

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/26-42

[REDACTED]

Via email:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@whatdotheyknow.com)>

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

Email: vsinfocommsbranch@daera-ni.gov.uk

18 February 2026

Dear [REDACTED]

Freedom of Information Act 2000

Thank you for your email received by the Department on 23 January 2026 which you sought the information in bold below. I can advise that the Department has completed its search and confirm it holds the information you requested.

Breakdown of the following data for the TB Eradication Scheme –

- 1. Total cost of the scheme for the last 3 years - including Compensation, Department Vets for testing, scheme administration and any other related costs**

The Department maintains details of TB costs on a financial year basis rather than a calendar year. Please see table attached at **Annex A** which provides the breakdown of these costs for the last 3 financial years.

- 2. How many department officials or staff are working on the scheme in the last 3 years with a breakdown by grade**

There are currently 925 (860 Full Time Equivalent) staff working in a range of grades within Veterinary Service Animal Health Group (VSAHG). These staff work across a number of

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work programmes including TB, however there is currently no process in place to determine what percentage of their working day is consumed with tasks specifically related to TB.

3. Any communications within and to externally entities about the introduction of Wildlife control measures?

As explained in the information sheet enclosed with my acknowledgement letter, under certain conditions, the Department has the right to refuse to respond to a request for information. In this instance, under Section 12(1) of the FOI Act the Department is not obliged to comply with your request for information as the estimated cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit of £600.

The Department has identified that there are approximately 1268 records that may fall within the scope of your request for the last three years. The work required to collate this information will greatly exceed the appropriate limit (24 hours) of staff time and will place a disproportionate burden on the Department. The estimated cost of processing the five questions would be £1585 An explanation of how this was calculated is below:-

Estimated number of documents to extract and review info.	Estimated number of hours to extract and review information.	Total estimated cost at £25/hr to comply with request.
1268	1268 records x 3 mins per record = 3804 mins = 63.4 hours	63.4 hours at £25 per hour = £1585

Under Section 16 of the FOI Act 2000, the Department has a duty to provide advice and assistance to enable you to refine your request to reduce the cost of compliance to within the appropriate limit of £600. To that end, I suggest that you refine the scope of your request as follows: the date range be narrowed from the last 3 years , to the last 1 year.

Even if your request is narrowed, some of the requested information may still not be able to be released to you, for example, if it is considered exempt under any provision of the Act such as third-party personal data.

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.

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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,

Veterinary Service Animal Health Group

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