



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

Animal and Plant Health Agency
Access to Information Team
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Our Ref: ATIC2981

[REDACTED]
{By Email}

28 February 2023

Dear [REDACTED]

PROVISION OF REQUESTED INFORMATION

Thank you for your request for information about Avian Influenza culling compensation which the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) received on 23 January 2023. 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 much has the Government paid in compensation for bird flu deaths in this time?"

See below

2. How much has the Government paid in compensation for birds culled for disease control in this time?

The current total for payments is £44,160,868.78

3. How many claims for compensation has the Government received for bird flu deaths in this time?

See below

4. How many claims for compensation has the Government received for birds culled for disease control in this time?

This information is not held by APHA, however 290 claims have been paid.

5. How many claims for compensation has the Government paid out for bird flu deaths in this time?

See below

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.

6. How many claims for compensation has the Government paid out for birds culled for disease control in this time?

APHA have paid 290 claims within this period.

7. Has the Government paid out any other form of compensation to anyone for any reason related to the bird flu outbreak since October 2021? If so, please can you say how much it has paid and why. “

APHA paid £4,409.54 for remedial work for damage incurred during disease control operations.

8. “What was the largest claim for compensation the Government has paid to a single farm or company for birds culled for disease control since the start of the current outbreak in October 2021?”

The largest single payment was £1,966,512.48

9. “What was the largest claim for compensation the Government has paid to a single farm or company for birds which died of bird flu since the start of the current outbreak in October 2021?”

To make the response easier to read we have numbered the individual questions.

In answer to questions Nos 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9 are, no compensation is payable for birds that have died before they are assessed for valuation purposes therefore the answer to those questions is zero.

It must also be noted that APHA do not pay compensation due to a claim. Owners receive compensation for the destruction of their birds, there is no claims process involved.

For more information on the compensation and valuation process please see link below:

[Compensation for animals culled to control animal diseases - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/topics/animal-diseases/compensation-for-animals-culled-to-control-animal-diseases)

The Government have provided further financial support to the industry by altering the existing bird flu compensation scheme allowing compensation to be paid to farmers from the outset of planned culling rather than at the end. This will allow swifter payments to help stem any cash flow pressures and give earlier certainty about entitlement to compensation. The payments better reflect the impact of outbreaks on farmers.

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

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.