



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

Animal and Plant Health Agency
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Our Ref: ATIC2566

[REDACTED]
{By Email}

02 November 2021

Dear [REDACTED]

PROVISION OF REQUESTED INFORMATION

Thank you for your request for information about fish farm inspections which APHA received on 20 October 2021. Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000.

The information you requested and the response is detailed below:

"I understand that the APHA oversees the welfare of farmed fish on behalf of Scottish Ministers.

I am told that fully trained inspectors carry out routine visits to fish farms and respond to any complaints about fish welfare.

Can you please tell me

- a. how many of your inspectors cover Scotland?

There are currently 6 APHA fish welfare trained veterinary inspectors in Scotland.

- b. how many inspection visits to Scottish fish farms were carried out by them for each of the last 5 years?

2017 - 2 visits
2018 - 3 Visits
2019 - 9 visits
2020 - 7 visits
2021 - 6 visits done as of the 20th October 2021

- c. how many fish welfare complaints in Scotland were handled by APHA for each of the last 5 years?"

The number of complaints that have been investigated by APHA is broken down below, all complaints received by APHA are fully investigated although some may not be assessed as requiring a physical visit:

2017 – no complaints

2018 – 6 complaints investigated (two complaints duplicated)

2019 - 13 complaints investigated (one complaint duplicated)

2020 - 5 complaints investigated

2021 - 11 complaints investigated as of the 20th October

It may help in your request to explain APHA's role in fish inspections.

The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) are responsible for investigating allegations relating to the welfare of farmed fish. We take all reports of animal welfare concerns seriously and investigate them.

Scottish Government Fish health inspectors are appointed by the Scottish Ministers to act as inspectors under the aquaculture and aquatic animal health regulations and will refer any concerns on fish welfare to APHA for consideration

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.

Yours sincerely

ACCESS TO INFORMATION TEAM

Email: enquiries@apha.gov.uk

Annex

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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.