



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

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

T 01932 341111
F 01932 357608

www.gov.uk/apha

[REDACTED]
{By Email}

Our Ref: ATIC0770

20 January 2016

Dear [REDACTED]

PROVISION OF REQUESTED INFORMATION

Thank you for your request for information about tests for (LA)MRSA CC398 (or other variations). Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

The information you requested and our response is detailed below:

“Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 I request to know the number of

- A, pig farms, and;
- B, poultry farms, and;
- C, dairy farms, and;
- D, abattoirs / markets or other similar establishments

where livestock have been tested for (LA)MRSA CC398 (or other variations) in 2015 by either APHA or partner organisations that have shared the relevant data with APHA .

Similarly, if data exists, the number of similar tests carried out each year for 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 by APHA or its predecessor body AVHLA.

Plus, the number of livestock testing positive for (LA)MRSA CC398 (or other variations) arising from any tests that have taken place.”

APHA then asked for clarity and your request was:

“I would like the information for each country eg England, Wales, Scotland, Nireland - as is available and held by APHA.

Please advise if some info is held by other bodies for different countries and in the event of this, reply with info as is held by APHA.”

Please see the table below for the number of Pig, Poultry, Dairy Farms and Abattoirs/Markets where livestock have been tested for (LA)MRSA CC398, between 2010 and 2015 for England and Wales.

England	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Pig Farms	0	0	0	0	0	0
Poultry Farms	0	0	0	1*	2**	0
Dairy Farms	0	0	0	0	0	0
Abattoirs/Markets	0	0	0	0	0	57***
Wales	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Pig Farms	0	0	0	0	0	0
Poultry Farms	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dairy Farms	0	0	0	0	0	0
Abattoirs/Markets	0	0	0	0	0	0

*In 2013 the number of livestock testing positive for (LA) MRSA CC398 from the one poultry farm where samples were taken were 41 turkeys and 1 Broiler.

**In 2014 (LA) MRSA CC398 was not detected in the testing on the two poultry farms.

***In 2015 3 pigs were isolated from one farm from the 57 farms in England where samples were taken from Abattoirs over the period 2014 to 2015.

APHA does not hold data on the numbers of farms which have been screened for MRSA in Scotland. This data is held by Scotland's Rural College (SRUC). Similarly, APHA does not hold any data for Northern Ireland and we suggest you contact the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD).

APHA also performs scanning surveillance on field cases of disease in farm livestock. Scanning surveillance is performed to investigate the causes of disease in farm animals and relies primarily on submission of material to APHA by private veterinary surgeons for diagnosis. When *Staphylococcus aureus* is recovered through such scanning surveillance and susceptibility tests are performed, then methicillin susceptibility is also evaluated. The results of such scanning surveillance are published annually in the UK-VARSS report which is freely available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/veterinary-antimicrobial-resistance-and-sales-surveillance-2014>

Figures for the numbers of MRSA cases identified by APHA have been published in The Veterinary Record 2015 177: 331-332.

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

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In keeping with the spirit and effect of the Freedom of Information Act 2000/Environmental Information Regulations 2004, all information is assumed to be releasable to the public unless exempt. The information released to you may now be published on our website together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context.

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