



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](http://www.gov.uk/apha)

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Our ref: FOI2025/22195  
10 November 2025

Dear [REDACTED]

### **REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Avian influenza in pheasants**

Thank you for your request for information of 20th October about Avian influenza in pheasants. APHA have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Your information request and our response are set out below.

“In the year 2025, between week 32 and week 36 APHA reported 3 findings of HPAI in wild/released Pheasants. (see [APHA online data](#))

Please can you share the data held on:

- Total number of birds by species that were reported as part of the mortality incident involving the Pheasants
- The number of birds by species tested for HPAI from the mortality incident
- The number of birds by species which tested positive for HPAI from the mortality incident”

Please see the information held by APHA in the table below.

<b>Week number, year</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Species involved</b>	<b>Pathotype</b>	<b>Total number of birds by species that were known to have died as part of the mortality incident involving the Pheasants</b>	<b>Number of birds by species tested for HPAI from the mortality incident</b>	<b>Number of birds by species which tested positive for HPAI from the mortality incident</b>
Week 32 (2025)	Somerset	Pheasant (3)	H5N1	12 (Pheasant)	15 (Pheasant)	13 (Pheasant)*
Week 34 (2025)	Scottish Borders	Pheasant (3)	H5N1	~500 (Pheasant)	3 (Pheasant)	3 (Pheasant)
Week 36 (2025)	Scottish Borders	Pheasant (3)	H5N1	3 (Pheasant)	3 (Pheasant)	3 (Pheasant)

Although 13 birds tested positive, only three were reported online. This is a standard procedure used for any mass mortality in wild birds, to avoid complications with the species data, as reporting too many individuals from a single species can distort overall trends and representation.

APHA have received five separate requests from you between 15 July and 20 October 2025. While APHA respect the right to request information under FOI, we must also balance this with our need to use public resources effectively. If multiple frequent requests are received within a short period, especially if overlapping substantially, your pattern of requests may cause a disproportionate or unjustified level of disruption, irritation, or distress. Please consider this prior to making future requests.

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**

### **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](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.