



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

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

Our Ref: ATIC0927

19 September 2016

Dear [REDACTED]

PROVISION OF REQUESTED INFORMATION

Thank you for your request for information about bovine animal exports, which we received on 1 September 2016. Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

The information you requested and our response is detailed below:

“As you only record details regarding Bovine as ‘unweaned’ or ‘weaned’ please can you furnish me with information I requested for unweaned bovine only.

1. How many unweaned bovine were exported from Wales in 2015 to Europe and third countries?

None.

2. How many unweaned bovine exported from Scotland in 2015 to Europe and third countries?

None.

3. How many unweaned bovine were exported from England in 2015 to Europe and third countries?

Two.

4. If the unweaned bovine went to both Europe and Third countries are you able to provide the percentage / numbers of unweaned bovine that went to Europe and the percentage / numbers of unweaned bovine that went to Third countries?

From the two exported unweaned bovine in 2015, both went to Europe and none went to Third Countries.

5. Which UK ports furnish the trade in unweaned bovine exports? Are you able to provide a breakdown of the numbers that pass through each port please? I assume Dover is the main port for this trade for animals from Wales and England?”

There was only one port in 2015 where the two unweaned bovine were exported from, and the location has been withheld under Section 38 of the FOIA.

Section 38 refers to the exemption from the duty to provide information if it would, or would be likely to affect anyone’s health or safety.

We recognise that there is a general presumption in favour of transparency and openness concerning our work, and providing the general public with the right to request access to information held by public authorities.

We also recognise that there is a public interest in disclosure of this specific information in order to increase this transparency and aid well-informed debates concerning the welfare and transportation of animals, and the individuals associated with them.

However, we feel that there is a stronger public interest in withholding the information as the location of export would, or would be likely to, endanger the health and safety of staff. This poses a substantial risk to the health and safety of individuals associated with the transportation of animals that would be of significant severity and is likely to occur in some cases. We consider this to be a significant factor in favour of maintaining the exemption.

APHA has balanced the real threat to the health and safety of individuals which disclosure of the requested information would be likely to cause, against the public interest arguments in favour of disclosure. In this instance the APHA does not consider that disclosing the information requested in order to inform public debate and to promote accountability and transparency would justify the risk to individuals’ health and safety.

APHA also took this decision in light of Tribunal decision EA/2014/0131:

[http://informationrights.decisions.tribunals.gov.uk//DBFiles/Decision/i1545/Elliott,%20Pr u%20EA.2014.0131%20\(11.05.2015\).pdf](http://informationrights.decisions.tribunals.gov.uk//DBFiles/Decision/i1545/Elliott,%20Pr u%20EA.2014.0131%20(11.05.2015).pdf)

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, 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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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