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Ms Hannah Roe  
By email: [request-712185-a01d996e@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-712185-a01d996e@whatdotheyknow.com)

Our ref: EIR2020/32910  
11 December 2020

Dear Ms Roe,

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Native Breeds**

Thank you for your request for information of 11 December 2020 about native breeds. We have handled your request under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs).

The EIRs apply to requests for environmental information, which is a broad category of information defined in regulation 2 of the EIRs. Public authorities are required to handle requests for environmental information under the EIRs. They give similar access rights to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Your information request and our response are set out below.

*Could you send across any stats you have that might indicate the decline in native breed animals in recent years or if that is not possible, any stats you have on the relative health of native breeds compared to non- native animals.*

Where a request is formulated in too general a manner and could be refused under regulation 12(4)(c), the EIRs allow public authorities to request that applicants provide further particulars and require them, as far as it would be reasonable, to provide advice and assistance to applicants to enable them to describe more clearly the information requested so that the public authority can identify or locate it.

From our preliminary assessment, it is clear that we will not be able to answer your request without further clarification. We therefore require you to provide further information to enable us to identify and locate the information that you have requested.

We presume you mean non-native and native species rather than breeds, and if so please could you identify the particular species you are interested to receive information on? Defra is a vast department with many areas of policy work so this will help us identify the particular team needed to conduct any reasonable searches. Identifying the species will also assist with the second part of your request where you ask for comparisons as we assume you would want that to be done between similar species.

When you have clarified your request, we will be able to begin to process it. Please note that the 20-working-day timescale for responding to your request will commence from the date that we receive the clarification.

We attach an annex giving contact details should you be unhappy with the service you have received.

If you have any queries about this letter please contact me.

Yours sincerely

**D Lynch**

**Information Rights Team**

[InformationRequests@defra.gov.uk](mailto:InformationRequests@defra.gov.uk)

## **Annex**

### **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 Andrew Mobsby, Head of Information Rights via email at [InformationRequests@defra.gov.uk](mailto:InformationRequests@defra.gov.uk) and he will arrange for an internal review of your case. Details of Defra's complaints procedure are on our website.

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 Defra's own complaints procedure.

The ICO's offices are currently closed so please visit their website on how to contact them during this period, here:

<https://ico.org.uk>

Additionally if you wish to make a complaint to the ICO please use the following link:

<https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/official-information-concerns-report/official-information-concern/>