



Our Ref: ATIC2240

[REDACTED]
{By Email}

03 December 2020

Dear [REDACTED]

PROVISION OF REQUESTED INFORMATION

Thank you for your request for information on investigations of egg producers which we received on 18 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:

"I would like statistical information about the following with no need to identify any individuals or organisations by name:

1. How many investigations have you carried out in relation to free range egg producers and the overstocking of hens in the past 5 years? This should include joint investigations if possible.

APHA have carried out 377 investigations in the last 5 years.

2. How many of these investigations have resulted in a criminal prosecution?

APHA's role is to investigate on-farm issues and if necessary report the findings to the Local Authority who will then decide whether to take forward any criminal proceedings.

Three investigations have resulted in prosecutions.

3. What was the outcome of those criminal prosecutions:
 - a. Conviction or acquittal?;

All three were successful.

- b. What sentence did those convicted receive?

- i. Suspended prison sentence, Fine and Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) award

- ii. Suspended prison sentence, costs and Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) award
- iii. Suspended prison sentence and unpaid work.

4. What other enforcement action was taken following the outcome of the investigations that did not result in a prosecution?

Welfare improvement notices, warning letters were issued and additional regulatory inspections were carried out.

5. How many investigations are still ongoing?"

APHA have no current ongoing investigations.

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

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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