



Animal &  
Plant Health  
Agency

Animal and Plant Health Agency  
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[www.gov.uk/apha](http://www.gov.uk/apha)

Our ref: FOI2023/14518  
31 July 2023

Dear [REDACTED]

### **REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Poultry statistics - Scotland and Northern Ireland**

Thank you for your request for information of 21st July about Poultry statistics - Scotland and Northern Ireland. 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 looking for information on poultry farms in Scotland and Northern Ireland that do not meet the threshold for Environmental Permitting Regulations (formerly IPPC), i.e., hold below 40,000 poultry birds. I understand that any farm holding more than 50 birds must be registered with the APHA. Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please can I have the following data for poultry units with fewer than 40,000 poultry, but more than 1,000 birds, including:

- \* how many poultry farms (sub-permit threshold) there are in total in Scotland
- \* how many poultry farms (sub-permit threshold of 40,000) there are in total in Northern Ireland
- \* town/county of holding/farm
- month/year of registration
- \* business activity- farmer, poultry company only (pet owner or hobbyist activity not required)
- \* poultry numbers
- \* species- chickens, pullets, turkeys, ducks etc
- \* production details - egg laying, reared for meat, breeding for meat, growing pullets up etc
- \* husbandry system, i.e., indoor only floor, indoor only caged/mixed/outdoor only etc
- \* farm management system - intensive, extensive, free-range, organic

I require data for currently active poultry holdings and the number of active farms each year for the past 5 years (starting 2017) please."

The information APHA hold is a current snapshot of the information passed to APHA at the point of registration, APHA do not hold historical statistical information. It is the responsibility of the livestock keeper to inform APHA of any changes. APHA do not hold information for Northern Ireland this can be accessed via DAERA here:

[Home | Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs \(daera-ni.gov.uk\)](http://Home | Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (daera-ni.gov.uk))

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.

Poultry species included are the ones defined by the Department for the Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) being,

Chicken, Duck, Goose, Guinea Fowl, Ostrich, Partridge, Pheasant, Quail, Turkey and Rhea.

The available information you have requested can be found at Appendix 1. Where there are blank entries this information is not held by APHA.

To find out more about the registration process you can access the link below:

[Poultry \(including game birds\): registration rules and forms - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

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](http://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](mailto:enquiries@apha.gov.uk)

## **Annex**

### **Copyright**

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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](mailto: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.