



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

Animal and Plant Health Agency
Access to Information Team
Woodham Lane
New Haw
Addlestone
Surrey
KT15 3NB

F 01932 357608

www.gov.uk/apha

Our Ref: ATIC1588

[REDACTED]
{By Email}

06 February 2019

Dear [REDACTED]

PROVISION OF REQUESTED INFORMATION

Thank you for your request for information varroa numbers which we received on 09 January 2019. Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI).

The information you requested and our response is detailed below:

'I know the NBU receives samples from beekeepers, and I was wondering if you have long term data about Varroa numbers, not just in Wales but UK wide?'

The introduction of 'The Bee Diseases and Pests Control Order 2006', revoked the listing of Varroa as a statutory notifiable pest across England and Wales. Routine screening for the presence of Varroa was replaced by the Exotic Pests Surveillance Programme, focussing attention on surveillance for the exotic pests *Aethina tumida* (Small Hive Beetle) and *Tropilaelaps* spp, however, the NBU continues to offer advice on the monitoring, treatment and control of Varroa as a significant pest of honeybees. (Ref: [Managing Varroa leaflet](#))

Data on Varroa resistance (to pyrethroid medicines) is published here: <http://www.nationalbeeunit.com/public/BeeDiseases/vrtReport.cfm?year=2009> (2009 and prior).

We have not collected data on mite counts routinely since this period. The current inspection regime does not require Inspectors to record the presence/absence of Varroa (and other minor disorders), however, data is collected where clinical infections are problematic for the colony, based on the judgement of an Bee Inspector.

There are several publications available on Varroa spread, notably: Thompson, H.M., Brown, M.A., Ball, R.F. and Bew, M.H., (2002) First report of *Varroa destructor* resistance to pyrethroids in the UK. *Apidologie*, 33(4), pp.357-366. (<https://hal.archives-ouvertes.fr/hal-00891907/document>).

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.

The Animal and Plant Health Agency is an Executive Agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs working to safeguard animal and plant health for the benefit of people, the environment and the economy.

Yours sincerely

ACCESS TO INFORMATION TEAM

Email: enquiries@apha.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:

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/open-government-licence.htm>

Information you receive which is **not** subject to Crown Copyright continues to be protected by the copyright of the person, or organisation, from which the information originated. You must ensure that you gain their permission before reproducing any third party (non Crown Copyright) information.

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