



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

Animal and Plant Health Agency
Access to Information Team
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www.gov.uk/apha

Our Ref: ATIC2535

[REDACTED]
{By Email}

19 October 2021

Dear [REDACTED]

PROVISION OF REQUESTED INFORMATION

Thank you for your request for information about safety breaches and near misses in the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA), which APHA received on 20 September 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 details of all safety breaches or near misses, including incidents that were notified to the Health and Safety Executive, during the past 8 years at the Animal and Plant Health Agency.

Please include:

- Details included in Riddor reports to the HSE
- The date of the incident
- The matter that was investigated
- Name of duty holder
- A detailed summary of the incident including any executive summary that was prepared
- The biological agents or substances that were involved
- The outcome, including any enforcement action

If this information is held in a structured database format, please provide a copy of the structured data that covers these cases. If also held in paper or PDF form, please also provide a copy of these forms, preferably in searchable PDF form if possible.

Please provide this information for the period 1 January 2014 to the date of this request.

Transparency around safety breaches and meta misses in CL3 and CL4 laboratories is clearly in the public interest.”

Clarity regarding the request was received on 13 October 2021, and stated:

“To be clear, I am asking for all safety breaches and near misses notified to the Health and Safety Executive during the past 8 years in CL3 and CL4 laboratories within the APHA.”

Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) can confirm that no safety breaches or near misses in CL3 and CL4 laboratories have been reported to the Health and Safety Executive over the past 8 years.

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.