



Rural Payments Agency

04 February 2026  
Our ref: RFI 7776

Dear [REDACTED]

### **Environmental Information Regulations – Information Request**

Thank you for your email on 13 January, in response to our email of the same day regarding your request for information with the reference RFI 7773. Your request has been dealt with under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR).

You have requested the following information:

- *How many calves, less than one month old, were killed in UK abattoirs in 2025?*
- *Of these calves, how many were aged 7-10 days old?*
- *How many female cattle over a year old were slaughtered in UK abattoirs in 2025?*
- *Of these female cattle, how many were older than five years old?*
- *How many UK dairy farms have adopted a zero-grazing model?*
- *What percentage of UK dairy farms have adopted this model?*

The Rural Payments Agency (RPA) can confirm that between 01 January and 31 December 2025.

- A total of 20,151 calves, less than one month old, were killed in GB Abattoirs.
- Of these, 1,744 were aged between 7-10 days old.
- A total of 1,213,249 Female Cattle, aged 1 year and over, were killed in GB Abattoirs.
- Of these, 337,755 were aged 5 years and over.

The figures provided are correct as of 22 January 2026.

Please be advised, the information provided relates to GB abattoirs as the RPA does not hold the information relating to Northern Ireland. Therefore, this information is not held.

The RPA does not collect data on the classification of a business i.e. whether a business is a 'dairy farm' or not, or on grazing models used. Therefore, this information is also not held.

The information you have requested is therefore exempt from disclosure under regulation 12(4)(a) EIR 'Information not held'. This is a qualified exemption, which usually means that a public authority is required to conduct a public interest test to determine whether or not information should be disclosed or withheld. However, the Information Commissioner (IC) takes the view that a public interest test in cases where the information is not held would serve no useful purpose. Therefore, in line with the IC's view RPA has not conducted a public interest test in this case.

Regulation 9 of EIR requires public authorities to provide advice and assistance to applicants where reasonable.

If you require the data for Northern Ireland, you will need to request information from them by email at [daera.informationmanager@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:daera.informationmanager@daera-ni.gov.uk)

We also attach Annex A below, explaining the copyright that applies to the information being released to you.

### **What you need to do**

If you are not happy with the way we have handled your request, you can ask for an internal review. These requests should be submitted in writing within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original request. You should email your request for a review to [IRT@rpa.gov.uk](mailto:IRT@rpa.gov.uk)

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision by following the link to the Information Commissioner's website here.

They can also be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Please note that generally the Information Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have first exhausted RPA's own complaints procedure.

### **If you need further information**

If you have any questions about this email, you can contact us by email [irt@rpa.gov.uk](mailto:irt@rpa.gov.uk).

You can find more information on how we handle personal data in our Personal Information Charter and RPA Customer Privacy notices on GOV.UK

Yours sincerely

### **Information Rights Team**

Rural Payments Agency | Eden Bridge House | Lowther Street | Carlisle | CA3 8DX

Tel: 03300 416502 | Email: [IRT@rpa.gov.uk](mailto:IRT@rpa.gov.uk)

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