



Animal &  
Plant Health  
Agency

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Our Ref: ATIC2079

[REDACTED]  
{By Email}

29 July 2020

Dear [REDACTED]

## PROVISION OF REQUESTED INFORMATION

Thank you for your request for information regarding budgets and fraud prevention which we received on 1 July 2020. Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI).

The information you requested and our response is detailed below:

“1. What is your organisations current staff headcount?”

This information is exempt from release citing Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) as it is already in the public domain and is reasonably accessible either as specific data or by manipulating the published data. The latest headcount figures for the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) are published each month, please see link below.

<https://data.gov.uk/dataset/9fb1ed1f-00c9-421b-ab18-c30c14559681/workforce-management-information-defra>

2. What was your organisations annual budget for the financial year 2019-2020?

The APHA budget gets re-stated in year so what the budget starts the year as is not necessarily what the budget is at the end of the year.

This information has been exempted from release citing Section 22a of the FOIA (information intended for future publication).

## Public Interest Test

APHA recognise that there is a strong interest around the annual budget. However, we have concluded that the public interest in withholding the information sought outweighs the public interest in its disclosure. Releasing information now before it has been finalized would be misleading to the public on an already complex and sensitive issue

APHA is an Executive Agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and also works on behalf of the Scottish Government, Welsh Government and Food Standards Agency to safeguard animal and plant health for the benefit of people, the environment and the economy.

and this would contradict the principles behind Freedom of Information. It is in the public interest to wait until the information has been collected and assessed rather than to release the information in a piecemeal fashion.

Given the importance of publishing only appropriately collated and checked figures, it is reasonable to expect that this information should be published in line with accepted practice rather than disclosed before official publication.

Please see link to the APHA Annual Report and Accounts for 2018-19 below.

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/896490/apha-18-19-ara.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/896490/apha-18-19-ara.pdf)

3. Does your organisation have or contract with a counter fraud specialist?

No. The Agency does not have a formal contract with a counter fraud specialist as being part of the Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) group, the Agency can call upon counter fraud specialists within the Defra Investigations Services (DIS) to undertake work on suspected frauds.

4. If yes to question 3, is this provision employed directly by your organisation, outsourced to a public sector provider or outsourced to a private sector provider?

N/A see response to Q3.

5. What level of provision do you have to tackle fraud, bribery and corruption within your organisation (number of funded days a year)?

N/A see response to Q3

6. How many fraud, bribery or corruption referrals did your organisation receive during the financial year 2019-2020?

One referral.

7. How many criminal investigations did your organisation carry out during the financial year 2019-2020?

8. What was the fraud loss figure identified by your organisation during the financial year 2019-2020?

9. How much of your identified fraud loss was recovered by your organisation during the financial year 2019-2020?

10. How many criminal sanctions relating to fraud, bribery and corruption did your organisation apply during the financial year 2019-2020?

11. How many disciplinary sanctions relating to fraud, bribery or corruption did your organisation apply during the financial year 2019-2020?

The answer to question 7 to 11. This information is not held by APHA as we have no criminal investigations, fraud loss, criminal sanctions and disciplinary sanctions.

12. What was the total cost of your organisations counter fraud staffing during 2019-2020?"

APHA do not cost account against staff time, so this information is not held.

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](mailto: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](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