

Dear

ATISN 27342 – Risk-Based inspection framework used in Wales for animal welfare official controls and other animal welfare enforcement activity

Information requested

Thank you for your request which we received on 13 August.

You asked for information concerning the current risk-based inspection framework used in Wales for animal welfare official controls and other animal welfare enforcement activity, including any risk matrix or equivalent tool used to prioritise farms, traders, markets, transporters or other relevant operators for inspection.

You have specifically asked for the following information:

1. Current risk matrix: the current risk assessment matrix, activity matrix, inspection prioritisation matrix, scoring tool or equivalent document used in Wales to determine the risk rating, inspection priority or inspection frequency for animal welfare inspections of farms, traders, markets, transporters or other relevant operators.
2. Supporting guidance: all current guidance, worked examples, explanatory notes, decision trees, scoring instructions or training material explaining how the current risk matrix or equivalent tool is to be applied.
3. Version information: the date of commencement, date of last review and next review date for each document disclosed.
4. Scope and users: documents identifying who is expected to use the matrix or equivalent tool, including the Welsh Government, APHA, local authorities, contractors, authorised officers or other bodies.
5. Inspection frequency: documents explaining how the matrix or equivalent tool informs the frequency of inspections, including how risk rating, previous non-compliance, species, scale of operation, intelligence, complaints or enforcement history affect inspection priority.
6. Animal welfare element: any optional or mandatory animal welfare activity matrix, animal welfare module, welfare scoring component or equivalent section that forms part of the wider Animal Health and Welfare Framework.
7. Non-public status: if the current matrix or supporting guidance is not publicly available, documents or correspondence explaining why it is not published or why access is restricted.
8. Public link: if any requested document is already publicly available, please provide the direct URL and identify the specific document, page, annex or section containing the current matrix or guidance.

Our response

The information you have requested is not held by the Welsh Government. However, we believe that the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) may hold information which you are seeking. You can ask them for the information at: enquiries@apha.gov.uk

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