



Our Ref: ATIC2181

[REDACTED]
{By Email}

22 October 2020

Dear [REDACTED]

PROVISION OF REQUESTED INFORMATION

Thank you for your request for information on cat and dog imports which we received clarity for on 12 October 2020. Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI).

The information you requested and our response is detailed below:

„Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 I would like to request to be informed about

- a) How many dogs and cats were recorded as entering and leaving UK under the PET scheme for pets travelling with their owner in years: 2018, 2019, 2020.
- b) How many dogs and cats, imported to UK from EU member states, were registered for sale in UK.
- c) The estimated number of unregistered dogs and cats imported to UK from EU member states for sale.
- d) Which is the country of origin of most of imported dogs and cats, irrespective of whether they were registered or not.
- e) Where there any traffickers of dogs and cats caught by UK custom officers, trafficking dogs and cats without registration. If so, how many dogs and cats and the what was their country of origin.“

APHA wrote to you seek clarity on your request and received the following on the 12 October 2020.

I added the date range into the document also for other questions. I added one more question, concerning requirements for person who sales companion animals in UK, so that I also clarify what kind of requirement there is under UK legislation.

Due to fact, that I did not know what is required under UK legislation for import of dogs and cats for purposes of sale in UK, I asked for registered/ unregistered dogs and cats. By that I meant whether the person who sales dogs and cats in UK, has fulfilled his/her

duties pursuant to UK legislation. By that I mean duties that have to be fulfilled by person, who sales the dogs and cats imported from other member states for commercial purposes in UK.

By unregistered I meant such a case, when a person who imported dogs and cats from other EU member state for purpose of sale in UK and who did not fulfill his/her duty required for such a purpose pursuant to UK legisaltion. Particularly I meant some statistical data, for example from custom office that come across with import of cats and dogs by person who did not fulfill requirements and has been caught by custom office.

These information I need for the purposes of comparison Slovak legisaltion and fulfillment requirements in question in Slovakia, which is very poor. Due to that, we as NGO have some information, that many dog and cat breeders export animals from Slovakia (without fulfillment of duties) for purposes of sale in other memeber states and we are trying to assess the number of dogs and cats exporter/ imported to other member states.“

Your request now reads:

- a) How many dogs and cats were recorded as entering and leaving UK under the PET scheme for pets travelling with their owner in years: 2018, 2019, 2020.
- b) Is there in UK such a requirement to be fulfilled by person who wants to import compation animals from other EU member state to UK for commercial purpose, especially for sale in UK. For example registration or similar duty.
- c) How many dogs and cats, imported to UK from EU member states, were registered for sale in UK in years: 2018, 2019, 2020. By registered I mean, whether the person who sales dogs and cats in UK, has fulfilled his/her duties pursuant to UK legislation. By that I mean duties that have to be fulfilled by person, who sales the dogs and cats imported from other member states for commercial purposes in UK.
- d) The estimated number of unregistered dogs and cats imported to UK from EU memeber stated for sale in years: 2018, 2019, 2020. By unregistered I mean such a case, when a person who imported dogs and cats from other EU member state for purpose of sale in UK and who did not fulfill his/her duty required for such a purpose pursuant to UK legisaltion. I mean some statistical data, for example from custom office that come across with import of cats and dogs by person who did not fulfill requirements and has been caught by custom office.
- e) Which is the country of origin of most of imported dogs and cats, irrespective of whether they were registered or not in years: 2018, 2019, 2020
- f) Where there any traffickers of dogs and cats caught by UK custom officers, trafficking dogs and cats without registration. If so, how many dogs and cats and the what was their country of origin in years: 2018, 2019, 2020“

Under The Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) Regulations, a business selling dogs and cats must be licenced by their Local Authority. However individual dogs and cats do not have to be registered before being sold. As such, the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) are not able to provide details of dogs and cats imported to the UK that were/weren't registered for sale. APHA are not able to provide

details regarding licences issued to businesses selling dogs and cats as this information is held by individual Local Authorities. Individual local authorities can be contacted via this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/find-local-council>

Please find data below regarding the number of dogs and cats imported under both the Pet Travel Scheme and the commercial (Balai) import requirements.

	2018		2019		2020 (to end August)	
	Dogs	Cats	Dogs	Cats	Dogs	Cats
Pets	307357	28979	307263	31890	112590	12855
Commercial	37144	2529	39566	2841	31100	1801

The data regarding the Pet Travel Scheme covers pets entering Great Britain and is based on information provided by checkers employed by approved carriers of pet animals.

The data for commercial dog imports covers imported to the UK and was extracted from TRACES. TRACES (Trade Control and Expert System) is a European Commission system employed by EU member states to facilitate and record animal/animal product movements into and throughout the EU. These figures cover all commercially imported dogs including commercial puppies, rescue dogs, research dogs and unaccompanied pets.

APHA do not record the country of origin for compliant animals entering Great Britain under the Pet Travel Scheme. The country of origin of most of the commercially imported dogs and cats in 2018, 2019 and 2020 was Romania.

The information that we have provided is a true reflection of the information that we have access to. We can't guarantee the accuracy of this data, as we can only rely on the information that has been input into TRACES and the pets returns by a third party.

Information disclosed in response to this FOI request is releasable to the public. In keeping with the spirit and effect of the FOI and the government's Transparency Agenda, this letter and the information disclosed to you may be placed on GOV.UK, together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context. No information identifying you will be placed on the GOV.UK website.

An Annex is attached which explains the copyright that applies to the information being released to you and contact details should you be unhappy with the service you have received.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact the Access to Information Team at the email address below. During the current Coronavirus outbreak, our offices will be closed.

Yours sincerely

ACCESS TO INFORMATION TEAM

Email: enquiries@apha.gov.uk

Annex

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Complaints

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request, you may make a complaint or appeal against our decision under section 17(7) of the FOIA or under regulation 11 of the EIRs, as applicable, within 40 working days of the date of this letter. Please write to the Access to Information Manager at the address at the top of this letter or email enquiries@apha.gov.uk and the team will arrange for an internal review of your case.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, section 50 of the FOIA and regulation 18 of the EIRs gives you the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) for a decision. Please note that generally the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have first exhausted APHA's own complaints procedure. The ICO can be contacted at:

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

Coronavirus

However, following the changes to Government advice, from Tuesday 24 March 2020 the ICO offices will be closed. They will therefore not be able to collect correspondence sent via post. Where possible, they ask that you [contact them online](#) or call on 0303 123 1113