



Animal &  
Plant Health  
Agency

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Our Ref: ATIC1495

[REDACTED]  
{By Email}

13 November 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

## PROVISION OF REQUESTED INFORMATION

Thank you for your request for information on sheep exports which we received clarification for on the 18 October 2018. Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI).

The information you requested and our response is detailed below:

*'Could you provide a short report listing the numbers per breed for:*

- *Live sheep (male /female)*
- *Sheep Semen*
- *Sheep embryos*

*On a per export country bases.'*

We wrote to again for clarity on your request and you replied with:

*'2010 and recent 2015, 16, 17 would be useful.'*

The breed of an animal is not recorded by the Animal and Plant Health Agency, so APHA are unable to provide any information relating to the breed of either live ovine animals exported for breeding, or semen/embryos exported for breeding.

APHA's data retention period for export information is two years. APHA are therefore unable to provide information for 2010 or 2015 from APHA's own records. APHA has access to TRACES (Trade Control and Expert System) which 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 was extracted from TRACES through the Qlikview reporting facility.

Please see attached document titled Appendix 1 (Breeding Sheep 2015 – 2017). This data was extracted from TRACES. In addition, from data extracted from APHA's own records, there was one consignment of breeding sheep to a Third Country in 2016 – 2017. This was a consignment of 3 animals exported to Barbados in 2017.

For the export of semen and embryos, APHA do not record the quantity of straws of semen/number of embryos that is exported. The data provided below is the number of consignments exported.

Table 1: The number of consignments of Ovine Semen exported to the European Union in 2015. This information was obtained from the TRACES Qlikview reporting function. There were zero consignments of Ovine Embryos in 2015

Country of Export	Country Of Destination	Number of Consignments
England	Denmark	2
England	France	1
England	Germany	1
England	Hungary	1
England	Norway	4
England	Poland	1
England	Sweden	2
England	The Netherlands	2

Table 2: The number of consignments of Ovine Germinal Products exported from GB in 2016.

Destination Country	Number of Consignments
<b>AUSTRIA</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>OVINE SEMEN</b>	<b>1</b>
ENGLAND	1
<b>CANADA</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>OVINE SEMEN</b>	<b>3</b>
ENGLAND	3
<b>DENMARK</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>OVINE EMBRYOS</b>	<b>1</b>
ENGLAND	1
<b>OVINE SEMEN</b>	<b>2</b>
ENGLAND	2
<b>NEW ZEALAND</b>	<b>7</b>

<b>OVINE EMBRYOS</b>	<b>6</b>
ENGLAND	6
<b>OVINE SEMEN</b>	<b>1</b>
ENGLAND	1
<b>NORWAY</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>OVINE SEMEN</b>	<b>4</b>
ENGLAND	4
<b>SWEDEN</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>OVINE EMBRYOS</b>	<b>3</b>
ENGLAND	3
<b>OVINE SEMEN</b>	<b>2</b>
ENGLAND	2
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>23</b>

Table 3: The number of consignments of Ovine Germinal Products exported from GB in 2017.

Row Labels	Sum of Number of Consignments
<b>CANADA</b>	<b>1</b>
OVINE SEMEN	1
<b>DENMARK</b>	<b>1</b>
OVINE EMBRYOS	1
<b>GERMANY</b>	<b>1</b>
OVINE SEMEN	1

<b>NETHERLANDS</b>	<b>1</b>
OVINE SEMEN	1
<b>NEW ZEALAND</b>	<b>17</b>
OVINE EMBRYOS	12
OVINE SEMEN	5
<b>NORWAY</b>	<b>13</b>
OVINE EMBRYOS	3
OVINE SEMEN	10
<b>REPUBLIC OF IRELAND</b>	<b>1</b>
OVINE EMBRYOS	1
<b>SWEDEN</b>	<b>7</b>
OVINE EMBRYOS	3
OVINE SEMEN	4
<b>SWITZERLAND</b>	<b>4</b>
OVINE SEMEN	4
<b>USA</b>	<b>5</b>
OVINE SEMEN	5

<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>51</b>
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For Table 3: The number of consignments of Ovine Germinal Products exported from GB in 2017, APHA are unable to provide a breakdown of the information by country of export, as the number of commercial premises carrying out this type of work is limited and subsequently identifying which premises they came from.

Parts of the breakdown of information by country have been withheld as the number of commercial premises carrying out this type of work is limited. The section of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) that has been used to exempt this information is Section 43 and further details of this are below:

### **Section 43**

APHA must view the disclosure of information as a release of information into the public domain. This means that they must consider the consequences of disclosure to the world at large, and not just the impact of providing the information to the requester. It follows that the key question APHA must ask itself when deciding how to respond is whether the information is suitable for disclosure to anyone and everyone.

In this case the number of companies providing these specific services are very few and releasing the information by country would in effect be releasing commercially sensitive information about a specific business.

The exemption in Section 43 is subject to a Public Interest Test to ensure it is being appropriately applied.

### **Public Interest Test**

We recognise that there is a general presumption in favour of openness and transparency concerning our work, and providing the general public with the right to request information held by public authorities.

We also recognise that there may be a public interest in disclosure of information in order to increase transparency and aid well-informed debates concerning the details of sheep and sheep products.

However, the disclosure of the information you have requested has the potential to prejudice the commercial interests of a 3rd party and breach confidentiality between APHA and its customers. We believe that a breach of this confidentiality could potentially lead to an adverse working relationship and would interfere with APHA carrying out its statutory duties. The data recorded by TRACES is part of our business, and the release of sensitive commercial information may harm the interests of the third party.

We therefore conclude that the commercial interest of the businesses involved and the importance of APHA to be able to implement its duties outweighs that of the public's right to view the information.

Therefore, we have concluded that in all the circumstances of the case, that information should be 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](mailto: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](mailto: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