



Our ref: FOI2023/11926
07 July 2023

Dear [REDACTED]

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Horse Imports

Thank you for your request for information of 19th June about Horse Imports. APHA have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Your information request and our response are set out below.

“I am an equine vet based in the south of England who is currently trying to collect data on outbreaks of strangles (an infectious respiratory disease) in horses throughout the UK, for a research project through the University of Edinburgh. A number of these will likely come from horses imported recently from abroad (or between Britain and Northern Ireland) the numbers of which would be pretty meaningless without data on total number of horses imported for sale or other uses in the UK for comparison.

I was wondering if a) this data is collected (total number of imports for example, intended use) and b) if this information is publicly available, or available for research purposes?”

The information requested can be found in Appendix 1.

The information provided covers 01/01/2020 to 31/05/2023 and is broken down into four separate tabs on the spreadsheet, owing to the data being collated from the three systems, Trade Control and Export System (TRACES), Import of Products, Animals, Food and Feed Systems (IPAFFS) and Post Import Management System (PIMS).

The first tab contains EU to GB data for 2020 from TRACES, the second tab contains Rest of the World (ROW) to UK data for 2020 from TRACES (this is UK due the system being unable to break down the category further), the third tab contains EU to GB data from 01/01/2021 to 31/05/2023 from PIMS and finally the fourth contains ROW to GB data from 01/01/2021 to 31/05/2023 from IPAFFS.

This information is drawn from external TRACES and IPAFF systems not directly controlled by APHA.

The information provided is a true reflection of the information that APHA have access to. APHA cannot guarantee the accuracy of this data, as we can only rely on the information that has been input into external customer facing systems by third parties.

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.

Information disclosed in response to this FOI request is releasable to the public. In keeping with the spirit and effect of the FOIA 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.

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

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.

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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 within 40 working days of the date of this letter. Please write to the Access to Information Team 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 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.