



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

Animal and Plant Health Agency
Access to Information Team
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Our Ref: ATIC1971

[REDACTED]
{By Email}

14 February 2020

Dear [REDACTED]

PROVISION OF REQUESTED INFORMATION

Thank you for your request for information bee hive populations which we received clarification for on 22 January 2020. Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI).

The information you requested and our response is detailed below:

"I would like access to data on locations of apiary sites in the inner London area"

The locations provided are the mapping co-ordinates provided after running a report on on APHA's Bee Base system. They represent colony densities in blocks of 1km² in Greater London.

The data refers only to that held on BeeBase. BeeBase is the APHA National Bee Unit website. It is designed for bee keepers and supports Defra, Welsh Government and Scotland's Bee Health Programmes and the Healthy Bees Plan, which set out to protect and sustain our valuable national bee stocks.

Please note that BeeBase is a voluntary registration system, the data is only representative of those bee keepers and colonies registered and the information is dependent upon beekeepers updating their records.

Some data in the spreadsheet at Appendix 1 has been redacted as this information could potentially identify a person with their private address. Apiary sites within those 1km² blocks rarely number 5 or more and in those circumstances under the legislation this could lead to identifying individuals and should be exempted from release.

APHA have supplied the number of colonies where there are 5 or more per 1km² and hope this goes some way to help answering your question.

This information on the number of Apiaries 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.

An Annex is attached 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.gov.uk

Annex

Copyright

The information supplied to you continues to be protected by copyright. You are free to use it for your own purposes, including for private study and non-commercial research, and for any other purpose authorised by an exception in current copyright law. Documents (except photographs or logos) can also be used in the UK without requiring permission for the purposes of news reporting. Any other re-use, for example commercial publication, would require the permission of the copyright holder.

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Complaints

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request, you may make a complaint or appeal against our decision under section 17(7) of the FOIA or under regulation 11 of the EIRs, as applicable, within 40 working days of the date of this letter. Please write to the Access to Information Manager at the address at the top of this letter or email enquiries@apha.gov.uk and the team will arrange for an internal review of your case.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, section 50 of the FOIA and regulation 18 of the EIRs gives you the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) for a decision. Please note that generally the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have first exhausted APHA's own complaints procedure. The ICO can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF