



Animal &  
Plant Health  
Agency

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Our Ref: ATIC2028

[REDACTED]  
{By Email}

11 May 2020

Dear [REDACTED]

### **PROVISION OF REQUESTED INFORMATION**

Thank you for your request for information on the number of visits to salmon farms which we received on 23 April 2020. Your request has been handled under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004(EIR).

The information you requested and our response is detailed below:

“Why does APHA not conduct more inspections of salmon farms? In fact, how many salmon farms has APHA inspected every year since 2013 (please consider this a formal FOI request)?”

The number of Salmon farm visits attended by APHA from 2013 up to April 2020 is thirty five

2013 – 13 visits  
2014 – 1 visit  
2015 – 1 visit  
2016 – 2 visits  
2017 – 2 visits  
2018 – 3 visits  
2019 - 13 visits  
2020 – none to date.

The Fish Health Inspectorate (FHI) of Marine Scotland monitor farmed fish welfare as part of their inspection programme for notifiable disease.

Fish welfare is also monitored through membership of Farm Assurance Schemes, and the fish farms' designated veterinary surgeon as a practising member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons has a duty to protect animals under their care.

The Scottish Government therefore only requires APHA vets trained in fish welfare to accompany the FHIs on a small number of their inspections annually.

APHA also investigates complaints regarding fish welfare which may arise from the FHI, other regulators or third parties and carries out inspections where necessary. This level of regulation is comparable with controls in place for terrestrial livestock farming systems in Scotland.

Information disclosed in response to this EIR request is releasable to the public. In keeping with the spirit and effect of the EIR 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. During the current Coronavirus outbreak, our offices will be closed.

Yours sincerely

**ACCESS TO INFORMATION TEAM**

Email: [enquiries@apha.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@apha.gov.uk)

## Annex

### Copyright

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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](mailto: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

### Coronavirus

However, following the changes to Government advice, from Tuesday 24 March 2020 the ICO offices will be closed. They will therefore not be able to collect correspondence sent via post. Where possible, they ask that you [contact them online](#) or call on 0303 123 1113