



{By Email}

Our Ref: ATIC1174

9 October 2017

Dear [REDACTED]

PROVISION OF REQUESTED INFORMATION

Thank you for your request for information about the number of welfare at the time of killing inspections at poultry farms which we received on 26 September 2017. Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

The information you requested and our response is detailed below:

“1, The number of "welfare at the time of killing" inspections at seasonal poultry farms / facilities carried out or attended by APHA in Scotland, Wales and England each year from 2014 till 2016”.

APHA systems don't specifically record "Seasonal Slaughter" as an inspection purpose. For the purpose of this request, the figures below relate to all inspections of poultry during slaughter for the months of November and December.

Year	Country	Number of Inspections	Non-compliant
2014	England	15	0
	Wales	1	0
2015	England	48	6
	Wales	6	3
2016	England	90	11
	Wales	2	0

Note: No seasonal slaughter inspections of poultry premises are recorded for Scotland during this period.

“2, Details of any breaches / non compliances found in relation to the following:

- killing and preparation areas, (where animals are temporarily housed)

- procedures and equipment
- ‘codes of practice’
- any other problems”.

APHA inspections of slaughter premises are split into six assessments (WATOK Licensing/Certificate of Competence; Construction, Equipment, Maintenance; Animals Awaiting Killing; Handling and Restraint; Stunning/Killing; Bleeding or Pithing, each given a compliance score (A-D) depending on inspectors findings. The overall compliance score for the inspection is determined by the worst score identified across all assessments. Non complaint inspections are those where an overall score of C or D has been given. These are explained below:

‘C’ score is when practices did not comply with the requirements of Council Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009 and relevant WATOK Regulations but there is no evidence of animals suffering any avoidable pain, distress or suffering during their killing and related operations.

‘D’ score is when practices did not comply with requirements of Council Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009 and WATOK Regulations and there was evidence of animals experiencing avoidable pain, distress or suffering during their killing and related operations.

The table below shows the number of non-compliances identified per assessment category. Please be aware that more than one assessment category can be found to be non-compliant during an inspection. Therefore the number of non-compliant assessments is higher than the overall number of non-compliant inspections.

Year	Country	WATOK Licensing/ Certificate of Competence (LIC)	Construction, Equipment, Maintenance (CEM)	Animals Awaiting Killing (WFS)	Handling and Restraint (RES)	Stunning /Killing- (STK)	Bleeding or Pithing (BLP)
2014	England	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Wales	0	0	0	0	0	0
2015	England	2	3	0	0	2	1
	Wales	0	3	0	0	2	0
2016	England	2	3	2	0	5	1
	Wales	0	0	0	0	0	0

“3, Details of any enforcement action taken by APHA eg referral to local authority. Please break down any data supplied by country and year”.

During the three years reported, there was only one inspection where an overall D score was recorded. This was where non-compliance was identified in the Stunning/Killing section of the inspection. Inappropriate stunning system was initially used. The stunning

system was updated to a hand held system following advice. At the follow up inspection conducted five days later an assessment was completed on this new system and given an 'A' score. All other non-compliances were 'C' scores and were resolved either at the time of the original inspection or via a follow up inspection.

Information disclosed in response to this EIR/FOI request is releasable to the public. In keeping with the spirit and effect of the EIR/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

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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