



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

Animal and Plant Health Agency
Access to Information Team
Weybourne Building
Ground Floor
Woodham Lane
New Haw
Addlestone
Surrey
KT15 3NB

T 0208 2257636
F 01932 357608

www.gov.uk/apha

[REDACTED]
{By Email}

Our Ref: ATIC0921

21 September 2016

Dear [REDACTED]

PROVISION OF REQUESTED INFORMATION

Thank you for your request for a further breakdown of RBCT data supplied in ATIC0693, which we received on 25 August 2016. Your request is being considered in respect to the access to information legislation. Your request has been handled under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

The information you requested and our response is detailed below:

“Thank you for sending to me the data in your email below in response to request ATIC0693. The Excel and PDF attachments with this email show the data which you sent.

In your response you sent to me quantities summed over all triplets.

If you can, please now send to me these same quantities for each of the 10 triplets.”

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OTF-W (Officially TB Free status Withdrawn) and OTF-S (Officially TB Free status Suspended) are exactly the same in England so exactly the same numbers would be produced for both sets.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

Notes pertaining to new triplet data:

71 RBCT herds were not returned from the GIS triplet identification process with a triplet but had previously returned a treatment area type. The cause may be by irregular internal ID's in the old VetNet system. These have been included at the end of each tab without a triplet.

It was noted previously that herds can appear in overlapping treatment types. The same can occur with triplets whereby a herd is in an area of overlapping triplet buffers. These herds will count for both triplets but in the specific buffer treatment area of each triplet. The data has thus slightly higher numbers in the columns of >1 treatment type than previously.

Data from 2011 and 2012 is using the active TB data files and hence is subject to change from when the data was run earlier in the year, although this appears to be minimal.

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, 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.

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

Annex

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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 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