



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

Animal and Plant Health Agency
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Our Ref: ATIC2480

[REDACTED]
{By Email}

28 September 2021

Dear [REDACTED]

PROVISION OF REQUESTED INFORMATION

Thank you for your request for information about post mortem and culture results, which APHA received on 19 August 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 would like to have made available to me all of the information DEFRA has regarding the slaughter of healthy alpacas (on the basis of TB tests) that were subsequently found, at post mortem, to be lacking any scientifically based sign of the disease.”

APHA asked for clarity on your request and this was supplied on the 07 September 2021 as follows:

“I would like all the information DEFRA has with regard to alpacas that have shown positive BTB test results and been culled as a result (on the orders of DEFRA), but have subsequently been found clear of BTB at post mortem and via tissue culture tests.”

Statistical information on Camelids found positive by virtue of a blood or skin test and the corresponding post mortem results can be found at the attached Appendix 1.

Please note the following information:

The purpose of testing

It is important to remember that infected animals can be contagious before they display lesions or other clinical signs of TB. Therefore, removing them promptly from the herd after a positive diagnosis is an essential part of tackling this disease and ensuring that it does not spread amongst our livestock population or is passed onto humans.

The additional post-mortem and testing processes carried out by APHA are used to identify which strain of the disease is present and help inform decisions on testing other

animals in the herd. These can be difficult times for owners and APHA staff are always on hand to provide advice and assistance during this process.

The UK enjoys a hard-won international reputation for animal health, welfare and biosecurity and our standards are second to none. Our strict animal control strategies are central to this. Due to the comprehensive bTB eradication plan in place in the UK, human cases of bTB have been significantly reduced over recent decades and international markets remain open to exports of UK beef and dairy products.

To find out more about some of the terms used in the Appendix and the procedure APHA follow after a confirmed case of Bovine TB can be found on the APHA Science Blog here: <https://aphascience.blog.gov.uk/2021/09/17/bovine-tuberculosis-testing-and-examining-btb-positive-animals/>

More information on Tb and non – bovine species Tb can be found at the following links:

[Bovine TB epidemiology and surveillance in Great Britain, 2019 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/other-tb-statistics)

[Statistics on TB in Non-Bovine Species - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/other-tb-statistics)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/other-tb-statistics>

<https://aphascience.blog.gov.uk/2021/08/05/bovine-tuberculosis/>

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.