



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

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Our Ref: ATIC0999

[REDACTED]
{By Email}

23 January 2017

Dear [REDACTED]

PROVISION OF REQUESTED INFORMATION

Thank you for your request for information about herd sizes in Britain, which we received on 14 December 2016. Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

The information you requested and our response is detailed below:

“Do you have any statistics and maps showing the biggest beef, lamb, sheep and dairy herds by geographical location:

- Scotland
- North
- Midlands
- South West
- South East
- Wales”

This was further clarified on 6 January 2017 as follows:

“Request for a figure for the largest herds each of dairy, beef, lamb and sheep per region and county in Great Britain (England, Scotland and Wales). Figures to be provided in an Excel spreadsheet or equivalent. APHA regional boundaries can be used, though an alternative regional grouping has been provided by the requestor. As explained if the alternative regional grouping that I have provided is used please can you check that the counties have been listed in the correct region.”

Please see [Appendix 1](#) for the requested data, which is shown at regional level. County level data is being withheld under Section 40(2), read in conjunction with 40(3)(a)(i) of the FOIA. This is because the size of holdings could identify individual farms or farmers at a county level, and lead to APHA releasing personal data relating to a third party. Please see below for further details.

The data has been grouped by region, using the county groupings provided in the request. APHA uses different groupings of counties in their work, which combine to form just three regional areas: Northern, Southern and Western. This arrangement is bespoke to APHA, therefore the county groupings provided in the request have been used in preference to APHA's system.

APHA does not distinguish between 'sheep' and 'lamb' herds, therefore only figures for sheep herds have been provided.

Visual representation (maps) of the herd locations have been withheld under Section 40(2), read in conjunction with 40(3)(a)(i) of the FOIA. This is because the location of individual farms could lead to the identification of specific farms or farmers. Please see below for further details.

Please note, additional information and statistics are published by APHA on Gov.uk, accessible via the link below:

https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics?keywords=&topics%5B%5D=all&departments%5B%5D=department-for-environment-food-rural-affairs&from_date=&to_date=&commit=Refresh+results

Section 40

Section 40(2), read in conjunction with 40(3)(a)(i) of the FOIA provides that personal data relating to third parties is exempt information if disclosure would breach the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA). This is an absolute exemption and does not require a Public Interest Test.

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 of the FOIA.

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