



[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Our ref: EIR2026/17183
3 September 2026

Dear [REDACTED]

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Ardessie, Wester Ross 1 June - 5 August 2026

Thank you for your request for information of 5th August about Ardessie, Wester Ross 1 June - 5 August 2026. 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.

"I would like to make a request under the EIR regulations regarding the salmon farm at Ardessie, Wester Ross. Please send me copies of any communications between APHA and MOWI about the site, including copies of any WF77 and WF152 forms, since 1st June 2026, including records of any telephone conversations between APHA and FHI during that period."

Please see the information held in Appendices 01 and 02. Some information has been redacted under Regulation 13(1) of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004, as it constitutes the personal data of third parties. Further details are provided below.

Regulation 13 – Personal Data

Some information has been withheld under Regulation 13(1) of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs).

The names, job titles, and contact details of third parties have been redacted as they constitute personal data of individuals other than the requester. Regulation 13(1) provides that personal data is exempt from disclosure where disclosure would contravene any of the data protection principles set out in Article 5(1) of the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR).

APHA considers that disclosure of this information would be unfair and unlawful and would therefore breach the first data protection principle, which requires that personal data is processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner.

The individuals concerned would have no reasonable expectation that their personal information would be disclosed into the public domain in response to an information request. Disclosure of this information would therefore be contrary to the requirements of Article 5(1)(a) UK GDPR.

For the purposes of Regulation 13, personal data is any information relating to an identified or identifiable living individual. APHA has concluded that the withheld information constitutes personal data and that disclosure would contravene the UK GDPR. Accordingly, this information has been withheld under Regulation 13(1) of the EIRs.

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 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

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.

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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 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.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: OFFICIAL SENSITIVE. ARDESSIE and ARDMAIR mortalities.
Date: 11 June 2026 11:07:03
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Morning [REDACTED]

We have received one morality event report from Ardessie, this was w/b 25/5/2026 to 31/5/2026 and was 380 fish (2.7%) at an average weight of 17kg (so very large) caused by CMS. We have not been to the site since the end of November 2025.

Ardmair, we received a mortality event notification for the w/b 27/4/2026 and was 759 fish (1.30%) caused by predation, levels dropped the following week below reporting threshold. We have not been to the site since the end of November 2025.

We have no plans to conduct any site visits due to the mortality levels.

Just to note the Ardessie site was inspected in November 2025 and diagnostic samples were taken and we identified *Piscine myocarditis* virus the causative agent of CMS, SAV and salmon gill poxvirus (all by PCR) and from plates identified *Tenacibaculum* spp and *Vibrio* species. The fish sampled will be from the population that is currently on site.

At Ardmair the fish were in good condition with no issues to note.

Both sites were down as being fallow by May, so I expect the sites will be empty in the coming weeks.

Hopefully this is of use.

thanks

[REDACTED]

Fish Health Inspectorate | Marine Directorate | Scottish Government

Mobile: [REDACTED]
 E: [REDACTED] [@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)

Saltire Scottish Government Logo



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 June 2026 10:21
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: OFFICIAL SENSITIVE. ARDESSIE and ARDMAIR mortalities.

Morning

We have received further welfare concerns about Ardessie FS0517 and Ardmair both MOWI sites, mortalities of fish in April.

Please can you give us any updates, information, or mortality figures for both sites from April till now.

Ardessie is reported to have viral disease, have FHI had any involvement already?

Ardmair is possibly a predation problem.

Thank you

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Scottish Field Delivery

Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA)

email: [REDACTED] [@apha.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@apha.gov.uk)

Website: www.gov.uk/apha | Twitter: [@APHAgovuk](https://twitter.com/APHAgovuk) | Facebook: [aphagov](https://www.facebook.com/aphagov)

Address: Longman House, 28 Longman Road, Inverness, IV1 1SF

[REDACTED]

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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: [REDACTED] Report type: Complaint ☒
 Date: 08/06/2026 Referral ☐
 Time call / email received : 07/06/2026 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)

n/a

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)

Complainant has been checking the available information online and is reporting a 4% reported mortality in April at Ardesie (FS0517). Query regarding what APHA has done to investigate these deaths;

Original e-mail below:

“I am writing to express concern about continuing mortalities at the sites run by WRF/Mowi at Ardesie and Ardmair, Wester Ross. I understand that they have reported 3.5% mortalities for Ardmair in April with the reason given as predation and for Ardesie 4% with the reason given of viral disease. In both cases this means that a lot of fish are suffering and dying. What is Apha doing to investigate these deaths? “

Welfare Category:

Farm ☐
 Market ☐
 Slaughter ☐
 Transport ☐

[OS Map Ref. or
w3w location](#)

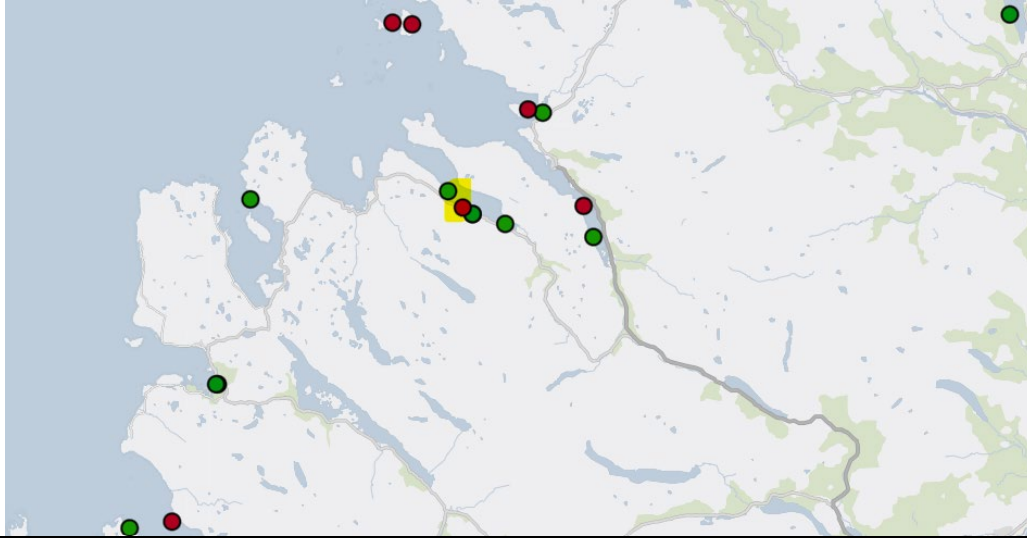
determined from
the informant:

NH043904

Reported location of animal(s):

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

Ardessie
Dundonnell, By Garve
Ross-shire
IV23 2QU



APHA Delivery
Team for this
location:

Choose an item.

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

Fish health Inspectorate

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):

[Redacted]

Telephone number 1:

n/a

Telephone number 2:

n/a

Email:

From:

[Redacted]

Veterinary Risk Assessment (VRA)

To be completed in all cases by an APHA Veterinarian

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

Mowi Scotland Ltd
Blar Mhor Office
Blar Mhor Industrial Estate

Likely CPH:

[Redacted]

Telephone number 1:

[Redacted]

Telephone number 2:

[Redacted]

Lochyside
FORT WILLIAM
Highland
PH33 7PT

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

No

(S & W only) SBI/CRN/BRN

N/a

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

NO

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

n/a

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

no

Sensitive case? (Yes / No)

no

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

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](#))

Reported mortality from open source information available on -line. Please contact FHI to gather more information as they may be already monitoring the situation. Check available records on line. Contact company to get more information regarding viral disease involved and if diagnostics and control protocols have been implemented. Schedule visit if required if any further concerns are found

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 CSCOneHealth.WelfareComplaints@apha.gov.uk and a note made on Sam if applicable.)

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

16/06/2026

Veterinarian completing VRA:

[REDACTED]

Uploaded to FARM (England only) (Yes / No)

VRA Date: 9/06/2026

VRA Time: 14:20

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):

As above

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 CSCOneHealth.WelfareComplaints@apha.gov.uk and AHWAwelfareVAs@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).

FHI have advised: Ardessie- this was w/b 25/5/2026 to 31/5/2026 and was 380 fish (2.7%) at an average weight of 17kg (so very large) caused by CMS. Ardessie site was inspected in November 2025 and diagnostic samples were taken and we identified *Piscine myocarditis* virus the causative agent of CMS, SAV and salmon gill poxvirus (all by PCR) and from plates identified *Tenacibaculum* spp and *Vibrio* species. The fish sampled will be from the population that is currently on site.

This is a disease situation, and not the remit of APHA, and has been investigated by FHI.

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

n/a

Name of LA:

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:

This mortality event has been investigated by FHI, and is a disease situation with multiple positive diagnostic tests. The site is fallow from May and the fish to which this concern pertains will not be on site. VRA negligible as these fish are no longer on site, and the disease situation was investigated by the FHI.

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):

Veterinarian completing Local Assessment:

Staff number:

Local Assessment date:

12/06/2026

Local Assessment time:

12:43

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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