



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

Animal and Plant Health Agency
Access to Information Team
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www.gov.uk/apha

Our Ref: ATIC2223

[REDACTED]
{By Email}

24 November 2020

Dear [REDACTED]

PROVISION OF REQUESTED INFORMATION

Thank you for your request for information about dogs seized at borders which we received on 06 November 2020. Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI).

The information you requested and our response is detailed below:

“May I ask the following of APHA

For 2018, 2019 and 2020 so far, can you tell me the number of dogs seized by APHA (Animal and Plant Health Agency)

1 / at the UK border

2/ at the border between England and Scotland

The Animal and Plant Health Agency are not responsible for enforcement. Trading Standards are the body responsible for enforcement, including the seizure and quarantine of dogs under the Rabies Importation Order. APHA do not carry out checks at the border between England and Scotland.

However since December 2015 APHA has been taking an intelligence-led approach at Dover aimed at disrupting the illegal importation of puppies and abuse of the Pet Travel Scheme. As part of this activity APHA is working with the Dogs Trust and Kent County Council to quarantine underage dogs intercepted at both Dover Port and Eurotunnel.

Data for dogs intercepted and quarantined as part of this scheme can be found below.

Year	Intercepted	Quarantined
2018	255	133
2019	333	141
2020 (Jan-Sept)	516	309

3/ Any details of other animals (types/numbers) would also be instructive.

4/ Can you provide a narrative of APHA's work to prevent dogs/animals, for instance the objective of stopping cross-border animal trade."

Responsibility for stopping the illegal movement of dogs begins in the country of origin. When cases of illegal puppy movements under the Pet Travel Scheme are discovered, officials will raise instances of abuse of the scheme with the authorities in the relevant countries. It is APHA's responsibility to maintain effective border controls.

It is also important to recognise the illegal trafficking of dogs is ultimately driven by demand. Defra has published [guidance](#) on buying a pet. This guidance contains guidelines to follow when buying a dog such as buying from a reputable supplier and viewing the animal and its documentation, and also highlights the trade in illegal imports.

Defra also works closely with the Pet Advertising Advisory Group to drive up standards for online advertisements and make potential pet owners and website operators more aware of rogue dealers.

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

Copyright

The information supplied to you continues to be protected by copyright. You are free to use it for your own purposes, including for private study and non-commercial research, and for any other purpose authorised by an exception in current copyright law. Documents (except photographs or logos) can also be used in the UK without requiring permission for the purposes of news reporting. Any other re-use, for example commercial publication, would require the permission of the copyright holder.

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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