



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

14 January 2009

Request for Information – reference 3015

I wrote to you on 18 December 2008 following your request for information sent to the Freedom of Information Officer.

In your email of 12 December 2008 you asked for the following information:

1. The number of cattle herds in Wales which have been issued with a restriction due to the results of a bovine TB test any time during the 12 month period from 1 January to 31 December for each of the years 1998 to 2007 inclusive.
2. The total number of registered cattle herds in Wales for each of the years 1998 to 2007 inclusive.
3. Estimates for these two figures for 2008.

You subsequently clarified your request on 18 December 2008 to include the total number of herds in Wales where animals are kept; not to include registered holdings where animals have been sold.

I have enclosed some of the information you have requested below:

The statistics on the number of herds under restriction as a result of a TB incident at some time during the 12 month reporting period (1 January to 31 December) have been extracted from documents published at the following links:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/tb/stats/county.htm> and
<http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/tb/stats/latest.htm>.

It should be noted that the number of herds under restriction includes cases following on-farm TB tests and TB surveillance testing at slaughterhouses.

TB Team
Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ

English Enquiry Line 0845 010 3300
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0845 010 4400

Unfortunately estimates for the number of cattle herds under restriction in Wales and the number of herds registered in Wales for 2008 are not recorded. I have, however, included year to date statistics up until September 2008 which are the most up to date figures available at this time. For comparative purposes, figures for the total number of herds are, therefore, taken as of September for each year. If you would prefer figures as of December each year, please let me know.

With regard to the total number of herds registered, the figures below include populated herds; herds that have been sold/dispersed have been excluded. This is on the condition that Animal Health staff were notified by owners that they no longer keep livestock. It should be noted that this is not always the case. Additionally, the figures cannot account for any temporary measures i.e. livestock owners dispersing herds and restocking some months later.

Year	Total Herds (Sep)	Total Herds Under Restriction
1998	18738	312
1999	18728	398
2000	18313	409
2001	17976	357
2002	17830	812
2003	17123	1066
2004	15989	1073
2005	15077	1182
2006	14903	1273
2007	14139	1515
2008	13875	1610

Note:

When interpreting these statistics, the caveats at the following link should be taken into account: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/tb/stats/usingstats.htm>

Any information released under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 or Environmental Information Regulations 2004 will be listed in the Assembly Government's Disclosure Log (at www.information.wales.gov.uk).

If you believe that I have not followed the relevant laws, please contact me to request a first stage review. If, after that, you are still not satisfied you may request a second stage review by the Assembly Government. When dealing with any concerns, we will follow the Assembly Government's Code of Practice on Complaints which is available on the Internet at www.wales.gov.uk or by post.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. Normally, however, you should pursue the matter through our internal procedure before you complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Tel: 01625 545 745

Fax: 01625 524 510
Email: enquiries@ico.gsi.gov.uk

Also, if you think that there has been maladministration in dealing with your request then you may make a complaint to the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales who can be contacted at:

Public Services Ombudsman for Wales
Ffordd yr Hen Gae
Pencoed
Bridgend
CF35 5LJ

Yours sincerely

TB Team
Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer