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By E-mail

Our Ref: ATI-067-2011-04

Date: 4th April 2011

Dear Mr Carroll

Thank you for your email of 14th March 2011 asking for an internal review of your request. You have asked us to review whether you were supplied with all the email correspondence between the Veterinary Laboratories Agency (VLA) and Rhodia, regarding dead birds, Rattlechain and White phosphorus. Your specific query related to email correspondence between Aiden Foster and Tom Dutton before 25 September 2009

I have reviewed your request in accordance with the Environmental Information Regulations (EIR). I have been in contact with the relevant people and discussed the possibility of there being any written communication prior to 25th September 2009. I also asked that all files relating to this case were checked again to see if anything has been overlooked.

An investigation of the files held has failed to produce any evidence of email correspondence. I have been reliably advised that the majority of communication between VLA and Rhodia was carried out over the telephone, of which there is no record; no previous correspondence was found after a thorough search of the emails; had there been any email correspondence prior to this date, the likelihood is that they will have been destroyed in accordanced with VLA's email management guidelines.

The outcome of the review is that VLA does not hold any other communications before the aforementioned date. VLA has provided you with all the information it holds relating to this case.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

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

Yours sincerely

Mr Chris Morrey
Finance Director

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The Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency is an executive agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, working across Great Britain on behalf of Defra, Scottish Government and Welsh Assembly Government

www.defra.gov.uk/ahvla