



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

Animal and Plant Health Agency
Access to Information Team
Woodham Lane
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Surrey
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www.gov.uk/apha

Our ref: FOI2023/06947
19 May 2023

Dear [REDACTED],

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Glass eels exports to Russian Federation

Thank you for your request for information of 6th April about Glass eels exports to Russian Federation. We have handled your request under the Environmental Information Regulation (EIR's). 2004

Your information request and our response are set out below.

“This is in relation to shipments of glass eels from the UK to the Russian Federation. The issue has been covered by The Times recently: <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/fears-british-eel-conservation-in-russia-could-help-fund-ukraine-war-7bnr3wr0t>

I understand that the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs must make a “Non Detriment Finding”(NDF) for any shipment to go ahead.

And also that the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office would have to ensure that Trade Rules on the embargo to Russia were not being broken.

- 1) Please state the
 - a) total number of shipments
 - b) total volume of (if held)
 - c) total value of exports(if held)

of Glass Eels that Defra has licensed for export to the Russian Federation in each of the following calendar years

i) 2020”

No permits were issued as the UK was still member of EU with zero quota for export of this species.

“ii) 2021”

No export permits issued for shipment to Russian Federation.

“iii) 2022”

Two shipments. Two permits issued for a total of 155.9kg glass eels (fingerlings less than 12cm in length).

“iv) 2023 to date”

One shipment. One permit issued for a total of 500kg glass eels (fingerlings less than 12cm in length).

The information to question 1c above is not held by APHA.

“2) Please provide a breakdown of these figures by the given reason for export, etc, conservation, foodstuff etc.”

In 2022 5kg for scientific research (purpose code S) and 150.9kg for re-stocking (purpose code N).

In 2023 500kg for re-stocking (purpose code N).

“3) Please provide a copy of any standard licensing condition documents for export of Glass Eels issued by Defra.”

Please see extract from our systems showing the licensing conditions applied to the three exports. The source and destination have been exempted from release citing Section 40, please see below for details.

2022

Purpose code N: 1) These glass eels for export may only be derived from the rivers XXXXXXXXX (Source - text removed) as indicated in the UK non-detriment finding & subject to the relevant control measures authorised by the Environment Agency. 2) These eels may be used solely for the purpose of re-stocking the XXXXXXXXXX (Destination - text removed). 3) These eels may not be re-exported or used elsewhere in the destination country for any other purpose.

2023

Purpose code S: 1) This permit is restricted to the use of glass eels (namely fingerlings <12cm) derived from fisheries in the rivers XXXXXXXXXX (Source - text removed) only. (2) This trade is permitted for the sole purpose of sending a maximum of 5kg of live glass eels (fingerlings <12cm) to a research facility in Russia for the purpose of research into animal husbandry.

“4) Please state if any licenses for export of glass eels were refused in these periods by Defra or any other government department.”

No permit applications for glass eels to Russia have been refused 2020 – 2023 (to date).

“5) If so, please could you state on what grounds these licenses were refused, for example, they were for luxury not agricultural use, did not meet sanctions criteria etc.”

N/A

Some of the information you have requested in question 3 has been exempted from release citing Section 12 of the Environmental Information Regulations EIR's 2004.

Section 12 (3) (13)

Some of the information requested has been withheld under section 12(3), read in conjunction with 13, (third party personal data), of the EIR's as the information constitutes personal data relating to a third party. Section 12 (3), read in conjunction with Section 13, of the EIR's provides that personal data relating to third parties is exempt information if disclosure of that information would breach any of the data protection principles in Article 5(1) of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

APHA consider that disclosure of this information is likely to breach the first data protection principle in Article 5(1)(a) repeated in 35(1) DPA, which provides that personal data must be processed lawfully, fairly, and in a transparent manner in two ways. First, disclosure would not constitute 'fair' processing of the personal data, second, disclosure of that information would not be 'lawful'. Therefore, we have concluded that this information is exempt from disclosure under section 12 and 13 of the EIR.

Information disclosed in response to this EIR request is releasable to the public. In keeping with the spirit and effect of the EIR's

and the government's Transparency Agenda, this letter and the information disclosed to you may be placed on [GOV.UK](https://www.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.

We attach an Annex explaining 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.

Yours sincerely

Access to Information Team

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 be also 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 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.

ICO can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

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