



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

Animal and Plant Health Agency
Access to Information Team
Weybourne Building
Ground Floor
Woodham Lane
New Haw
Addlestone
Surrey
KT15 3NB

F 01932 357608

www.gov.uk/apha

[REDACTED]
{By Email}

Our Ref: ATIC1062

26 April 2017

Dear [REDACTED]

PROVISION OF REQUESTED INFORMATION

Thank you for your clarified request for information about TB in foxhounds, which we received on 27 March 2017. Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

The information you requested and our response is detailed below:

“Can you please tell me how many Fox Hounds have been tested for Bovine Tuberculosis, what testing procedures were used and how many have tested positive.

I would define Foxhounds as dogs kennelled by organised hunts.”

Clarity was then sought on the period of time you wished the information to cover:

“Please give me information from 2010 onwards if information is available, i understand there is a current round of testing so please include all latest information on testing and whether any current programme is ongoing or complete to save further requests.”

A request made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) is a request for information a Public Authority holds in recorded form at the time of the request. If not recorded at that time then it is deemed not to be held.

Between 2010 and 27 March 2017 (date of your request) the number of foxhounds (defined as dogs kennelled by organised hunts) tested for *Mycobacterium bovis* infection is 50.

There were 5 that were cultured for *Mycobacterium bovis* infection and all 5 were cultured positive for *Mycobacterium bovis*, therefore confirmed positive.

Also 45 dog samples were tested serologically by DPP VetTB. There were 5 that were test-positive and therefore suggestive of infection, with a further 2 intermediate DPP VetTB test results possibly also identifying these dogs as higher risk.

The Animal and Plant Health Agency is an Executive Agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs working to safeguard animal and plant health for the benefit of people, the environment and the economy.

The DPP Vet TB test is not validated for canines as there is not the data to provide parameters of sensitivity and specificity for DPP VetTB use in dogs. Therefore, test results must be interpreted with caution.

A further DPP VetTB test round for remaining hounds is planned.

Tuberculosis in dogs caused by *Mycobacterium bovis* is extremely rare. These samples are from the same foxhound pack, therefore one isolated incident. This is the first incident on record of confirmed *Mycobacterium bovis* infection in a hunt kennel in Great Britain.

Information disclosed in response to this FOI request is releasable to the public. In keeping with the spirit and effect of the FOIA 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.

I attach an Annex 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.gsi.gov.uk

Annex

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Complaints

If you are unhappy with the result of your request for information you may request an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this letter.

If you wish to request an internal review, please contact: The Access to Information Team at enquiries@apha.gsi.gov.uk or at the postal address at the top of this letter, who will arrange for an internal review of your case.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Please note that generally the Information Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have first exhausted APHA's own complaints procedure. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

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