



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

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

Our Ref: ATIC1278

5 April 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

PROVISION OF REQUESTED INFORMATION

Thank you for your request for information about incidence of urea toxicity, which we received on 7 March 2018. Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

The information you requested and our response is detailed below:

'I am wanting to see if urea toxicity incidence have increased over the past 10 years. I'm specifically interested in cattle both beef and dairy. However even just one year 2016/17 would just give me an idea on current case numbers.'

Table 1 below lists incidents of urea toxicity recorded by APHA since 2006. These figures have been sourced from the VIDA database, from which annual diagnostic reports are published on GOV.UK.

Diagnoses of urea toxicity will be based on clinical findings, and circumstantial evidence of a change in feed batches or the introduction of feed with a urea additive. Poisoning can occur due to changes in feeding regimes and does not necessarily reflect an incorrect feed composition. Urea is added to some ruminant feeds to increase the nitrogen intake, which in turn affects protein production.

There is no legal obligation for poisoning cases to be reported to APHA, therefore our data will not reflect the true incidence.

If there is a problem with a batch of feed, farmers are likely to contact either the feed company direct, or Trading Standards, who are the authoritative body for suspected chemical feed incidents in England or Wales. Trading Standards may, therefore, be able to supply you with additional data/information.

Table 1:

Species	HUSBANDRY	DESCRIPTION	YEAR	COMMENTS
Cattle	SUCKLER	Poisoning chemicals NOS	dt 2014	Urea poisoning - not fsi
Cattle	SUCKLER	Poisoning chemicals NOS	dt 2010	urea
Cattle	FINISHER	Poisoning chemicals NOS	dt 2009	Urea fertiliser confirmed in water samples
Cattle	SUCKLER	Poisoning chemicals NOS	dt 2009	Urea poisoning

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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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