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6<sup>th</sup> March 2013

Dear Sir / Madam,

## **Ref: Bovine TB: Historical county herd data**

I would like to obtain a picture of how bovine TB has progressed in herds in the last 15 years in each county of England and Wales. I think I am unable to obtain this picture from data which you are currently presenting on the DEFRA web site in Reference 1.

There appears to be 2 issues with this presented data.

(a) Data only goes back to 2008.

(b) It is not possible to derive annual figures from the presented monthly figures. (Cases are accounted for multiple times depending on how many months each herd breakdown covers)

I see that both the RoI and NI make annual herd data available in References 2 & 3 respectively. Up until recently, DEFRA made annual herd data available in Reference 4 from 1998 to 2010. I think it was possible to download such data from Reference 1.

Please confirm if you can either

(a) make available annual herd data for 2011 and 2012 which is consistent with data in Reference 4, or, if this is not appropriate,

(b) derive new herd data for each county and year from 1998 to 2012.

I found the herd data which you made available from 1998 to 2010 very useful as it gave a very clear picture of how bovine TB has progressed over these 13 years both over time and area. These data appeared to give a cleaner picture than the animal data. This is evident in the 2 charts shown below (Figs 76 and 84) which were created as described in References 5 & 6.

If you can oblige, please state if the figures provided 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.

Please also provide the number of herds in each county for each year from 2009 to 2012 and hence extend on the data which you previously kindly provided in Reference 7.

I think it would be a great shame if are are unable to oblige and continuity of herd data has been lost.

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

Responses by email will be preferred.

Yours faithfully,

XXXXXXXXXX.

## References

1. <http://www.defra.gov.uk/statistics/foodfarm/landuselivestock/cattletb/national/>
2. <http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/animalhealthwelfare/diseasecontrol/bovinetbbrucellosiseradicationschemes/statistics/tbstats/>
3. <http://www.dardni.gov.uk/index/dard-statistics/animal-disease-statistics>
4. <http://www.bovinetb.info/docs/bovine-tb-county-herd-statistics-gb-regional.pdf>
5. <http://www.bovinetb.info/tb-restricted-herds-in-england-by-county.php>
6. <http://www.bovinetb.info/tb-reactor-cattle-in-england-by-county.php>
7. <http://www.bovinetb.info/docs/englandcountiesdata.pdf>

## TB restricted herds in England by county (%).

1998 to 2010 data smoothed by 5-point Hanning window.

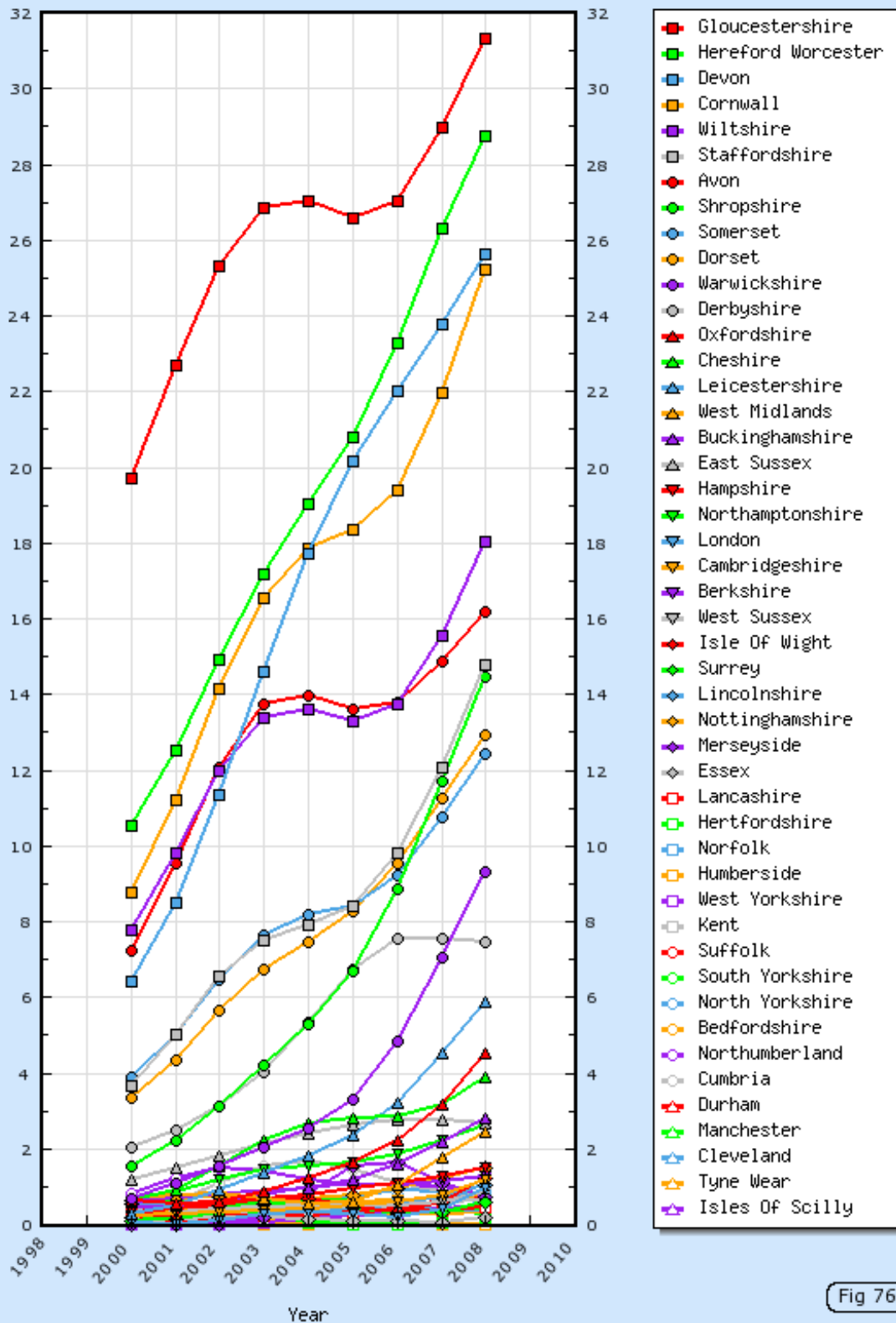


Fig 76

### TB reactor cattle in England by county (%).

Data from 2003 to 2010 smoothed by 5-point Hanning window.

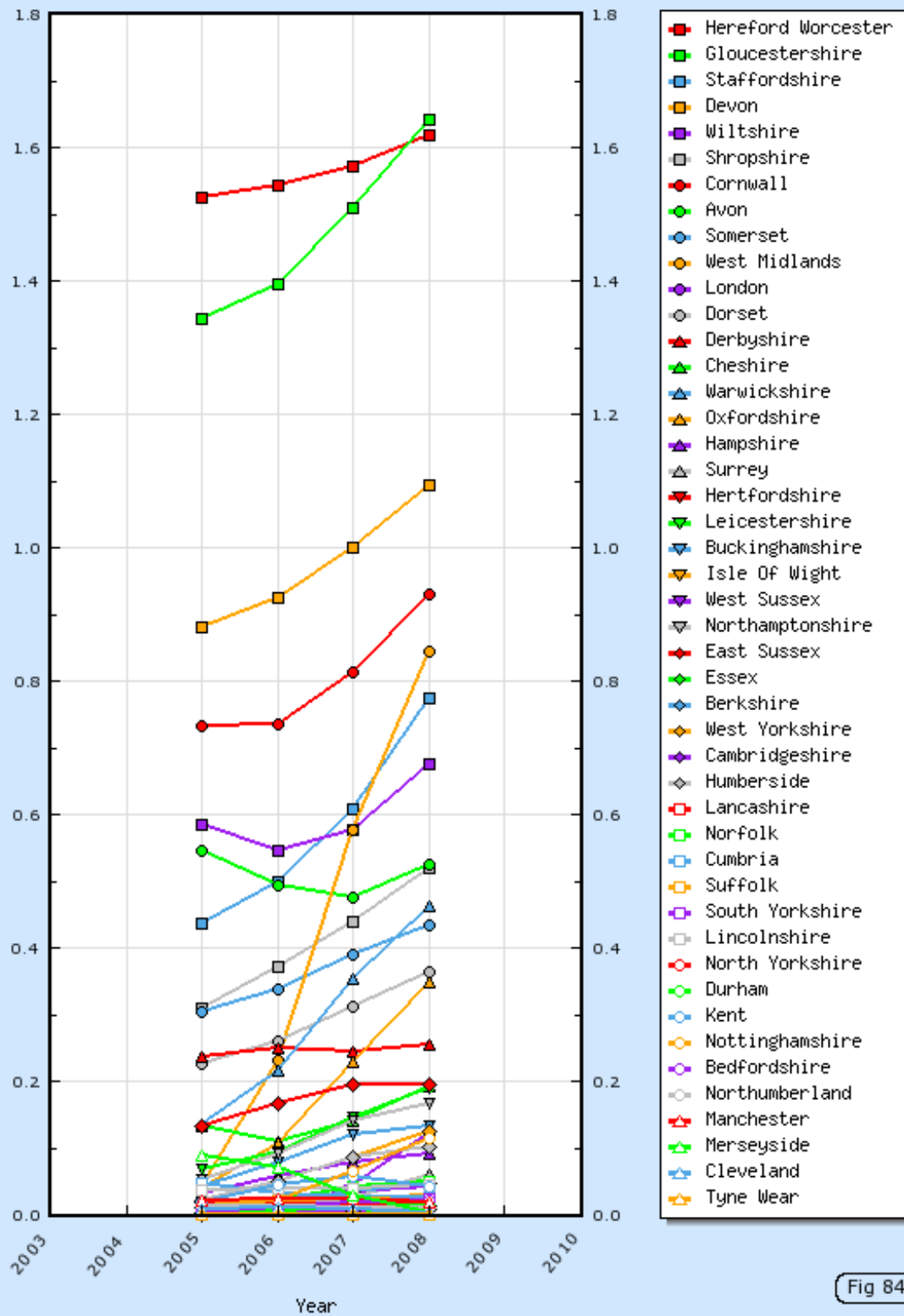


Fig 84

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: "TB Statistics (FFG-EKBES)" <[tbstatistics@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:tbstatistics@defra.gsi.gov.uk)>  
Sent: 11/03/2013 15:34:54  
Subject: RE: Bovine TB: Historical county herd data

Dear [xxxxxxx](#),

Thank you for your correspondence regarding bovine TB statistics.

Please be aware that revisions to the historic time series were published in April 2012. Information regarding these revisions can be found on the Defra website here:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/statistics/foodfarm/landuselivestock/cattle/historical-revisions/>

It is for this reason that the historic time series you have referred to (your reference 4) is no longer published on the Defra website, as the statistics are no longer current.

It is because of these revisions that the whole time series needs to be redone back to 1996. As you have noted, county level statistics are only currently available from 2008. Earlier years have not yet been calculated and published because we will shortly be carrying out a public consultation (within the next couple of months) on the way that we present the headline statistics, and on the way that we publish regional statistics. Once this consultation has been carried out, we will then produce the time series back to 1996. There is little value in us producing earlier years at the moment. This would take a significant amount of time and the outcome of the consultation might require the time series to be redone once again. Please be assured however, that the continuity of the herd data has not been lost and will be published in due course.

Kind regards,  
TB Statistics Team

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: [xxxxxxxxxxxx](#)  
To: "TB Statistics (FFG-EKBES)" <[tbstatistics@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:tbstatistics@defra.gsi.gov.uk)>  
Sent: 11/03/2013 21:14:10  
Subject: Re[2]: Bovine TB: Historical county herd data

Dear TB Statistics Team,

Thank you for your reply below and confirming that continuity from 1996 will be maintained.

Unless I hear otherwise I will assume that, when such data is eventually published, it will still be possible to derive the proportion of cattle and herds in each county which were infected in each year from (a) data which you publish on your web site and (b) numbers of herds and total numbers of cattle which existed in each county and year. I think the data in (b) either needs to be requested separately or retrieved from other sources. I see you were able to supply me with the number of herds in each county from 1998 to 2008 in Reference 1.

Kind regards,

[xxxxxxxxxxxx](#).

Reference

1. Freedom of Information request. Provision of Information. [RFI 2583](#)