



Our Ref: ATIC3006

[REDACTED]
{By Email}

08 March 2023

Dear [REDACTED]

PROVISION OF REQUESTED INFORMATION

Thank you for your request for information about dog imports, which the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) received on 09 February 2023. Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000.

The information you requested and the response is detailed below:

"I am writing to request as much information as possible regarding dogs suspected of being illegally imported into the UK between 1st January 2017 - 31st December 2022. I would like to see information on:

- The number of dogs seized for being noncompliant under the Pet Travel Scheme
- The number of dogs seized for being noncompliant under the Balai Directive
- The number of dogs seized under the Rabies Import Order 1974 (as per an ID46 form)
- The number of dogs suspected as being illegally imported into the UK in total.

I would like this data to include:

- the number of dogs seized and held per case of noncompliance;
- the dog(s)'s country of origin;
- the date of landing in the UK;
- The point of entry in the UK, e.g. which port, airport, etc the seizure took place at
- the age of the dog(s);
- the date the seizure was licensed into quarantine;
- The location/ setting the dog(s) was held in quarantine, e.g. whether it was a home quarantine, kennels;
- the date the dog(s) was released;
- the reason for the seizure / licence into quarantine;
- Upon release of the dog(s) if the dog(s) was subsequently a) returned to owner b) rehomed to a new owner c) destroyed."

The attached data (from 1st Jan 2020 to 31st Dec 2022 - our data retention period is 3 years – Appendix 1) relates to all dogs that were illegally landed in Great Britain and quarantined under the Rabies Importation Order. Dogs are only ever seized and quarantined under the Rabies Order. Our records do not show whether the quarantined animal was imported under the Pet Travel Scheme or the Balai Directive. All pets seized were quarantined in external kennels.

The definition of ‘illegally landed’ does not necessarily mean the animal was smuggled into Great Britain. Our definition of an illegal landing is any dog, cat or ferret that is landed in Great Britain which does not meet the import requirements and therefore requires quarantine under the Rabies Importation Order. While these figures may include some smuggled animals, it also includes:

- pet animals that arrive at UK airports and during the pets check are found to be non-compliant (Pet checks are carried out by independent organisations)
- animals that are found ‘inland’ and after a trading standards investigation are found to be non-compliant

APHA can’t provide the following info as we don’t hold it:

- point of entry into the UK
- age of the dogs, but have included Puppy scheme letters which are all puppies
- where the dogs went after being released
- where entries are blank on Appendix 1

This information is not held by APHA.

This is the information that APHA hold however the Border Force Agency may hold more and they can be contacted here:

[Border Force - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

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 or postal address at the top of this letter.

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

If you need to contact the ICO, it's best to do so online. Please click [here](#) for contact details. You can also call them on 0303 123 1113.