



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

Animal and Plant Health Agency
Access to Information Team
Woodham Lane
New Haw
Addlestone
Surrey
KT15 3NB

enquiries@apha.gov.uk

www.gov.uk/apha

Our Ref: ATIC2314

[REDACTED]
{By Email}

10 February 2021

Dear [REDACTED]

PROVISION OF REQUESTED INFORMATION

Thank you for your request for information on TB in deer which we received on 18 January 2021. Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI).

The information you requested and our response is detailed below:

“1. Any reports of culled deer being infected with TB.”

2. Any reports of culled deer made by stag hunting packs - either the Quantock Stag Hounds, the Devon and Somerset Stag Hounds or the Tiverton Stag Hounds.

3. Any reports of culled deer infected with TB made in the West Somerset area by individuals.”

APHA wrote to you on the 20 January 2021 to seek clarity on your request and received the following:

“To clarify - please apply the following time parameter to all questions 1-3.

- In the period 1/1/2015 to 1/1/2020 (inclusive) –

1. Any and all reports of culled deer being infected with TB IN WEST SOMETSET”

It is not possible to confirm if all the deer cases reported have been ‘culled’; some may be of carcasses that have been found already dead, APHA do not hold information specifically on ‘culled deer’. However 26 cases where samples have been taken at post-mortem and cultures grown confirming bovine TB have been found in the West Somerset area between 01/01/2015 and 01/01/2020.

“2. Any and all reports of culled deer being infected with TB made by stag hunting packs - either the Quantock Stag Hounds, the Devon and Somerset Stag Hounds or the Tiverton Stag Hounds.”

APHA is an Executive Agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and also works on behalf of the Scottish Government, Welsh Government and Food Standards Agency to safeguard animal and plant health for the benefit of people, the environment and the economy.

It is not possible to confirm if all the deer cases reported have been 'culled'; some may be of carcasses that have been found already dead, APHA do not hold information specifically on 'culled deer'. However 9 cases reported by Stag Hound groups where samples have been taken at post-mortem and cultures grown confirming bovine TB have been found in the West Somerset area between 01/01/2015 and 01/01/2020.

3. "Any and all reports of culled deer infected with TB made in the West Somerset area by individuals."

It is not possible to confirm if all the deer cases reported have been 'culled'; some may be of carcasses that have been found already dead, APHA do not hold information specifically on 'culled deer'. However 5 cases reported by individuals where samples have been taken at post-mortem and cultures grown confirming bovine TB have been found in the West Somerset area between 01/01/2015 and 01/01/2020.

The remaining 12, with confirmed TB by culture, were reported by institutions, for example the National Trust or Forestry Commission.

Please be aware that 30 other reports were received from institutions and 4 from individuals showing symptoms of bovine TB at post-mortem, but which APHA cannot confirm or discount as these were not confirmed by culture.

Please also be aware the reports sometimes contain fragmentary or incorrect information as they are provided by individuals, groups or organisations (3rd party's) and as such the information we hold is only as accurate as that provided to APHA. In two cases (1 positive for TB by culture) the exact location is not stated only Somerset.

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

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 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