



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: ATIC1073

11 May 2017

Dear [REDACTED]

PROVISION OF REQUESTED INFORMATION

Thank you for your request for information about bees which we received on 12 April 2017. Your request has been handled under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

The information you requested and our response is detailed below:

“Can I have the number of bee population and bee keepers in the UK, Norfolk and Suffolk from 1940 please”

The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) is an Executive Agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. APHA only holds records for Great Britain (England, Scotland and Wales).

Information for Northern Ireland should be requested from the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs: <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/>

Following a search of our paper and electronic records, any in relation to the years 1940 to 2005 is not held by APHA.

However please see the attached published link that will provide some information on bees for this period <http://www.nationalbeeunit.com/downloadDocument.cfm?id=378>

The information in the tables below was taken from BeeBase which is the APHA National Bee Unit website. It is designed for beekeepers and supports Defra, Welsh Government and Scotland's Bee Health Programmes and the Healthy Bees Plan, which set out to protect and sustain our valuable national bee stocks.

When referencing ‘bee population numbers’, we are specifically referring to ‘registered’ honey bee colonies.

When referencing 'beekeeper numbers', we are specifically referring to 'registered' honey beekeepers.

BeeBase is a voluntary registration system, the data is only representative of those beekeepers and colonies registered and the information is dependent upon beekeepers updating their records. Where data is recorded as 'null' we assume this to mean 'no data is available'. There are various entries for counties in Great Britain (GB) throughout this time period (specifically the earlier years) that fall within this category and would not then be representative in any total GB figures.

Where data is recorded as '0' we assume this to mean 'data is available and recorded as a zero value'. However, given the historic nature of some of the data provided and changes to county boundaries over time, caution should be taken to the accuracy of these figures as it is more likely that '0' values (or erratic values) recorded in the earlier years (especially 2006-2008) are actually a reflection of the lack of accurate data being available, rather than a true zero value.

The annualised figure may not necessarily be at the same time point each year.

For 2017, the report is live, so effectively is as of 3 May 2017 when it was run.

Please see Appendix 1 for the information taken from BeeBase.

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

<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.

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

APPENDIX 1

Bee population and keepers taken from BeeBase for Great Britain:

Year	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	As at 03 May 2017
Current beekeepers	3272	6229	8191	12247	15710	25210	32683	33065	35820	38381	3995	39221
Current colonies	64	87	804	47014	117299	149826	147583	152601	171583	180361	240426	189387

Bee population and keepers taken from BeeBase for Norfolk:

Year	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	As at 03 May 2017
Current beekeepers	120	239	307	393	451	696	770	743	954	984	1021	1027
Current colonies	0	0	8	1303	2102	3138	4594	4657	5200	5236	5338	5312

Bee population and keepers taken from BeeBase for Suffolk:

Year	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	As at 03 May 2017
Current beekeepers	75	196	287	392	439	608	689	749	861	888	923	913
Current colonies	3	3	13	969	1443	2151	2904	3269	3699	3762	4102	3886

- Please note the figures for Great Britain between the years 2006 and 2010 are for England and Wales only. APHA do not hold data for Scotland prior to this year. Beekeepers in Scotland were only eligible to register on BeeBase from 24 June 2010.