



Animal &  
Plant Health  
Agency

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Our Ref: ATIC2450

[REDACTED]  
{By Email}

19 July 2021

Dear [REDACTED]

## PROVISION OF REQUESTED INFORMATION

Thank you for your request for information about olive oil sampling data, 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:

“We have had discussion with our quality assurance consultants and our supplier to see what further we can do to try and remove our non-compliance.

The sensory issue is where we would like to focus initially. Would APHA be willing to share data on origins that fail on Md?.”

The information requested can be found in Appendix1.

“I am also reaching out to sensory tasters in the region to see if they can support our understanding on this too.

We did also research again whether IOC sensory testing is possible as part of goods in on arrival to UK and it seems that there still is not this facility. Would it be useful in our process of trying to double down on this if we tested for Median defect and Fruity median on arrival in addition to the testing we do pre exporting, would APHA consider such data even if it isn't from an IOC accredited lab?”

This is not a request for recorded information and therefore would be answered directly by the olive oil compliance team. The team have confirmed that they have replied to you on this question.

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

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.

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**

We are currently experiencing delays in replying to post that we have 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](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.