



Animal &  
Plant Health  
Agency

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Our Ref: ATIC2383

[REDACTED]  
{By Email}

20 April 2021

Dear [REDACTED]

### **PROVISION OF REQUESTED INFORMATION**

Thank you for your request for information on a post mortem which we received on 30 March 2021. Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI).

The information you requested and our response is detailed below:

“Plant-related incident - 2020-40 - Cattle – Shrewsbury

#### **I REQUIRE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:**

1. All documentation including, but not limited to letters emails, photographs, laboratory reports, memoranda, relating to the Shrewsbury casualty.
2. A copy of the Agency's protocols, procedures or suchlike relating to how a matter such as the demise of the Shrewsbury Bull should be investigated and reported.
3. Any evidence in the Agency's possession to support the assertion re Pa poisoning in wildlife. (A single example with a peer reviewed paper cited will suffice.)
4. Any evidence in the Agency's possession to support the assertion re Pa poisoning in humans (in the UK, apart from the woman referred to above). Again, a single example with a peer reviewed paper cited will suffice.
5. Any evidence in the Agency's possession to support the implication that it would be a practical possibility to stop the spread of ragwort anywhere in the British Isles.”

The attached correspondence and reports for this case can be found at Appendices 1 – 12.

The case falls under the project (OG0502) that we have with the Food Standards Agency (FSA) where potential on farm chemical food safety issues are alerted to FSA. The

chemical food safety newsletter is a summary of the cases reported to this project. Even negated alerts are included within the on farm chemical food safety newsletter. The preamble in the newsletter explains this.

The wording on the minute (Appendix 9a) under point 7 is agreed with FSA. It will take in to account the Committee on Toxicity (COT) statement on Pyrrolizidine alkaloids (Pa's):

<https://cot.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/cot/cotstatementpa200806.pdf>

APHA do not hold the information you have requested at question 3 – 5 however please find publicly available information

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/stop-ragwort-and-other-harmful-weeds-from-spreading>

The following publication links may be of use, the latter ones from 2019 seems most relevant and comprehensive.

The reporting of spread to agricultural land should be to Natural England.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/identification-of-injurious-weeds>

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/69265/pb4192-injurious-weeds.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/69265/pb4192-injurious-weeds.pdf)

and;

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/code-of-practice-on-how-to-prevent-the-spread-of-ragwort>

### **most recent 2019 links**

as follows;

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/stop-ragwort-and-other-harmful-weeds-from-spreading>

how to make a complaint form is contained therein

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/weeds-act-1959-complaint-form-and-leaflet>

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](mailto: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](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

If you need to contact the ICO during the Coronavirus pandemic, it's best to do so online. Please click [here](#) for contact details. You can also call them on 0303 123 1113.