



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

Animal and Plant Health Agency
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Our Ref: ATIC1392

[REDACTED]
{By Email}

08 August 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

PROVISION OF REQUESTED INFORMATION

Thank you for your request for information Foreign Pathogens which we received on 10 July 2018. Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI)

The information you requested and our response is detailed below:

1. "What are the current preventative measures in place in order to prevent pathogens in foreign species entering the country?"
2. Are these measures effective?
3. If not, what new measures are being introduced?"

Animal movements into the UK from both the EU and non-EU countries are governed by EU Regulations covering animal health requirements and control measures. Further information regarding these requirements can be found on the EU Commission website at the following link: https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals_en

4. "How many native (British wildlife) and domesticated animals (farm animals and pets) are being affected by foreign pathogens each year?"
5. "Which type of pathogen in foreign species is the most common?"

APHA can confirm the information for these questions can be found in the public domain at the websites below:

OIE reports

http://www.oie.int/wahis_2/public/wahid.php/Countryinformation/Reporting

Surveillance reports:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/apha-disease-surveillance-reports-2017>

6. "What is the yearly number of domesticated animals (both farm and pets) coming into the UK?"

The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) can confirm data is not held going back for fifty years. The table below shows the imports to the UK from EU and non- EU countries for the years 2007-2008 and 2017 – 2018 as per your clarified request.

Year	Cattle	Sheep	Pigs	Horses	Pet dogs/cats	Commercial dogs/cats
2007	42217	8674	566828	8009	99666	2894
2008	37213	1376	574192	6820	113491	4936
2017	53376	2186	448046	10239	313496	43754
2018 (to 30 June)	22846	245	256865	4608	Not currently available	22280

TRACES (Trade Control and Expert System) is a European Commission system employed by EU member states to facilitate and record animal/animal product movements into and throughout the EU. The data for livestock, horses and commercial cats and dogs was extracted from TRACES through the data warehouse facility. The data regarding pet dogs and cats entering Great Britain is based on information provided by checkers employed by approved carriers of pet animals.

The information APHA have provided is a true reflection of the information that we have access to. We can't guarantee the accuracy of this data, as we can only rely on the information that has been input into TRACES and the pets returns by a third party.

7. "How many animals are illegally being brought into the UK each year without being quarantined or vaccinated?"

The definition of 'illegal import' does not necessarily mean the animal was smuggled into Great Britain. Our definition of an illegal import is any animal that is landed in Great Britain which does not meet the import requirements. While this may include some smuggled animals, it also includes animals that were found to be non-compliant during checks. However for the majority of these non-compliances, although they are classed as illegal imports, will be due to minor documentary errors.

8. "In your own opinion are pathogens introduced through foreign species a serious threat to native and domesticated animals within the UK?"

9. How has the biodiversity of British Wildlife been affected by these pathogens in foreign species?

10. Economic impact on farm animals due to foreign pathogens, so how much money is lost in the farming industry each year due to pathogens introduced by foreign species?

11. When, where and how do you collect your data to find out the above information?"

The Information is not held by APHA, we only hold data regarding notifiable pathogens (not all foreign pathogens). Please be aware that as your questions are

asking for opinions rather than recorded data we are not able to specifically answer these under FOI.

APHA have provided general information to answer your questions but are happy to discuss any further information you require should you require.

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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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