



Our ref: FOI2023/15059
30 August 2023

Dear

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Dairy Herd Statistics N. Ireland and Scotland

Thank you for your request for information of 31st July about Dairy Herd Statistics N. Ireland and Scotland. APHA have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Your information request and our response are set out below.

“Under the Freedom of Information Act, I would like the following information please:

1 / the number of dairy herds that are year-round housed/zero grazed, in Scotland and Northern Ireland

2/ the number of seasonally housed dairy herds in in Scotland and Northern Ireland

Including: the region/district, and how many cows per farm.

Please can I have the figures for 2017 until 2023, inclusive.”

APHA do not hold information on the housing and grazing status of dairy herds.

Historical information is not available to APHA and only a current snapshot can be provided on the day the report was run.

APHA can provide dairy livestock unit region/district information and usual stock numbers registered between 2017 and 2023 inclusive.

The available information on dairy livestock units can be found in the table below:

Livestock Unit Created Date	Livestock Unit Species	Livestock Unit Animal Production Usage	Usual Stock Numbers	Livestock Unit County Name	Livestock Unit Country
10/01/2017	Cattle	Dairy	400	Wigtown	Scotland
26/01/2017	Cattle	Dairy	295	Dumfriesshire	Scotland
08/06/2017	Cattle	Dairy	275	Ayrshire	Scotland
27/06/2017	Cattle	Dairy	500	Ayrshire	Scotland
04/09/2017	Cattle	Dairy	780	Kirkcudbright	Scotland

05/10/2017	Cattle	Dairy	450	Dumfriesshire	Scotland
29/05/2018	Cattle	Dairy	2500	Kirkcudbright	Scotland
18/06/2018	Cattle	Dairy	135	Wigtown	Scotland
07/11/2018	Cattle	Dairy	150	Ayrshire	Scotland
28/02/2019	Cattle	Dairy	200	Ayrshire	Scotland
08/03/2019	Cattle	Dairy	10	Ayrshire	Scotland
11/03/2019	Cattle	Dairy	500	Ayrshire	Scotland
05/04/2019	Cattle	Dairy	159	Wigtown	Scotland
01/05/2019	Cattle	Dairy	500	Dumfriesshire	Scotland
12/12/2019	Cattle	Dairy	140	Ayrshire	Scotland
28/01/2020	Cattle	Dairy	140	Ayrshire	Scotland
24/02/2020	Cattle	Dairy	13	Ayrshire	Scotland
06/03/2020	Cattle	Dairy	350	Ayrshire	Scotland
22/04/2020	Cattle	Dairy	1	Ayrshire	Scotland
16/07/2020	Cattle	Dairy	5	Ayrshire	Scotland
20/08/2020	Cattle	Dairy	32	Dumfriesshire	Scotland
02/11/2020	Cattle	Dairy	250	Kirkcudbright	Scotland
20/11/2020	Cattle	Dairy	600	Wigtown	Scotland
04/12/2020	Cattle	Dairy	455	Wigtown	Scotland
09/03/2021	Cattle	Dairy	600	Kirkcudbright	Scotland
09/03/2021	Cattle	Dairy	700	Kirkcudbright	Scotland
14/06/2021	Cattle	Dairy	100	Wigtown	Scotland
14/06/2021	Cattle	Dairy	180	Wigtown	Scotland
29/07/2021	Cattle	Dairy	1	Kirkcudbright	Scotland
23/08/2021	Cattle	Dairy	18	Dumfriesshire	Scotland
15/11/2021	Cattle	Dairy	800	Dumfriesshire	Scotland
05/04/2022	Cattle	Dairy	140	Kirkcudbright	Scotland
06/05/2022	Cattle	Dairy	8	Kirkcudbright	Scotland
09/05/2022	Cattle	Dairy	60	Dumfriesshire	Scotland
29/06/2022	Cattle	Dairy	200	Ayrshire	Scotland
03/11/2022	Cattle	Dairy	160	Ayrshire	Scotland
10/11/2022	Cattle	Dairy	334	Wigtown	Scotland
13/12/2022	Cattle	Dairy	350	Ayrshire	Scotland
02/03/2023	Cattle	Dairy	300	Wigtown	Scotland
20/03/2023	Cattle	Dairy	508	Ayrshire	Scotland
20/04/2023	Cattle	Dairy	100	Ayrshire	Scotland
28/04/2023	Cattle	Dairy	150	Dumfriesshire	Scotland
12/05/2023	Cattle	Dairy	330	Ayrshire	Scotland
12/05/2023	Cattle	Dairy	400	Wigtown	Scotland
14/06/2023	Cattle	Dairy	300	Ayrshire	Scotland
09/08/2023	Cattle	Dairy	60	Kirkcudbright	Scotland

Range from 12/01/2017 to 01/06/2023	Cattle	Dairy	Range from 1 to 500	Aberdeenshire, Angus, Argyll, Berwickshire, Bute, Inverness-shire, Lanarkshire, Moray, Orkney, Perth, Ross & Cromarty	Scotland
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The information provided are the livestock numbers provided by the keeper upon initial registration. As part of the registration process, APHA ask the keeper what their usual stock numbers are, and this is recorded in the APHA database. It is the responsibility of the owner/keeper to keep APHA informed of any number changes.

Data for livestock unit by county containing less than five premises has been amalgamated to protect potential identification of personal data. This is covered under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act (2000).

Section 40

APHA holds the information for individual livestock units by county but maintains its decision to amalgamate it under section 40(2) as the information constitutes personal data relating to a third party.

Personal data relates to a living person and APHA consider the release of individual livestock units by county where less than five are recorded per county would make individuals identifiable by being linked to them. We can confirm, in some of the livestock unit counties, there are less than five premises. This makes identifying individuals more likely. Section 40(2), read in conjunction with 40(3)(a)(i), of the FOIA provides that personal data relating to third parties is exempt information if disclosure would breach the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA).

APHA consider that disclosure of this information is likely to breach the first data protection principle in Schedule 1 of the DPA, which relates to the fair and lawful processing of personal data, in two ways. First, disclosure would not constitute 'fair' processing of the personal data, second, disclosure would not satisfy any of the conditions for data processing set out in Schedule 2 to the DPA. Therefore, we have concluded that this information is exempt from disclosure under section 40 of the FOIA.

For further information Livestock population information can be found at GOV.UK

[Livestock populations in the United Kingdom - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

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://daera-ni.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,

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

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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.