



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

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[REDACTED]
{By Email}

Our Ref: ATIC1091

6 June 2017

Dear [REDACTED]

PROVISION OF REQUESTED INFORMATION

Thank you for your request for information about live animal exports which we received on 10 May 2017. Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

The information you requested and our response is detailed below:

"I am writing to you regarding live farm animal exports from the UK to continental Europe and would like to request information on dates that live farm animal exports were undertaken.

In particular I would be most grateful if you could provide the following information:

1. How many a) cattle b) sheep c) pigs and d) other animals have left the port of I) Dover ii) Ramsgate iii) any other UK ports between 1st January and 31st December 2016.
2. How many a) weaned b) unweaned I) cattle ii) sheep iii) pigs d) other animals have been exported in each of the above shipments?
3. In each of the above cases referred to in question 1, what was the a) UK region (i.e. north, south etc.) of origin within the UK and b) destination region (i.e. "Poitou-Charentes, France", "Catalonia, Spain", etc.) for each of the shipments?
4. How many (transporters) trucks were on each journey, which species of animal and how many animals?
5. On what date did each of these crossings occur?

6. Any statutory notices that were issued during each of the journeys listed in response to question 1.
7. According to the journey plan / logs, what was the a) estimated b) actual journey i) time ii) distance for each of the above journeys (including proposed lairage / rest stops during the journey/ journey cycle)?

Animal Health has previously informed us of these figures up to 31st December 2015. I am therefore now seeking information for more recent live farm animal exports from the UK.

Regarding the issue on journey times (point 7). I understand that you do not collect the actual journey time data. However, I also understand that you do have the proposed ('estimated') journey time for each vehicle and the proposed number of lairage / rest stops as estimated by the driver/operator, via the journey log submitted to you. Indeed, you have provided this to us previously in another FOI response on the issue of live animal exports. I believe this would satisfy the outstanding data pertaining to point 7.

Can I therefore request that part or all of that data is provided to us on this issue (i.e. proposed journey time and/or distance and the number of proposed rest stops)?”

Clarity was then asked regarding the reason for export:

“Apologies for the confusion. This is for farm animals exported for slaughter and fattening (production), as has been supplied previously.”

The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) is an Executive Agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. For your FOI request, APHA holds records of the transportation of live animals that originated from premises in 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/>

Please see attached at Appendix 1 the information requested from 1 January and 31 December 2016.

The origin and destination by region in which the loading and unloading took place has been withheld in accordance with Section 38 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act. However, the country of origin and destination has been supplied in the attached Appendix.

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 region of origin and the region of destination would identify further information and 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.

Additionally, First Tier Tribunal decision EA/2014/0131 was referred to when making this decision.

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