



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

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Our Ref: ATIC0980

[REDACTED]
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13 December 2016

Dear [REDACTED]

PROVISION OF REQUESTED INFORMATION

Thank you for your request for information about Local Authority prosecutions which we received on 14 November 2016. Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

The information you requested and our response is detailed below:

Enforcement Actions

1. In relation to farmed animal species only, in 2015 how many prosecution proceedings were commenced by each Local Authority for offences named in the Animal Welfare Act 2006? Please provide a breakdown of this information by Local Authority.

APHA would be unaware of the number of prosecution proceedings that were commenced by each local authority (LA). Each LA would have to be approached individually in order to gather this information. The AMES system is now only used at a low level and APHA cannot guarantee that all prosecution proceedings that are initiated have been entered. However, each year LAs provide a return to Parliament that is published and shows details of all successful prosecutions under animal health and welfare legislation including penalties. The report for 2015 can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/section-80-report-for-2015-under-the-animal-health-act-1981>

2. In relation to farmed animal species only, in 2015 how many improvement notices did each Local Authority serve for failures to comply with section 9(1) of the Animal Welfare Act 2006? Please provide a breakdown of this information by Local Authority.

The issuing of Improvement Notices under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 is not reported to APHA by LAs. Whilst APHA staff may be involved in many cases, each LA would have to be approached in order to ascertain this information.

3. In 2015, how many prosecution proceedings did each Local Authority commence for offences named in Section 7 of the Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2007? Please provide a breakdown of this information by Local Authority.

Each LA would have to be approached in order to ascertain this information. However, the link above (question 1) contains details of convictions achieved under the Animal Health Act 1981.

4. Of those proceedings, how many resulted in a successful prosecution and what were the penalties? Please provide a breakdown of this information by Local Authority.

Please see the response to question 3.

5. In 2015 and in relation to farmed animal species only, how many compliance notices did each Local Authority issue for failures to comply with the Welfare of Animals (Transport) (England) Order 2006? Please provide a breakdown of this information by Local Authority.

The issuing of compliance notices under the Welfare of Animals (Transport)(England) Order 2006 is not reported to APHA by LAs. Whilst APHA may be involved in many cases, each LA would have to be approached in order to ascertain this information. Again, this would have been gathered through AMES but the low level of inputting by LAs now means that this information is incomplete.

Inspections, Personnel and Compliance

1. How many Health & Welfare Inspectors does each Local Authority employ? Please provide a breakdown of this information by Local Authority.

APHA does not have any connection with the LAs with regards to their employment policies including the number of staff they employ. Each LA would have to be approached in order to ascertain this information.

2. How many inspections of livestock markets did Local Authority personnel complete in 2015? Please provide a breakdown of this information by Local Authority.

APHA does not hold this information. Each LA would need to be approached in order to ascertain this information.

3. Of the markets inspected, what was their rate of compliance with animal welfare legislative requirements as a percentage? Please provide a breakdown of this information by Local Authority.

Please see the response to question 2 above.

4. How many Animal Health Officers does the AHPA employ?

As at 31 October 2016, APHA have 187 Animal Health Officers employed.

5. How many on-farm welfare inspections did AHPA personnel complete in 2015?

The figures below are for Great Britain:

INSPECTIONS

Score	Inspections	Percentage
A	633	28.6
B	1091	49.3
C	361	16.3
D	128	5.8
Total	2213	100%

ENTERPRISES

Score	Inspections	Percentage
A	1588	32.8
B	2323	48.0
C	762	15.7
D	169	3.5
Total	4842	100%

- A. full compliance with legislation
- B. full compliance with legislation but not with code
- C. failure to comply with legislation, no unnecessary suffering (US) seen (includes non-compliance with permitted mutilations legislation where no additional pain/suffering is seen/would have resulted, for example, short docking of sheep tails)
- D. US seen (includes all illegal mutilations and non-compliance with permitted mutilations legislation where additional pain/suffering is seen/would have resulted, for example, disbudding without anesthetic)

A visit to a farm consists of several animal species (*enterprises*) being inspected and assessed. The *inspection* data above is the overall score that is the lowest of the individual enterprises assessed.

6. Of the farms inspected, what was their rate of compliance with animal welfare legislative requirements as a percentage?

Please refer to the response at question 5.

7. How many Veterinary Officers does the AHPA employ?

As at 31 October 2016, APHA have 109 Veterinary Officers. However these only form part of the veterinary workforce which has a total of 340 vets across a range of grades and work areas.

8. How many animal welfare inspections of departure points, ports and collection centres did AHPA personnel complete in 2015?

Following clarification, collection centres was amended to assembly centres

Departure Points and Ports	
Inspections	55
Veterinary check ¹	18
Hot weather check ²	28
Total	101
Assembly Centres³	
Inspections	3

9. Of the departure points, ports and collection centres inspected, what was their rate of compliance with animal welfare legislative requirements as a percentage?

Departure Points and Ports			
	Total	Non-compliant inspections/checks	Compliance rate %
Inspections	55	6	89.1
Veterinary check ¹	18	2	88.9
Hot weather check ²	28	0	100
Assembly Centres³			
Inspections	3		100

¹ During hot weather periods the veterinary check includes a hot weather check

² Refers to technical check on water, fans, temperature monitoring systems

³ Annual and spot check inspections.

Information disclosed in response to this FOI request is releasable to the public. In keeping with the spirit and effect of the FOIA and the government's Transparency Agenda, this letter and the information disclosed to you may be placed on GOV.UK, together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context. No information identifying you will be placed on the GOV.UK website.

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

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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