



Animal &  
Plant Health  
Agency

Animal and Plant Health Agency  
Access to Information Team  
Woodham Lane  
New Haw  
Addlestone  
Surrey  
KT15 3NB

[enquiries@apha.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@apha.gov.uk)

[www.gov.uk/apha](http://www.gov.uk/apha)

Our Ref: ATIC2645

[REDACTED]  
{By Email}

15 February 2022

Dear [REDACTED]

## PROVISION OF REQUESTED INFORMATION

Thank you for your request for information about inspections of fish slaughterhouses, which APHA received on 21 January 2022. Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000.

The information you requested and the response is detailed below:

“Please provide the following information:

a) Are mandatory inspections taking place to monitor animal welfare in fish slaughterhouses in:

- i) England
- ii) Scotland
- iii) Wales
- iiii) Northern Ireland?

b) If the answer to a) is yes for any country - how many mandatory inspections are carried out per year in that country?”

The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) do not currently carry out mandatory inspections of fish slaughterhouses. APHA are unsure which organisation is tasked with inspections for England and Wales but would suggest that the Food Standards Agency (FSA) may be able to provide more information. APHA do not operate in Northern Ireland and you would have to contact DAERA at the following address:

[Home | Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs \(daera-ni.gov.uk\)](http://daera-ni.gov.uk)

c) “If the answer to a) is no for any country - are there plans to implement mandatory inspections in fish slaughterhouses? If yes, from which date will these begin and how often per year will they be carried out?”

From the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2022. The Scottish Government (SG) animal welfare policy require APHA Scotland to commence visits to monitor fish welfare at slaughter and for this first year, it is one visit for each major salmon company carrying out on shore processing.

d) For any existing or planned inspections, what criteria is being used to assess animal welfare specifically?"

The criteria for assessment takes into consideration requirements laid down in the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006; Council Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009 on the protection of animals at the time of killing, Farm Animal Welfare Committee (FAWC) opinion on the Welfare of Farmed Fish at the Time of Killing 2014 and current industry codes of practice.

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](mailto:enquiries@apha.gov.uk)

## Annex

### Copyright

The information supplied to you continues to be protected by copyright. You are free to use it for your own purposes, including for private study and non-commercial research, and for any other purpose authorised by an exception in current copyright law. Documents (except photographs or logos) can also be used in the UK without requiring permission for the purposes of news reporting. Any other re-use, for example commercial publication, would require the permission of the copyright holder.

Most documents produced by APHA will be protected by Crown Copyright. Most Crown copyright information can be re-used under the [Open Government Licence](#). For information about the OGL and about re-using Crown Copyright information please see [The National Archives website](#).

Copyright in other documents may rest with a third party. For information about obtaining permission from a third party see the [Intellectual Property Office's website](#).

### 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](mailto: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.