



XXXXXXX

XXXXXXXXXX

Our ref RFI 3822
Date 8th March 2011

Dear xxxxxxxx

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: average time between test and slaughter dates.

Thank you for your request for information about the average time between test and slaughter dates used in the figures sent to you in reply to your previous Freedom of Information request. We received your request on the 14th February and are dealing with it under the Freedom of Information Act.

We want to be as open as possible in answering requests but unfortunately it is not possible to provide the average delay between the test date and slaughter date. The amount of information you have requested is very substantial, and gathering it together would be likely to involve a significant cost and diversion of resources from the Department's other work. Although data is held for individual animals each test date needs to be correlated with the slaughter date for a particular animal.

It certainly seems likely that supplying the information you have requested would exceed the £600 cost limit, which the Government has set for dealing with FOIA requests. Therefore, under section 12 of the FOIA, Defra is not obliged to comply with your request and we will not be processing this request further. However, if you were to make a new request for a more narrow category of information, it may be that we could comply with that request within the appropriate limit, although I cannot guarantee that this will be the case.

The Act itself also requires us to help people obtain the information they are looking for. The best way we can help you is to ask you to consider narrowing down your request to focus more clearly on the precise information you are seeking. For example:

- if you specified a time period in your request, consider reducing it (eg if you requested information on a particular topic in the last 10 years, would you be content with information in the last 5 years?);

- browse through the material that has already been made publicly available on Defra's website www.defra.gov.uk to see if this would help you identify more precise questions that we might be able to answer at less cost.

If you are unable or unwilling to narrow down your request, please let Defra know. We will, of course, consider such a response in accordance with our obligations under the FOIA, which could mean that, in accordance with section 12 of the FOIA concerning cost limits for providing information, we are unable to provide you with the information that you are seeking. However, we wanted to give you an opportunity to reconsider your request and describe more precisely the information you wish to receive so that it falls within the cost limit mentioned in the third paragraph. Please note that if you modify your request, we will handle it as a new request.

Please let Defra know how you would like us to proceed.

Yours sincerely
TB Programme

Annexe A

Copyright

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Annex B

Complaints

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request you may make a complaint or appeal against our decision within 40 working days of the date of this letter. Please write to Brendan Walsh, Head of Defra's Information Rights Team at, Area1B Ergon House, Horseferry Road, London SW1P 2AL, (email: informationrights@defra.gsi.gov.uk) who will arrange for an internal review of your case. Details of Defra's complaints procedure can be found at:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/policy/opengov/complain/info.htm>

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Please note that generally the Information Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have first exhausted Defra's own complaints procedure. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF