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13th July 2013

Dear Sir / Madam,

Ref: Bovine TB: Historical county herd data in England

Further to my request for information which I sent to you 4 months ago on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2013 (see Ref 1 attached which also includes your reply), I would be grateful if you could now either

(a) send to me data since 2008 which is consistent with data which you kindly downloaded from VETNET on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2009 (RFI 2583. See Ref 2 attached), or if this is not appropriate,

(b) send to me all data from 1998 onwards.

I would like to use this data to plot the proportion of cattle herds which have been restricted due to a TB incident at some point during each year. I would like to plot this proportion against year from 1998 to 2012 for each county in England.

If you can oblige, please state if the figures which you provide refer to the total number of herds which were restricted at least once during the year, or the total number of herd incidences which occurred. If there is a choice I would prefer the former as I will be dividing the figures provided by the total number of herds in each county.

It is important that you include in the data both the number of restricted herds and also the total number of cattle herds which exist. You provided both sets of numbers in your 24<sup>th</sup> March 2009 reply (RFI 2583 Ref 2 attached).

I very much hope that subsequent to you kindly sending to me this data on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2009, this capability still exists and that no data needed to provide this service has been lost, or is continuing to be lost, in budget cuts and changes to your data collection and processing systems.

If possible, please treat this as a Freedom of Information request.

Responses by email will be preferred.

Yours faithfully,

xxxxxxx|

#### References

1. bovine-tb-historical-county-herd-data-in-england-march-2013.pdf
2. englandcountiesdata.pdf



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk  
www.defra.gov.uk

**Our ref: RFI 5713**  
**Date: 20<sup>th</sup> August 2013**

Dear x x x x x

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Historical county herd data in England.**

Thank you for your request for information about historical county herd data in England from 1998, which we received on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2013. We have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

As noted in our correspondence to you on the 11<sup>th</sup> March 2013, the continuity of herd data back to 1996 has not been lost and will be completed following a wider public consultation on bTB statistics. As yet, this public consultation has not yet taken place and so we are still not in a position to produce the historic time series.

However, we want to be as open as possible in answering requests and so we have specifically considered your request for this information under the FOIA, irrespective of the public consultation having not yet been completed. The FOIA itself also requires us to help people obtain the information they are looking for. Unfortunately, the amount of information you have requested is very substantial, and gathering it together would involve a significant cost and diversion of resources from the Department's other work .

Section 12(1) of the FOIA allows us to refuse a request for information if we estimate that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit, which currently stands at £600. On the basis of our estimates, we consider that the cost would exceed this limit and, as such, we are refusing your request.

However, if you were to make a new request for a narrower 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.

Please note that if you modify your request, we will handle it as a new request and so the 20-working-day deadline for responding to requests would then commence from the date that we receive the modified request.



I attach an annex giving contact details should you be unhappy with the service that you have received.

If you have any queries about this letter please contact me.

Yours  
bTB Statistics Team

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