

Mr Carroll by e-mail

18 May 2010

Your Ref: FOI 873

Dear Mr Carroll

**FOI REQUEST RE: RATTLECHAIN MERE**

Further to Rosemary Cairns' letter to you of 28 April, I can confirm that we are now in a position to respond to question 1 of your FOI request of 19 April, in which you asked whether we can confirm or deny that we have been given all of the information, described in your email, concerning the Rattlechain Mere incident by the Veterinary Laboratories Agency (VLA), including the video evidence provided by you.

The Rattlechain investigation is being led by the Environment Agency and has involved a multi-Agency response, including the VLA and Health and Safety Executive. The Food Standards Agency has not been actively involved in the investigation, as there appear to be no food safety implications in this instance.

As the investigation requires a multi-Agency joined up response, it was considered beneficial to share information about the investigation within the CHaIRS Group. The information shared within CHaIRS has not included any of the video or other evidence you refer to in your e-mail.

As explained in Rosemary's letter, while CHaIRS was set up as a forum to share information regarding chemical contamination incidents, it does not displace or alter the remits of the participating organisations in relation to investigation and enforcement. Consequently, if you have any concerns regarding any aspect of this ongoing investigation, then we suggest that these should be addressed to the body leading this investigation, which is the Environment Agency (EA). The EA's contact details are available at:

<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/contactus/default.aspx>

The remaining questions you have raised will be handled by Rosemary as a request for internal review of the handling of your earlier FOI request.

If you are not satisfied with the way the Agency has handled your request for information, you should write within two calendar months of the date of this letter to the Openness Team, and ask for an internal review. They will arrange for the Complaints Coordinator to conduct the review. Their address is Food Standards Agency, Room 2C Aviation House, 125 Kingsway, London, WC2B 6NH (email: [Openness.team@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Openness.team@foodstandards.gsi.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. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the Agency. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF or through the website at <http://www.ico.gov.uk/>

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JD Caseley'.

John Caseley  
Incidents Unit