



Our Ref: ATIC2744

[REDACTED]  
{By Email}

11 May 2022

Dear [REDACTED]

## PROVISION OF REQUESTED INFORMATION

Thank you for your request for information about Plant Health and Seed Inspectors, which APHA received on 12 April 2022. Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000.

The information you requested and the response is detailed below:

Please could you supply me with:

1. "The number of Plant Health and Seed Inspectors currently in post."

PHA currently has a total of 320 Plant Health & Seed Inspectors covering work inland and recruited for work at Border Control Posts.

2. "The number of Plant Health and Seed Inspectors in post that are fully trained."

Out of 320 inspectors, 287 are trained inspectors and the remaining 33 inspectors will have completed their initial training by 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2022. Ongoing training and professional development is undertaken in specialist areas of work.

3. "The number of planned or operative Plant Health and Seed Inspector posts that are currently vacant."

We currently have 191 vacancies as a result of ongoing churn and as we ramp up towards the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022 new inspection regime. Recruitment campaigns are live for additional Border Control Post staff. Further recruitment campaigns for inland roles will be launching shortly.

4. "The number of Plant Health and Seed Inspectors that have been recruited in 2022 so far, and in each of the past five years."

A total of 270 Inspectors have been recruited over the last 5 years, detailed in the table below at Q5.

5. “The number of Plant Health and Seed Inspectors that have left (including those that have moved to another role) in 2022 so far, and each of the past five years.”

There has been a total of 84 (leavers/retirements) over the past 5 years. 81 staff moved to either a new region or role (e.g. promotion from Executive Officer Inspector to Higher Executive Officer Inspector) and are not included in the table below as they remain within the Inspectorate.

Year	New starters	Leavers / Retirements
2017	2	5
2018	46	3
2019	44	8
2020	119	8
2021	50	52
2022	9	8

6. “The basic salary for a Plant Health and Seed Inspector in each of the past ten years”

Plant Health & Seeds Inspectors are employed at both Executive Office (EO) and Higher Executive Officer (HEO) grades in APHA.

Effective date	EO		HEO	
	Min	Max	Min	Max
01/04/2001	£15,250	£24,752	£19,000	£29,120
01/08/2001	£15,750	£25,502	£19,500	£29,870
01/04/2002	£16,950	£26,115	£21,100	£30,890
01/04/2003	£17,850	£27,350	£22,300	£32,100
01/04/2007	£18,675	£27,350	£23,150	£32,100
01/04/2008	£20,250	£27,350	£26,000	£32,100
01/04/2009	£20,710	£27,630	£26,590	£32,430
01/07/2009	£22,698	£25,903	£26,745	£30,923
01/07/2012	£22,698	£25,903	£27,013	£31,233
01/07/2014	£22,820	£26,040	£27,400	£31,680
01/07/2016	£23,250	£26,040	£28,040	£31,680
01/07/2017	£23,480	£26,180	£28,320	£31,840
01/07/2018	£23,950	£26,320	£28,604	£31,920
01/07/2019	£24,429	£26,452	£28,890	£32,000
01/07/2020	£24,918	£26,584	£29,179	£32,160
01/07/2021	£24,918	£26,584	£29,179	£32,160

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 or postal address at the top of this letter.

Yours sincerely

**ACCESS TO INFORMATION TEAM**

Email: [enquiries@apha.gov.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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.