



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

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

Our Ref: ATIC1046

27 March 2017

Dear [REDACTED]

PROVISION OF REQUESTED INFORMATION

Thank you for your request for information about the AI outbreak which we received on 8 March 2017. Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

The information you requested and our response is detailed below:

"Under FOI Act 2000 I seek the below information as held by APHA relating to the culling / disposal of birds infected with avian flu in February & March 2017:

1, For each of the following individual locations (SITES 1 - 2):

- the approximate (or exact, if held) number of poultry birds culled following confirmation of avian flu at each premises
- the method of killing at each premises e.g. killed onsite using "containerised gassing"; "whole house gassing" ; "ventilation shutdown" ; individual bird killing by neck dislocation, electrical stunning or other method; or birds sent for culling at a slaughterhouse
- copies of any welfare records / observations made by APHA officials / vets or other official observers to the culling operations
- the destination of carcasses of culled birds from each individual premises e.g for incineration or food processing
- the number of poultry from individual premises (if any) sent to slaughterhouses for culling - and confirmation of whether meat from culled birds entered the food chain

SITE 1: Poultry premises near Redgrave, Suffolk (announced 13th Feb)

SITE 2: Poultry premises near Redgrave, Suffolk (announced 3rd March)”

Please see Appendices 1 to 3 for the record of on-farm culling of stock at the two sites, which includes observations made by APHA officials, vets or other official. These reports include the method of culling.

Remedial action is taken immediately if issues are identified.

Article 18 of Council Regulation (EC) 1099/2009 requires records to be kept of depopulation and any issues highlighted and sent back to the Commission. This ensures lessons learnt are cascaded to other Member States.

Please note these forms also include the numbers of poultry culled. This however may not have been a final figure recorded with APHA.

Please see below the figures poultry culled for each site:

SITE 1	SITE 2
20306 Chickens	55890 Ducks

All birds have been humanely culled using the methods outlined in Annex 1 of the Welfare at Time of Killing (WATOK) Regulations.

All carcasses from all sites were rendered at approved plants as a Category One Animal By Product.

No birds from any site were sent to slaughterhouse for culling.

Information has been redacted under Section 40(2) read in conjunction with 40(3)(a)(i) of the Freedom of Information Act (2000).

Section 40

Some of the information contained within the requested documents has been withheld under section 40(2) read in conjunction with 40(3)(a)(i) (third party personal data) of the FOIA as the information constitutes personal data relating to a third party. 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).

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(2) 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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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



Record of On-farm Culling of Stock

1. Premises

a) Name and address of owner of stock to be culled

[Redacted]
 [Redacted]
 Postcode [Redacted]

b) CPH No. [Redacted]

c) Disease Reference Number [Redacted]

d) Place of culling (if not 1a)

AS ABOVE

Postcode [Redacted]

e) CPH no. of premises where stock to be culled [Redacted]

f) Number of culling sites on premises (complete a site assessment form for each site)

1

2. Supervising Staff

a) Name of Supervising Field vet(s)

[Redacted] (SVI) and [Redacted] (SVI)

b) Name of Case Officer(s) for Premises

[Redacted] and [Redacted]

c) Name of authorised Firearms officer or user who will supervise (if firearms used)

N/A

d) If gassing poultry give details of gas engineer and H&S Officer

[Redacted]

3. On-farm killing

a) Culling began at

Date

15/02/2017

Time

10:00

b) After culling was an individual check for death made on stock?

Yes



No



c) Give details

15/02/17: On arrival and prior to catching commencing, the welfare of the birds was assessed. Blood sampling was carried out as per EA2017/42/VTOT instructions (10:10:10). Culling of houses 3 and 2 took place on that day. Checks for death of stock were performed by two SVIs for one hour (one vet for each CGU). During this time all modules processed were visually inspected and random checks for corneal reflex were also carried out. No issues found. There were no concerns with regards to the catching of the birds during operations either.

16/02/17: Veterinary monitoring of the whole culling in both CGUs was carried out. Two SVIs were attending and each one was monitoring a CGU constantly. Checks included a pre-operational inspection of probes, controls, and monitoring equipment. Also rubber seals on doors and latches; pipe work, manifold valves, gas regulators, gauges for gas deploying systems; unit interior and pipes' integrity. The pre-operation run consisted of two empty loads (one for each machine).

This was followed by a normal operation of a total of 26 runs * with stock for culling from house 1. These runs consisted of 15 modules of pullets and 11 modules of cockerels. Crates densities were: 40 pullets/crate and 30 cockerels/crate. We carried out a visual check on all 26 modules. Also physical checks (corneal reflex and flaccidity) on at least 10 % of pullets (4-5 birds per crate) and at least 15-16 % of cockerels (4-5 birds per crate). During all observed operations CGUs were maintaining oxygen levels below 5% for 180 seconds. Details of these Oxygen % for each run can be found on attached EXD 178s and Annex I (which includes contemporary notes).

* Run = module.

d) Culling completed at

Date

16/02/2017

Time

13:40

e) final check for death

Date

16/02/2017

Time

13:41

4. Performance of Killing and Catching Teams

a) Were there any equipment failures during culling? Yes ☐ No ☒

b) Were there any issues with culling and catching that may have compromised animal welfare? Yes ☐ No ☒

c) If yes to any of the above give details including remedial action taken and any suggested action by LDCC. See notes for guidance

Full time checks on CGU performed on 16/02/17 for equipment functioning reassurance (pictures and videos taken and available on the Epi sharepoint)

Tick here if additional information provided ☒

5. Numbers of Stock Culled on Premises

* - (indicate if estimated or actual number or weight. If estimate give basis for reaching value in the comments box)

** see notes for guidance

Description of animal or bird**	Pullets and cockerels
Number of dead animals/birds pre-cull*	1549
Number of animals/birds culled*	20306
Date of culling	15/02/2017 and 16/02/2017
Method(s) of culling	Inert gas mixture: CO2 (20%) + Argon (80%)
Total number/weight for disposal or destruction*	45520 Kg: 22500 Kg (15/02/17) + 23020 Kg (16/02/17)

Comments

N/a

Additional Information (Put line through if no additional information provided)

Annex I and EXD 178 (x2)

Signature of Veterinary Inspector

[Redacted Signature]

Date

17/02/2017

Name in BLOCK LETTERS

[Redacted Name]

LDCC

BURY ST. EDMUNDS

Tel. No.

[Redacted Tel. No.]

(incl. national dialling code)

Return to Allocations Debrief

Guidance for Completing Audit Record

- This record is to allow an audit of financial and welfare implications of on-farm culling for disease control.
- The Field Vet has overall responsibility for completing this record. However others, e.g. Case Officer may be able to undertake aspects of the checks. The Field Vet must be satisfied that the information is correct before signing the document.
- One Audit Form should be completed for each premises. It must be supported by Culling Site assessments for each separate location or type of location where stock are culled, e.g. if culling is done in the pens, a separate assessment is not required for each pen unless the method or procedure is substantially different. All the Reports for a premises must be fastened together and returned to Debrief Cell in Allocations Team
- Time of final check for death. This must be done before carcasses are removed from the site.

Notes for Guidance

Performance of Culling and Catching Teams

Where gas is used, failures or unexpected problems encountered in the operation of standard gassing protocols e.g.

- problems (and remedial action taken) in achieving required gas concentration
- no of surviving birds (and action taken) at end of successfully implemented protocols
- H&S issues raised by implementation of the protocols.

Animal Identity

The animal species and type culled must be clearly identified but individual identification is not required. The information must allow reconciliation with the valuation form and with the subsequent Removal and Disposal Record. Where appropriate an estimate of numbers may be used but the reason for reaching that estimate must be clearly described.

Stock must be described by species, type and age/production status, e.g. a lambing flock will contain the following groups that must be recorded separately on this form:

- pregnant ewes
- lambed ewes
- lambs at foot.

Descriptions of Animals or Birds

Cattle - use separate columns for animals born before or after August 1996.

Poultry - give species, age, type, and estimated individual weight.

Embryos - species and number.

The Animal and Plant Health Agency is an Executive Agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs working to safeguard animal and plant health for the benefit of people, the environment and the economy.

Guidance for Completing Audit Record

SITE

NOTEBOOK →

They have six different modules ²

Rounds

< 5%

① 3,4% B ⑩ 4,5% A

② 4,5% A ⑪ 10% B

③ 3,3% ⑫ 3,5% B

④ 3,6% ⑬ 4,1% A

⑤ 1,5% ⑭ 3,3% B

⑥ 4,1% ⑮ 4,1% A

⑦ 2,9% ⑯ 3,1% A

⑧ 4,1% ⑰ 1,9% B

⑨ 2,4% B ⑱ 3,4% A

16/02/2017.

They have 6 different modules

Rounds

< 5% O₂

① 3,4% B

⑩ 4,5% A

⑲ 2,4% B

welfare checks

② 4,5% A

⑪ 3,5% B

⑳ 3,5% A

10% (4 birds /
crate)

③ 2,8% B

⑫ 4,1% A

㉑ 2% B

④ 3,6% A

⑬ 3,3% B

㉒ 3,1% A

⑤ 1,5% B

⑭ 4,1% A

㉓ 1,9% B

⑥ 4,1% A

⑮ 3,4% B

㉔ 3,4% A

⑦ 2,9% B

⑯ cockerels 30/crate 4% A

㉕ 2,4% B

⑧ 4,1% A

⑰ 2,4% B

㉖ 2,3% A 50 birds in

⑨ 2,4% B

⑱ 3,8% A



Record of On-farm Culling of Stock

1. Premises

a) Name and address of owner of stock to be culled

[REDACTED]

Postcode [REDACTED]

b) CPH No. [REDACTED]

c) Disease Reference Number [REDACTED]

d) Place of culling (if not 1a)

AS ABOVE

Postcode [REDACTED]

e) CPH no. of premises where stock to be culled [REDACTED]

f) Number of culling sites on premises (complete a site assessment form for each site)

3

2. Supervising Staff

a) Name of Supervising Field vet(s)

[REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

b) Name of Case Officer(s) for Premises

[REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

c) Name of authorised Firearms officer or user who will supervise (if firearms used)

N/A

d) If gassing poultry give details of gas engineer and H&S Officer

[REDACTED]

3. On-farm killing

a) Culling began at

Date

15/02/2017

Time

10:00

b) After culling was an individual check for death made on stock?

Yes



No



c) Give details

15/02/17: Individual checks for death of stock where performed simultaneously on the 2 Gas Chamber Units by each of the veterinarians for 1 hour.

16/02/17: Full veterinary monitoring of the whole culling at both GCU. This included a pre-operational check, 2 empty runs (1 each machine) and 26 runs. These consisted of 15 modules (runs) of pullets and 11 modules of cockerels. Pullets density: 40 birds/crate; Cockerels: 30 birds/crate. 100% visual checks of birds in the modules carried out after culling. Physical checks for absence of vital signs on pullets 10% (4 birds per crate) and on cockerels 15-16 % (4-5 birds per crate)

d) Culling completed at

Date

16/02/2017

Time

13:40

e) final check for death

Date

16/02/2017

Time

13:40

4. Performance of Killing and Catching Teams

a) Were there any equipment failures during culling?

Yes



No



b) Were there any issues with culling and catching that may have compromised animal welfare?

Yes



No



c) If yes to any of the above give details including remedial action taken and any suggested action by LDCC. See notes for guidance

Full time checks on CGU on 16/02/17 for equipment functioning reassurance (pictures and videos taken)

Tick here if additional information provided ☐

5. Numbers of Stock Culled on Premises

* - (indicate if estimated or actual number or weight. If estimate give basis for reaching value in the comments box)

** see notes for guidance

Description of animal or bird**	Pullets and cockerels
Number of dead animals/birds pre-cull*	1549
Number of animals/birds culled*	20306
Date of culling	15/02/2017 and 16/02/2017
Method(s) of culling	CO2 (20%) + Argon (80%)
Total number/weight for disposal or destruction*	45520 Kg: 22500 Kg (15/02/17) + 23020 Kg (16/02/17)

Comments

Additional Information (Put line through if no additional information provided)

Signature of Veterinary Inspector

[Redacted Signature]

Date

17/02/2017

Name in BLOCK LETTERS

[Redacted Name]

LDCC

BURY ST. EDMUNDS

Tel. No.

[Redacted Tel. No.]

(incl. national dialling code)

Return to Allocations Debrief

Guidance for Completing Audit Record

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- One Audit Form should be completed for each premises. It must be supported by Culling Site assessments for each separate location or type of location where stock are culled, e.g. if culling is done in the pens, a separate assessment is not required for each pen unless the method or procedure is substantially different. All the Reports for a premises must be fastened together and returned to Debrief Cell in Allocations Team
- Time of final check for death. This must be done before carcasses are removed from the site.

Notes for Guidance

Performance of Culling and Catching Teams

Where gas is used, failures or unexpected problems encountered in the operation of standard gassing protocols e.g.

- problems (and remedial action taken) in achieving required gas concentration
- no of surviving birds (and action taken) at end of successfully implemented protocols
- H&S issues raised by implementation of the protocols.

Animal Identity

The animal species and type culled must be clearly identified but individual identification is not required. The information must allow reconciliation with the valuation form and with the subsequent Removal and Disposal Record. Where appropriate an estimate of numbers may be used but the reason for reaching that estimate must be clearly described.

Stock must be described by species, type and age/production status, e.g. a lambing flock will contain the following groups that must be recorded separately on this form:

- pregnant ewes
- lambed ewes
- lambs at foot.

Descriptions of Animals or Birds

Cattle - use separate columns for animals born before or after August 1996.

Poultry - give species, age, type, and estimated individual weight.

Embryos - species and number.

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Record of On-farm Culling of Stock

1. Premises

a) Name and address of owner of stock to be culled

[REDACTED]

Postcode [REDACTED]

b) CPH No. [REDACTED]

c) Disease Reference Number [REDACTED]

d) Place of culling (if not 1a)

[REDACTED]

Postcode [REDACTED]

e) CPH no. of premises where stock to be culled [REDACTED]

f) Number of culling sites on premises (complete a site assessment form for each site)

ONE

2. Supervising Staff

a) Name of Supervising Field vet(s) [REDACTED]

b) Name of Case Officer(s) for Premises [REDACTED]

c) Name of authorised Firearms officer or user who will supervise (if firearms used)

N/A

d) If gassing poultry give details of gas engineer and H&S Officer

APHA Poultry Culling Officer [REDACTED]

3. On-farm killing

a) Culling began at

Date

04/03/2017

Time

09:40

b) After culling was an individual check for death made on stock?

Yes



No



c) Give details

Test cull undertaken using both of two CGUs, 100% check on every bird for signs of life by vets as above.

During cull constant monitoring of cull effectiveness by vets looking at ducks post gassing in drawers of modules

d) Culling completed at

Date

06/03/2017

Time

11:00

e) final check for death

Date

06/03/2017

Time

11:00

4. Performance of Killing and Catching Teams

a) Were there any equipment failures during culling?

Yes



No



b) Were there any issues with culling and catching that may have compromised animal welfare?

Yes



No



c) If yes to any of the above give details including remedial action taken and any suggested action by LDCC. See notes for guidance

Oxygen monitors appeared to fail (did not show reducing oxygen levels) at about 10.30am Sunday 5/3/17. The module in the CGU at that time containing ducks for euthanasia was in mid stream of the culling process and was left in the unit for 5 minutes then taken out for inspection by the welfare at culling vets. They confirmed all ducks were showing no signs of life. The oxygen monitors and recording device were substituted by [REDACTED] from [REDACTED] for those known to be in good working order. There was a minor delay while these were installed and checked before normal service was resumed.

Tick here if additional information provided ☐

5. Numbers of Stock Culled on Premises

* - (indicate if estimated or actual number or weight. If estimate give basis for reaching value in the comments box)

** see notes for guidance

Description of animal or bird**	Fattening ducks 1.2 to 1.6Kg in weight.
Number of dead animals/birds pre-cull*	75
Number of animals/birds culled*	55890
Date of culling	04/03/2017 to 06/03/2017
Method(s) of culling	CO2 plus inert gas asphyxiation
Total number/weight for disposal or destruction*	55890

Comments

Numbers alive pre-cull calculated from birds placed as day olds less all daily casualty figures from farm records. At valuation visit on 3rd March (day before cull) all ducks appeared healthy and unaffected by disease. 'Normal' mortality recorded each day before the cull commenced totalled 75 ducks in total.

No evidence of any disease in birds alive each day before culling operations began.

Additional Information (Put line through if no additional information provided)

Birds culled counted into culling modules as far as practicable which provided approximate verification of birds calculated to be alive pre-cull.

Signature of Veterinary Inspector

[Redacted Signature]

Date

20/3/2017

Name in BLOCK LETTERS

[Redacted Name]

LDCC

TERRY STEPHENS 1015

Tel. No.

[Redacted Tel. No.]

(incl. national dialling code)

Return to Allocations Debrief