



By email

Our ref: 05/12/jb/459

7 January 2015

Dear

Re: Lyme disease infection rates

Thank you for your email of 5 December 2014 in which you asked about the number of people in the UK positively diagnosed with Lyme disease since January 2012.

Your email has been handled as a request for information under the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act. In accordance with Section 1(1)(a) I can confirm that Public Health England (PHE) holds most of the information you have specified.

The information you have requested is exempt in accordance with the Section 21 of the FOI Act – *information accessible to applicant by other means* exemption, as it published on the PHE website and Section 22 - *information intended for future publication* exemption.

However, in accordance with our Section 16 duty to provide advice and assistance, please find attached links to data on Lyme disease published quarterly in the Health Protection Report (HPR), and annually in the UK Zoonoses Report. Data to date as requested can be found as follows:

2012

HPR (on HPA archive site) -

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140714084352/http://www.hpa.org.uk/hpr/archives/Infections/2012/zoonoses_12.htm

UK Zoonoses report - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/zoonoses-report-uk-2012>

2013

HPR (on HPA archive site) -

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140714084352/http://www.hpa.org.uk/hpr/archives/Infections/2013/zoonoses_13.htm

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140714084352/http://www.hpa.org.uk/hpr/archives/2014/hpr05-0614.pdf> (this has the provisional total for 2013)

UK Zoonoses (Report to be published shortly on GOV.UK) -

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/zoonoses-reports>

2014

HPR (on GOV.UK) - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/common-animal-associated-infections-quarterly-report-2014>

A future report which will include an update for the whole of 2014 will be published in February 2015.

Please note that since 2010 hospital laboratories are required to report positive diagnoses of Lyme disease to public health authorities. These laboratory data are collated by PHE and published regularly. However, these figures are likely to underestimate the true total number of cases, as they do not include those who were diagnosed and treated on the basis of clinical features without laboratory tests. It is estimated that between 1,000 and 2,000 additional cases of Lyme disease occur each year in England and Wales.

If you have any queries regarding the information that has been supplied to you, please refer them to me in the first instance. If you are dissatisfied with this response and would like to request an internal review, then please contact Mr George Stafford at the address above or by emailing internalreview@phe.gov.uk.

Please note that you have the right to an independent review by the Information Commissioner's Office if a complaint cannot be resolved through the PHE complaints procedure. The Information Commissioner's Office can be contacted by writing to Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Officer