



Our ref: FOI2023/15066  
30 August 2023

Dear [REDACTED]

### **REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Dairy Herd Statistics England and Wales**

Thank you for your request for information of 31st July about Dairy Herd Statistics England and Wales. 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 England and Wales

2/ the number of seasonally housed dairy herds in England and Wales

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 Appendix 1.

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)

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.