



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: ATIC3047

[REDACTED]

{By Email}

05 April 2023

Dear [REDACTED]

PROVISION OF REQUESTED INFORMATION

Thank you for your request for information about H5N1 in pigs, which the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) received on 14 March 2023. Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

The information you requested and the response is detailed below:

“Are farmed pigs and/or wild boars/wild deer being monitored for H5N1 in the UK?”

Farmed pigs are only sampled for H5N1 when co-located on an infected poultry premises.

When certain mammals are submitted to APHA laboratories for post-mortem, the APHA Wildlife Expert Group will be consulted and some of these carcasses will be screened for highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), and only negative ones will be examined. Those mammals are fox, otter, beaver, mustelid (stoat, weasels, ferrets but not badgers) or marine mammals.

Wild boar and wild deer carcasses are not currently in scope for this screening. As regards other species, there is a requirement for any suspicion of influenza of avian origin in mammals to be reported to APHA.

APHA will only start to test wild boar if there is evidence of them being involved in transmission (as opposed to being seropositive); all pigs on confirmed poultry premises are tested as that is the legal requirement.

“If so, have there been any positive results and when did these occur?”

There have been no positives to date in farmed pigs, wild boar or wild deer since the start of the outbreak.

All mammals which test positive are reported here:

[Bird flu \(avian influenza\): findings in non-avian wildlife - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

“Are there any plans to carry out such testing?”

Based on current risk assessments, there are no plans to carry out additional testing of pigs or deer. If there was evidence, for example, from testing pigs on infected premises here, or reports elsewhere, of pigs or deer being infected with H5N1, then further testing will be considered.

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.