

Dear

ATISN 24722 - TB in cattle

Thank you for your request which I received on 15th May. You asked for:

- Details on what proportion of cattle culled as a result of a positive bTB test came from High TB, Intermediate TB, and Low TB Areas in each year from 2010-2024.
- What proportion of cattle in each of the TB areas in 2017 to 2024 inclusive were tested using the SICCT at an interpretation lower than Severe Reading, SICCT at Severe Reading, IDEXX antibody test, IFN- γ test, Actiphage and Enferplex.
- What proportion of cattle in each of the TB areas in 2012 to 2024 were routinely tested at every 6 months, every 12 months, every 48 months and at some other routine interval.

Our response

The information you requested is enclosed.

- *Details on what proportion of cattle culled as a result of a positive bTB test came from High TB, Intermediate TB, and Low TB Areas in each year from 2010-2024.*

	High TB Areas	Intermediate TB Areas	Low TB Area
2010	87.6%	11.7%	0.7%
2011	89.6%	9.5%	0.9%
2012	89.6%	9.7%	0.7%
2013	87.8%	11.2%	1.1%
2014	83.4%	15.3%	1.3%
2015	87.6%	11.8%	0.6%
2016	84.8%	13.6%	1.6%
2017	87.8%	11.7%	0.5%
2018	86.6%	12.4%	1.0%
2019	83.8%	15.7%	0.4%
2020	80.7%	18.3%	1.0%
2021	74.5%	24.3%	1.3%
2022	75.0%	23.4%	1.7%
2023	79.3%	17.3%	3.5%
2024	82.0%	16.5%	1.5%

Table 1. Proportion of cattle culled for bTB from High TB, Intermediate TB and Low TB Areas.

- *What proportion of cattle in each of the TB areas in 2017 to 2024 inclusive were tested using the SICCT at an interpretation lower than Severe Reading, SICCT at Severe Reading, IDEXX antibody test, IFN- γ test, Actiphage and Enferplex.*

It has not been possible to accurately assess the total population size for each TB Area which will in any case vary throughout the year, as animals are born, die, move in and move

out of the area, and in and out of Wales. It has therefore not been possible to identify the proportion of animals in each area tested by each test, but we can give you the number of tests of each type conducted each year over each area. The below figures will include some individual animals that have received a test on more than one occasion during the year. The Actiphage test and Enferplex test are not officially “relevant tests” and can only be performed privately under authorisation subject to a contract with strict conditions, and we do not hold the data regarding these tests.

SICCT - Standard	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
High TB East	337060	340905	325425	293015	290013	302257	282248	269844
High TB West	655834	638799	583495	539244	520340	495908	495314	476631
Intermediate TB Mid	187440	185848	182294	190043	178270	175174	177681	173490
Intermediate TB North	146369	146526	146854	135839	147431	224015	190177	171789
Low TB	274324	257855	251107	253283	257844	181144	190538	220743

SICCT - Severe	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
High TB East	109770	113790	108457	102137	108260	101168	100696	107472
High TB West	259582	296875	358712	292190	329794	334636	341512	367055
Intermediate TB Mid	16188	16924	34026	19651	24132	23710	21654	29222
Intermediate TB North	25246	39700	44608	45654	68532	96878	133835	131222
Low TB	4532	11005	8783	13327	15907	9444	18406	9819

IFN-y test	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
High TB East	5443	8546	8331	6824	7478	4379	8067	6533
High TB West	13249	22553	36280	24538	26201	22116	23340	36810
Intermediate TB Mid	1455	2982	2461	1932	3000	1025	1815	723
Intermediate TB North	10882	12101	12844	14223	16851	21717	18664	20040
Low TB	1665	6619	1972	5971	6460	2719	7702	2630

IDEXX antibody test	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
High TB East	0	550	632	1016	828	1010	1181	1177
High TB West	0	268	1757	3705	5857	5938	5692	3825
Intermediate TB Mid	0	0	20	152	91	253	75	124
Intermediate TB North	0	66	841	1343	1480	1761	512	913
Low TB	0	0	132	31	909	2	0	14

Table 2. Number of tests in each of the TB areas in 2017 to 2024 inclusive that were tested using the SICCT at Standard Interpretation, SICCT at Severe Reading, IDEXX antibody test and IFN-y test

- *What proportion of cattle in each of the TB areas in 2012 to 2024 were routinely tested at every 6 months, every 12 months, every 48 months and at some other routine interval.*

As with the previous question; it has not been possible to accurately assess the total population size for each TB Area which will in any case vary throughout the year, as animals are born, die, move in and move out of the area, and in and out of Wales. It has therefore not been possible to identify the proportion of animals in each area tested by each test. However, since 2012 all cattle in the Low TB, Intermediate TB and High TB areas have been subject to a routine whole herd test (WHT) annually except for herds within the Intensive Action Area, which are routinely tested every six months (IA6).

The IAA is located within the High TB West area, and the following number of IA6 and routine Whole Herd Tests were carried out in the High TB West area each year.

	IA6	WHT
2012	8847	70338
2013	10682	40030
2014	13903	51617
2015	11639	59099
2016	16209	56683
2017	18156	57292
2018	16458	62733
2019	14328	53591
2020	18433	59287
2021	19598	80331
2022	18063	86247
2023	16563	80607
2024	16660	65452

Table 3. Number of IA6 and WHT tests carried out each year in the High TB West area.

Next steps

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Government's handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Welsh Government's Freedom of Information Officer at:

Information Rights Unit,
Welsh Government,
Cathays Park,
Cardiff,
CF10 3NQ

or Email: Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office,
Wycliffe House,
Water Lane,
Wilmslow,
Cheshire,
SK9 5AF.

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely