



Animal &  
Plant Health  
Agency

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Our Ref: ATIC2705

[REDACTED]  
{By Email}

29 March 2022

Dear [REDACTED]

## PROVISION OF REQUESTED INFORMATION

Thank you for your request for information about welfare inspections, which APHA received on 07 March 2022. Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000.

The information you requested and the response is detailed below:

“Thanks for your response. Given your feedback may I amend my request as follows:  
All: Restrict the request to 2018-2021.”

This was a follow on request from ATIC2669 which was as follows:

“I would like to request the following information:

- 1) How many animal health and welfare inspectors worked for the APHA (by FTE) in each of the following years: 2007,2008,2009,2010,2011,2012,2013,2014,2015,2016,2017, 2018,2019,2020,2021? 2) How many premises with an animal health & welfare inspection risk were there in Great Britain for each of these years? (Please split the response by type of premises, farms, slaughterhouses, marketplaces etc. and by species)
- 3) How many complaints or referrals relating to animal health and welfare were received for these years?
- 4) How many farm inspections/visits did the APHA carry out in each of these years? Both in terms of number of visits and number of unique farms (If possible, please split between random, risk-based, complaint-based and targeted inspections, programmed (or other please specify)
- 5) How many of these inspections were found to be non-compliant and required some remedial action in each of these years (If possible, please split between random, risk-based, complaint-based and targeted inspections, programmed (or other please specify) )?
- 6) if possible within the time limit please categorise these non-compliances by overall inspection score (including for compliant farms)

7) if possible within the time limit please categorise these by the area of inspection that was failed

8) What enforcement actions were taken following the detection of these non-compliances (by local authorities)? How many of these actions were taken in each of these years (For example oral advice, warnings, referral to local authorities for prosecution (or other please specify)?

9) what percentage of inspection each year took place alongside an inspector from a local authority or on a farm that received an inspection from a local authority within the same year?"

This was refused under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) (cost). You have amended your request as follows:

"Q1: Remove

"Q2: Any premises that are at risk of receiving a visit from the APHA. The main question I am concerned with is how many farms there were in Great Britain between 2018-2021."

Current APHA systems allow us to run a report and take a snapshot of the current figures, historical figures are not recorded. The total number of registered farms with livestock is currently 267,906.

"Q3: see above"

<b>Year</b>	<b>Referral/ Complaint Received</b>
2018	1805
2019	1063
2020	1075
2021	1487

"Q4: Visits are the number of animal welfare inspections conducted by the APHA on farms. Unique farms were just to split this between total inspections and the number of farms visited. So a total of 2000 inspections may have taken place but 500 of these were repeat visits so only 1500 farms were visited that year."

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of Visits</b>	<b>Unique Farms</b>
2018	2328	1687
2019	2108	1583
2020	1486	1102
2021	2301	1704

The number of inspections includes all inspections carried out (including Cross Compliance inspections) not just those as a follow up to a referral or complaint. Cross Compliance regulations require Defra, Scottish Government (SG) and Welsh Government (WG) to monitor compliance with various domestic legislation including animal welfare. It covers a defined set of conditions which claimants of direct payments have to meet.

“Q5: Please generalise for this question, the number of animal welfare non-compliances/breaches found on farms in each year.

Q6 Please generalise this question. It's possible that categorization for non-compliance does not occur, if it does please provide the breakdown of severity of non-compliance or the cause of the original inspection that led to it's detection. If this information is not available please skip this question.”

Years	Inspection Reason	A	B	C	D	Grand Total
2018	Complaint/Referral	35	143	54	44	276
	Cross Compliance	291	423	114	50	878
	Targetted	163	503	204	56	926
	Follow-up	23	112	80	32	247
	Other	1				1
	<b>Total</b>	<b>513</b>	<b>1181</b>	<b>452</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>2328</b>
2019	Complaint/Referral	102	172	89	43	406
	Cross Compliance	313	406	88	37	844
	Targetted	123	278	144	43	588
	Follow-up	24	114	78	39	255
	Other	3	9	2	1	15
	<b>Total</b>	<b>565</b>	<b>979</b>	<b>401</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>2108</b>
2020	Complaint/Referral	81	174	63	39	357
	Cross Compliance	162	198	42	27	429
	Targetted	101	238	137	37	513
	Follow-up	7	82	60	24	173
	Other	5	4	4	1	14
	<b>Total</b>	<b>356</b>	<b>696</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>1486</b>
2021	Complaint/Referral	200	392	184	65	841
	Cross Compliance	263	321	83	44	711
	Targetted	102	165	80	50	397
	Follow-up	37	150	96	40	323
	Other	3	15	8	3	29
	<b>Total</b>	<b>605</b>	<b>1043</b>	<b>451</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>2301</b>

A = Full compliance with legislation and code advice.

B = Full compliance with legislation but not with the code advice
C = Non-compliance with legislation but no animals have suffered as a result
D = Non-compliance with legislation and at least one animal has suffered as a result

“Q7: see above”

Please be aware that unlike the visit data at Q4/5/6 this data is collated at enterprise level e.g.( 1 farm could have multiple species inspected during the visit).

The data below demonstrates the number of non-compliances identified for all enterprises inspected during the reporting period.

For example (Where 3 enterprises are inspected during a visit and each is non compliant for Staffing, this will be counted 3 times in the figures.)

Year	Stf	Ins	Dis	Rec	Hou	Env	Eqp	Fmv	Fdw	Mut	Bre
2018	443	138	405	530	251	398	13	16	340	27	48
2019	342	126	346	419	250	365	4	21	273	26	48
2020	296	100	338	388	177	271	5	23	234	27	50
2021	354	95	325	554	223	390	9	30	292	18	79

STF	Staffing
INS	Inspection
DIS	Animal Care
REC	Keeping Records
HOU	Accommodation/Buildings
ENV	Environment
EQP	Equipment Automatic or Manual
FMV	Freedom of Movement
FDW	Feed, Water and Other Substances
MUT	Mutilations
BRE	Breeding Procedures

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

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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](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.