



Animal &  
Plant Health  
Agency

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Our Ref: ATIC2732

[REDACTED]  
{By Email}

28 April 2022

Dear [REDACTED]

## PROVISION OF REQUESTED INFORMATION

Thank you for your request for information about mycobacterium tuberculosis, which APHA received on 30 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:

“1) How does DEFRA differentiate between mycobacterium tuberculosis and mycobacterium bovis on farms and agricultural land

Our TB diagnostic tests (skin and blood gamma) do not differentiate between Mycobacterium tuberculosis (Mtb) and Mycobacterium bovis (Mb). They will identify Mtb Complex mycobacteria – which for cattle is rarely anything other than M. bovis.

We can only differentiate between Mtb and *M. bovis* through bacteriological culture and genotyping/whole genome sequencing, if that organism is present in post mortem or clinical samples, not through antemortem immunodiagnostic testing for TB.

2) How many cases of mycobacterium tuberculosis (as opposed to m. bovis) were identified in agricultural animals during each of the below listed years:

2013  
2014  
2015  
2016  
2017  
2018  
2019  
2020  
2021”

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.

APHA can find only one record of a case of Mtb in 2014.

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.