



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

T: 03459 33 55 77 or
08459 33 55 77
www.gov.uk/defra

Your ref:
Our ref: RFI 6854
Date: 08/10/2014

Via email:

Dear

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: DATA ON LIVE ANIMALS EXPORTED FOR
SLAUGHTER AND ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED IN THE UK WITHOUT STUNNING BY
HALAL OR KOSHER METHOD**

Thank you for your request for information on live animals exported for slaughter, including countries they are exported to, and animals slaughtered without stunning by the Halal or Kosher method, which we received on 27 August 2014. We have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). I apologise for the delay, we are currently experiencing a high number of EIRs/FOIA requests making it difficult to respond within the deadlines.

Since 1st January 2013 to date there has been 7236 live animals (all sheep) exported for slaughter.

The countries they have been exported to are:

Country	Numbers
Netherlands	948
Germany	2188
France	3845
Belgium	255

The figures you have requested on a breakdown of animals slaughtered in the UK by the Kosher or Halal method of slaughter without pre-stunning are not held by the Department.



INVESTORS
IN PEOPLE

However, the Food Standard Agency (FSA), which has responsibility for enforcing animal welfare at slaughter regulations at slaughterhouses, did carry out sample surveys of animal welfare in 2011 and 2013 in slaughterhouses in Great Britain to provide assurance that Food Business Operators (FBOs) are taking active steps to comply with legal requirements and achieve necessary animal welfare standards.

The 2011 survey covered a specific week-long period in which data was recorded. Within this survey, details of those approved premises using religious methods are recorded. Full results of the survey can be found at the following link:

<http://www.food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/board/fsa120508annexes.pdf>

Details in relation to the number of approved premises in Great Britain operating using religious methods during the week of the survey can be found on pages 28-31. Please note that it is difficult to extrapolate figures for the year from this survey as production levels fluctuate, some smaller abattoirs may not have carried out any slaughter during the week of the survey and some plants may not exclusively carry out halal slaughter.

The results of the 2013 sample survey are currently being validated and will be published by the FSA later this year. As such this information is exempt from disclosure under section 22 of the FOI Act, which states that:

(1) Information is exempt information if -

(a) the information is held by the public authority with a view to its publication, by the authority or any other person, at some future date (whether determined or not),

(b) the information was already held with a view to such publication at the time when the request for information was made, and

(c) it is reasonable in all the circumstances that the information should be withheld from disclosure until the date referred to in paragraph (a).

As section 22 is a qualified exemption, we have considered the public interest for and against disclosure. In favour of disclosure we recognise the general public interest in openness particularly with regard to animal welfare. On the other hand there is a public interest in permitting public authorities to publish information in a manner and form and at a time of their own choosing, so that pre-publication procedures, such as verifying that survey results are accurately collated and fully reviewed are followed. In this case we consider that it is preferable to put the information into the public domain by publishing it as planned rather than disclosing it prematurely to an individual applicant. Overall we consider the balance is in favour of withholding this information at this time.

I attach Annex A, which explains the copyright that applies to the information being released to you.

I also attach Annex B giving contact details should you be unhappy with the service you have received.

Annex A

Copyright

The information supplied to you continues to be protected by copyright. You are free to use it for your own purposes, including for private study and non-commercial research, and for any other purpose authorised by an exception in current copyright law. Documents (except photographs) can be also used in the UK without requiring permission for the purposes of news reporting. Any other re-use, for example commercial publication, would require the permission of the copyright holder.

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Annex B

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 18 of the EIRs, as applicable, within 40 working days of the date of this letter. Please write to Mike Kaye, Head of Information Standards, Area 4D, Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3JR (email: requestforinfo@defra.gsi.gov.uk) and he will arrange for an internal review of your case. Details of Defra's complaints procedure are on our website.

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 for a decision. Please note that generally the Information Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have first exhausted Defra's own complaints procedure. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

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

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Defra FOI and EIRS Team
Informationrequests@defra.gsi.gov.uk