



Our ref: FOI2023/19118  
17 October 2023

Dear [REDACTED],

### **REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Cattle semen export licensing and data collation**

Thank you for your request for information of 28th September about Cattle semen export licensing and data collation. APHA have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Your information request and our response are set out below.

“I wonder if you can help me? Before the advent of BSE (mad cow disease), data on exports of cattle semen was collected via annual returns from the companies supplying the semen. I understand that since exports were resumed this data is no longer been collected, and am wondering why.

I am told that exports of cattle semen, especially native breeds, have been increasing in recent years. This would be a very good story for UK and its farmers who have bred the native breeds. This must be helping to restore the balance of payments as for many years considerable quantities of Holstein semen, mainly from the USA and Canada, have been imported into the UK. Presumably DEFRA will have a record of export licenses and it would be useful if you could furnish me with such data as you could provide.”

Please be aware that a request for information under the FOIA is a request for recorded information.

Please see the table below which shows Export Health Certificates issued for Bovine Semen broken down by country of destination from 01/09/2022 to 10/10/2023.

<b>Destination Country</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Argentina</b>	3	6	9
<b>Australia</b>	60	84	144
<b>Belgium</b>	5	8	13
<b>Brazil</b>	4	15	19
<b>Bulgaria</b>	1	2	3
<b>Canada</b>	23	28	51
<b>Chile</b>	1	3	4

<b>China, People's Republic of</b>	25	62	87
<b>Costa Rica</b>		1	1
<b>Croatia</b>	1	2	3
<b>Cyprus</b>	3	4	7
<b>Czech Republic</b>	6	15	21
<b>Denmark</b>	5	8	13
<b>Egypt</b>		3	3
<b>Estonia</b>		4	4
<b>Ethiopia</b>	2	1	3
<b>Finland</b>	1	5	6
<b>France</b>	12	25	37
<b>Georgia</b>		1	1
<b>Germany</b>	17	42	59
<b>Greece</b>	5	7	12
<b>Guernsey</b>	1	5	6
<b>Hong Kong</b>		1	1
<b>Hungary</b>	8	22	30
<b>Iran</b>	2	6	8
<b>Iraq</b>	1	1	2
<b>Isle Of Man</b>	19	28	47
<b>ISRAEL</b>		1	1
<b>Italy</b>	26	46	72
<b>Jersey</b>	8	7	15
<b>Kazakhstan</b>	3	1	4
<b>Kenya</b>		4	4
<b>Kuwait</b>		1	1
<b>Latvia</b>	4	2	6
<b>Lithuania</b>	2	7	9
<b>Malawi</b>		1	1
<b>Malaysia</b>		1	1
<b>Mexico</b>	4	1	5
<b>Netherlands</b>	18	32	50
<b>New Zealand</b>	4	15	19
<b>NIGERIA</b>	2		2
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	78	130	208
<b>Norway</b>	5	11	16
<b>Pakistan</b>		1	1
<b>Poland</b>	14	30	44
<b>Portugal</b>	6	12	18
<b>Republic of Ireland</b>	23	71	94
<b>Romania</b>	3	4	7
<b>Russian Federation</b>		8	8

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

<b>Rwanda</b>		2	2
<b>Saudi Arabia</b>		1	1
<b>Serbia</b>		2	2
<b>South Africa</b>	6	14	20
<b>Spain</b>	14	25	39
<b>SUDAN</b>		1	1
<b>Sweden</b>	7	21	28
<b>Switzerland</b>	17	28	45
<b>Tanzania</b>	2	2	4
<b>Thailand</b>	2		2
<b>Tunisia</b>		1	1
<b>Turkey</b>		2	2
<b>Turkmenistan</b>		1	1
<b>Uganda</b>	2		2
<b>Ukraine</b>	2	14	16
<b>Uruguay</b>	6	8	14
<b>USA</b>	21	48	69
<b>Uzbekistan</b>		1	1
<b>Vietnam</b>	1		1
<b>Zambia</b>	1		1
<b>Zimbabwe</b>	2	3	5
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>488</b>	<b>949</b>	<b>1437</b>

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](mailto: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](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.