

[REDACTED]  
{By Email}

Our Ref: ATIC1231

29 January 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

## PROVISION OF REQUESTED INFORMATION

Thank you for your request for information about circus licences which we received on 3 January 2018. Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

The information you requested and our response is detailed below:

“The names and locations of all licenced circuses that feature wild animals in the UK, the date they were granted a licence, and the animals covered by the licence.

The [Welfare of Wild Animals in Travelling Circuses \(England\) Regulations 2012](#) require all travelling circuses in England to be licensed by Defra. As of the date of your request (3 January 2018), since the Regulations came into force (in January 2013) two travelling circuses have been licensed under the Regulations. Licences are typically awarded for a period of 12 months. Details of the current licences of those two circuses are provided below:

- [Peter Jolly’s Circus](#). Winter Quarters: Shropshire. Current licence valid from 20/03/2017 to 19/03/2018. Licensed wild animals - 4 Reindeer, 3 Racoons, 3 Zebra, a Camel, a Fox, a Macaw and a Zebu
- [Circus Mondao](#). Winter Quarters: Lincolnshire. Current licence valid from 20/03/2017 to 19/03/2018. Licensed wild animals – 2 Camels, 2 Reindeer and 1 Zebra

The names and locations of all organisations in the UK denied a license to become circuses that feature wild animals over the last 10 years, and the date and reason for refusal.

The [Welfare of Wild Animals in Travelling Circuses \(England\) Regulations 2012](#) came into force in January 2013. As of 3 January 2018, one circus has been refused a licence

under the Regulations. An application from a Mr Thomas Chipperfield for his 'Big Cats Live' circus (Winter Quarters – Staffordshire) for a licence under the Regulations 2012 was received by Defra on 27 April 2017. The application was refused on 11 July 2017. As of 3 January 2018, this decision is still subject to an appeal.

The reasons for refusal are currently being withheld as they fall under the exemption in section 31(1)(c) of the FOIA which relate(s) to the administration of justice. Section 31(1)(c) concerns information where disclosure would undermine court proceedings, such as an appeal.

In applying this exemption we have had to balance the public interest in withholding the information against the public interest in disclosure. We recognise that there is a public interest in disclosure of information concerning the applications received from travelling circuses which use wild animals. We also recognise the extra public interest in this case, as it involves the potential use in a travelling circus of three big cats. On the other hand, there is a strong public interest in withholding the information because placing the information in the public domain could interfere with a court's ability to conduct appeal proceedings fairly. There is a public interest in ensuring that the ability of a court to give judgment in a case is not undermined or otherwise adversely affected by the premature disclosure of information.

Therefore, we have concluded that, in all the circumstances of the case, the information should be withheld under Section 31(1)(c) of the Act at this time.

The names and locations of all circuses that feature wild animals in the UK to lose their licenses over the last 10 years, and the date and reason for the loss of their licenses.

No circus has had their licence revoked since the Regulations came into force. One circus has had its licensed suspended since the Regulations came into force. The licence was suspended on 2 December 2015 for twenty days. Details of that suspension have been released in response to a previous FOIA request here:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/509919/rfi\\_8044\\_mondao\\_reinstatement\\_inspection\\_report.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/509919/rfi_8044_mondao_reinstatement_inspection_report.pdf)

As the information is reasonably accessible to you by other means, section 21 of the FOIA exempts APHA from providing a copy of the information with this response to your request.

Information disclosed in response to FOI request is releasable to the public. In keeping with the spirit and effect of the FOIA 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.

I attach an Annex 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.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@apha.gsi.gov.uk)

## **Annex**

### **Copyright**

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### **Complaints**

If you are unhappy with the result of your request for information you may request an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this letter.

If you wish to request an internal review, please contact: The Access to Information Team at [enquiries@apha.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@apha.gsi.gov.uk) or at the postal address at the top of this letter, who will arrange for an internal review of your case.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Please note that generally the Information Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have first exhausted APHA's own complaints procedure. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

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