



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

Animal and Plant Health Agency
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[REDACTED]
{By Email}

Our Ref: ATIC0844

28 April 2016

Dear [REDACTED]

PROVISION OF REQUESTED INFORMATION

Thank you for your request for information about the postcodes of egg producers, which we received on 15 April 2016. Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

The information you requested and our response is detailed below:

“Two years ago you kindly provided us with the postcodes of egg producers for England as relate to the Egg Producer Codes printed on eggs.

Today our company, Longhand Data Ltd, is joined with our German laboratory colleagues as Agroisolab UK Ltd, same team, same location and acting as the commercial arm of stable isotope reference analysis in the UK – and for all global work outside of Germany

In the intervening period we have carried very extensive testing on behalf of UK consumers – as requested by retailers and brand owners.

For some retailers the work we were able to do, with the help of the list you provided, resulted in correction of mislabelling of eggs – sometimes on a surprising level.

We have over 200 reference farms mapped for the UK, and we have tested over 6,000 eggs in the last two years!

I’m writing today because we are seeing new producers whose addresses we don’t have.

Would it be possible for a re-send of an up to date list; better still would be if you were able to include the full postal address for farms.

We have egg projects running now in the Republic of Ireland, Sweden and Germany – and your opposite numbers in those countries provided complete post codes.”

The complete postcodes of egg producers for England have been withheld under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act (2000) which constitutes personal information. Section 40(2) of the FOIA provides that personal data relating to third parties is exempt information if disclosure would breach the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA).

APHA consider that disclosure of this information is likely to breach the first data protection principle in Schedule 1 of the DPA, which relates to the fair and lawful processing of personal data, in two ways. First, disclosure would not constitute ‘fair’ processing of the personal data, second, disclosure would not satisfy any of the conditions for data processing set out in Schedule 2 to the DPA. Therefore, we have concluded that this information is exempt from disclosure under section 40(2) of the FOIA.

This decision was made making reference to Tribunal decision EA/2007/0009, Roy Benford v the Information Commissioner and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, and in particular paragraph 57 of that decision. Please see link to the decision here:

<http://www.informationtribunal.gov.uk/DBFiles/Decision/i60/BenfordDetermination.pdf>

However, APHA can provide you the information for England that you have requested giving ID number, town or place name, county and outgoing postcode. Please see Appendix 1 for the information requested.

Please note there are entries where the postcode was not included, this is because it was not entered onto the system at the time.

Information disclosed in response to this FOI request is releasable to the public. In keeping with the spirit and effect of the FOIs 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

Copyright

The information supplied to you is Crown copyright, unless otherwise stated, and is protected by the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988. You are free to use it for your own purposes, and for the purposes of news reporting. You can find details on the arrangements for re-using Crown copyright information at:

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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