotland broken down by major livestock species, destination (Scotland, England or Wales) and by final activity (market or slaughter).
2. Are there **certain geographical areas** in Scotland from which livestock are more likely to embark on long (over 8-hour duration) journeys?
3. Are there **particular slaughterhouses** in Scotland for which animals arriving are more likely to have undertaken a long (over 8 hour) journey?
4. What proportion of livestock journeys originating in Scotland and terminating at a slaughterhouse in Scotland, England or Wales bypass a suitable alternative facility en-route? (i.e. **what proportion of animals are not killed at their nearest abattoir?**).

Animal Movement

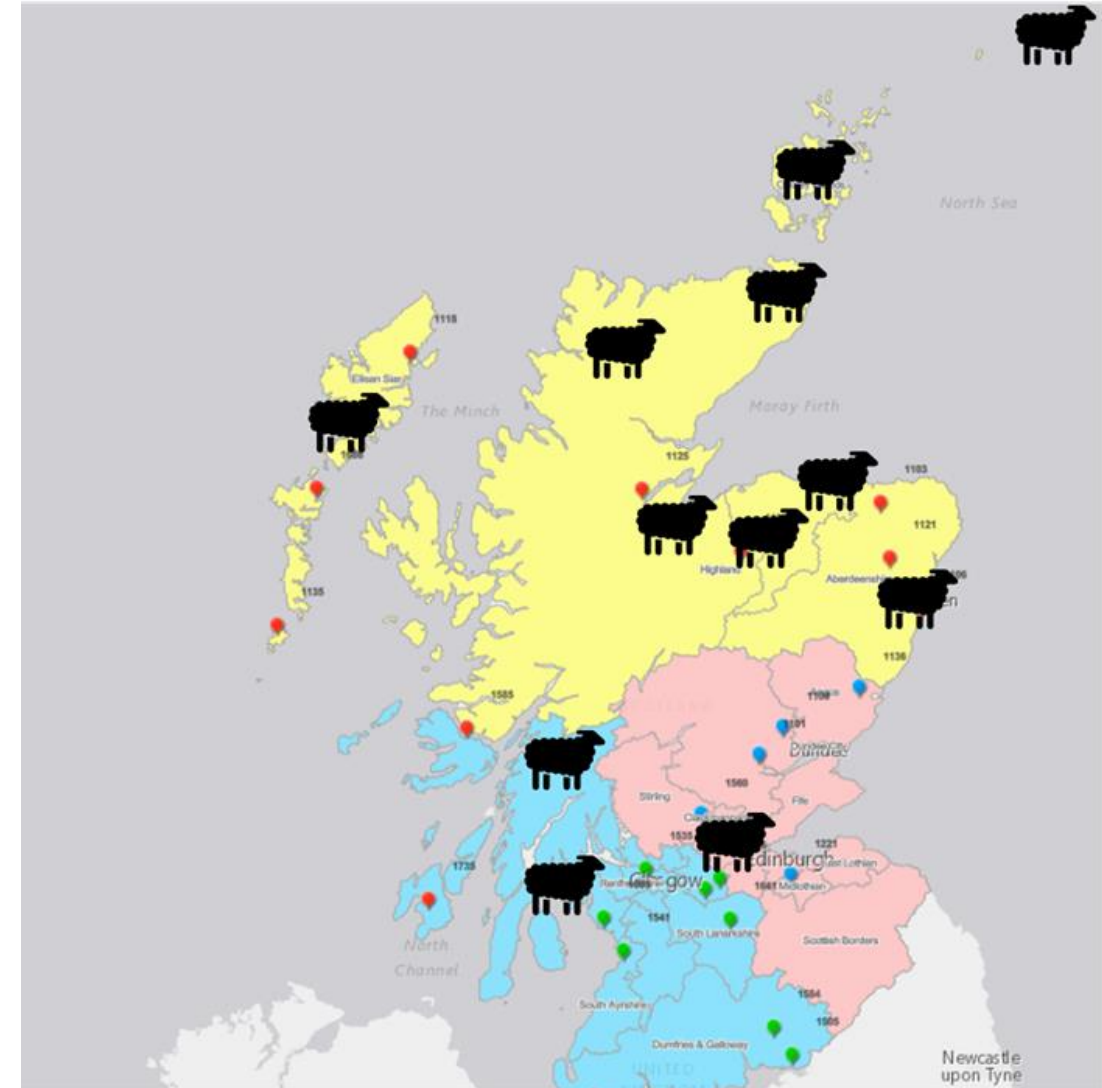
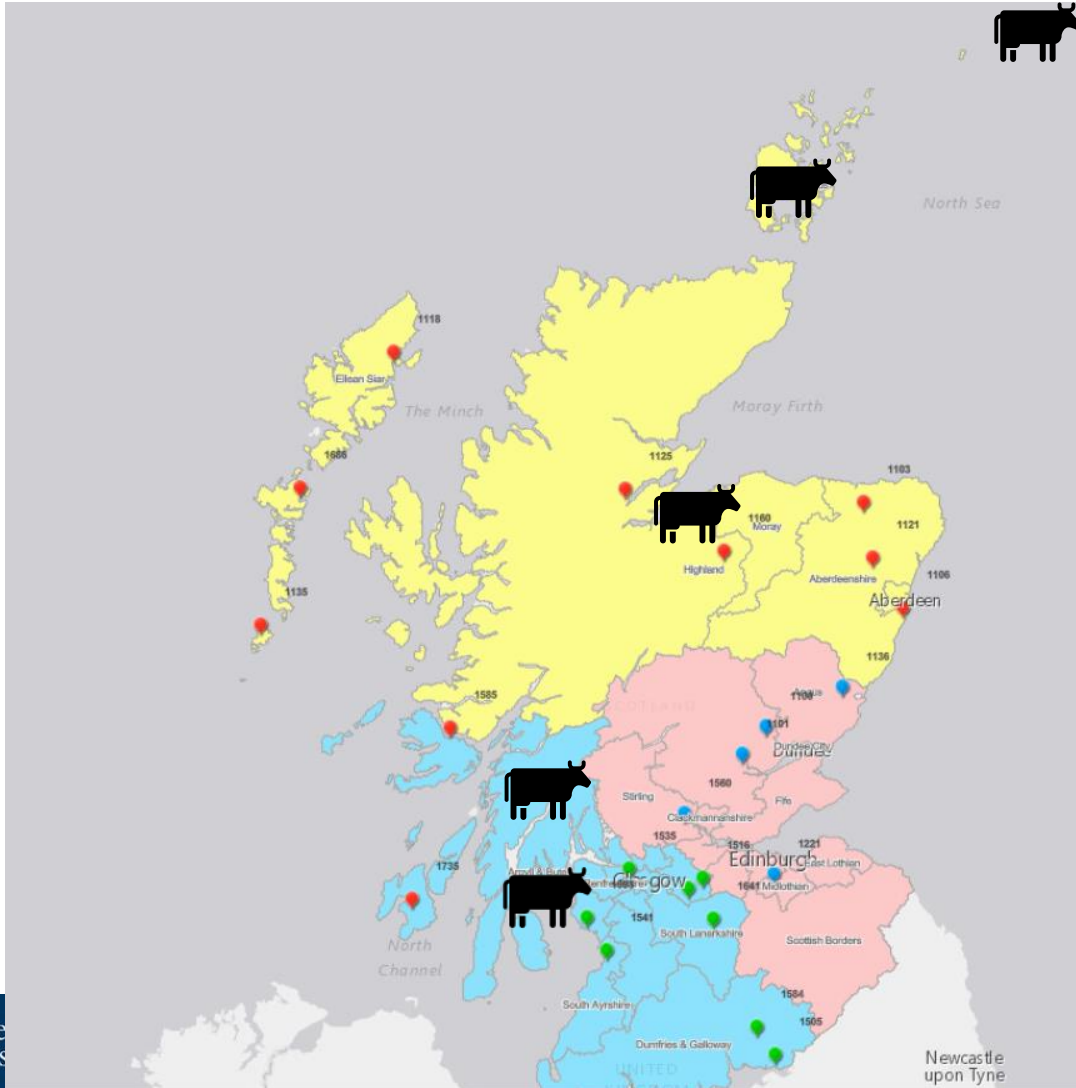
1. **Number** of animals and journeys, **distance** and **duration** (average and maximum) per annum, of animal journeys originating in Scotland broken down by major livestock species, destination (Scotland, England or Wales) and by final activity (market or slaughter).



Number 2021-2023	420,000	2 million	530,000
% slaughtered in Scotland	92%	46%	44%
Travel distance to slaughter in Scotland	Median – 58 miles Max – 637 miles	Median – 37 miles Max – 561 miles	Median – 58 miles Max – 363 miles
Travel duration to slaughter in Scotland	Median – 1.2 hours Max – 20.7 hours	Median – 1 hour Max – 19 hours	Median – 1.2 hours Max – 19.1 hours
Travel distance to slaughter in England/Wales	Median – 280 miles Max – 854 miles	Median – 264 miles Max – 852 miles	Median – 228 miles Max – 414 miles
Travel duration to slaughter in England/Wales	Median – 5.5 hours Max – 23.1 hours	Median – 5.5 hours Max – 24 hours	Median – 4.6 hours Max – 7.7 hours

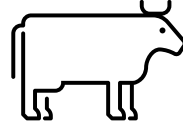
Animal Movement

2. Are there **certain geographical areas** in Scotland from which livestock are more likely to embark on long (over 8-hour duration) journeys?



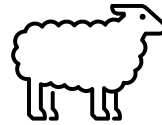
Animal Movement

3. Are there **particular slaughterhouses** in Scotland for which animals arriving are more likely to have undertaken a long (over 8 hour) journey?



Two slaughterhouses with >2% long journey (very small numbers)

No other had >0.5% long journey



Four slaughterhouses with >8% long journeys. One slaughterhouse - 37% of annual moves were over 8 hours.

Animal Movement

4. What proportion of livestock journeys originating in Scotland and terminating at a slaughterhouse in Scotland, England or Wales bypass a suitable alternative facility en-route? (i.e. **what proportion of animals are not killed at their nearest abattoir?**).

On average, approximately 71% of cattle, 77% of sheep, and 71% of pigs departing from Scottish holding to slaughter did not go to the slaughterhouse nearest to their point of departure.

Discussions with Stakeholders



Discussions with Stakeholders

Vulnerability

- Pigs/Poultry/Goats/Rare Breeds
- Reliance on 'big players'
- Once SH shut – very hard to reopen
- Being a small producer is challenging

Wider Economy

- Slaughter provision underpinning economy in Highlands and Islands
- Livestock farming sustains auxiliary industries
- Rural areas reliance on producing livestock
- Local service sought

Investment

- Small margins
- A new SH may take away from current kill of small/medium SH
- Build new vs maintain current
- Small abattoir grant scheme in England

Private Kill

- Logistics
- Private kill coordinator
- Small/Medium abattoirs – service provision – more difficult to add value

Transportation

- Ferries
- Number of transport companies decreasing, therefore increasing costs
- Overnight transport, need licence facility to unload animals
- Small producers take own vehicle

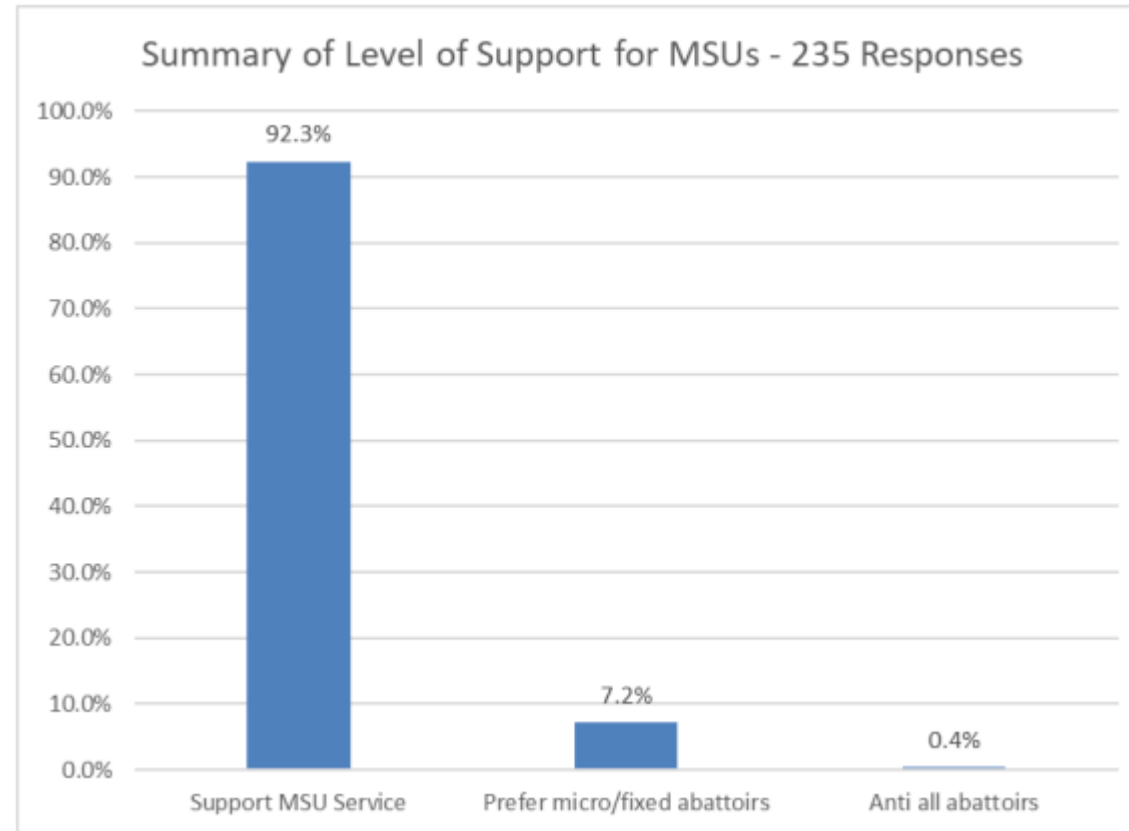
Discussions with Stakeholders

Labour

- Visas for overseas workers
- Lack of affordable housing
- Haulage drivers
- FSS costs/discounts
- Butchers

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 – to date
Total CoCs issued (of which born in/after 1980).	116 (31)	304 (97)	114 (53)	78 (42)	72 (46)	69 (46)	66 (43)	102 (67)	69 (52)	34 (27)
Only small plants - (of which born in/after 1980).	12 (3)	69 (19)	21 (12)	15 (4)	7 (5)	10 (9)	14 (11)	26 (20)	11 (8)	8 (6)

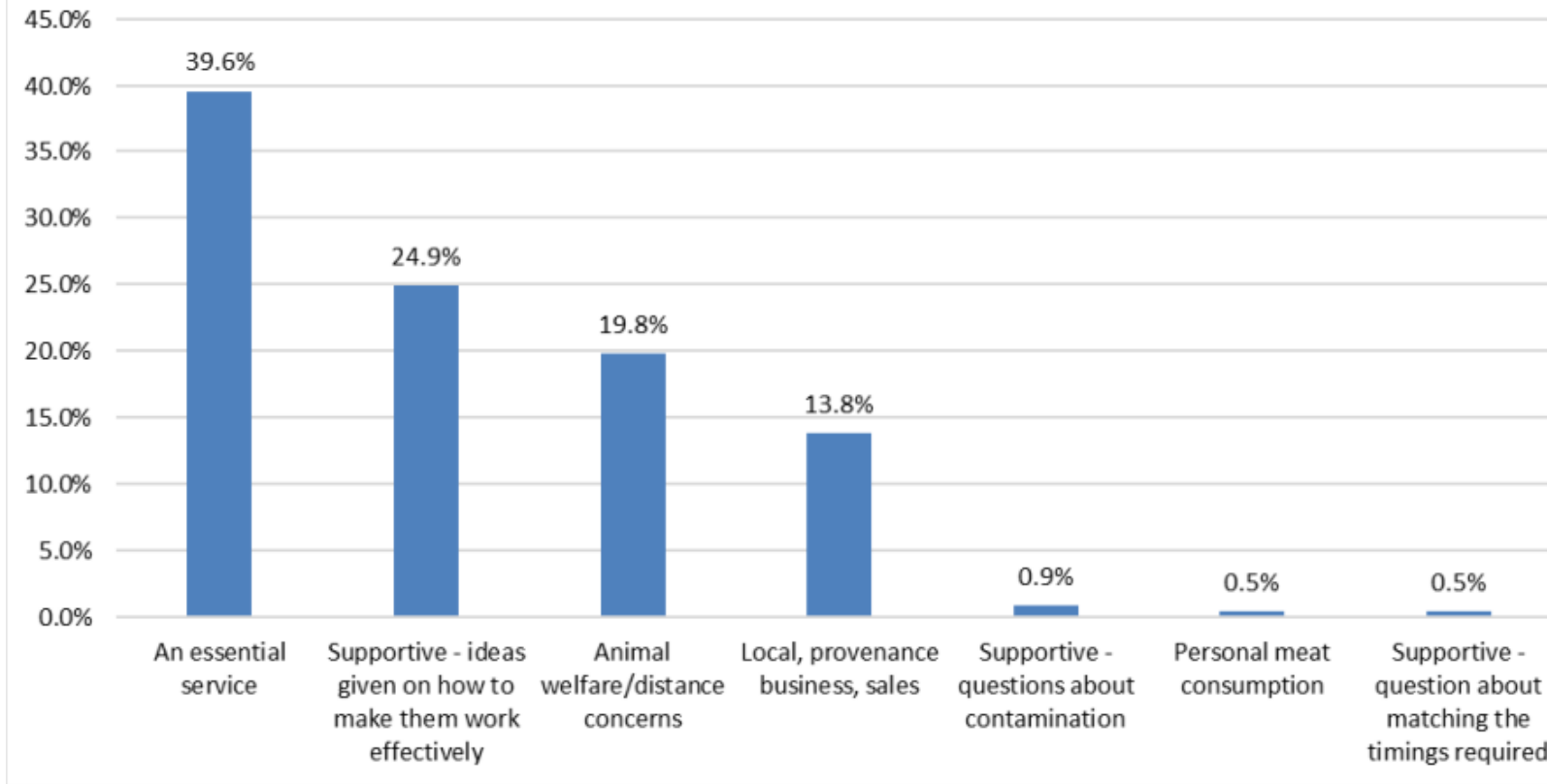
What about Mobile Slaughter Units?



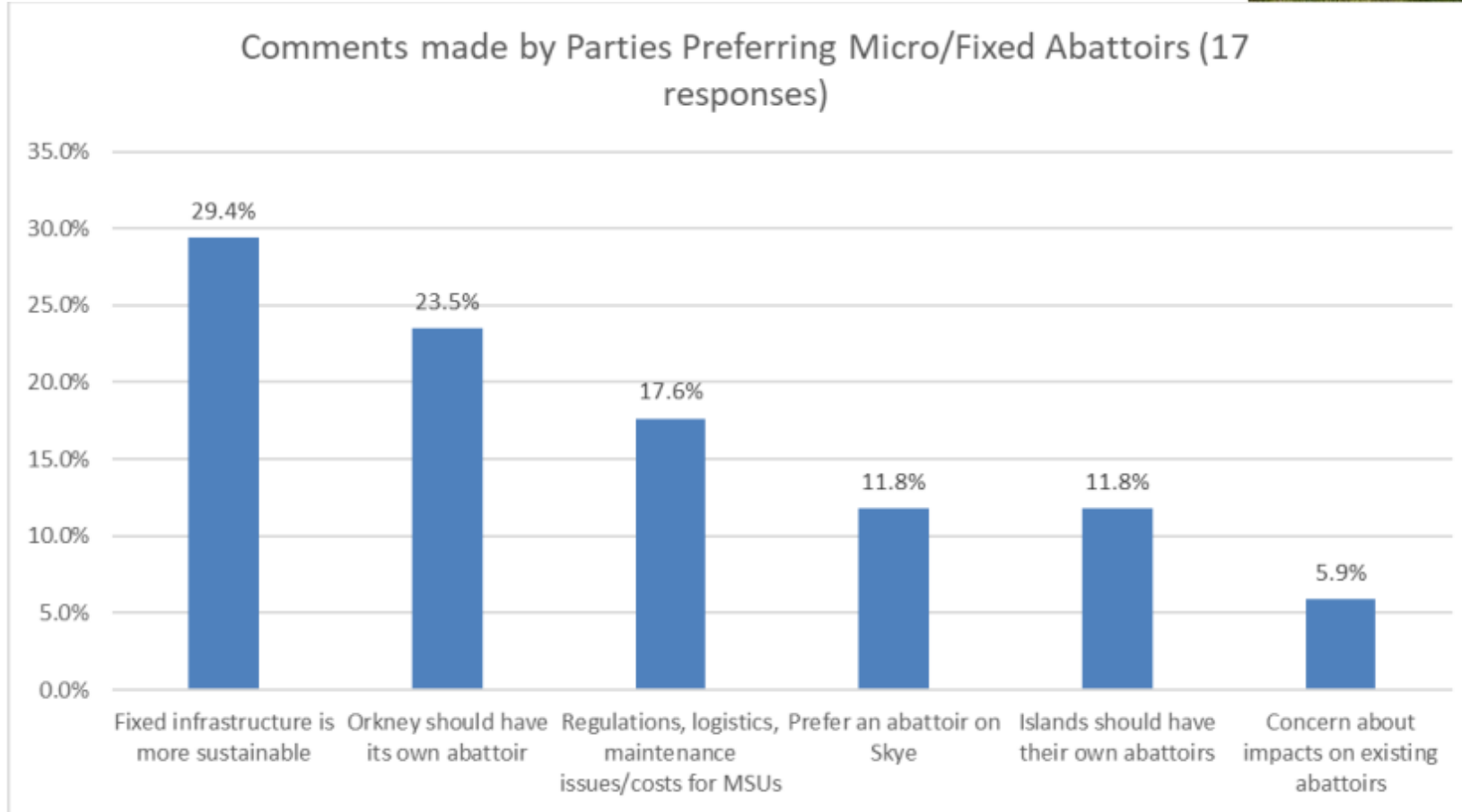
What about Mobile Slaughter Units?



Comments Made by Supportive Parties - 217 Responses



What about Mobile Slaughter Units?



What about Mobile Slaughter Units?



Benefits

- Providence can add value – niche products
- Can have excellent welfare – with experienced people and no time pressure
- Go places/slaughter animals not sought by permanent plants role in regenerative farming
- Collection centres/Hubs/seasonal market facilities



Challenges

- Economics – labour, energy, economies of scale
- Logistics – Chilling – storage – waste disposal – Health and safety.
- Can't be at the end of everyone's lane
- Timing — needed at the same time in every place.



Summary

- Scottish livestock can experience extensive transport times to slaughter
- Small and medium producers and slaughter sector both vulnerable
- Slaughter provision especially in rural areas is integral to economic and social prosperity
- Mobile slaughterhouses not necessarily favoured solution
- Full SAWC report – first half of 2025



Thanks for your attention

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