



Our Ref: ATIC2058

[REDACTED]
{By Email}

26 June 2020

Dear [REDACTED]

PROVISION OF REQUESTED INFORMATION

Thank you for your request for information about Asian Hornet sightings which we received on 29 March 2020. Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI).

The information you requested and our response is detailed below:

“How many referrals regarding sightings of alleged Asian Hornet were made individually via the following methods from 1st April 2019 to 1st April 2020;

1. The Asian Hornet Watch App.

Month & Year	Total number	With pictures
Apr-19	107	65
May-19	269	149
Jun-19	406	208
Jul-19	373	199
Aug-19	246	137
Sep-19	199	87
Oct-19	118	60
Nov-19	18	12
Dec-19	4	2
Jan-20	4	1
Feb-20	3	2
Mar-20	7	5
Total	1754	927

2. The NNSS Notification Form.

Month & Year	Total number	With pictures
Apr-19	96	58
May-19	334	184
Jun-19	368	165
Jul-19	425	200
Aug-19	272	137
Sep-19	210	84
Oct-19	157	79
Nov-19	18	8
Dec-19	5	1
Jan-20	5	2
Feb-20	2	2
Mar-20	10	6
Total	1902	926

3. via alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk

Month & Year	Total number	With pictures (approx)
Apr-19	205	120
May-19	621	365
Jun-19	543	297
Jul-19	597	343
Aug-19	374	244
Sep-19	450	244
Oct-19	147	61
Nov-19	16	8
Dec-19	5	1
Jan-20	7	6
Feb-20	3	3
Mar-20	14	11
Total	2982	1703

How many of these had photographic evidence?"

The numbers for 1 & 2 have been included in the tables above. The numbers for 3 have been estimated as they are not routinely recorded. The work involved in checking

individual e-mails has been refused under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Please see below.

“Further to that how many were acted on by the National Bee Unit? (by that I mean how many necessitated a Bee Inspector or other person going to an individual site as a result of a referral).”

Month & Year	NBU recorded triage	NBU further action
Apr-19	23	0
May-19	28	4
Jun-19	20	4
Jul-19	18	10
Aug-19	6	5
Sep-19	16	13
Oct-19	7	7
Nov-19	0	0
Dec-19	1	0
Jan-20	1	0
Feb-20	0	0
Mar-20	0	0
Total	120	43

Section 12

You can refuse a request if deciding whether you hold the information would mean you exceed the cost limit, for example, because it would require an extensive search in a number of locations.

By virtue of regulation 12(2) of the FOIA, APHA may refuse to disclose information if the request for the information would involve the diversion of resources and incur excessive cost, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in applying the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information. In reaching our decision with respect to the public interest, we considered the following matters:

Regulation 12(2) of the FOIA also requires public authorities to apply a presumption in favour of disclosure. However, there is a strong public interest in withholding the information. Your request covers a substantial amount of information which may not be held in the same location. Gathering this specific information together, would involve a significant cost and diversion of resources from APHA's other work.

Investigating 2982 individual e-mails and records from April 2019 to March 2020 would take approximately 10 mins per record, to fully read, extract and collate.

APHA consider that your request falls under regulation 12(2) on cost and resource grounds in determining whether all the information is held. Having carried out the above investigation, we have concluded that, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest falls in favour of applying the exemption.

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. During the current Coronavirus outbreak, our offices will be closed.

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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Copyright in other documents may rest with a third party. For information about obtaining permission from a third party see the [Intellectual Property Office's website](#).

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

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