



Our Ref: ATIC2246

[REDACTED]  
{By Email}

21 December 2020

Dear [REDACTED]

### PROVISION OF REQUESTED INFORMATION

Thank you for your request for information on the importation of bumble bees which we received on 24 November 2020. Your request has been handled under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004(EIR).

The information you requested and our response is detailed below:

“Back in 2017 as a result of a request for information you gave me the importation figures for bumble bees. Please could I have the current figures for the years 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020.”

Year	Total consignments	Total quantity	Total packages
2017	299	62617	15592
2018	423	74304	7885
2019	428	79269	19347
2020	436	69298	14583

The data comes with the caveat that the ‘Total Quantity’ and ‘Total Packages’ columns are a direct transcription from the Trade Control and Expert System (TRACES) import certificates which can be very objective dependant on which member states is completing it; for example, some will refer to individual bees in a package and others will simply quote the number of packages. TRACES is a European Commission system employed by EU member states to facilitate and record animal/animal product movements into and throughout the EU.

The information that we have provided is a true reflection of the information that we have access to. We can’t guarantee the accuracy of this data, as we can only rely on the information that has been input into TRACES by a third party

Information disclosed in response to this EIR request is releasable to the public. In keeping with the spirit and effect of the EIR 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

### 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](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