



**Our reference: DAERA/22-272**

[REDACTED]

By e-mail:

[REDACTED]

VSHAG Information Communications Branch  
1st Floor  
Jubilee House  
111 Ballykelly Road  
Limavady  
BT49 9HP

Email: [vsinfocommsbranch@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:vsinfocommsbranch@daera-ni.gov.uk)

06 September 2022

Dear [REDACTED],

### **Freedom of Information Act 2000**

With regard to your request for information received by the Department on 12 August 2022 which sought the following information:

Can you provide the number of animals live exported from Northern Ireland to outside of the UK for the following species for 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 (so far):

- Chickens and chicks
- Ducks and ducklings
- Geese and goslings
- Turkeys and poults
- Pheasants and poults
- Grouse and chicks

I can advise that the Department has completed its search and can confirm that it holds some of the information you requested, which is attached in table format as **Annex A**.

For exports from Northern Ireland to other EU Member States there were complete records of data for the period 2017 to 2022 (to date). In respect of the data extracted for exports from Northern Ireland to Third Countries (defined as countries outside EU Membership), this system has only been operational since 2019. Prior to that paper copies of Export Health Certificates (EHCs) would be held in respective DAERA issuing offices.

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The standard Retention and Disposal period for Export Health Certificates not held within electronic systems is 2 years. Therefore, records from 2017 and 2018 and 2019 are no longer held by DAERA. For records held for the period 2020 to 2022 (to date) there are no records of any of the poultry types listed in your request being exported to Third Countries. The information available in respect of this request can be found within the spreadsheet at Annex A.

If you require any clarification, believe that any part of your request has been overlooked, misunderstood or misinterpreted, please contact me in the first instance to see if it is a matter that can be resolved.

If you are unhappy with the manner in which your request for information has been handled or the decision to release/withhold information, you have the right to request a formal review by the Department. If you wish to do so, please contact The Review Section either by e-mailing [daera.informationmanager@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:daera.informationmanager@daera-ni.gov.uk) or by post at The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, Data Protection & Information Management Branch, Floor 2, Ballykelly House, 111 Ballykelly Road, Ballykelly, Limavady BT49 9HP, within two months from the date of this letter.

If after such an internal review you are still unhappy with the response, you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, CHESHIRE, SK9 5AF, who will undertake an independent review of the Department's decision.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted name]

**Veterinary Services Animal Health Group**

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If you are deaf or have a hearing difficulty you can contact the Department via the Next Generation Text Relay Service by dialling 18001 + telephone number.

