



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

www.gov.uk/apha

Our Ref: ATIC2938

[REDACTED]
{By Email}

02 December 2022

Dear [REDACTED]

PROVISION OF REQUESTED INFORMATION

Thank you for your request for information about Poultry statistics, which the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) received on 21 November 2022. Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000.

The information you requested and the response is detailed below:

“I am a veterinary student at the University of Cambridge and am currently writing a dissertation on avian influenza, and how incursions into poultry farms can be prevented. Would it at all be possible for me to have access to the poultry register to look at the size and distribution of poultry farms across the country?
Or are there any other similar datasets you could direct me to?”

Clarity was requested:

“I would like to request the following data:

- Species
- Usual stock numbers
- Access to open air
- Near body of water
- Map reference
- Location ID

I would like this to be UK-wide data and as recent as possible (2022).”

For your information the Poultry Register has not been in existence since 2014 when the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) was formed.

Please see Appendix 1 for the information you have requested

The information provided is current at the time of this response.

It is only compulsory to register flocks of poultry of over 50 birds with APHA. Owners/Keepers can voluntarily register flocks of less than 50 birds. To find out more about the registration of birds visit the GOV.UK website for information here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/poultry-including-game-birds-registration-rules-and-forms>

The information provided are the livestock numbers provided by the keeper upon registration. As part of the registration process, APHA ask the keeper what their usual stock numbers are, and this is recorded in the APHA database. It is the responsibility of the owner/keeper to keep APHA informed of any number changes.

Any blank entries for livestock numbers or those with 0 is because there was no stock to record at the time of registration and APHA have not been informed since of any changes by the owner/keeper.

Where the post code is described as blank the post code of the premises was not recorded at the time of registration.

Unfortunately, some of the information you have requested, Location ID and Map reference and part of the postcode have been exempted from release citing Section 40 of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000.

Section 40

We can confirm that this information could 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 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

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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.