



Our Ref: ATIC2103

[REDACTED]
{By Email}

20 August 2020

Dear [REDACTED]

PROVISION OF REQUESTED INFORMATION

Thank you for your request for information on bovine abortions which we received on 23 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:

I would like to request the following information:

- 1) The total number of bovine abortions reported to APHA in England and Wales (as required under the respective Brucellosis Orders) for each of the following years: 2017, 2018, and 2020 (if available).
- 2) The total number of statutory abortion enquiries authorised by APHA and carried out by official veterinarians in England and Wales for the same years.

Table 1 England.

Year	Abortions reported	Abortions enquiries authorised as sampling required
2017	1113	889
2018	867	704
2019	763	610
2020 (to 30 July)	443	370

Table 2 Wales

Year	Abortions reported	Abortions enquiries authorised as sampling required
2017	96	95
2018	83	82
2019	82	82
2020 (to 30 July)	39	39

If possible please could you provide this data further broken down by Veterinary Delivery Partner region.

This information has been exempted from release citing Section 43 of the Freedom of information Act (FOIA), details below.

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.

However the VDP contracts will be retendered later this year and bovine abortion enquiries fall within the scope of those contracts.

Providing this data at the granular level of VDP region in advance of the publication of that Initiation to Tender (ITT) may provide a competitive advantage. The ITT will include historical volumes for all the tendered services.

Those considering tendering should register on Bravo the Defra Commercial eSourcing portal <https://defra.bravosolution.co.uk/web/login.html>

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.

Most documents produced by APHA will be protected by Crown Copyright. Most Crown copyright information can be re-used under the [Open Government Licence](#). For information about the OGL and about re-using Crown Copyright information please see [The National Archives website](#).

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