



Our Ref: ATIC2138

[Redacted]  
{By Email}

06 October 2020

Dear [Redacted]

**PROVISION OF REQUESTED INFORMATION**

Thank you for your request for information about farm inspections which we received on 16 August 2020. Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI).

The information you requested following our request for clarity received on the 13 September 2020 and our response is detailed below:

“What are the causes of deaths before slaughter?”

What are numbers of deaths before slaughter?

1. I am aware that a number of animals either die before arriving at the slaughterhouse either at the farm or on route and would like to know the reasons for the deaths and also the quantities involved, this would relate to Cows, Pigs and Sheep but I would be interested to know if you have any information on other farmed animals.

APHA do not hold the reasons that caused death, but we can provide the total number of animals there were dead on arrival. See the table below.

Year	total number of DOA referrals received	Northern areas	Southern areas	Western areas	Scotland	Wales	Northern Ireland
2018	1374	730	259	164	68	150	3
2019	1333	655	300	168	110	100	0

What are the overall and regional breakdown for numbers of prosecutions and reasons for breaches of welfare laws?

- a. On Farms.
- b. By transporters.
- c. In slaughterhouses.

Role of Local Authorities. LAs are responsible for:

- assisting in the investigation of welfare complaints
- initiating prosecutions
- enforcing welfare of animals during transport legislation.

APHA are required to respond to welfare issues reported by members of the public, Local authorities and official Veterinarians employed or subcontracted by the Food Standard Agency (FSA) at slaughterhouses and take appropriate action in liaison with Local Authorities.

Local Authorities (LA's) are principally responsible for enforcement action so we do not know precisely how many will have had "formal" enforcement. However APHA can say we provided 29 statements associated with 1212 premises, so around 2.4% resulted in a statement provision to the local authority. Statements are only provided when the local authority is considering formal enforcement action including simple cautions. Successful prosecutions once completed were published up to 2018 as part of the Section 80 APHA report laid before parliament and found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/section-80-report-for-2018-under-the-animal-health-act-1981>

2. Could you provide figures for 2018 and 2019 and cover the UK in general with a regional breakdown if possible"

APHA do not hold this information in all likelihood this information is held by the Food Standards Agency (FSA). They can be contacted here:

<https://www.food.gov.uk/>

In the last 12 months 1212 premises in England have been subject to at least one inspection for an animal welfare purpose. 130 (10.7%) were triggered by complaints, which includes 49 referrals by charitable organisations. 87 (7.2%) were as a result of information from Food Standards Agency (FSA) or Food Standards Scotland (FSS) [note this data has only been separately collected since January 2019 and so previous inspections may be captured under targeted and/or cross compliance] 273 (13.6%) were targeted – this has a variety of meanings but includes intelligence from other Government departments and planned inspections due to previous history i.e. information indicates they are high welfare risk and before January 2019 included slaughterhouse referrals.

196 (9.7%) were follow-up inspections, this means that they have previously been inspected for welfare reasons and were marked forward for a follow up inspection. 526 (43.4%) were cross compliance inspections - which comprises 80% risk based and 20% random.

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

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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