



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

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

F 01932 357608

www.gov.uk/apha

Our Ref: ATIC1511

[REDACTED]
{By Email}

23 November 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

PROVISION OF REQUESTED INFORMATION

Thank you for your request for information about hunt kennel inspections which we received on 26 October 2018. Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI).

The information you requested and our response is detailed below:

“Following a recent incidence of Bovine TB being found in a hounds belonging to The Kimblewick Hunt it was reported that "All kennels that feed fallen stock are also subject to inspection by Defra.”

Further this may I ask DEFRA by means of a FOI request for the following information:

- 1 Within the last six years how many hunt kennels in England and Wales have been inspected by DEFRA

[The Animal and Plant Health Agency \(APHA\) is an executive agency of DEFRA, to find out more about what we do please follow the link below:](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/animal-and-plant-health-agency)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/animal-and-plant-health-agency>

185 hunt kennels have been ‘inspected’ by APHA since 1 January 2012.

APHA does not hold specific data on Hunt Kennels or Inspections undertaken specifically to hunt kennels.

To be able to assist with your enquiry, the data has been extracted under a search for all premises with either hunt and/or Kennels in their title and all Inspections types.

This data is not considered accurate and should not be relied upon.

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.

2 Within the last six years which hunt kennels in England and Wales were inspected and on how many occasions

To be able to assist with your enquiry, the data above has been extracted under a search for all premises with either hunt and/or Kennels in their title and all Inspection types. The figure shows inspections carried out at the premises and include any APHA inspections for the premises.

The types of inspections to Animal By-Product (ABP) premises can include:

- *Advisory,*
- *Approval,*
- *Follow Up,*
- *Non Routine Reactive,*
- *Non-Compliant Follow Up,*
- *Reactive,*
- *Reapproval,*
- *Routine &*
- *Routine Follow Up*

Unfortunately the process to investigate each individual inspection to determine whether they were specifically with reference to the hunt kennels would involve the diversion of resources and incur excessive costs. This information has been exempted from release using Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

Section 12

Section 12(2) provides that we are not required to confirm whether APHA holds all the information requested if by doing so we would exceed the appropriate cost limit of £600, which equates to 24 hours of staff time. This is the case for the information that you have requested. This response should not be taken as confirmation that all the information is held by APHA. The use of section 12 requires a public interest test please see below.

Public Interest Test

By virtue of regulation 12(2) of the FOIA, APHA may refuse to disclose information if the request for the information would involve the diversion of resources and incur excessive cost, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in applying the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information. In reaching our decision with respect to the public interest, we considered the following matters:

We recognise that there is a public interest in disclosure of information concerning the inspection of hunt kennels. Regulation 12(2) of the FOIA also requires public authorities

to apply a presumption in favour of disclosure. However, there is a strong public interest in withholding the information. Your request covers a substantial amount of information. Gathering this specific information together year by year would involve a significant cost and diversion of resources from APHA's other work. A controlled test was carried out with the following result:

To investigate each individual record to determine whether the visit included an inspection of the hunt kennels and annotate that information would take a minimum 15 to 20 minutes per record depending upon how many times it has been inspected. This would mean that the limits set out by the FOIA for public bodies would be exceeded.

APHA consider that your request falls under regulation 12(2) on cost and resource grounds in determining whether all the information is held. Having carried out the above public interest test, we have concluded that, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest falls in favour of applying the exemption.

3 When was a DEFRA inspection last carried out on any of the following hunt kennels

The Portman Hunt (Dorset) - last visit date 18th April, 2018.

The Wilton Hunt (Wiltshire) - last visit date 10th July, 2018.

The Blackmore and Sparkford Vale Hunt (Somerset) - last visit date 9th October, 2018.

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.

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

Copyright

The information supplied to you is Crown copyright, unless otherwise stated, and is protected by the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988. You are free to use it for your own purposes, including for the purposes of news reporting. You can find details on the arrangements for re-using Crown copyright information at:

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/open-government-licence.htm>

Information you receive which is **not** subject to Crown Copyright continues to be protected by the copyright of the person, or organisation, from which the information originated. You must ensure that you gain their permission before reproducing any third party (non Crown Copyright) information.

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