



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

Animal and Plant Health Agency
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Our Ref: ATIC3078

James Henderson

{By Email}

21 April 2023

Dear James Henderson

PROVISION OF REQUESTED INFORMATION

Thank you for your request for information about Avian Influenza testing, which the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) received on 03 April 2023. Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000.

The information you requested and the response is detailed below:

“Thank you for your response to my FOI request.

Further to the information you provided and the link to the virology paper, I would respectfully ask for more information on the existence of the "HIPAIV H5N1 virus".

May I please request the following:

Description of Requested Records:

All studies and/or reports from APHA and also anywhere in the world describing the purification of the alleged “HIPAIV H5N1 virus” (including any alleged variants) directly from a sample taken from a diseased bird, where the bird sample was not first combined with any other source of genetic material (i.e. PBS or BHIB with antibiotics, embryonated eggs, etc.).

Clarification of Requested Records:

Please note that I am not requesting studies/reports where researchers failed to **purify** the suspected “virus” and instead:

- . cultured something, and/or
- . performed an amplification test (i.e. PCR), and/or

. fabricated a “genome” from millions of sequences (allegedly) detected in an impure substance, and/or

. produced electron microscopy images of unpurified things.

I am already aware that according to virus theory a “virus” requires host cells in order to replicate, and am not requesting records that describe replication of a “virus” without host cells. Nor am I requesting records that describe a strict fulfillment of Koch’s Postulates, or records that describe a suspected “virus” floating in a vacuum.

I simply request records that describe **purification** (separation of the alleged virus from everything else in the bird sample, as per standard laboratory practices for the purification of other very small things).

Please note that my request includes any study/report matching the above description, **authored by anyone, anywhere.**

If any records match the above description of requested records and are currently available in the public domain, please provide enough information about each record so that I may identify and access each one with certainty (i.e. title, author(s) date, journal, where the public may access it). Please provide URLs where possible.”

The information that you have requested is not held by APHA.

Information disclosed in response to this FOI request is releasable to the public. In keeping with the spirit and effect of the FOI and the government’s Transparency Agenda, this letter and the information disclosed to you may be placed on GOV.UK, together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context. No information identifying you will be placed on the GOV.UK website.

An Annex is attached which explains the copyright that applies to the information being released to you and contact details should you be unhappy with the service you have received.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact the Access to Information Team at the email address below or postal address at the top of this letter.

Yours sincerely

ACCESS TO INFORMATION TEAM

Email: enquiries@apha.gov.uk

Annex

Copyright

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Complaints

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request, you may make a complaint or appeal against our decision under section 17(7) of the FOIA or under regulation 11 of the EIRs, as applicable, within 40 working days of the date of this letter. Please write to the Access to Information Manager at the address at the top of this letter or email enquiries@apha.gov.uk and the team will arrange for an internal review of your case.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, section 50 of the FOIA and regulation 18 of the EIRs gives you the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) for a decision. Please note that generally the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have first exhausted APHA's own complaints procedure. The ICO can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Please [click here](#) for further contact details.