



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

Animal and Plant Health Agency
Access to Information Team
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www.gov.uk/apha

Our Ref: ATIC2408

[REDACTED]
{By Email}

28 May 2021

Dear [REDACTED]

PROVISION OF REQUESTED INFORMATION

Thank you for your request for information about the import of fox based substances, which we received on 14 May 2021 . Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000.

The information you requested and our response is detailed below:

"I am writing to request information held by the Animal and Plant Health Agency. The questions are as follows.

- Please could you list all imports of fox-based biological substances which have been imported into the UK?
- How many general licences have been applied for, for the import of fox-based substances?"

Clarity was requested on the timeframe and received as follows:

"The timeframe that I am seeking is 2018-2021."

APHA have issued two licences since 2018 related to fox products as fox tissue, extracted fox DNA and fox fur in formalin for research purposes. APHA issued one licence in 2019 and one licence in 2021.

A list of general licences in place for ABP (Animal By-Products) can be found here <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/importing-live-animals-or-animal-products-from-non-eu-countries-general-licences-and-authorisations#products-not-for-human-consumption>.

The licences are quite specific so it is difficult to say whether general licences are available for 'fox-based biological substances'. We would need more information on country of origin, purpose for import, and whether any treatment or processing has taken place on the substance.

APHA do not hold figures for general commercial imports of fox-based biological substances which have been imported into the UK.

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

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.