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[REDACTED]
By e-mail: [REDACTED]

Our ref: FOI2022/19777
21 October 2022

Dear [REDACTED],

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Concerns of illegal importation of a germinal products and investigation

Thank you for your request for information of 30 September 2022 about concerns of illegal importation of a germinal products and investigation. We have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Your information request and our response are set out below.

I would be grateful if you can confirm that the statement published by the British Limousin Cattle Society on 28th September 2022 [and attached in the link below] is correct.

<https://limousin.co.uk/2022/09/member-statement-jacot-36-94-005-555/>

As I am the person who made the initial referral to your department with major concerns regarding the illegal importation of the germinal product which was used by the farmer to produce the 15 animals [with the UK numbers listed in the attachment above] via embryo transfer.

I am now formally requesting from yourselves a copy of the written transcript of the DEFRA / FANGR investigation. To include information on how you came to your findings to allow the 15 animals from an unknown substance to remain in the herd book and also a copy of all the import documentation required for the named germinal product [Jacot FR36-94-005-555].

We enclose a copy of some of the information you requested at Annex C.

We have also decided that some of the information we hold in scope of your request should be withheld as it falls under the exemption at section 42(1) of the FOIA, which relates to information that is subject to legal profession privilege.

In applying this exemption, we have had to balance the public interest in withholding the information against the public interest in disclosure.

We recognise that the release of this information would help further public debate and increase accountability and transparency. However, there is also a need for legal advisors to be able to present government departments with high quality comprehensive legal advice for the effective conduct of their business. This advice needs to be given with a full



appreciation of the facts and can include arguments which consider various options. Without comprehensive advice the quality of the government's decision making would be much reduced because it would not be fully informed and this would be contrary to the public interest.

We have therefore concluded that, in all the circumstances of the case, the information should be withheld.

Information disclosed in response to this FOIA request is releasable to the public. In keeping with the spirit and effect of the FOIA and the government's Transparency Agenda, this letter and the information disclosed to you may be placed on [GOV.UK](https://www.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.

We attach Annex A, explaining the copyright that applies to the information being released to you, and Annex B giving contact details should you be unhappy with the service you have received.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact the address below.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
Information Rights Team
InformationRequests@defra.gov.uk

Annex A

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 be also 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.

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Annex B

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 Andrew Mobsby, Head of Information Rights via email at InformationRequests@defra.gov.uk and he will arrange for an internal review of your case. Details of Defra's complaints procedure are on our website.

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 Defra's own complaints procedure.

The ICO can be contacted using the following link:

<https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/official-information-concerns-report/official-information-concern/>