



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

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Our Ref: ATIC2160

[REDACTED]
{By Email}

13 October 2020

Dear [REDACTED]

PROVISION OF REQUESTED INFORMATION

Thank you for your request for information on bee diseases which we received clarity for on 18 September 2020. Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI).

The information you requested and our response is detailed below:

This is where we need to fill some gaps in our understanding of the outbreaks and we hope the NBU will supply the following information we need to do this.

1. Distribution of EFB outbreaks in Greater London at 1 sq km resolution.

A spreadsheet with distribution of European Foul Brood (EFB) in 1km squares is attached as Appendix 1.

The locations provided are the mapping co-ordinates provided after running a report on the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA)'s Bee Base system. They represent colony and apiary densities in blocks of 1km² in Greater London where EFB has been reported.

The data refers only to that held on BeeBase. BeeBase is the APHA National Bee Unit website. It is designed for bee keepers and supports Defra, Welsh Government and Scotland's Bee Health Programmes and the Healthy Bees Plan, which set out to protect and sustain our valuable national bee stocks.

Please note that BeeBase is a voluntary registration system, the data is only representative of those bee keepers and colonies registered and the information is dependent upon beekeepers updating their records.

Some data in the spreadsheet at Appendix 1 has been redacted as this information could potentially identify a person with their private address. Apiary sites within those 1km²

blocks rarely number 5 or more and in those circumstances under the legislation this could lead to identifying individuals and is exempted from release.

APHA have supplied the number of colonies where there are 5 or more apiaries per 1km² and hope this goes some way to help answering your question. We have also supplied the number of actual instances for each year.

The information on the number of instances of EFB per 1km² where less than 5 apiaries are registered on Beebase is being withheld under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act (2000).

Section 40

It has been withheld under section 40(2) of the FOIA as the information constitutes personal data relating to a third party. The FOIA provides that personal data relating to third parties is exempt information. The release of third party information, if disclosed, would also breach Article 5(f) of the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) - Principles relating to processing of personal data.

APHA consider that disclosure of this information is likely to breach section 40(2) of the FOIA and Article 5(f) of the GDPR, which relates to appropriate security of personal data, including protection against unauthorized or unlawful processing. Therefore, we have concluded that this information is withheld.

2. The total number of beekeepers in London (including BFA members)?

In Greater London the number of beekeepers registered on our Beebase system is 1707. APHA do not hold information BFA members.

3. The number of different beekeepers with confirmed instances of foulbrood (guess that's the same or about, the number of infected apiaries, currently at or about 19).

The number of confirmed colonies and apiaries with disease is in 1km spreadsheet in Appendix 1, however some of the information has been redacted please see answer to question 1 above.

4. (You May not know this) Of the number of beekeepers with infected bees – how many are LBKA members?

APHA do not hold this information.

5. How many strains are involved? Are there any clues, theories as to the origins and behaviour of the main vectors? e.g. is it spreading horizontally or do there appear to be sources outside coming in?

APHA do not hold a record of strain typing information on our Beebase system.

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

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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 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