



ASSURING THE SAFETY, QUALITY & EFFICACY
OF VETERINARY MEDICINES

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ATI 296

Request

From: [Redacted under section 40 of the FOIA]

Sent: 14 April 2014

Subject: FOI request re. chemical/medicine use on Scottish salmon farms since

Please provide annual data on chemical/medicine use on salmon farms in Scotland since 2003.

Please include antibiotics (antibacterials), anthelmintics, medicines and any other chemicals/medicines which the UK Government has data for.

As background, you may be interested in a similar FOI request filed this morning with the Scottish Government (and also with SEPA). Please see below.

This FOI request cited data published earlier this year by the Folkehelseinstituttet in Norway for Antibacterials, Sea Lice Treatments, Anthelmintics, Fungicides and Anaesthetics - read online via

http://www.fhi.no/eway/default.aspx?pid=239&trg=Area_7064&Main_6157=6263:0:25,6183&MainContent_6263=7064:0:25,6183&Area_7064=6178:109432::0:7065:1:::0:0

This information was sourced from 'Wholesaler-based Drug Statistics' from the Norwegian Institute of Public Health - and included the following data on antibiotics (antibacterials):

Table 1 Antibacterials (kg active ingredient)

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
florfenicol	111	202	302	139	166	303	287	331	191	300
flumequin	4	28	7	18	1	1	0	0	0	0
lincomycin/ spectinomycin (1:2)	-	-	50	66	70	43	57	0	0	0
oxolinic acid	1035	977	1119	406	681	926	308	212	1399	672
oxytetracycline	5	18	0	19	23	40	10	1	1	0
Total	1159	1215	1478	648	941	1313	662	544	1591	972

GAAIA is seeking to access comparable data for Scotland.

However, data supplied by SEPA on 6 March 2014 (see Excel spreadsheet) appears to exclude full information on antibiotic use.

The attached SEPA data does include [Florocol](#) (Florfenicol) and [Panacur](#) (Fenbendazole) but may not include the full spectrum of chemical/medicine use on Scottish salmon farms.

Please therefore provide any annual chemical/medicine use data collected and collated by the VMD - or any annual chemical/medicine use data supplied by other Government agencies.

Please consider this a request for information under the relevant Freedom of Information and Environmental Information Regulations (as well as any other new or other regulations which may be appropriate).

Please provide this information electronically.

Please acknowledge receipt of this FOI request.

Many thanks and I look forward to a response shortly.

VMD Reply

Sent: 28 April 2014

To: [Redacted under section 40 of the FOIA]

Subject: FOI request re. chemical/medicine use on Scottish salmon farms since

Your Request

Thank you for your email dated 14 April 2014.

We are dealing with your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

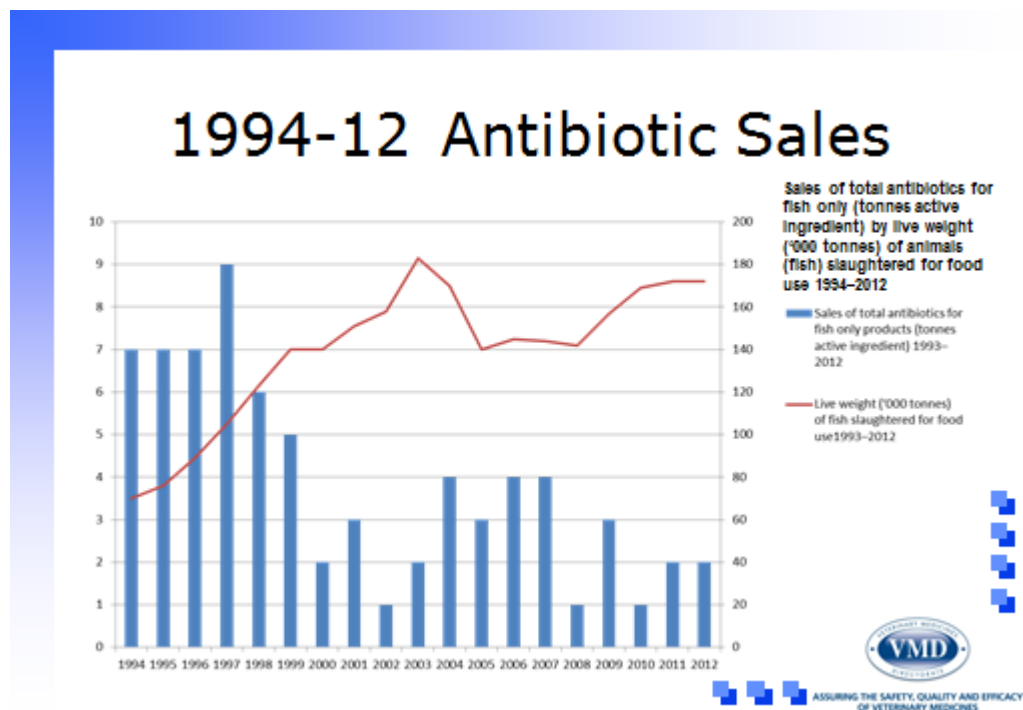
#742064v1

You asked for annual data on chemical/medicine use on salmon farms in Scotland since 2003, including antibiotics (antibacterials), anthelmintics, medicines and any other chemicals/medicines which the UK Government has data for.

Our Reply

Although we do not hold any data on medicines use on salmon farms, the National Surveillance Programme monitors the use of unauthorised and authorised products in UK produce which includes aquaculture. Details of surveillance results are published annually and can be found on the Veterinary Residues Committee (VRC) website at www.vmd.defra.gov.uk/vrc. Under section 21 of the FOIA we do not have to provide this information because it is accessible to you via a website. Section 21 recognises that the right of access is supplementary to the many ways in which public authorities already provide information to members of the public.

You may be also interested in data we hold detailing sales of antibiotics authorised for use in fish only, from 1993-2012 as set out below.



These figures provide information on the total annual quantity of antimicrobials sold that were authorised for use in fish for the period 1993-2012. Prior to this period the data on the sales of antimicrobials were not consistently collected nationally and therefore are not considered reliable. The data used to create this graph are included in the VMD annual sales data reports, and in the 1999 Advisory Committee on the Microbiological Safety of Food (ACMSF) report on 'Microbial Antibiotic Resistance in Relation to Food Safety', (<http://acmsf.food.gov.uk/acmsfrep/acmsfreports>).

Data can also be found in our UK- VARSS report at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/veterinary-medicines-directorate>

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Our Service

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint, you may request an internal review within two calendar months of the date of this e-mail. If you would like to request an internal review please write to [Redacted under section 40 of the FOIA] at the VMD via ati@vmd.defra.gsi.gov.uk. 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. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office
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