



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

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

Our Ref: ATIC2580

[REDACTED]
{By Email}

26 November 2021

Dear [REDACTED]

PROVISION OF REQUESTED INFORMATION

Thank you for your request for information about fish farm inspection outcomes which APHA received on 02 November 2021. Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000.

The information you requested and the response is detailed below:

This was a follow up request from ATIC2566 on the number of visits carried out by APHA on fish farms in Scotland.

“In relation to the complaints numerated over the last 5 years, could you please tell me what was the outcome of the investigations.”

APHA wrote to you to seek clarity on your request and received a response on the 03 November 2021 as follows:

“You have kindly given me information about the numbers of APHA inspectors relating to fish farms in Scotland, the numbers of inspection visits they had carried out in the past 5 years and the number of complaints investigated over that period.

Presumably each investigation of a complaint of a welfare issue had outcomes of some sort eg. no action, advice, perhaps recommendations, including possible prosecution. I cannot guess what the nature of the outcomes might be. Basically, you have a complaint, its investigated what is the conclusion of the investigation, and what action, if any, followed?”

2017

Two visits were carried out - no further action required.

2018

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.

Three visits – no further action required.

2019

Eleven visits (nine initial visits plus 2 follow up visits) categorised as follows:

Five visits – no further action required.

Two visits – follow up visit recommended.

Two follow up visits – no further action required.

Two visits – Advice and recommendations given.

2020

Seven visits categorised as follows:

Six visits – no further action required.

One visit – follow up visit booked.

2021

Six visits (1 follow up) categorised as follows:

Three visits – no further action required.

One visit – follow up visit recommended.

Two visits – advice and recommendations given.

It may be useful to describe APHA's role on inspecting fish farms. The APHA are responsible for investigating allegations relating to the welfare of farmed fish. We do not have the same role as Scottish Government or Local authority who would be the Government bodies that would take forward any legislative action.

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

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.