



Animal &  
Plant Health  
Agency

Animal and Plant Health Agency  
Access to Information Team  
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[www.gov.uk/apha](http://www.gov.uk/apha)

Our Ref: ATIC2459

[REDACTED]  
{By Email}

25 August 2021

Dear [REDACTED]

## PROVISION OF REQUESTED INFORMATION

Thank you for your request for information about animal testing, which APHA received on 28 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:

“Can you give me up to date information on,

1. which animals are tested on
2. What are the test for and what do they involve.
3. What is the severity of pain suffered
4. Are all animals euthanised at end of testing

At Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency Woodham Lane New Haw Addlestone Surrey KT15 3NB, UK”

This was a follow on request from ATIC2423 in which APHA supplied the latest published information available. See below:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/904507/animal-usage-weybridge-aspera2018.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/904507/animal-usage-weybridge-aspera2018.pdf)

Of 6809 procedures performed at APHA in 2020 , 1165 were classified sub threshold, 4351 mild, 1147 moderate and 146 severe

In addition APHA have supplied a link to the severity of pain descriptions and more information available to you on Home Office guidance here:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1002895/annual-statistics-scientific-procedures-living-animals-2020.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1002895/annual-statistics-scientific-procedures-living-animals-2020.pdf)

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.

As an update to question 4 the majority of animals are humanely euthanased at the end of the experiments. However where possible some are released under strict requirements of ASPA e.g sampling of free living wild life.

The updated figures (2020) are due to be published shortly, and have therefore been exempted from release citing Section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000.

## **Section 22**

APHA have concluded that the public interest in withholding the information sought outweighs the public interest in its disclosure. Releasing information now before it has been finalised would be misleading to the public and this would contradict the principles behind Freedom of Information. It is in the public interest to wait until the information has been collected, assessed and quality checked rather than to release the information in a piecemeal fashion.

Given the importance of publishing only appropriately collated and checked figures, it is reasonable to expect that this information should be published in line with accepted practice rather than disclosed before official publication.

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](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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### 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.