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Agency

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Mr David Hendy  
{By Email}

Our Ref: ATIC0693

15 March 2016

Dear Mr Hendy

## **PROVISION OF INFORMATION**

Following our previous correspondence to you regarding your complaint to the ICO, we have reconsidered the information you had requested on Randomised Badger Cull Trial (RBCT) data. Your request has been handled under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004, Regulation 2(c) and 2(f).

The information you originally requested and our revised response is detailed below:

“Please email to me for each calendar month from 1986 to 2012 (i.e. 27 years, subject to availability) the following quantities

(a) the number of cattle herds,

(b) the number of confirmed new herd incidents,

(c) the number of unconfirmed new herd incidents,

(d) herds under restriction due to an OTF-W breakdown (see Reference 1 for illustration and definition of OTF-W restricted herds), and

(e) herds under restriction due to an OTF-S breakdown (see Reference 1 for illustration and definition of OTF-S restricted herds)

in each of the following areas after the ten triplets are combined,

(1) proactive area,

(2) reactive area,

(3) survey area,

- (4) 2km ring around the proactive area,
- (5) 2km ring around the reactive areas,
- (6) 2km ring around the survey area,
- (7) high risk area of England as shown in Reference 2.

Please note that I only need data for the total area (not for each triplet) for the area given in (1) to (6).”

Please see Appendix 1 attached for the data requested.

Notes on supplied data:

Herds are assigned to an area based on their coordinates held either in Sam (APHA's current electronic system) or VetNet (APHA's former electronic system).

Months up to the transition of bTB data from VetNet (end of 2010) to Sam, we have used the coordinates held for the herd in VetNet. Herds may, and do change location, so what plots in 2011 in a particular area, may not have done so back in the 1980's, for example.

Months after the transition to Sam, APHA used the coordinates held now for the herd in Sam.

Confidence in whether a herd truly was active or not decreases from around 1998 backwards, when both a herd creation and herd archiving date were recorded. The method of extraction of activity in a month has been retained from the Surveillance Reports for consistency, hence the middle of the month quoted on the 'Herds' tab.

The Surveillance Reports do not rely on plotting herds to assign the risk area of England, so numbers of herds and breakdowns reported here may differ from that reported in those reports.

OTF-W (Officially TB Free status Withdrawn) and OTF-S (Officially TB Free status Suspended) are exactly the same in England so exactly the same numbers would be produced for both sets.

Herds retained in our databases but no longer in VetNet have not been included in this analysis, although they do contribute to the Surveillance Reports. These in the main only pertain to pre-1990 months.

Areas that include two buffer zone types, are because buffers could overlap and hence a herd may plot in more than one. Core areas could not overlap.

A herd only counts in one RBCT area, columns B to J. A herd may though count in the High Risk Area (HRA) of England, and in one of the RBCT areas.

I attach an Annex 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**

Email: [enquiries@apha.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@apha.gsi.gov.uk)

## Annex

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In keeping with the spirit and effect of the Freedom of Information Act 2000/Environmental Information Regulations 2004, all information is assumed to be releasable to the public unless exempt. The information released to you may now be published on our website together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context.

### Complaints

If you are unhappy with the result of your request for information you may request an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this letter.

If you wish to request an internal review, please contact: The Access to Information Team at [enquiries@apha.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@apha.gsi.gov.uk) or at the postal address at the top of this letter, who will arrange for an internal review of your case.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Please note that generally the Information Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have first exhausted APHA's own complaints procedure. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF