



Animal &  
Plant Health  
Agency

Animal and Plant Health Agency  
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[www.gov.uk/apha](http://www.gov.uk/apha)

Our ref: EIR2023/17556  
6 October 2023

Dear [REDACTED]

### **REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Avian Influenza statistics**

Thank you for your request for information of 8th September about Avian Influenza statistics. APHA have handled your request under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs).

The EIRs apply to requests for environmental information, which is a broad category of information defined in regulation 2 of the EIRs. Public authorities are required to handle requests for environmental information under the EIRs. They give similar access rights to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Your information request and our response are set out below.

“How many birds of prey/owls tested negative for HPAI in 2022? can you provide details of what species, location they were found (to local authority level which is consistent with information published on positive tests) and date collected or date of negative test?”

The response you sent on the 24th August appears to be incomplete, it only includes data for England and Wales and not for Scotland? Please could you provide this data for Scotland?

Additionally, it does not contain any Red Kites or Hen Harriers, can you provide this data for these two species (for England, Wales and Scotland).”

The information requested for England and Wales can be found in Appendix 1. Please note that we have included the column ‘Specimens received’ which was not included in our response to your previous request.

The information for Scotland is held by Scotland's Rural College (SRUC) and can be contacted at:

<https://www.sruc.ac.uk/connect/about-sruc/policies-compliance/compliance/freedom-of-information/>

Appendix 1 contains a list of birds tested Avian Influenza (AI) negative for England and Wales that have been recorded on APHA's system as having had a post-mortem.

“I would also like to request the following information:

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.

How many dead birds of prey/owls were incinerated with no further examination (toxicology/e-ray/post-mortem) after testing negative for HPAI in 2022?"

All birds are held and examined after a negative AI test where possible. A description of the process was published in the Veterinary Record at:

[Investigations associated with the 2020/21 highly pathogenic avian influenza epizootic in wild birds in Great Britain - Duff - 2021 - Veterinary Record - Wiley Online Library](#)

"How many dead birds of prey/owl which tested negative were examined further (toxicological/x-ray or post-mortem) to determine cause of death in 2022?"

The information requested can be found in Appendix 1 and contains a list of birds tested AI negative that have been recorded on our system as having had a post-mortem.

"If a dead bird of prey/owl (which tested negative for AI) was examined further (toxicology test/x-ray/post-mortem) what was the determined cause of death (e.g. poison, shot, trauma, natural causes, other disease)?"

Appendix 1 list of birds tested negative that have been recorded on APHA's system as having had a post-mortem, and the subsequent diagnoses. In some cases, a diagnosis is not reached due to a variety of reasons such as unsuitable tissues.

Where information is not recorded (blank cells) the information is not held by APHA.

Information disclosed in response to this EIR request is releasable to the public. In keeping with the spirit and effect of the EIR 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](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 regulation 11 of the EIRs, as applicable, 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, 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 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.