



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

Animal and Plant Health Agency
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Our Ref: ATIC3054

[REDACTED]
{By Email}

30 March 2023

Dear [REDACTED]

PROVISION OF REQUESTED INFORMATION

Thank you for your request for information about Avian Influenza testing, which the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) received on 20 March 2023. Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000.

The information you requested and the response is detailed below:

“Is there a laboratory in the United Kingdom that has actual material samples of purified “HPAI (H5N1) virus”?”

I do not mean an in silico, computer-generated genome sequence. I mean actual material samples of “purified viruses” that were taken from a verified infected animal or human that are available for independent analysis?

The Animal Plant and Health Agency (APHA) hold this material.

The actual HIPAIV H5N1 virus has been successfully isolated on many occasions from verified infected birds from the beginning of the epizootic in Great Britain

“Is there a science paper that is also available from a laboratory here in the United Kingdom that lists the exact process carried out into the “isolation of the “HPAI (H5N1) virus”?” “

The isolation of HPAI H5N1 virus from the epizootic is available publicly and can be found here:

[Scottish Rural College \(SRUC\)](#)

“If you do have these samples can you please tell me, what isolation and purification steps were taken to achieve this?”

The isolation and purification steps used are described in the attached link below. The methodology is also described in the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH)

manual and is internationally and globally recognized. Please see our link here: [pub-protocol-avian-embryonated-eggs.pdf \(via.gov.uk\)](#)

“If you do not have these do you know of any laboratories that do have them here in the United Kingdom?”

Not applicable - please see answer above.

“If you do not have, or know of any laboratories in the United Kingdom that hold actual material samples of purified "HPAI (H5N1) virus" then that is of great concern.”

As above.

“I am asking that you prove beyond all reasonable doubt that there is a disease called "Avian Flu" that is caused by the so-called "HPAI (H5N1) virus" that was purified and that there are actual “material samples” available for independent analysis here in the United Kingdom.”

“I do not want any links to science papers from agencies or laboratories outside of the United Kingdom. I am specifically requesting that you provide me with evidence of the isolation and purification of the “HPAI (HN51) virus” here in a laboratory in the United Kingdom.”

A request under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) is a request for recorded information. This does not qualify as a request under that Act. The only recorded information APHA hold are the publications referred to in the answers above.

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

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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

Please click [here](#) for further contact details.