



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

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

informationrights@apha.gov.uk

www.gov.uk/apha

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Our ref: EIR2026/16850
28 September 2026

Dear [REDACTED]

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Creag an T'Sagairt salmon farm

Thank you for your request for information of 3rd August about Creag an T'Sagairt salmon farm. 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.

"This EIR requests information regarding:

!) Any communications between APHA and MOWI about Creag an T'Sagairt salmon farm in Loch Hourn, including copies of any WF77 and WF152 forms, since 1st June 2026, and any information or records of any telephone conversations about the farm. Please also include copies of any communication between APHA and FHI about this site in that period.

2) Please refer to my email sent to you on June 11, 2026 regarding mortalities of fish during transfers to and from this farm. We understand that due to disease this site was harvested early (and is now fallow) and many of these fish were moved to another farm for on-growing. Please report an information you have regarding transfers to and from this farm, including any associated mortalities during the period since October 2025."

Please see the information held by APHA at Appendices 1-3.

Please note that certain information contained within the appendices has been withheld under Regulations 12(3), 13(1) and 13(2A) (Personal Information) and Regulation 12(5)(f) (Confidential Information Supplied by Third Parties) of the Environmental Regulations 2004. Further details are provided below.

Regulation 13 - Personal Information

The information requested has been reviewed and disclosed where held. Redactions have been made where the information constitutes personal data relating to third parties. In accordance with Regulation 12(3) of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR), personal data must be considered under Regulation 13.

APHA has applied Regulation 13(1) and 13(2A) of the EIR because disclosure of the redacted information would contravene the first data protection principle set out in Article 5(1)(a) UK GDPR, which requires personal data to be processed lawfully, fairly and transparently.

The redacted information consists of personal data, including names, job roles and contact details, relating to individuals associated with the premises, legal representatives, the complainant and APHA staff. These individuals would not reasonably expect their personal information to be disclosed to the public through an EIR request. APHA therefore considers that disclosure would be unfair and unlawful.

As the information is exempt under Regulation 13(1), this is an absolute exception and no public interest test applies.

Regulation 12 - Confidential Information Supplied by Third Parties

Certain information has been withheld under Regulation 12(5)(f) of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

The withheld information relates to a complaint voluntarily submitted to APHA following concerns for animal welfare matters. The individual was not under, and could not have been put under, any legal obligation to provide this information. At the time the information was supplied, the individual would have had a reasonable expectation that their identity and information capable of identifying them would not be disclosed into the public domain. The individual has not consented to the release of this information.

APHA considers that disclosure of the withheld information would adversely affect the interests of the individual who provided the information. Releasing information that identifies, or is capable of identifying, the complainant could cause them distress and may expose them to unwanted contact or repercussions as a result of having raised concerns. Disclosure could also deter individuals from voluntarily providing information to APHA in the future, thereby impacting APHA's ability to receive information relevant to the effective discharge of its animal health and welfare functions.

Public Interest Test

Regulation 12 is not an absolute exemption and therefore requires a public interest test to be carried out when considering release of information under the EIR Act 2004.

APHA recognises the public interest in openness and transparency regarding complaints received by public authorities and the manner in which those complaints are considered and acted upon. Disclosure would promote accountability and contribute to public understanding of APHA's decision-making processes.

However, there is a strong public interest in protecting the confidentiality of individuals who voluntarily provide information concerning potential animal welfare issues. The

effective regulation and enforcement of animal health and welfare legislation relies, in part, on individuals being willing to come forward with concerns. If those individuals believed that information capable of identifying them may subsequently be disclosed under the EIR, they may be less willing to provide such information in future. This would be likely to reduce the flow of information available to APHA and could undermine its ability to investigate and respond to potential animal welfare concerns.

In addition, disclosure could adversely affect the interests of the individual who supplied the information by revealing, or increasing the likelihood of revealing, their identity and involvement in raising concerns. This would undermine their reasonable expectation of confidentiality and could result in the disclosure of personal information in a manner that is inconsistent with the protections afforded by data protection legislation.

In this case, APHA considers that the public interest in maintaining the exception outweighs the public interest in disclosure. Accordingly, the information has been withheld under Regulation 12(5)(f) of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

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](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 us.

Yours sincerely

APHA Information Rights Team

informationrights@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 regulation 11 of the EIRs, as applicable, within 40 working days of the date of this letter. Please write to the Information Rights Team at the address at the top of this letter or email informationrights@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.



APHA WIL reference

[CAD Vet log](#) (if applicable)

Welfare Incident Record and Veterinary Risk Assessment

Information provided

To be completed in all cases by the person taking the call / email

Report taken by: Report type: Complaint ☒
Date: Referral ☐
Time call / email received : Origin: Select Origin

For use by CAD/Duty Vet where a suspicion of notifiable disease is being reported by a member of public or if during the course of the call the CAD/Duty vet suspects notifiable disease.

If notifiable disease suspicion is reported by a PVS or from the premises occupier an EXD40 **must** be completed and VENDU informed.

- Is notifiable disease suspected? (by CAD vet/or public) NO
- What notifiable disease is suspected? N/A
- Duty / RTG vet and VENDU informed of possibility of ND? N/A

Third party reference N/A
Previously reported (Yes / No) NK
Previous APHA reference (incl. FSA referrals): N/A

Nature of complaint and information provided:

- Number of animals, species, breed,
- premises type
- whether welfare needs being met (feed, water, shelter, bedding etc),
- whether or not animal suffering has been witnessed (injury, distress, etc),
- duration of incident and other relevant information.

(Paste emails containing photos etc. here)

Concern with animal welfare at Camas na Gall (Loch Hourn) received via email highlighting an increase of mortality rate of 4% in relation to viral disease.

Welfare Category:

Farm ☒
Market ☐
Slaughter ☐
Transport ☐

[OS Map Ref, or w3w location](#)
determined from the informant:

NG803096

Reported location of animal(s):

(Details must be sufficient to determine an OS Map Reference. Include OS Grid Finder, CPH viewer, w3w extract etc.)

APHA Delivery
Team for this
location:

[Scotland -
Inverness](#)

If the complainant is aware this issue has been reported to other organisations, please record details here:

N/A

Note: Informant details are only used by inspectors to gather further information or to clarify location details

Informant name (do not add full name if informant wishes to remain anonymous):

Telephone number 1:

Telephone number 2:

Email:

Veterinary Risk Assessment (VRA)

To be completed in all cases by an APHA Veterinarian

Likely owner/keeper name and address (include postcode):

Site number
Mowi Scotland Ltd
Creag an T'Sagairt (Loch Hourn)
Postcode undefined
Grid reference

Likely CPH:

Telephone number 1:

Telephone number 2:

(Scotland & Wales only) [Active XC claimant?](#) (Yes / No)

(S & W only) SBI/CRN/BRN

(S & W only) On [current XC selection?](#) (Yes / No)

Last Sam welfare inspection date (N/A if not applicable):

Ongoing [Complex case?](#) (Yes / No)

Sensitive case? (Yes / No)

Listed on [Hazard Database?](#) (Yes / No)

Comments and recommended local actions based on available information:

- Consider number of animals, breed, age, environmental conditions etc.
- Include risks and mitigating factors in a reasoned assessment of whether animal needs were/are now being met and if animal suffering was/now is occurring.

- Refer to the Guidance for Completing the Welfare Incident Record and Veterinary Risk Assessment Form ([WF114](#))

There is insufficient information in the email provided by the complainant to indicate a current concern with welfare as an increase in mortality can result from a number of factors such as changes in husbandry, environmental factors, predation. As a result, I would record this as 5 – insufficient information, no inspection.

VRA inspection requirement: (select one option only)

1A - High Immediate, same day ☐	2A - Medium Within seven calendar days ☐	3 - Low Within 14 calendar days ☐
1B - High (Food Standards Agency (FSA)/Food Standards Scotland (FSS)) Urgent, within 24 hours ☐	2B - Medium (FSA/FSS) Within seven calendar days ☐	4 - Negligible No inspection ☐
1C - High Urgent, within 24 hours ☐	2C - High/Medium (FSA/FSS) ☐	5 - Insufficient information No inspection ☒

(For categories 4 & 5 local assessment must also be completed, the form emailed to [\[REDACTED\]@apha.gov.uk](#) and a note made on Sam if applicable.)

Date inspection required by (N/A if not applicable):	N/A
Veterinarian completing VRA:	[REDACTED]
Uploaded to FARM (England only) (Yes / No)	N/A
VRA Date:	03/07/2026
VRA Time:	16:55

Local Assessment - To be completed by the local field team

Are farm details in above VRA considered correct? (If not, amend below) (Yes / No)		No
Amended owner/keeper name and address (include postcode):	Amended CPH:	N/A
Mowi Scotland Ltd Creag an T'Sagairt (Loch Hourn) Arnisdale Glenelg Ross-shire IV40 8JH	Telephone number 1:	
	Telephone number 2:	
	(S & W only) Active XC claimant ? (Yes / No)	n/a
	(S & W only) SBI/CRN/BRN from CSC database :	n/k
	(S & W only) On current XC selection ? (Yes / No)	n/a
	Last Sam welfare inspection date (N/A if not applicable):	
	Ongoing Complex case ? (Yes / No)	No
Sensitive case? (Yes / No)		No

Listed on [Hazard Database](#)? (Yes / No)

For Complex cases in:

• **England:**

- following second visit, Field to complete and VAFD to countersign the Complex Case Referral Form - England (WF169(E))
- following third visit, Referral Form (WF169(E)) to be countersigned by Welfare VA
- all Referral Form (WF169(E)) versions needs to be emailed prior to visits to [REDACTED]@apha.gov.uk and [REDACTED]@apha.gov.uk

- **Scotland and Wales**, please follow specific Complex Case Referral Form - Scotland (WF169(S)) and Complex Case Referral Form - Wales (WF169(W)) instructions respectively

Local knowledge and further information:

- include risks and/or mitigating factors not recorded above to be considered in the assessment of whether animal needs were/are now being met and if animal suffering was/now is occurring
- refer to the Guidance for Completing the Welfare Incident Record and Veterinary Risk Assessment Form (WF114).

The allegations were:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] It would appear that [REDACTED] is reading data about this site on the web. I have passed the allegations to the Fish Health Inspectorate (hereafter FHI) and I asked them for official mortality data about this site for the year 2026. FHI reported on 07/07/2026 the below:

Week 25/05/2026 to 31/05/2026: 2.06% mortality, explained by disease namely Cardiomyopathy syndrome (CMS) which can cause death.

Week 22/06/2026 to 28/06/2026: 1.95% mortality due to gill infection.

FHI, who are the Agency responsible for the health of farmed fish do not plan to visit this site following these allegations.

MOWI: I spoke to the [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] reported that the site had several visits from [REDACTED] to look after the fish over a period. The site has a routine weekly meeting with the [REDACTED] to discuss issues that might arise. The [REDACTED] visited on May the 6th, samples taken were positive for CMS. They harvested a few pens according to each pen condition. Following another meeting they treated pen 4 and harvested pen 1. Freshwater treatments were done on May 29th. [REDACTED] visited the site again including on June the 1st and further treatments were done on pen 2. Some fish were harvested. Further samples showed gill health, so a decision was made to harvest the site completely.

Harvest is ongoing and is expected to be completed on Tuesday the 21st of July.

This site will be fallow from 21July till October.

Outcome of discussion with Local Authority (LA) about this case:

I informed the local authority of these allegations.

Name of LA:

Highland Council

Name of LA contact:

Local Assessment inspection requirement: (select one option only)

1A - High Immediate, same day ☐	2A - Medium Within seven calendar days ☐	3 - Low Within 14 calendar days ☐
1B - High (FSA/FSS) Urgent, within 24 hours ☐	2B - Medium (FSA/FSS) Within seven calendar days ☐	4 - Negligible No inspection ☒
1C - High Urgent, within 24 hours ☐	2C - High/Medium (FSA/FSS) Delayed for up to eight weeks ☐	5 - Insufficient information No inspection ☐

Justification if Local Assessment inspection requirement differs from the VRA inspection requirement:

The allegations were generic and scanty, so I gathered official data (2026) from FHI and spoke to the site. The officially available mortality levels for 2026 were relatively low (see above). The site confirmed that the [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were involved to assess the situation and act on findings. Disease was found on testing so individual pens were either harvested or treated according to their specific situation. On the back of gill health being diagnosed, a decision was made to depopulate the site with the site scheduled to be fallow from July the 21st 2026. Moreover, FHI, who are the Agency responsible for the health of farmed fish confirmed that they do not plan to visit this site following these allegations. Therefore, no action for APHA.

Date inspection required by (N/A if not applicable):

n/a

England and Wales - Organisation(s) attending:APHA only ☐ LA only ☐ APHA and LA ☐ N/A ☒**Scotland** - Name of organisation(s) attending (N/A if not applicable):

N/A

Name of APHA representative attending (N/A if not applicable):

N/A

Role (N/A if not applicable):

N/A

Veterinarian completing Local Assessment:

Staff number:

Local Assessment date:

Started on 06/07/2026

Local Assessment time:

15:00

Email completed Welfare Incident Record and Veterinary Risk Assessment Form (WF77) to:

England:

- [REDACTED]@apha.gov.uk

Scotland:

- [REDACTED]@apha.gov.uk
- [REDACTED]@apha.gov.uk

Wales:

- [REDACTED]@apha.gov.uk
- [REDACTED]@apha.gov.uk
- [REDACTED]@apha.gov.uk
- Current Welfare Subject Principles and Deputies

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.

HM3 Stamp	Name:		Date Received:		WS ID:	
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From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED] [pha.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@apha.gov.uk)
Subject: RE: Mortality at Creag an T'Sagairt Loch Hourn
Date: 17 June 2026 14:01:26
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]@gov.scot. [Learn why this is important](#)

Mortality is only reported when over the 1% threshold and the week 23 report from that operator, Mowi, did not include that site so we can assume it was below 1% in week 23. We haven't received the week 24 report yet.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@apha.gov.uk>
Sent: 17 June 2026 13:54
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: Re: Mortality at Creag an T'Sagairt Loch Hourn

Good afternoon [REDACTED]

Thank you very much for your email with all of the information you provided.

Have the mortality reports since week 22 been below the reporting threshold?

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA)
Mobile: [REDACTED]@apha.gov.uk
Website: www.gov.uk/apha | Twitter: [@APHAgovuk](https://twitter.com/APHAgovuk) | Facebook: [aphagov](https://www.facebook.com/aphagov)
Address: APHA Inverness, Longman House, 28 Longman Road, Inverness, IV1 1SF

[REDACTED]



From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Sent: 17 June 2026 13:40
To: [REDACTED]@apha.gov.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: Mortality at Creag an T'Sagairt Loch Hourn

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]@gov.scot. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi [REDACTED]

In response to your query regarding mortalities at Creag an T'Sagairt (Loch Hourn) FS0605, here is a summary of what occurred. Mortalities over the reporting threshold of 1% were reported to the FHI in Nov/Dec 2025; 2.02% week 48, 4.91% week 49, and 2.68% week 50. Fish had been transported onto site in late November from another marine site and some had a freshwater treatment during transportation in the wellboat for gill issues. The losses reported were attributed to the gill issues that they had already been suffering from and transport/treatment losses. The site was inspected by the FHI in week 51 and diagnostic samples were taken which found a number of pathogens including AGD, furunculosis, salmon gill poxvirus and *Paranucleospora theridion*. A QPCR screen for ISAV was also found to be positive for one fish but further sequencing confirmed the presence of ISAV HPR0, the non-pathogenic form of the virus. As this HPR0 strain is not listed no further statutory action was required. Full details of this case and the reports can be viewed on our website at this link from page 11 [Additional+Cases+20250485-20250501.pdf](#)

There were no further mortality reports over the 1% threshold from the site since then, until last week a report of 2.06% mortality in week 22 of 2026 attributed to CMS. From the information we currently hold I could not be certain this is the same stock of fish that were on site in December 2025. We have contacted the business for further information regarding this report to ascertain a harvest plan/date but are still awaiting a reply and are currently monitoring this site for any further reports.

If you need any further information please don't hesitate to get back in touch.

Thanks,
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Fish Health Inspectorate | Marine Directorate | Scottish Government

Tel: [REDACTED]@gov.scot

W: <https://www.gov.scot/marine-and-fisheries/>



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba



SCOTLAND

**

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APHA WIL reference

[CAD Vet log](#) (if applicable)

Welfare Incident Record and Veterinary Risk Assessment

Information provided

To be completed in all cases by the person taking the call / email

Report taken by: Report type: Complaint ☒
 Date: Referral ☐
 Time call / email received : Origin: Select Origin

For use by CAD/Duty Vet where a suspicion of notifiable disease is being reported by a member of public or if during the course of the call the CAD/Duty vet suspects notifiable disease.

If notifiable disease suspicion is reported by a PVS or from the premises occupier an EXD40 **must** be completed and VENDU informed.

- Is notifiable disease suspected?
(by CAD vet/or public)
- What notifiable disease is suspected?
- Duty / RTG vet and VENDU informed of possibility of ND?

Third party reference

N/A

Previously reported
(Yes / No)

Previous APHA
reference (incl. FSA
referrals):

Nature of complaint and information provided:

- Number of animals, species, breed,
- premises type
- whether welfare needs being met (feed, water, shelter, bedding etc),
- whether or not animal suffering has been witnessed (injury, distress, etc),
- duration of incident and other relevant information.

(Paste emails containing photos etc. here)

Welfare Category:

Farm ☒
 Market ☐
 Slaughter ☐
 Transport ☐

Fish welfare concern was reported on 11/06/2026 by

[OS Map Ref. or w3w location](#)
 determined from the informant:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Reported location of animal(s):

(Details must be sufficient to determine an OS Map Reference. Include OS Grid Finder, CPH viewer, w3w extract etc.)

[REDACTED]

APHA Delivery
Team for this
location:

Inverness

If the complainant is aware this issue has been reported to other organisations, please record details here:

Note: Informant details are only used by inspectors to gather further information or to clarify location details

Informant name (do not add full name if informant wishes to remain anonymous):

Telephone number 1:

Telephone number 2:

Email:

Veterinary Risk Assessment (VRA)

To be completed in all cases by an APHA Veterinarian

Likely owner/keeper name and address (include postcode):

MOWI Farms:
Mowi's Creag
Sagairt Farm

Likely CPH:

Telephone number 1:

Telephone number 2:

(Scotland & Wales only) [Active XC claimant?](#) (Yes / No)

(S & W only) SBI/CRN/BRN

(S & W only) On [current XC selection?](#) (Yes / No)

Last Sam welfare inspection date (N/A if not applicable):

Ongoing [Complex case?](#) (Yes / No)

Sensitive case? (Yes / No)

Listed on [Hazard Database?](#) (Yes / No)

Comments and recommended local actions based on available information:

- Consider number of animals, breed, age, environmental conditions etc.
- Include risks and mitigating factors in a reasoned assessment of whether animal needs were/are now being met and if animal suffering was/now is occurring.
- Refer to the Guidance for Completing the Welfare Incident Record and Veterinary Risk Assessment Form ([WF114](#))

VRA inspection requirement: (select one option only)

1A - High Immediate, same day ☐	2A - Medium Within seven calendar days ☐	3 - Low Within 14 calendar days ☒
1B - High (Food Standards Agency (FSA)/Food Standards Scotland (FSS)) Urgent, within 24 hours ☐	2B - Medium (FSA/FSS) Within seven calendar days ☐	4 - Negligible No inspection ☐
1C - High Urgent, within 24 hours ☐	2C - High/Medium (FSA/FSS) ☐	5 - Insufficient information No inspection ☐

(For categories 4 & 5 local assessment must also be completed, the form emailed to [\[redacted\]@apha.gov.uk](#) and a note made on Sam if applicable.)

Date inspection required by (N/A if not applicable):	25/06/2026
Veterinarian completing VRA:	[redacted]
Uploaded to FARM (England only) (Yes / No)	N/A
VRA Date:	11/06/2026
VRA Time:	16:45

Local Assessment - To be completed by the local field team

Are farm details in above VRA considered correct? (If not, amend below) (Yes / No)	
Amended owner/keeper name and address (include postcode):	Amended CPH:
	Telephone number 1:
	Telephone number 2:
	(S & W only) Active XC claimant? (Yes / No)
	(S & W only) SBI/CRN/BRN from CSC database:
	(S & W only) On current XC selection? (Yes / No)

Last Sam welfare inspection date (N/A if not applicable):

Ongoing [Complex case?](#) (Yes / No)

Sensitive case? (Yes / No)

Listed on [Hazard Database?](#) (Yes / No)

For Complex cases in:

• **England:**

- following second visit, Field to complete and VAFD to countersign the Complex Case Referral Form - England (WF169(E))
- following third visit, Referral Form (WF169(E)) to be countersigned by Welfare VA
- all Referral Form (WF169(E)) versions needs to be emailed prior to visits to [REDACTED]@apha.gov.uk and [REDACTED]@apha.gov.uk

- **Scotland and Wales**, please follow specific Complex Case Referral Form - Scotland (WF169(S)) and Complex Case Referral Form - Wales (WF169(W)) instructions respectively

Local knowledge and further information:

- include risks and/or mitigating factors not recorded above to be considered in the assessment of whether animal needs were/are now being met and if animal suffering was/now is occurring
- refer to the Guidance for Completing the Welfare Incident Record and Veterinary Risk Assessment Form (WF114).

Fish were moved from Kingairloch to Loch Hourn in November 2025. A risk assessment was created to determine what risks may arise from moving these fish from one site to another. The FHI evaluated these risk assessments.

Mortality rates were above reporting threshold in Loch Hourn in December 2025, and this was investigated by the FHI. The FHI found gill issues to be the main cause of these mortalities. The FHI reported that the fish were treated and since then, mortality levels have been below the reporting threshold apart from in one week. In week 22 of 2026, mortalities were above reporting threshold, but they have since lowered.

Sea lice treatments in January 2026 were necessary to control sea lice numbers. By treating the fish when disease prevalence was significant, the site showed a good response to reduce disease burden. Since treatment administration in January, adult female sea lice numbers have been below the reporting threshold.

There is no evidence to support the allegation that fish farms are underreporting fish deaths during transfers.

Outcome of discussion with Local Authority (LA) about this case:

The Highland Council have been made aware of this welfare case.

Name of LA:

Highland Council

Name of LA contact:

Local Assessment inspection requirement: (select one option only)

1A - High Immediate, same day ☐	2A - Medium Within seven calendar days ☐	3 - Low Within 14 calendar days ☐
1B - High (FSA/FSS) Urgent, within 24 hours ☐	2B - Medium (FSA/FSS) Within seven calendar days ☐	4 - Negligible No inspection ☒
1C - High Urgent, within 24 hours ☐	2C - High/Medium (FSA/FSS) Delayed for up to eight weeks ☐	5 - Insufficient information No inspection ☒

Justification if Local Assessment inspection requirement differs from the VRA inspection requirement:

The allegations made are regarding historical issues that this site has faced. There has historically been an increase in disease prevalence causing elevated mortalities, but the fish were treated and mortalities have subsequently decreased.

The site must react to increasing sea lice numbers and, in this case, treating the disease was necessary and effective.

The lowered mortality and sea lice data, shows that this site acted appropriately to minimise welfare compromise when faced with disease challenges. At this point in time, there is no indication for an inspection.

The FHI are currently monitoring this site in case mortalities spike again.

Date inspection required by (N/A if not applicable):

n/a

England and Wales - Organisation(s) attending:

APHA only ☐ LA only ☐ APHA and LA ☐ N/A ☐

Scotland - Name of organisation(s) attending (N/A if not applicable):

n/a

Name of APHA representative attending (N/A if not applicable):

n/a

Role (N/A if not applicable):

n/a

Veterinarian completing Local Assessment:

Staff number:

Local Assessment date:

17/06/2026

Local Assessment time:

12:30

Email completed Welfare Incident Record and Veterinary Risk Assessment Form (WF77) to:

England:

- [redacted]@apha.gov.uk

Scotland:

- [redacted]@apha.gov.uk
- [redacted]@apha.gov.uk

Wales:

- [redacted]@apha.gov.uk
- [redacted]@apha.gov.uk
- [redacted]@apha.gov.uk
- Current Welfare Subject Principles and Deputies

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.

HM3 Stamp	Name:		Date Received:		WS ID:	
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