

Veterinary Service Animal Health Group
Information Communications Branch



Department of
**Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs**

An Roinn

**Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil
agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe**

Department o'

**Fairmin, Environment
an' Kintra Matthers**

www.daera-ni.gov.uk

Our reference: DAERA/25-514

[REDACTED]

Via email:

[REDACTED]

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

Email: vsinfocommsbranch@daera-ni.gov.uk

9 October 2025

Dear [REDACTED]

Freedom of Information Act 2000

Thank you for your email received by the Department on 15 September 2025 which you sought the information in bold below.

1 - From 20th May 2024 till the present day, information on the numbers, county of birth, (where held) the destination countries of import, (where held) ages - in days – of calves exported from Northern Ireland. Please provide the data month by month.

2 - As far as records permit, please supply the same or similar data for cattle, pigs and sheep exported from NI in the period, again broken down by month.

The Department has completed its search and I can confirm that we hold some of the information requested.

In respect of Part 1 of your request, DAERA can confirm that it holds most of the data requested. The data is presented in a report (see Annex A) that also includes all cattle, but where calves are identified specifically. This report can therefore also be used in response to your Part 2 request in respect of all cattle. The identification of calves within this report is

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based on an age threshold. DAERA reporting mechanisms are generally month based and therefore we have presented data from the whole of the month of May 2024.

In respect of Part 2 of your request DAERA only hold, for sheep, an age range for each animal. For pigs, the age information is entered onto the TRACES NT system by the exporter and it is not a mandatory field. In many cases the exporter has omitted this information. Age information is also based on a consignment of animals and not individual animals. Therefore, DAERA are unable to confirm the accuracy of the age data provided in respect of pigs. In addition, the county of birth data for sheep and pigs can only be presented as postcodes (first 4 characters) rather than counties of origin. Please also note for sheep and pig exports, the Department only holds data on the day of export, not broken down by individual months. See Annex B for sheep data and Annex C for pig data.

The information requested is provided in csv. reports which will allow you to filter the various data columns to isolate specific data. You may need to widen the columns in each report to view the full data range.

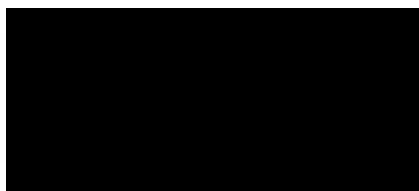
Information has been provided as **Annex A to C**

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 way 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 or by post at The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, Data Protection & Information Management Branch, Floor 2, Jubilee 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,



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