

## Annex A

### Request

*I am writing to request, under the Freedom of Information Act, figures and information relating to the following criteria:*

- 1. In (i) 2019 and (ii) for each month of 2020, how many solipeds were slaughtered in licensed slaughterhouses in England?*
- 2. In (i) 2019 and (ii) for each month of 2020, how many solipeds were slaughtered in establishments other than licensed slaughterhouses in England?*
- 3. In (i) 2019 and (ii) for each month of 2020, how many Equidae who were registered with Weatherbys' Passports (British and Irish) were slaughtered in licensed slaughterhouses in England?*
- 4. Relating to the previous question, please could you provide a list of the names and ages of the Equidae who were registered with Weatherbys' passport (British and Irish).*
- 5. In (i) 2019 and (ii) for each month of 2020, how many Equidae had their passports returned as 'deceased' to the Weatherbys Passport Issuing Offices in the UK?*
- 6. In (i) 2019 and (ii) for each month of 2020, how many solipeds were imported from Ireland to the UK for slaughter? How many of those horses were registered with Weatherbys' Passports (British and Irish)?*
- 7. In (i) 2019 and (ii) for each month of 2020, how many solipeds were rejected as being unfit for human consumption? How many of those horses were registered with Weatherbys' Passports (British and Irish)?*

### Response

1. In 2019 2,165 solipeds were slaughtered in licensed slaughterhouses in England. The figures for 2020 so far are:

Month	Number slaughtered
January	105
February	134
March	120
April	107
May	112
June	111
July	80
August	74
September	87
October	116

2. The FSA does not hold this information. The FSA only holds information relating to slaughters that took place in licensed slaughterhouses.
3. In 2019 calendar year 347 Equidae who were registered with Weatherbys Passports, were slaughtered in licenced slaughterhouses. The figures for 2020 so far are:

Month	Number slaughtered
January	7
February	31
March	35
April	24
May	26
June	15
July	19
August	26
September	15
October	27

4. The names and ages of Equidae who were registered with Weatherbys' Passports (British and Irish) and were slaughtered in licensed slaughterhouses in England is being withheld from disclosure under section 43 of the Act. This is information which if disclosed would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of the organisation caught within scope of this request.
5. The FSA does not hold this information. All passports are returned to their respective Passport Issuing Organisations.
6. The FSA does not hold this level of detail in the records held. The origin of the passport is not conclusive of the origin of the horse at the time it was sent to slaughter.
7. During the 2019 calendar year, a total of 94 Solipeds were rejected as unfit for human consumption, 20 of which were registered with Weatherbys passports. The rejection figures for solipeds unfit for human consumption for 2020 by month, including those registered with Weatherbys passports are:

Month	Total Rejected	Registered with Weatherby's passport
January	1	0
February	8	2
March	17	2
April	11	2
May	8	2
June	4	1
July	9	1
August	4	1
September	5	1
October	10	0

## **Annex B**

### **Section 43 (Commercial Interests)**

The information specifically relating to the names and ages of Equidae who were registered with Weatherbys' Passports (British and Irish) and were slaughtered in licensed slaughterhouses in England is being withheld under section 43. This is information which if disclosed would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of companies.

Whilst there is a general public interest in openness and transparency, with regards to data held by public bodies; there is also a need to protect the legitimate commercial interests of companies.

If food business owners believe that information, they provide to the Agency will be disclosed, they might be reluctant to provide the Agency with all the information it requires to carry out its statutory functions.

This could be damaging to the Agency's objective of protecting public health in relation to food. It is not in the public interest to disclose information that would be likely to be used by competitors and weaken a company's position, in an already competitive market.

We believe, therefore, that the balance of the public interest favours withholding the information.