

**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](http://www.daera-ni.gov.uk)

**Our reference:** DAERA/26-141

██████████

Via email:

████████████████████

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

Email: [vsinfocommsbranch@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:vsinfocommsbranch@daera-ni.gov.uk)

19 March 2026

Dear ██████████

### **Freedom of Information Act 2000**

Thank you for your email received by the Department on 23 February 2026 which you sought the information in bold below.

I can advise that the Department has completed its search and confirm some information is held.

- **DAERA holds the livestock dead on arrival data for NI. Is this information available online? Does DAERA hold the reasons behind each “dead on arrival” incident?**
- **You have asked for year 2025.**

Livestock ‘dead on arrival’ data in Northern Ireland is not published online.

The information held by DAERA for the year 2025 is:

| <i>DAERA 2025</i> | <i>Number of animals dead on arrival</i> |
|-------------------|--|
| Cattle            | 3  |

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|         |   |
|---------|---|
| Sheep   | 2   |
| Pigs    | 85  |
| Poultry | The threshold of 1.5% for number of birds dead on arrival was not exceeded. |

DAERA does not hold information on the reasons behind each 'dead on arrival' incident. An investigation under the Welfare of Animals (Transport) Regulations (NI) 2006 (WATR) would be initiated in any suspected case of trauma or high mortality in consignments arriving at the factory. In 2025, there were no animal welfare in transport breaches for 'dead on arrival' animals or birds.

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](mailto: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,



**Veterinary Service Animal Health Group**

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