



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

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Our Ref: ATIC1449

[REDACTED]
{By Email}

05 October 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

PROVISION OF REQUESTED INFORMATION

Thank you for your request for information about Bee Base which we received on 03 September 2018. Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.

The information you requested and our response is detailed below:

"I am asking for the following information:

1. The number of apiaries registered in Bee Base in 2018 and the previous 4 years, showing the annual totals.
2. The number of hives registered in Bee Base in 2018 and the previous 4 years, showing the totals for each year.
3. The same information as in 1 and 2 above, but this time showing the totals for each county separately. If this is onerous, the totals in another geographical subdivision might be acceptable.
4. The total number of importers of bees currently registered

Please see [APPENDIX 1](#) attached

APHA have several values within [Appendix 1](#) to answer this question:

- Columns F and G reflect where a current beekeeper in that year is recorded as a recipient of an EU or Third Country import consignment in any year; not specific to that year.
- Column E is based on data APHA collect from the beekeeper at point of registration (and can be updated post registration); 'Do you import bees?' – This is not linked to any specific data on imported consignments.

The total number who are currently members of the Bee Farmers' Association. Column H is based on data APHA collect from the beekeeper at point of registration (and can be updated post registration); 'Do you belong to Bee Farmers Association?'

The total number who are currently members of a beekeepers association.”

Column I is based on data APHA collect from the beekeeper at point of registration (and can be updated post registration); ‘Do you belong to a Beekeeping Association?’

APHA can confirm the data provided from the bee base system with the understanding that Bee Base data is a collation of information taken at the time of registration of beekeepers and apiaries. The supplying of this information is voluntary, and the data is only representative of those beekeepers and colonies registered, and relies on information being updated in a timely manner.

Annual values are as at 31 December, apart from 2018 which is as at 25 September.

Some data in the spreadsheet at Appendix 1, has been redacted as this information could potentially identify a person with their private address. This information is being withheld under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act (2000).

Section 40

It has been withheld under section 40(2) of the FOIA as the information constitutes personal data relating to a third party. The FOIA provides that personal data relating to third parties is exempt information. The release of third party information, if disclosed, would also breach Article 5(f) of the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) - Principles relating to processing of personal data.

APHA consider that disclosure of this information is likely to breach section 40(2) of the FOIA and Article 5(f) of the GDPR, which relates to appropriate security of personal data, including protection against unauthorized or unlawful processing. Therefore, we have concluded that this information is withheld.

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

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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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