



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: ATIC0774

25 January 2016

Dear [REDACTED]

PROVISION OF REQUESTED INFORMATION

Thank you for your request for information about bTB blood test statistics and post mortem results in alpacas, which we received on 29 December 2015. Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

The information you requested and our response is detailed below:

"I wish to review the correlation between certain bTB blood test results in alpacas and the corresponding presence, or lack, of Visible Lesions at Post Mortem.

When conducting bTB blood tests in alpacas, each blood sample is divided and tested using two different tests.

In confirmed bTB breakdowns and subsequent tracings, if any alpaca fails either of the two tests (i.e. fails one but passes the other), it is culled and a Post Mortem is carried out.

1. How many alpacas have been culled in Wales during the last three years that meet the criteria highlighted above? I do not require data where the alpaca has failed both blood tests.

15 animals have failed one of two antibody tests in culture-confirmed breakdowns, since the use of two different antibody tests on each sample was introduced in October 2014. Prior to October 2014, but within the last 3 years, 15 animals failed a single antibody test, in a confirmed breakdown where only one antibody test was required in culture-confirmed breakdowns.

This data is based upon culture-confirmed breakdown herd(s) only.

2. How many of these alpacas were found to have Visible Lesions at Post Mortem?"

None. However, post-mortem examination only has a moderate sensitivity and consequently absence of visible lesions of TB does not exclude the possibility that those animals were infected with *Mycobacterium bovis* (the bovine TB bacterium). In camelid herds affected by confirmed TB breakdowns, positive results to any of the validated antibody tests constitute very strong evidence of infection in such animals, irrespective of their post-mortem results. APHA acts on that evidence to maximise the probability of detecting all the infected animals remaining in the herd (the sensitivity of testing) and thus speed up the resolution of those breakdowns whilst reducing the risk of leaving latently (or recently) infected animals in the herd by the time the movement restrictions are lifted.

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 any non-commercial research, and for the purposes of news reporting. Any other re-use, for example commercial publication, will require permission. You can find details on the arrangements for re-using Crown copyright information at:

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/open-government-licence.htm>

Information you receive which is **not** subject to Crown Copyright continues to be protected by the copyright of the person, or organisation, from which the information originated. You must ensure that you gain their permission before reproducing any third party (non Crown Copyright) information.

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