



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: ATIC2448

[REDACTED]
{By Email}

30 July 2021

Dear [REDACTED]

PROVISION OF REQUESTED INFORMATION

Thank you for your request for information about the number of laying hens, which we received on 12 July 2021. Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000.

The information you requested and our response is detailed below:

“Please could you supply the following information on the latest numbers laying hens kept on the 4 main laying systems for each of the individual counties stated below

Laying System

The number of laying hens kept in registered Free Range laying systems (1UK)

The number of laying hens kept in registered Organic laying systems (0UK)

The number of laying hens kept in registered Barn laying systems (2UK)

The number of hens kept in registered Colony laying systems (3UK)

County

Clwyd (Conwy, Denbighshire, Wrexham, Flintshire)

Dyfed (Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion, Pembrokeshire)

Gwent (Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire, Newport, Torfaen)

Gwynedd (Gwynedd, Anglesey)

Mid Glamorgan (Bridgend, Merthyr Tydfil, Rhondda)

Powys

South Glamorgan (Cardiff, Vale of Glamorgan)

West Glamorgan (Neath Port Talbot, Swansea)

Cheshire

Shropshire

Gloucestershire

Herefordshire”

The data you requested can be found in Appendix 1. Please note the four farm management systems recorded by APHA are as follows;

1) Intensive - In this system the birds are generally confined in a building/house entirely, with no access to land outside and stocked to the higher stocking density. For example caged egg production or traditional broiler production.

2) Extensive - In this system the birds are confined in a building/house entirely, with no access to land outside the stocking rate (number of birds in an enclosed area) per m² floor space does not exceed in 25kg/m² and 15kg/m² for geese.

3) Free Range - The birds have had during at least half their lifetime, continuous daytime access to open air runs comprising of an area mainly covered by vegetation.

4) Organic - Must have access to outside space/fields. Poultry must be fed a natural diet free from genetically modified organisms (GMOs). Animals cannot be given hormones which make them grow more quickly and must only be given drugs to treat illness.

Some entries in Appendix 1 do not have farm management system data recorded as this was introduced in 2013.

When registering a poultry unit, it is now standard procedure to add additional livestock information (farm management system information) for keepers that keep more than 50 birds. The process for voluntary registration has been simplified to not require this data.

There are some gaps in the data for poultry registered previous to 2013, for some keepers that voluntarily register keeping under 50 birds and emergency registrations in disease outbreaks.

The 'usual stock numbers' are the number of animals provided by the owner/keeper to APHA upon registration.

It is the responsibility of the keeper to inform the APHA of any changes in details such as significant changes to usual stock numbers, contact details or no longer keeping poultry.

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 or postal address at the top of this letter.

Postal requests during the COVID-19 outbreak

APHA are currently experiencing delays in replying to post received. 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

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.