



Animal &  
Plant Health  
Agency

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Our Ref: ATIC2435

[REDACTED]  
{By Email}

20 July 2021

Dear [REDACTED]

## PROVISION OF REQUESTED INFORMATION

Thank you for your request for information about welfare complaints and prosecutions, which we received on 22 June 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 you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the Act') to please request the following information in relation to farm animal species only during the year of 2020:

1. How many welfare complaints did you receive in relation to the following:
  - a. On-farm animal welfare;  
1074
  - b. Welfare at markets; and,  
3
  - c. Welfare during transport?  
30
  - d. Welfare at a border post?

Following a search of our paper and electronic records, we have established that the information that you have requested at 1(d) is not held by APHA. The above figures are for Great Britain.

2. How many welfare complaints did you investigate in relation to the following:
  - a. On-farm animal welfare;
  - b. Welfare at markets; and,
  - c. Welfare during transport?

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.

d. Welfare at a border post?

All welfare complaints are assessed and regulatory action is taken if appropriate.

3. How many prosecution proceedings did you commence or refer to the Crown Prosecution Service for offences named in the Animal Welfare Act 2006, and the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006?

Animal Health and Welfare legislation is enforced by the local authorities. You would need to approach local authorities individually for more information. To assist you in your enquiries, we can confirm that 56 statements were provided to various local authorities during 2020 (47 England, 1 Scotland, 8 Wales).

a. Of those proceedings, how many resulted in a successful prosecution?

Please refer to the prosecution return for 2020 that is published on GOV.UK. A link is provided below. The information here is provided by Local Authorities. Please contact them for more information.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/section-80-report-for-2020-under-the-animal-health-act-1981>

As the information is reasonably accessible to you by other means, section 21 of the FOIA exempts APHA from providing a copy of the information with this response to your request.

4. How many improvement notices did you serve under section 10 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 for failures to comply with section 9(1) of that Act, and under section 25 of the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 for failures to comply with section 24 of that Act?

APHA can confirm that 35 different addresses were served with an Improvement Notice under Section 10 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 in 2020.

5. How many prosecution proceedings did you commence or refer to the Crown Prosecution Service and the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service for offences named in Section 7 of the Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2007, and Section 7 of the Welfare of Farmed Animals (Wales) Regulations 2007, and Section 11 of the Welfare of Farmed Animals (Scotland) Regulations 2010?

a. Of those proceedings, how many resulted in a successful prosecution?

Please refer to our response at question 3. APHA do not undertake prosecution proceedings. These are carried out by individual local authorities. Please contact them for this information.

6. How many compliance notices were issued by your inspectors for failures to comply with the Welfare of Animals (Transport) (England) Order 2006, the Welfare of Animals (Transport) (Scotland) Regulations 2006, and the Welfare of Animals (Transport) (Wales) Order 2007?

Six compliance notices were issued.

7. How many prosecution proceedings did you commence or refer to the Crown Prosecution Service for offences named in the Welfare of Animals at Markets Order 1990?

a. Of those proceedings, how many resulted in a successful prosecution?

Please refer to our responses at questions 3 and 5.

8. How many individuals subject to any of the above enforcement action had previously committed an animal welfare offence?

This information is not held by APHA.

9. How many people do you employ to carry out farm animal welfare inspections as part of their duties?

APHA currently employs 240 vets and 263 animal health officers/ technical support, who may carry out animal welfare inspections as part of their duties. Additionally a further 29 vets, with responsibility for post mortem and pathology, may also become involved in farm welfare inspections/investigations.

a)How many farm animal welfare inspections did they complete?

1390 (England – 889, Scotland – 238, Wales – 263) farm visits were completed.

10. How many people do you employ to carry out enforcement of the Animal Health Act 1981 as part of their duties?"

Local Authorities are the enforcers in England, Scotland and Wales (and Scottish Society for Provention of Cruelty to Animals in Scotland). Please see response to questions 3, 5 and 7.

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.

**Postal requests during the COVID-19 outbreak**

APHA are currently experiencing delays in replying to post. You should send queries to the relevant email address (details below) wherever possible. Please remember to include a return email address.

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.

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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

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.