



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

Animal and Plant Health Agency
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Our Ref: ATIC2486

[REDACTED]
{By Email}

23 September 2021

Dear [REDACTED]

PROVISION OF REQUESTED INFORMATION

Thank you for your request for information about, statistical data on bTb in non-bovine species which APHA received on 24 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:

“we would be most grateful for your kind confirmation as to the actual number of alpacas who have been unnecessarily executed by DEFRA as a result of false positives?”

APHA wrote to you to seek clarity on your request and received the following on the 25 August 2021:

“We do believe that it would answer our question if you were to kindly supply the statistical data on non-bovine species (although we had specifically requested data on camelids) who, following a positive test, the number who have had a post-mortem, and the number who have been found to be negative of the disease following the post-mortem.”

You also followed this up with another question on the same day.

“We are sorry to trouble you again, but in the highly controversial case of Geronimo, the alpaca, of which you are doubtless fully aware, there was a statement in the High Court from the Government TB scientist, Dr. Eleanor Brown, confirming that APHA has never undertaken studies to show that the testing Geronimo had 4 years ago carried any validity.

To say that this statement is of considerable concern is an understatement, and surely, there can be no suspicion of the disease without credible scientific evidence, so we would be grateful if you will kindly confirm whether this statement from Dr. Eleanor Brown is indeed correct? We cannot imagine it to be otherwise if Dr. Brown made this statement to the High Court.”

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.

In response to your supplementary question. A request under the Freedom of Information Act is a request for recorded information and this does not fall within those parameters.

Please see a link to the High Court decisions found here:

<https://www.bailii.org/cgi-bin/format.cgi?doc=/ew/cases/EWHC/Admin/2019/1783.html>

The information you have requested is attached as Appendix 1.

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/>

Please note the following from blog:

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.

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.