



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

Animal and Plant Health Agency
Access to Information Team
Woodham Lane
New Haw
Addlestone
Surrey
KT15 3NB

www.gov.uk/apha

Our ref: FOI2023/16473
08 September 2023

Dear [REDACTED]

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Statistics on Isolation units and AFUs

Thank you for your request for information of 23rd August about Statistics on Isolation units and AFUs. APHA have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Your information request and our response are set out below.

“Could you please tell me how many isolation units and AFUs there currently are in England and Wales, please? And how many days does it usually take to get approval for these from the date of application?”

Currently there are 77 active TB Isolation units in England and 7 in Wales which are either filling or have animals undergoing the testing programme.

The number of AFU's can be found in the public domain here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/approved-finishing-units-for-cattle-application>

As this information is publicly available it is exempt from release via the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000.

Section 16 Advice and Assistance

This figure for Isolation units remains stable at around 70-100 at any one time.

The number of TB isolation units are constantly changing as new ones get approved and older ones complete the testing protocol and get released.

There is no official service level agreement that APHA publish. However, the approval process consists of the following steps:

- Application received,
- Site visit by Veterinary Officer,
- Countersignature by another Veterinary Officer,

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.

- New County Parish Holding (CPH) number from the Rural Payment Agency (RPA),
- Entered onto system,
- Veterinary Risk Assessment (VRA) by Veterinary Officer,
- Final Approval.

The published list of AFU's is currently under review and following quality control checks and publishing protocols is due to be updated in September 2023.

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

Copyright

The information supplied to you continues to be protected by copyright. You are free to use it for your own purposes, including for private study and non-commercial research, and for any other purpose authorised by an exception in current copyright law.

Documents (except photographs or logos) can also be used in the UK without requiring permission for the purposes of news reporting. Any other re-use, for example commercial publication, would require the permission of the copyright holder.

Most documents produced by APHA will be protected by Crown Copyright. Most Crown copyright information can be re-used under the [Open Government Licence](#). For information about the OGL and about re-using Crown Copyright information please see [The National Archives website](#).

Copyright in other documents may rest with a third party. For information about obtaining permission from a third party see the [Intellectual Property Office's website](#).

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.