



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: ATIC1313

08 May 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

PROVISION OF REQUESTED INFORMATION

Thank you for your request for information about the use of raised cages for game birds which we received on 09 April 2018. Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

The information you requested and our response is detailed below:

“We are conducting research into the use of raised cages for breeding game birds, and want to find out how commonly they are used in Scotland.

Are you able to confirm the use of raised cages, either enriched or barren, and how many farms in Scotland use them?

Can you also confirm how many inspections APHA Scotland conducts of game farms per year, and how those farms are chosen?”

APHA’s records show that one gamebird unit is currently registered as having a caged system, however this number may not be accurate. The Avian Influenza (Preventive Measures) (Scotland) Order 2007 requires anybody who keeps more than 50 poultry (which includes captive gamebirds) to register with the Scottish Ministers and provide information including the husbandry type. However there is no requirement to inform Scottish Ministers when a unit changes its husbandry system, this means that our records may not reflect the current number of units in Scotland which use a caged system.

The number of game bird units inspected by APHA are shown per year in the table below:

Year	Number of Gamebird Units Inspected
2013	31
2014	23
2015	21
2016	17
2017	7

The inspections were chosen from units registered on the official database.

In 2013 each of the five main offices in Scotland completed one hatchery visit and visited at least five additional units.

From 2014 to 2016 the five main offices visited up to five units in their local area, with an emphasis on identifying units importing birds (especially day-old chicks).

In 2017 the five main offices visited units that had not been previously inspected and focused in particular on units which breed or rear birds, as opposed to units that buy in birds to release.

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