



Our ref: FOI2023/15715
4 September 2023

Dear [REDACTED]

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Calf exports

Thank you for your request for information of 10th August about Calf exports. APHA have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Your information request and our response are set out below.

“Calf exports from Northern Ireland

What numbers of live calf exports from Northern Ireland to Irish Republic have been recorded in each of the past 5 years?”

APHA do not hold information for Northern Ireland this can be accessed via DAERA here: <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/>

“What numbers, if any, of live calf exports from mainland UK to Northern Ireland have been recorded in each of the past 5 years?”

Please see table for the total number of Export Health Certificates (EHC) issued for live cattle from GB to Northern Ireland between 01/01/2020 – 31/07/2023.

Please note that the data provided relates to cattle. The animals age is not recorded, therefore we cannot ascertain if these exports included any calves.

Years	Total number of EHC issued
2020	401
2021	405
2022	653
2023	332
Total	1791

“What veterinary assessments are undertaken on fitness to travel of calves pre-journey to Irish Republic, and what proportion have failed that assessment and on what basis in each of the past 5 years?”

The certifying vet should inspect the calves and confirm fitness to travel.

All documents associated with the 8/446EHC are available at the link below - Domestic bovine animals intended for breeding or production to the European Union and Northern Ireland: certificate 8446

<https://www.gov.uk/export-health-certificates/domestic-bovine-animals-intended-for-breeding-or-production-to-the-european-union-and-northern-ireland-certificate-8446>

Notes for guidance can be found at the link below;

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/64f1fa99a78c5f000dc6f456/8446NFG-Sep_23-v12_.pdf

In addition to the assessment carried out by an OV, for the transport of un-weaned calves, supervised loadings are undertaken prior to the animals leaving GB. Inspectors from APHA perform various checks during supervised loadings to ensure the welfare of animals should be maintained throughout the journey. During the supervised loadings, APHA inspectors will, amongst other things, ensure all animals are fit to be transported. If an animal is deemed unfit to travel by the inspectors, it will be removed from the loading process.

“What legal advice, if any, has been sought or provided as to whether welfare provisions of calves being exported from Irish Republic are compliant with EU legislation?”

The export of calves from Republic of Ireland is the responsibility of Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM). APHA do not hold any information on this.

The information that we have provided is a true reflection of the information that we have access to. We 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.

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

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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.