



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

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Our Ref: ATIC2896

[REDACTED]
{By Email}

2 November 2022

Dear [REDACTED]

PROVISION OF REQUESTED INFORMATION

Thank you for your request for information about finishing units, which APHA received on 6 October 2022. Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000.

The information you requested and the response is detailed below:

“This is a request about inspections of Exempt Finishing Units (EFUs) and Licensed Finishing Units (LFUs) in Great Britain (England, Wales and Scotland).

Exempt Finishing Units

1. Please state how many EFU inspections were conducted in the period beginning 01 January 2017 to 31 August 2022.
2. During these inspections, how many non-compliances / deficiencies were recorded?
3. For each non-compliance please state
 - a. the nature of the deficiency
 - b. The severity of the deficiency
 - c. the county in which the deficiency occurred
 - d. What happened after the inspection e.g. a call, letter and follow-up visit or letter
 - e. Whether the non-compliance led to enforcement action
 - f. Details of the enforcement action

APHA can confirm that in Wales there were 28 inspections conducted between 1 January 2017 and 31 August 2022. Please note that all EFUs in Wales were revoked on 1 January 2018. There was one non-compliance found, please see details below.

During these inspections, how many non-compliances / deficiencies were recorded?	A. the nature of the deficiency	B. The severity of the deficiency	D. What happened after the inspection e.g. a call, letter and follow-up visit or letter	E. Whether the non-compliance led to enforcement action	F. Details of the enforcement action
1 - 23/02/17	Sheep grazing in EFU grazing	minor	letter and follow up visit	no	n/a

There were 79 inspections of EFUs carried out in England between 2019 and 2022. England do not hold information prior to 2019, this is due to a change in the way the data is stored. Please see Appendix 1 for the details of non-compliance.

The county details have been exempted from release citing Section 40 of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000, please see further information below.

Licensed Finishing Units

1. Please state how many LFU inspections were conducted in the period beginning 01 January 2017 to 31 August 2022.
2. During these inspections, how many non-compliances / deficiencies were recorded?
3. For each non-compliance please state
 - a. the nature of the deficiency
 - b. The severity of the deficiency
 - c. the county in which the deficiency occurred
 - d. What happened after the inspection e.g. a call, letter and follow-up visit or letter
 - e. Whether the non-compliance led to enforcement action
 - f. Details of the enforcement action"

APHA can confirm that in Wales 10 inspections were carried out between 1 January 2017 and 31 August 2022. No non-compliances were found.

There were 123 inspections of LFUs carried out in England between 2019 and 2022. Again, England do not hold information prior to 2019 due to a change in the way the data is stored. Please see Appendix 1 for the details of non-compliance.

As stated above, the county details have been exempted from release citing Section 40 of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000, please see further information below.

APHA can confirm that there are no Exempt Finishing Units or Licensed Finishing Units in Scotland.

Section 40

We can confirm that the county information has been removed, as in some instances this would lead to the identification of premises. Section 40(2), read in conjunction with 40(3)(a)(i), of the FOIA provides that personal data relating to third parties is exempt information if disclosure would breach the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA).

This information if released still engages the exemption because the personal data relates to others who would, or would likely, be identified or identifiable from that information. APHA publish information regarding Exempt Finishing Units and Licensed Finishing Units and this, along with county details, may lead to identification of individual addresses.

[EXEMPT FINISHING UNIT - Search - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/search?q=EXEMPT+FINISHING+UNIT)
[Licensed finishing units for cattle: application - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/search?q=Licensed+finishing+units+for+cattle+application)

APHA consider that disclosure of this information is likely to breach the first data protection principle in Schedule 1 of the DPA, which relates to the fair and lawful processing of personal data, in two ways. First, disclosure would not constitute 'fair' processing of the personal data, second, disclosure would not satisfy any of the conditions for data processing set out in Schedule 2 to the DPA.

Therefore, we have concluded that this information is exempt from disclosure under section 40 of the FOIA.

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

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.

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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

If you need to contact the ICO, it's best to do so online. Please click [here](#) for contact details. You can also call them on 0303 123 1113.