EMAIL FROM AHDB further to FOI on tail docking in pigs: 12 July 2023

Dear Claire,

AHDB does not hold annual figures for pig tail docking in the UK or for any constituent country within the UK.

However, we do hold a mean figure for the four periods of 2013 – 2016, 2013 – 2017, 2013– 2018, 2013 – 2019 as part of the Real Welfare Scheme which surveyed pigs in England (since 2013) and Scotland (since August 2016). It is worth noting that tail docking was not one of the main welfare outcomes being examined. The Real Welfare Scheme results are published and you can find the reports via the following links:

2013-2016 (Baseline data) <https://projectblue.blob.core.windows.net/media/Default/Pork/Documents/Real%20Welfare%20report%202017.pdf>

            Docked 70%

            Mixed 6%

            Undocked 24%

2013-2017 <https://projectblue.blob.core.windows.net/media/Default/Pork/Documents/RealWelfareReportUpdate_190226.pdf>

            Docked 71.1%

            Mixed 4.7%

            Undocked 24.2%

2013-2018 (an interim set of data analysis was produced, but not published in a report)

Docked 71.36%

            Mixed 4.34%

            Undocked 24.28%

2013-2019 <https://projectblue.blob.core.windows.net/media/Default/Pork/Documents/Real%20Welfare%20Report%202020_WEB.pdf>

Docked 71.6%

            Mixed 4.3%

            Undocked 24.1%

AHDB has ceased to fund the Real Welfare Scheme and the 2013-2019 report was the last in the series.

Kind regards

Yours sincerely

Guy Attenborough