



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

Animal and Plant Health Agency
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Our Ref: ATIC00861

2 June 2016

PROVISION OF REQUESTED INFORMATION

Thank you for your request for information about cattle reactors, which we received on 9 May 2016. Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

The information you requested and our response is detailed below:

“Please send to me the annual number of cattle reactors per 1000 skin tests on a bovine in England when performing routine whole herd tests on the following herd sizes in each of the last 2 years.

1-10

11-50

51-100

101-200

201-300

>300

As such, please send to me 6 numbers for 2014 and 6 numbers for 2015.”

Following a search of our paper and electronic records, I have established that the information requested is not held by APHA.

This type of information is recorded in APHA’s internal system, called SAM. APHA have SAM data about TB tests (e.g. Country, CPHH, date of test, number of animals tested, the number of animals not tested). We also have SAM data about individual animals that were slaughtered because there was a reactor at a TB test (eg CPHH, date of

slaughter). There is no direct link between which TB test triggered the slaughter of which individual animal in SAM.

By running two separate reports for the 2 year period and trying to join the data by CPH number, APHA would have to make certain assumptions to try and generate any potential data. So for example, we would have to assume that the animal was slaughtered because it was a reactor on the most recent test on the herd.

In line with the definition of 'data held' under Freedom of Information Act, which says if the Public Authority can identify the building blocks, extract and then manipulate them in some way to present the information in the way requested, then, depending what is involved in carrying out these tasks will have a bearing on whether the information is held.

In this case we can identify the building blocks but manipulating them in any way would not present the results for the information requested, therefore this information is not held.

I attach an Annex which explains should you be unhappy with the service you have received.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact the Access to Information Team at the email address below or postal address at the top of this letter.

Yours sincerely

ACCESS TO INFORMATION TEAM

Email: enquiries@apha.gsi.gov.uk

Annex

Copyright

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Complaints

If you are unhappy with the result of your request for information you may request an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this letter.

If you wish to request an internal review, please contact: The Access to Information Team at enquiries@apha.gsi.gov.uk or at the postal address at the top of this letter, who will arrange for an internal review of your case.

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 APHA's own complaints procedure. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

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