

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/24-178

[REDACTED]

Via email:

[REDACTED]

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

Email: vsinfocommsbranch@daera-ni.gov.uk

1 May 2024

Dear [REDACTED]

Freedom of Information Act 2000

Thank you for your request for information received by the Department on 10 April 2024 which you sought the information in bold below:

- 1. Please can we request a month by month breakdown horses that have entered Northern Ireland from GB into Belfast and Larne Ports for the period January 2022-March 2024.**
- 2. Please can we request the number of horses exported from the European Union to GB via Larne & Belfast for the period January 2022-March 2024. This would be best presented if the data allows in a monthly breakdown.**
- 3. Please can we request the number of horses exported from Northern Ireland-GB via Larne & Belfast for the period January 2022-March 2024. This will needed be presented in a monthly format with different ports of export declared. It would be helpful if the data allows to breakdown routes of travel, such as Belfast-Birkenhead and Belfast to Cairnryan.**

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I can confirm that the department has completed its search and holds the information you have requested. We have disclosed the findings below up until 31 March 2024.

1. Please can we request a month by month breakdown horses that have entered Northern Ireland from Gb into Belfast and Larne Ports for the period January 2022-March 2024.

Please see the tables below. Please note this information relates to all horses that entered Northern Ireland (NI) from Great Britain (GB) regardless of the country of origin of their journey. It shows the number of horses entering Belfast and Larne port per month. Each year 2022, 2023 and part year 2024 has its own table.

Month 2022	No of Horses Belfast	No Of Horses Larne	Total
Jan	121	31	152
Feb	175	17	192
Mar	240	9	249
Apr	347	3	350
May	284	40	324
June	377	16	393
July	304	40	344
Aug	309	34	343
Sep	314	58	372
Oct	335	27	362
Nov	308	26	334
Dec	169	16	185

Month 2023	No of Horses Belfast	No Of Horses Larne	Total
Jan	391	49	440
Feb	160	32	192
Mar	247	57	304
Apr	258	54	312
May	274	35	309
June	341	44	385
July	388	73	461
Aug	192	77	269
Sep	264	33	297
Oct	153	17	170
Nov	137	28	165
Dec	448	40	488

Month 2024	No of Horses Belfast	No Of Horses Larne	Total
Jan	125	48	173
Feb	184	20	204
Mar	139	36	175

2. Please can we request the number of horses exported from the European Union to GB via Larne & Belfast for the period January 2022-March 2024. This would be best presented if the data allows in a monthly breakdown

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Please see tables below. This shows all horses leaving NI originating from the European Union (EU) that have reported to the Northern Ireland SPS inspection facility prior to movement to GB. The table information is limited to horses where GB was declared as the place of destination.

Month 2022	No Of Horses Belfast	No Of Horses Larne	Total
Jan	121	67	188
Feb	271	64	335
Mar	217	0	217
Apr	301	3	304
May	287	41	328
June	263	63	326
July	180	92	272
Aug	134	38	172
Sep	193	92	285
Oct	210	27	237
Nov	179	93	272
Dec	72	32	104

Month 2023	No Of Horses Belfast	No Of Horses Larne	Total
Jan	87	26	113
Feb	102	18	120
Mar	86	48	134
Apr	87	49	136
May	144	92	236
June	133	21	154
July	65	99	164
Aug	74	49	123
Sep	58	131	189
Oct	53	95	148
Nov	26	94	120
Dec	7	32	39

Month 2023	No Of Horses Belfast	No Of Horses Larne	Total
Jan	16	20	36
Feb	38	36	74
Mar	9	41	50

3. Please can we request the number of horses exported from Northern Ireland-GB via Larne & Belfast for the period January 2022-March 2024. This will needed be presented in a monthly format with different ports of export declared. It would be helpful if the data allows to breakdown routes of travel, such as Belfast-Birkenhead and Belfast to Cairnryan.

Please see tables below. The tables show the number of horses leaving Belfast on the routes Belfast – Birkenhead and Belfast – Cairnryan. There is only one route from Larne – Larne to Cairnryan. The table information is limited to horses where GB was declared as the place of destination – England, Scotland or Wales.

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Month 2022	Belfast - Liverpool	Belfast- Cairnryan	Larne - Cairnryan	Total
Jan	143	107	38	288
Feb	149	126	45	320
Mar	246	164	48	458
Apr	292	223	35	550
May	365	200	81	646
June	289	272	73	634
July	211	151	112	474
Aug	263	297	68	628
Sep	184	167	83	434
Oct	217	156	94	467
Nov	262	167	108	537
Dec	179	110	53	342

Month 2023	Belfast - Liverpool	Belfast- Cairnryan	Larne - Cairnryan	Total
Jan	97	101	85	283
Feb	144	92	84	320
Mar	266	85	91	442
Apr	111	142	89	342
May	179	189	114	482
June	270	234	126	630
July	315	177	131	623
Aug	333	229	80	642
Sep	313	186	74	573
Oct	255	173	105	533
Nov	144	78	144	366
Dec	98	78	65	241

Month 2024	Belfast - Liverpool	Belfast- Cairnryan	Larne - Cairnryan	Total
Jan	101	75	48	224
Feb	207	120	103	430
Mar	258	134	89	481

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,

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted contact information]

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