



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

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08459 33 55 77
helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/defra

By email:

Your ref:
Our ref: RFI6976
Date: 31 October 2014

Dear

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: UK FARMS

Thank you for your request for information, which we received on 24 October 2014, about the number of farms and their type of trading activity in each postcode area of the UK. We have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

I am writing to advise you that information on farms and their trading activity in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland is not held by Defra. The information may be held by the Scottish Government, which can be contacted at ceu@scotland.gsi.gov.uk, the Welsh Government, which can be contacted at FreedomOfInformationOfficer@wales.gsi.gov.uk and the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Northern Ireland, which can be contacted at dard.informationmanager@dardni.gov.uk.

Defra does hold information on farms and their trading activity in England, which is collected under Sections 1 and 2 of the Agricultural Statistics Act 1979. However, we are unable supply you with this information as Section 3(1) of the Agricultural Statistics Act 1979 states that "...no information relating to any particular land or business which has been obtained under section 1 or 2 above shall be published or otherwise disclosed without the previous consent in writing of the person by whom the information was furnished and every other person who is an owner or the occupier of the land and whose interests may in the opinion of the appropriate Minister be affected by the disclosure." Section 44 of the Freedom of Information Act, which states that information is exempt if its disclosure by the public authority holding it is prohibited by or under any enactment, is therefore engaged.

In addition, we are unable to provide the information requested under Section 40 (personal information) of the Freedom of Information Act as the information constitutes the personal information of third parties. Farms that are the subject of the responses to the survey are often sole traders or form part of a partnership of family enterprise. To release such data



would infringe the protections available to the individuals who supplied their information under the Data Protection Act 1998. While consent may be sought in order to release the data, this would be unduly burdensome and is unlikely to result in permission.

However, you indicated that you might find summarised data useful and I enclose a spreadsheet with counts of holdings by postcode area and farm type. We also publish a dataset 'Local Authority breakdown for key crops areas and livestock numbers on agricultural holdings' that you might find helpful. This can be found at https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/364494/structure-june-othereng-localauthority-16oct14.xls

In keeping with the spirit and effect of the FOIA, and in keeping with the government's Transparency Agenda, all information is assumed to be releasable to the public unless exempt. Therefore, the information released to you will now be published on www.gov.uk together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context. Please note that this will not include your personal data.

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.

If you have any queries about this letter please contact the address below.

Yours sincerely,

Defra FOIA and EIRs Team

InformationRequests@defra.gsi.gov.uk

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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Copyright in other documents may rest with a third party. For information about obtaining permission from a third party see the [Intellectual Property Office's website](#).

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