



Our Ref: ATIC2357

[REDACTED]
{By Email}

18 March 2021

Dear [REDACTED]

PROVISION OF REQUESTED INFORMATION

Thank you for your request for information regarding culling and disposal of infected birds which we received on 2 March 2021. Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI).

The information you requested and our response is detailed below:

"I seek the below information as held by APHA relating to the culling / disposal of birds infected with avian flu from December 2020 to now.

how many birds were culled, what types and how were they culled was the culling humane in all cases? :

What types of humane killing was carried out."

Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) can confirm the following in response to each of your questions:-

How many birds were culled from December 2020 to now as part of the avian influenza response?

- 165,048 birds were culled from December 1st 2020 to date as part of the response to the avian influenza outbreak.

What types of birds were culled?

- Birds of prey
- Chickens
- Ducks
- Geese
- Partridges
- Pheasants
- Swans
- Turkeys

How were they culled?

- Non penetrative percussive blow (via a Cash Poultry Killer)
- Cervical dislocation
- Containerised Gassing Units (CGU)
- Free bullet
- Lethal injection

Was the culling humane?

- Yes. All of the culling methods used are compliant with the requirements set out in the Welfare at Time of Killing regulations. APHA appoint an APHA Welfare Vet to monitor APHA staff and contractors undertaking the culling activity. Legislation requires that a secondary culling method is available should there be any issues/problems with the first chosen method.
- Further information about culling activities can be found in the Great Britain Notifiable Avian Disease Control Strategy (p. 27):
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/notifiable-avian-disease-control-strategy>

What types of humane killing were carried out?

- Please see answer above in response to the 'How were they culled?'

Information disclosed in response to this FOI request is releasable to the public. In keeping with the spirit and effect of the FOI and the government's Transparency Agenda, this letter and the information disclosed to you may be placed on GOV.UK, together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context. No information identifying you will be placed on the GOV.UK website.

An Annex is attached which explains the copyright that applies to the information being released to you and contact details 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. During the current Coronavirus outbreak, our offices will be closed.

Yours sincerely

ACCESS TO INFORMATION TEAM

Email: enquiries@apha.gov.uk

Annex

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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 under section 17(7) of the FOIA or under regulation 11 of the EIRs, as applicable, within 40 working days of the date of this letter. Please write to the Access to Information Manager at the address at the top of this letter or email enquiries@apha.gov.uk and the team will arrange for an internal review of your case.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, section 50 of the FOIA and regulation 18 of the EIRs gives you the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) for a decision. Please note that generally the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have first exhausted APHA's own complaints procedure. The ICO can be contacted at:

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

Coronavirus

If you need to contact the ICO during the Coronavirus pandemic, it's best to do so online. Please click [here](#) for contact details. You can also call them on 0303 123 1113.