



To: The Scottish Government: ceu@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Date: 28 February 2020

Subject: FOI request re. disease testing of Scottish salmon (including ova)

Further to Scottish Salmon Watch's [letter to Scottish Ministers dated 24 February 2020](#) please consider this a formal FOI request.

Scottish Salmon Watch's [letter dated 24 February 2020](#) asked Scottish Ministers the following questions:

- How many salmon eggs imported into Scotland were tested for PRV and other viruses, pathogens and infectious diseases such as ISA?
- Has Marine Scotland Science conducted screenings of ova for PRV as an extra risk measure to avoid vertical transmission?
- What % of ova used by 'Scottish' salmon farms are infected with PRV, ISA and other diseases, pathogens and viruses?
- What % of imported ova were screened prior to entry into Scotland for infectious diseases, pathogens and viruses?
- How much of domestically produced ova is sourced from genetic material (ova, broodstock or smolts) sourced from overseas (e.g. Norway, Iceland and Ireland)?
- What % of domestically produced ova has been screened for infectious diseases, pathogens and viruses such as PRV and ISA?

Please consider these questions via the relevant FOI and Environmental Information Regulations.

Secondly, please provide information since 1 January 2019 in relation to testing of farmed salmon for diseases, pathogens and viruses.

As context:

In June 2019, the Scottish Government [disclosed documents via FOI/19/00882](#) on 4 June 2019 (with a [FOI review dated 20 June published on 5 July 2019](#)) in relation to PRV/HSMI.

Scottish Salmon Watch reported on the FOI disclosure on 5 June 2019 via "[Virus-Laden Farmed Salmon - FOI reveals over half of samples test positive for Piscine Reovirus](#)".

Scottish Salmon Watch's [FOI request filed on 24 March 2019](#) asked for information on Piscine Reovirus (PRV) and Heart & Skeletal Muscle Inflammation (HSMI) since 1 January 2018, to include:

- Data on sampling and testing for Piscine Reovirus (PRV) and Heart & Skeletal Muscle Inflammation (HSMI) in farmed salmon, seawater and processing plant effluent (and any other sampling and testing).
- How many samples of farmed salmon and water samples have been tested for Piscine Reovirus (PRV) and Heart & Skeletal Muscle Inflammation (HSMI).
- Any photos, emails, letters, copies of scientific papers and other information to and from the Marine Laboratory, salmon farming companies, veterinarians (e.g. Fish Vet Group), other Governments and other parties in relation to Piscine Reovirus (PRV) and Heart & Skeletal Muscle Inflammation (HSMI).

Please now provide an update of the same information i.e. from the 24 March 2019 (or perhaps 22 May 2019 as this seems to be last data entry via the Excel spreadsheet disclosed via [FOI/19/00882](#)) to 28 February 2020.

Please also include in this FOI request since 1 January 2019:

What % of farmed salmon are infected with PRV, ISA and other diseases, pathogens and viruses?

i.e. widen out one of the questions above in relation to ova to also include farmed salmon and widen out the scope of the PRV/HSMI FOI request to include ISA, CMS, AGD, Pasteurella skyensis, Salmon Gill Poxvirus, Complex Gill Disease, Pancreas Disease and other diseases, pathogens and viruses.

Scottish Salmon Watch understands that (as [FOI/19/00882](#) explained): "Sampling and testing is undertaken as part of Scotland's Aquatic Animal Health surveillance programme in line with the current regulations concerning aquatic animal health in Scotland. The results and outcomes of this surveillance is made publicly available through an active publication plan: <https://www2.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Fish-Shellfish/FHI/CaseInformation>".

The Scottish Government have since updated the 'Case Information' reporting via <https://www.gov.scot/collections/publication-of-fish-health-inspectorate-information/>

With 2019 'Case Information' reported via: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/fish-health-inspectorate-case-information-2019/>

Scottish Salmon Watch also understands that (as [FOI/19/00882](#) explained): "In addition to results relating to statutory surveillance, Marine Scotland Science also performs a commercial testing service on behalf of third parties."

Please therefore provide information relating to Marine Scotland Science's commercial testing service on behalf of third parties since 1 January 2019 in relation to ISA, CMS, AGD, Pasteurella skyensis, Salmon Gill Poxvirus, Complex Gill Disease, Pancreas Disease and other diseases, pathogens and viruses (and PRV/HSMI since 24 March 2019).

Via [FOI/19/00882](#) this data was presented via an Excel spreadsheet:



[Fol-19-00882 - Annex 1 - Commercial testing results - PRV](#)

XLSX | 16.7 kB

Download

Please present the data in the same format if possible.

And please include correspondence, letters, Cabinet Briefings, press/media lines, data, photos, emails and any other information since 1 January 2019 in relation to the testing of farmed salmon (including ova) for diseases, pathogens and viruses.

Scottish Salmon Watch fully understands that (as [FOI/19/00882](#) explained):

"Commercial testing results relate to samples submitted from third parties and from the records held by Marine Scotland Science they cannot be linked to any particular source. The sources of these samples will relate to aquaculture sites both within and out with Scotland. The results will also include samples from transmission trials concerning experimental animals and facilities. Therefore, there are severe limitations with this data in terms of how it can be interpreted and portrayed. In summary the commercial testing data represents a number of test results from a number of samples which relate to a multitude of unidentifiable sources all of which have been submitted by third parties."

However, records submitted from third parties held by Marine Scotland Science are clearly available and are formally requested since 1 January 2019. If the Scottish Government refuses to provide copies of the full records - citing 'commercial confidentiality' for example - Scottish Salmon Watch asks that the names of the third parties are at least provided.

As the Scottish Government explained via their [review of FOI/19/00882 dated 20 June and published on 5 July 2019](#):

"In the original response, to your request for information, it was stipulated that commercial testing results related to samples submitted from third parties and from the records held by Marine Scotland Science they cannot be linked to any particular source. This comment was made in relation to PRV samples, and whilst it is true in the main it does not relate to two of the sample submissions made. In this case, two of the samples were received directly from The Scottish Salmon Company. In all of the cases, we are unable to identify sites or specific sources of the samples received."

Please consider this a formal FOI request via the relevant FOI and Environmental Information Regulations.

Please provide the information electronically.

Please provide a receipt for this FOI request.

Thanks,

Don Staniford

Director, Scottish Salmon Watch



From: **Don Staniford** <salmonfarmingkills@gmail.com>

Date: Fri, Feb 28, 2020 at 3:31 AM

Subject: FOI request re. disease testing of Scottish salmon (including ova)

To: <ceu@scotland.gsi.gov.uk>

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Thanks,

Don Staniford

Director, Scottish Salmon Watch

From: <casehandling.service@gov.scot>

Date: Fri, Feb 28, 2020 at 8:52 AM

Subject: Your Recent Enquiry with Scottish Government and partner agencies

To: <salmonfarmingkills@gmail.com>

Our Reference: 202000018313

Dear Don Staniford ,

Thank you for your correspondence sent on 28/02/2020. Your query will be passed to the relevant area for consideration and has been given a reference number of 202000018313. Please quote this number in all correspondence. The Scottish Government aim to respond, where necessary, as quickly as possible and within the stated timescale as indicated on our website (<http://www.gov.scot/about/contact-information/how-to-request-information/>).

Yours sincerely

MiCase

Correspondence system for SG and partner agencies