



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

Animal and Plant Health Agency
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Our Ref: ATIC2060

[REDACTED]
{By Email}

23 June 2020

Dear [REDACTED]

PROVISION OF REQUESTED INFORMATION

Thank you for your request for information on the effectiveness of the DOC 200 trap which we received on 29 May 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 am reaching out with regards to DOC 200 traps in the UK.

I have some concerns about the success rate of these traps, but have been advised by the RSPB that studies conducted in the UK support these traps being very effective with little chance of malfunctioning. I was advised to reach out to the Animal, Plant and Health Agency to request the data on this so I can take a look, as it is currently unpublished. I kindly request the results and data from any studies you have conducted on these traps.”

Where suitable test data to evaluate trap humaneness is already available and this is used as alternative evidence to avoid the need to un-necessarily harm animals in trap-tests. For the DOC 200, data on trap humaneness was available from New Zealand (for some species and trap settings).

The standards the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) use to test traps are the Agreed International Humane Trapping Standards (AIHTS). This includes tests for all species as well as those listed under the AIHTS. For all species (except the stoat) animals in trap-test trials must become irreversibly unconscious within 300 seconds, with a shorter limit of 45 seconds used for stoats. Each trap-test might require up to 12 trials, for which 10 must be successful for the trap to pass (alternatively, traps fail the standard when they fail 3 trials in a test).

APHA undertook a trap-test using the DOC 200 set as a run through trap for stoats and built upon existing data from New Zealand to confirm its humaneness when set as a baited trap for stoats. The trap passed the standard set for humanness.

Please see additional publicly available information on the order and AIHTS:

Spring Trap Approval Order - <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2018/1190/made>

AIHTS UK government info - <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/humane-trapping-standards-march-2019-update>

Specific details regarding the testing of the DOC200 trap have been have been exempted from release under Section 43 of the FOIA, details of which can be found below. Please note that under Section 43 we are unable to disclose information that would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of any person, and as such this exemption has been applied.

Section 43

Section 43(2) of the FOIA exempts information if its disclosure under the Act would or would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of any person. The exemption in Section 43 is subject to a Public Interest Test to ensure it is being appropriately applied.

Public Interest Test

APHA 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 access to information held by public authorities.

APHA also recognise that this would increase transparency and aid well-informed debates concerning our work and how we test traps.

However, APHA's relationship with stakeholders is based on trust. Releasing this information could prejudice the commercial interests of APHA and this could lead to financial losses.

Furthermore, this would result in breach of confidentiality between APHA and its customers and could potentially lead to an adverse working relationship and interfere with the relevant Public Authority carrying out its statutory duties.

APHA have concluded that, in all the circumstances of the case, the information should be withheld under Section 43(3) of the Act at this time.

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