



ASSURING THE SAFETY, QUALITY & EFFICACY  
OF VETERINARY MEDICINES

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**ATI 293**

**Request**

**From:** [Redacted under section 40 of the FOIA]

**Sent:** 5 March 2014

**Subject:** FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

1. How many horses submitted for slaughter for human consumption in 2013 were sampled by the Veterinary Medicines Directorate? How many of these tests revealed a non-compliant residue of a veterinary medicinal product? How many of those positive tests came from horses that had been imported for slaughter?
2. For each of the positive samples identified in question 1 please provide me with any report or correspondence held relating to the investigation of the positive test.
3. If any positive samples relate to racehorses what was the name of the horse, name and address of its stables, name of the racecourse where the horse last raced (if held) and provide me with all records relating to information you hold about how and where the horse entered the human food chain?

**VMD Reply**

**Sent:** 11 March 2014

**To:** [Redacted under section 40 of the FOIA]

**Subject:** FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

**Your Request**

Thank you for your email dated 6 March 2014.

We have dealt with your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You asked for information (as set out below) relating to horses submitted for slaughter for human consumption in 2013 sampled by the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD).

## Our Reply

You asked how many horses submitted for slaughter for human consumption in 2013 were sampled by the VMD. How many of these tests revealed a non-compliant residue of a veterinary medicinal product? How many of those positive tests came from horses that had been imported for slaughter? There were 131 samples taken under the statutory surveillance programme in accordance with EU Directive 96/23/EC, which monitors use of veterinary medicines and unauthorised substances in UK produce.

Details of non-compliant samples as below:

Number	Substance and amount found.	Follow up action
1	8400 µg/kg cadmium	Under investigation.
1	23 µg/kg alpha-nortestosterone	Animal in foal at time of sampling, no further action.*
1	12 µg/kg alpha-nortestosterone 45 µg/kg bea-nortestosterone	Unable to establish cause of residue.

*\*This horse held an Irish passport, however, there is no record of when the horse was brought into the UK.*

You asked for any report or correspondence held relating to the investigation of the positive test. A follow up investigation was carried out for each of the non-compliant samples found; a brief summary of findings is set out in the table above.

You asked if any positive samples relate to racehorses what was the name of the horse, name and address of its stables, name of the racecourse where the horse last raced (if held) and for all records relating to information we hold about how and where the horse entered the human food chain? We hold no information indicating that any of the positive samples related to racehorses.

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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](mailto: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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