**6 March 2023**

**Re: AIE request (AIE/23/085)**

Dear Sir / Madam,

I refer to your request for a review of the decision made by this Department on 17th February 2023 not to release the records to which you requested access under the European Communities (Access to Information on the Environment) Regulations 2007 to 2018 (S.I. No. 133 of 2007, S.I. No. 662 of 2011, S.I. No. 615 of 2014 and S.I. 309 of 2018) (hereafter referred to as the AIE Regulations).

Your original request was for:

‘a register of cattle herds with over 500 cattle per head, to include the herd number and location of each cattle farm’

As you will be aware from the acknowledgement of your request for an internal review, I was assigned to review your request. I made a decision on your review request on 6 March 223. My decision on review is an entirely new and separate decision on your request and is explained below.

*I must inform you that I have not found any grounds to reverse the decision made by the initial decision-maker and accordingly I affirm his decision to refuse access to the records requested under Article 8 (a) (i) of the AIE Regulations.*

In upholding the original decision, I have deemed significant the content of Articles 8 (a) (i) of the AIE Regulations and Section 37 (1) of the 2014 Freedom of Information Act.

*In arriving at a decision on your request, I confirm that I have had regard to the provisions of Article 10 of the AIE Regulations, as a decision to refuse to disclose information under Articles 8 and/or 9 must not be taken in isolation from the relevant provisions in Article 10.*

*In line with Article 10(3), my deliberations have included weighing the public interest served by disclosure against the interest served by refusal. I have decided that, on balance, the public interest in this case is best served by withholding this information.*

*Decisions taken by other bodies in relation to requests for information is a matter for these organisations.*

Under Article 12 of the AIE Regulations you may appeal this decision, by writing to the Commissioner for Environmental Information at the address given below:

 Office of the Commissioner for Environmental Information

 6 Earlsfort Terrace

 Dublin 2

 D02 W773

Phone: +353-1-639 5689

It is also possible to appeal on the website of the Commissioner [www.ocei.gov.ie](http://www.ocei.gov.ie).

If you wish to appeal, you should do so within **1 month** of this notification. The fee for such an appeal is €50 or €15 if you are the holder of a medical card or the dependent of a holder of a medical card.

I can be contacted at 01-5058724 or pat.keena@agriculture.gov.ie to answer any questions you may have, and to assist you generally in this matter.

Yours sincerely,



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Pat Keena

Assistant Principal

Animal Identification and Movement Division