



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

F 01932 357608

www.gov.uk/apha

[REDACTED]
{By Email}

Our Ref: ATIC1189

13 November 2017

Dear [REDACTED]

PROVISION OF REQUESTED INFORMATION

Thank you for your clarified request for information about TB in alpacas which we received on 26 October 2017. Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

The information you requested and our response is detailed below:

“In Cornwall only, in 2015 and 2017 so,

How many ALPACA herds were contiguously tested,

How many ALPACA herds had a positive reaction

How many ALPACA herds are still under restriction

How many ALPACAS were voluntary tested and how many had a positive reaction.”

Clarity was sought on the type of testing you wished the information to cover and your definition of a “positive reaction”. Your response was:

“TB testing on all questions. By a positive reaction, I mean a positive on skin primer and a 2 or 4 spot reactor on Enferflex or positive to one of the other.

I mean a result that would result in an alpaca being culled.”

Positive reaction is taken to mean a reactor.

In Cornwall in 2015, 30 alpaca herds were contiguously tested, of these 4 herds had a positive reactor.

In Cornwall in 2017, 37 alpaca herds were contiguously tested, of these 3 herds had a positive reactor.

There are currently 13 alpaca herds still under restriction in Cornwall.

In Cornwall in 2015, 29 alpacas were voluntarily tested and 3 had a positive reactor.

In Cornwall in 2017, 14 alpacas were voluntarily tested and 1 had a positive reactor.

The information provided for 2017 is from January to June. The information from July to 26 October 2017 (date of your request) has been withheld under section 22 of the FOIA, which relates to information intended for future publication. The use of this exemption is subject to a Public Interest Test which is set out below.

Public Interest Test

APHA recognise that there is a strong public interest around TB and as such we publish quarterly statistics in this area as a whole, which include TB in alpacas. Releasing partial information now before it has been finalised would be misleading to the public on an already complex and sensitive area. This would contradict the principles behind Freedom of Information.

It is in the public interest to wait until the information has been assessed thoroughly and peer-reviewed rather than to release the information in a piecemeal fashion. Given the importance of publishing only appropriately peer-reviewed data, it is reasonable to expect that this information should be published in line with accepted practice rather than disclosed before official publication.

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

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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