



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

Animal and Plant Health Agency
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Our Ref: ATIC2228

[REDACTED]
{By Email}

8 December 2020

Dear [REDACTED]

PROVISION OF REQUESTED INFORMATION

Thank you for your request for information regarding rabbit and duck farming which we received on 9 November 2020. Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI).

The information you requested and our response is detailed below:

“After being unable to find relevant information online, we would like to request information on the numbers of rabbits and ducks farmed in the UK, respectively. If you also have further information on the numbers or %s of each species that are farmed in cages & indoor barns and to free range & organic standards that would be very helpful.”

Please see information held by Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) on ducks and rabbits at Appendix 1.

Ducks

The information provided is the average population of poultry passed to the APHA when a premise is initially registered. The ‘usual stock numbers’ are the number of birds provided by the poultry keeper upon registration.

Please note that the APHA guidance for registering poultry is as follows:-

“You must register using the compulsory registration form within one month of keeping 50 or more birds on your premises. You’re breaking the law if you do not register. The law applies if you keep:

- 50 or more birds captive for any period of time
- flocks made up of different species, such as chickens, ducks or geese
- birds for: the consumption of meat and eggs; other commercial purposes; restocking game birds; or breeding for these 3 purposes”

APHA do not differentiate between species, and so this information is not held.

Rabbits

Please note that there is no legal requirement to register rabbits with APHA. The figures at Appendix 1 are from data on testing that has been carried out on rabbits in the past.

Finally, please note that for both ducks and rabbits where there are blank records in the data this is because information has not been entered into the APHA source system, and therefore cannot be reported on.

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