

## ANNEX A

The exceptions applied in this instance are:

### **Regulation 10(4)(a) – Information not held by Scottish Government**

While our aim is to provide information whenever possible, in this instance the Scottish Government does not hold some of the information you have requested.

Therefore, this is a formal notice under Regulation 10(4)(a) of the EIRs confirming that the Scottish Government does not hold this information.

Although some of the information you have requested is not held by the Scottish Government, I have provided links to the where you might find the information where possible.

This exception is subject to the ‘public interest test. It is important to note that although we do not hold the information and have applied Regulation 10(4)(a) – information not held, it is a requirement that we have to apply the public interest test.

Under regulation 5(1) of the EIRs, a Scottish public authority that holds environmental information must make it available when requested to do so. This duty is not absolute. In some cases, information is excepted from disclosure, under regulations 10 and 11 of the EIRs. However, all of the exceptions in regulation 10 (and parts of regulation 11) are subject to a public interest test. To clarify, even though we do not hold the information, because we are using EIRs Exception 10(4)(a) in response to your request, we are required to apply a public interest test.

Guidance can be found in the Key Concepts section under ‘Information Not Held’ and ‘The Public Interest Test’ in the attached [Scottish Information Commissioner Briefings and Guidance document](#).

Further guidance on the public interest test can also be found on page 8 of the [Scottish Information Commissioner guidance](#).

I have included links to the information you have requested under the relevant questions in Annex B.

## 1. Water Usage:

- a. Is there any available data on water usage by livestock farming in Fife, including direct water consumption by animals and water use for animal feed crop irrigation?

**Response**

Regulation 10(4)(a) - This information is not held by the Scottish Government.

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## 2. Feed Imports:

- a. Could you provide a more detailed breakdown of the types of animal feed imported into Scotland, particularly in relation to the deforestation impact of soy imports?

**Response**

Regulation 10(4)(a) - This information is not held by the Scottish Government.

Please find below a link to HMRC's overseas trade statistics and the guidance for downloading bespoke trade tables [Get help with creating custom data tables.](#)

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## 3. Environmental Impact Reports:

- a. Are there any localized environmental impact assessments specifically addressing livestock farming in Fife (e.g., soil degradation, biodiversity loss, water pollution)?
- b. Are there any recent studies on the impact of manure management or methane emissions from Fife's farms?

**Response to a. & b.**

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## 4. Farm Policies and Incentives:

- a. Could you provide further details on the agricultural policies or incentives that support the continuation of livestock farming in Fife?
- b. Please provide the amount of financial incentives paid out to livestock farming in Fife and across Scotland in recent years.

**Response**

Please find the information requested below, with links to the further information and relevant guidance online.

Scottish Upland Sheep Support Scheme – ([Scottish Upland Sheep Support Scheme full guidance](#)):

- this scheme gives direct support to help maintain sheep flocks in farm businesses reliant on poorer quality rough grazing found in Scotland's Basic Payment Region three. It has an annual budget of up to £7 million

- eligible animals must be retained on your holding (including away winterings) from 1 December in the year of claim to 31 March in the following year
- Scottish Government pay on ewe hoggs (female sheep) born on Scottish holdings which rely on poor quality rough grazing found in Scotland's Basic Payment Region three (upper limit of 1 ewe hogg per 4 ha).

Scottish Suckler Beef Support Scheme – ([Scottish Suckler Beef Support Scheme \(Mainland and Islands\) full guidance](#)):

- this scheme gives direct support to specialist beef producers. It has an annual budget of £34 million for Scottish mainland claims and £6 million for claims from the Scottish islands.
- the scheme year runs from 1 January to 31 December
- Scottish Government pay on male and female calves at least 75 per cent beef bred
- calves must have been born on your Scottish holding and kept there for 30 days

MyHerdStats – ([MyHerdStats Information Note \(July 2024\)](#)):

- MyHerdStats is operated by ScotEID on behalf of the industry and supported by Scottish Government. It is an online tool that securely presents herd management information within the ScotEID login to all Scottish suckler herds.
- The system displays the data using charts, tables, and key performance indicators (KPI's). Cattle keepers now have easy access to a range of herd data insights into both performance and any year- on-year herd variability, to highlight areas of opportunity for further improvement that can benefit both business and environmental performance. Once you have logged in via ScotEID, use the flexible month end date function to select the 12- month period you would like to look at. If you select the end date, the system will pre-populate the start date (12 months before this).

Funding for MyHerdStats was £212,027 in FY 23/24 and £120,000 in FY 22/23.

The Cabinet Secretary announced in October 2021 that a short-term Programme would be developed to support farmers and crofters across Scotland in making the transition to sustainable and regenerative agriculture.

The first part of this Programme “Preparing for Sustainable Farming” (PSF) went live in spring 2022 and provided funding to incentivise on-farm carbon audits and soil sampling. It also supported farmers and crofters in learning about sustainable and regenerative farming. From the outset, PSF was intended to operate until 31 Dec 2024 and has been offered to all farmers and crofters who are eligible for support payments.

A package of Animal Health and Welfare Interventions was added to PSF on 10 February 2023, with the aim of incentivising health and welfare investigations on sheep and cattle farms in 2023 and 2024. Detailed guidance is available at: [Preparing for Sustainable Farming \(PSF\)](#).

The package of AHW interventions was designed to encourage sheep and cattle keepers to consider some common causes of poor performance, and by tackling those diseases/syndromes, increase the health and productivity of their animals. Improved livestock health results in better production efficiency, which means lower greenhouse gas emissions per kg of output. Healthier animals are more productive, require less veterinary intervention and have better welfare than their under-performing counterparts. They also require less antibiotic treatment, which is important in terms of antimicrobial stewardship and conserving drug efficacy.

To date we have received 1,788 AHW claims to a value of £1,210,000 and within Fife, based on Scottish Parliamentary Constituencies, 42 claims to a value of £27,250

The Scottish Suckler Beef Support Scheme (SSBSS) & Scottish Upland Sheep Support Scheme (SUSSS) payments made within Fife, based on Scottish Parliamentary Constituencies, were as follows:

- For SSBSS 2023, we received 146 claims for which we paid out a total of £1,171,759.89 (this equates to 2.91% of overall ceiling)
- For SUSSS 2023, there were no claims made in the Fife area

Please note that 2023 payments information has been provided as no payments have been released yet for the 2024 scheme year.

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#### 5. Animal Feed Production and Usage:

- a. The total quantity of unmilled cereals (such as wheat, barley, maize, oats, etc.) used for feeding livestock (including cattle, sheep, poultry, and pigs) in the UK over the past five years.
- b. A breakdown by cereal type (e.g., wheat, barley, oats) and how they are used in animal feed (either directly or processed).
- c. Information on whether unmilled cereals are commonly used in different farming systems (e.g., conventional vs. organic, intensive vs. extensive) for feeding livestock.
- d. Data on the proportion of total cereal production in the UK that is used as unmilled cereals in animal feed compared to cereals processed for animal feed or human consumption.
- e. The total quantity of animal feed produced in the UK, with a breakdown by:
  - Scotland
  - England
  - Wales
  - Northern Ireland

#### Response a. – e.

Regulation 10(4)(a) - This information is not held by the Scottish Government.

There is some information available on the Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board (AHDB) website, which can be found here:

- [UK human and industrial cereal usage](#)
- [GB animal feed production](#)

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6. The proportion of UK-grown feed (both unmilled cereals and processed feeds) that is specifically used in Fife, Scotland, over the past five years.

#### Response

Regulation 10(4)(a) - This information is not held by the Scottish Government.

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#### 7. Meat Imports:

- a. The total quantity of meat imported into Scotland, broken down by:
  - Imports from other regions within the UK (i.e., England, Wales, Northern Ireland).
  - Imports from outside the UK, categorized by country of origin.
- b. The total quantity of meat imported into Fife, broken down in the same categories:
  - Imports from other regions within Scotland.
  - Imports from outside Scotland, further divided into: UK Imports from England, Wales and Northern Ireland.
  - International imports from outside the UK, categorized by country of origin.
- c. Please provide these data for the past five years, including a breakdown by meat type (e.g., beef, lamb, poultry, pork). If possible, include both weight (tonnes) and monetary value.

**Response a. – c.**

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**8. Peatland in Fife:**

- a. What is the total area of peatland in Fife, and how much of it has been drained or degraded for agricultural purposes?
- b. Please provide data on how much of this drained peatland is specifically used for livestock grazing and animal feed crop production.
- c. Of the peatland emissions (21.5 kt CO<sub>2</sub>e) attributed to Fife, what proportion is directly linked to agricultural activities?
- d. Please provide a breakdown of emissions caused by livestock grazing versus other land uses (e.g., forestry, infrastructure development, crop production).
- e. Has there been any land-use change in Fife’s peatlands over the past decade, particularly related to converting peatlands to pasture or cropland for animal farming?
- f. What is the current policy or strategy in place regarding the management of peatlands in Fife that are used for agriculture, particularly for animal farming?”

**Response a.**

Regulation 10(4)(a) - This information is not held by the Scottish Government.

Some of the information you have requested can be found on <https://peatscope.com/>, if you wish to sign up for one of their free accounts.

**Response b. – f.**

Regulation 10(4)(a) - This information is not held by the Scottish Government.

Some of the information you have requested can be found here: [Final UK greenhouse gas emissions national statistics: 1990 to 2021](#)