

02 September 2026

Dear

## **ATISN 27376 – Individual Housing of Dairy Calves in Wales**

### **Information requested**

Thank you for your request which we received on 19 August.

You asked for data that can be used to measure the prevalence of individual housing of dairy calves in Wales and track any transition towards pair or group housing. You asked for information on available datasets, prevalence estimates, inspection and compliance records, monitoring or performance measures, and any data shared with Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) that could be used to track changes in calf housing practices over time.

You have specifically asked for the following information:

### **Welsh Government Data on Dairy Calf Housing**

1. Details of any current Welsh Government dataset that records, by holding or in aggregate, whether dairy calves are housed individually, the duration of individual housing, or the number/capacity of individual pens or hutches.

### **Prevalence of Individual Housing for Dairy Calves in Wales**

2. Any current estimate of the proportion of Welsh dairy holdings using individual calf housing, the proportion of calves experiencing individual housing, or the age/duration at which calves move into pair/group housing.

### **Inspection and Enforcement Data Relating to Dairy Calf Housing**

3. Any structured inspection or compliance data relating to calf housing, including individual housing beyond the applicable legal age limit, visual/tactile contact, number of calves affected, or individual-pen capacity. Where these fields exist, please provide annual

aggregate counts for the longest consistent series available from 2020 to the most recent complete period.

### **Performance Measures and Monitoring of Calf Housing Systems**

4. Any recorded baseline, KPI, target, timetable, monitoring plan or evaluation currently used or planned to measure change in calf housing systems.

### **Maximum Recorded Individual Calf Housing Capacity**

5. Any data held that could identify, without naming a holding, the largest number of dairy calves simultaneously housed individually at one Welsh holding/site, or the largest individual-pen/hutch capacity recorded.

### **Calf Housing Information Held with the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA)**

6. Please identify any relevant calf-housing information routinely supplied to, received from, or jointly held with APHA, including the field names or definitions where available.

### **Our Response**

The information you have requested is not held by the Welsh Government. However, we believe that the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) may hold information which you are seeking. You can ask them for the information at: [enquiries@apha.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@apha.gov.uk)

In addition, you may wish to approach one or more farm assurance schemes to ask for information on calf housing in Wales. A list of farm assurance schemes is available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/farm-assurance-schemes-evidence-of-vet-visits/qualifying-farm-assurance-schemes>

### **Next steps**

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Government's handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Welsh Government's Freedom of Information Officer at:

Information Rights Unit  
Welsh Government  
Cathays Park  
Cardiff  
CF10 3NQ

or Email: [Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales](mailto:Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales)

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

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

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely