



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Seacole Building
4th Floor
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

T: 03459 33 55 77

helpline@defra.gov.uk

www.gov.uk/defra

[Redacted]

By email: [Redacted]

Our ref: FOI2024/01017

30 January 2024

Dear [Redacted]

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Hereford Cattle Society

Thank you for your request for information of 14 January 2024 about the Hereford Cattle Society. We have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Your information request and our response are set out below.

- 1. The national competent authority pre and post-Brexit submissions to the EU detailing that the Traditional Hereford breed is an autochthonous breed, native of the British Isles with a recognised conservation/preservation breeding programme as it is an 'at-risk' breed.*

We can confirm that this information is not held. There is no requirement for the UK to register native breeds with the European Commission, before or after EU Exit.

- 2. the Defra Approved Breeding Programme covering conservation and preservation for the 'at-risk' Traditional Hereford breed, the autochthonous breed of the British Isles. The date of approval of the DEFRA approval of the Breeding Programme for the 'at-risk' Traditional Hereford breed. This would include the DEFRA-approved grading up programme for the 'at risk' breed in line with the zootech regulations.*

This information is not held as there is no separate breeding programme for the Traditional Hereford Cattle breed. Traditional Herefords are included in the pedigree breeding programme for the recognised breed of Hereford Cattle which can be accessed at the link below:

[Application form fro zootech \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

Reference to Traditional Herefords can be found on page 6 of the programme. The breeding programme for the Hereford cattle was approved on 1 January 2015 as detailed in the published list of recognised bovine societies found at the link below:

[Recognised breed societies for bovine species - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

- 3. the details of who the caretakers for the breed are and who is in control of the breeding/conservation and preservation programme for the breed, therefore if it is the Hereford Cattle Society Company Limited by Guarantee and/or the Rare Breed Survival Trust - both regulated by the Charity regulator and by the National Competent Authority for zootech regulations.*

The UK breed society for the Hereford Cattle, approved in line with UK Zootechnical legislation, is the Hereford Cattle Society. A list of bovine breeds and their breed societies can be found at the link provided above in our response to part 2 of your information request.

As the information is reasonably accessible to you by other means, section 21 of the FOIA exempts Defra from providing a copy of the information with this response to your request.

- 4. the DEFRA approved rules of procedure for covering the conservation and preservation programme for the 'at-risk' Traditional Hereford including the Article 18(1) Breeder request process, the Article 30(1) Breeder request process, the timely transmission of zootechnical certificates under Article 30(3), the validated "clearly established rules of procedure and described rights and duties of breeders. This is best achieved if the disputes are settled within the legal system of the Member State where they arise." therefore the dispute resolution procedures for the breeders participating in the breeding programme of the Traditional Hereford conservation/preservation breeding programme.*

The Hereford Cattle Society rules can be found at the link below. Rules on the settlement of disputes can be found at Rule 57.

[Rules - Hereford Cattle Society](#)

Information disclosed in response to this FOIA 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.

We attach Annex A, explaining the copyright that applies to the information being released to you, and Annex B giving contact details should you be unhappy with the service you have received.

If you have any queries about this letter please contact me.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted]

Information Rights Team

InformationRequests@defra.gov.uk

Annex A

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Annex B

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 write to ^[Redacted] Head of Information Rights via email at InformationRequests@defra.gov.uk and he will arrange for an internal review of your case. Details of Defra's complaints procedure are on our website.

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 Defra's own complaints procedure.

The ICO can be contacted using the following link:

<https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/official-information-concerns-report/official-information-concern/>