



[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Our ref: FOI2025/23899  
27 November 2025

Dear [REDACTED] ,

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: National bee unit staff figures**

Thank you for your request for information of 7th November about National bee unit staff figures. APHA have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Your information request and our response are set out below.

“- a breakdown of the current number of staff at the National Bee Unit, by its different region groups (e.g. south, north, and so on).- provided it would not fall foul of FOI workload exemptions, please also send me the same figures for 2024, 2023, 2022, 2021 and 2020/”

Please see the data below.

Region	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
National	7	8	8	9	9
Eastern	6	6	7	5	5
North East	7	<5	6	5	<5
North West	<5	<5	5	<5	5
South East	8	8	9	8	7
South West	7	<5	6	7	7
Central	8	8	<5	5	6
Western	6	6	6	5	<5
Wales	10	8	10	10	10

Specific staff figures are only held from 2021. National data is classed as technical/office roles within the National Bee Unit (NBU) which are not assigned to a specific region.

APHA can confirm that in some areas less than 5 members of staff (shown as <5 on the data table) were employed by the NBU. The use of 'less than five' serves to protect the privacy of individuals or companies who may be identifiable due to the low number of occurrences. Disclosing exact figures in such cases could inadvertently reveal personal or confidential information, contrary to the principles outlined in the Freedom of Information Act, S43 Commercial Interest or S40 Personal Information.

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.