



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 0208 2257636
F 01932 357608

www.gov.uk/apha

[REDACTED]

Our Ref: ATIC0960

2 November 2016

Dear [REDACTED]

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Thank you for your request for information about *Testudo horsfieldii* which we received on 17 October 2016. Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

The information you requested and our response is detailed below:

“We would therefore like to kindly request any figures you have regarding the importation of *Testudo horsfieldii* into the UK during the last 15 years, their source and if possible whether they were registered as Captive Bred or Wild-Caught please? As tortoise movement through the EU is not recorded due to free movement, would you kindly be able to source the same information with regards to the importation of *Testudo horsfieldii* into the EU also.”

Please see Appendix 1 for the information you have requested from January 2014 to 17 October 2016 (date of your request).

Please note: For the purposes of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), the information for 2016, ‘actually imported’, is held in recorded form by APHA. However, these figures have not been collated yet because there is no requirement to do so until February 2017. As you have requested “any figures” APHA have, we have not collated these to supply to you as it would mean going through every returned import form to identify *Testudo horsfieldii*, and are therefore not total figures APHA have yet.

However, if you were to specifically ask for this information APHA could formally consider it in light of the Act. Please note information requests can be refused under Section 12 of the FOIA on the grounds that the cost in complying with it exceeds the appropriate limit. This would be considered to any such request.

The Animal and Plant Health Agency is an Executive Agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs working to safeguard animal and plant health for the benefit of people, the environment and the economy.

The information requested prior to 2014 has been withheld under Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act, which relates to information that is accessible to the applicant by other means. This information is recorded on the CITES Trade Database, and is accessible here: <https://trade.cites.org/>

Following a search of our paper and electronic records, I have established that the information relating to the importation of Testudo Horsfieldii into the EU is not held by APHA. You would need to contact each countries governing body to request any potential information. However, again there is historical information on the CITES Trade Database.

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

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, including for the purposes of news reporting. You can find details on the arrangements for re-using Crown copyright information at:

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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

Appendix 1 – Import figures of Testudo Horsfieldii into the United Kingdom from 2014-2016

The following codes indicate the source of the tortoises:

- **W** = Specimens taken from the wild
- **R** = Specimens of animals reared in a controlled environment, taken as eggs or juveniles from the wild where they would have had a very low probability of surviving in the wild.

Table A – source code ‘W’

Year	Total number of tortoises	Country of (re)-export
2014	Permits for 1800 were issued 1200 were actually imported	Uzbekistan
2015	Permits for 3200 were issued 2300 were actually imported	Uzbekistan
2016	Permits for 1600 were issued	Uzbekistan

Table B – source code ‘R’

Year	Total number of tortoises	Country of (re)-export
2014	Permits for 11280 were issued 6900 were actually imported	Uzbekistan
2015	Permits for 10500 were issued 7716 were actually imported	Uzbekistan
2016	Permits for 5000 were issued	Uzbekistan