



**Our reference:** DAERA/23-35

By e-mail:

VSAHG 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)

20 February 2023

Dear [REDACTED],

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

With regard to your request for information received by the Department on 31 January 2023 which sought the following information:

- 1, For each year between 2015 and the present day (end Jan 2023) the number of physical checks on imported live animals, animal products (e.g. meat, meat by-products and other products of animal origin), and animal feed, carried out at Border Control Posts / Inspection Posts (including ports and airports) that are the responsibility of your organisation / port authority / council or similar. Please present the figures (e.g. the number of physical checks) broken down for each BCP.*
- 2, The number of non-compliant findings (per year/in total), with details of which BCP was involved, along with details of any non-compliant findings, e.g. diseased meat, substandard hygiene, damaged packaging etc, details of product(s) involved, and country of origin.*
- 3, What enforcement action was taken in cases where non-compliance was found, e.g. products destroyed, retained, re-exported etc and any investigations launched.*

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

The majority of this data is derived from the analytical function of TRACES NT, which is an EU Information management system, open to all those with appropriate access.

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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.



Other data sources consulted were locally held records, particularly for the earlier time-period, 2015 to 2020.

Any data required from other Competent Authorities e.g. the local District Councils, will have to be requested from them directly.

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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