



Animal &  
Plant Health  
Agency

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[REDACTED]  
{By Email}

Our Ref: ATIC1009

31 January 2017

Dear [REDACTED]

## PROVISION OF REQUESTED INFORMATION

Thank you for your request for information about puppy imports which we received on 7 January 2017. Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

The information you requested and our response is detailed below:

“Can you please provide me with an answer for each of the following calendar years so that the figures are broken down and not given as one overall total - 2014, 2015 and 2016:

1. How many puppies were detected at our ports of entry - that were suspected of being smuggled here illegally? Therefore they were under age, or entered the country without a valid pet passport. I believe the term used is "illegally landed" or illegal importation.
2. Is it possible to break down the port of entry figures to show how many of these dogs arrived at the Port of Dover and the Channel Tunnel terminals?

If a similar request has already been made, could you instead please direct me to that answer from your disclosure log?”

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, and it also includes:

- pet animals that arrive at UK airports and during the pets check are found to be non-compliant for some reason

- animals that are found 'inland' and after a trading standards investigation are found to be non-compliant

While we do record whether the animal is a puppy on our licencing spreadsheet we rely on Trading Standards to advise us if an animal is a puppy when they submit the paperwork to us. There is no requirement for Trading Standards to inform us of the age of the dog, we only record this if it is mentioned on any paperwork sent to us. So while the information that we have provided is a true reflection of the information that we have access to, we cannot guarantee the accuracy of this data as we can only rely on the information that has been provided to us by a third party.

Total number of illegally landed puppies in Great Britain (GB), as defined above:

Year	Number puppies recorded by APHA
2014	208
2015	259
2016	688

Also see Appendix 1 for information APHA hold regarding puppies imported via the Dover port and Eurotunnel.

The figures shown in Appendix 1 are where welfare notices were served.

Please note since December 2015 APHA has been taking an intelligence-led approach at Dover Port aimed at disrupting the illegal importation of puppies and abuses of the Pet Travel Scheme, which is yielding positive results. As part of this activity APHA is working with Dogs Trust and Kent County Council to facilitate the rehoming of underage dogs abandoned in quarantine at Dover Port and Eurotunnel.

Information disclosed in response to this 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**

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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

## Appendix 1 - Puppies imported via the Dover port and Eurotunnel.

Year	Eurotunnel Welfare Notice	Eurotunnel ID46 (Quarantine)	Dover Welfare Notice	Dover ID46 (Quarantine)
2014	2	1	24	1
2015	5	2	18	3
2016	43	45	110	74

- 2014 – 28 interventions and 2 consignments underage
- 2015 – 28 interventions and 5 consignments underage
- 2016 – 282 interventions and 119 consignments underage

During 2014 and the greater part of 2015 advice letters were given out on behalf of Kent Trading Standards rather than Welfare Notices being served on non-compliant transporters. Therefore the intervention figures do not accurately reflect the number of vehicles stopped.

These figures relate to consignments not number of animals seized.