



Animal &  
Plant Health  
Agency

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[REDACTED]  
{By Email}

Our Ref: ATIC0964

21 November 2016

Dear [REDACTED]

## PROVISION OF REQUESTED INFORMATION

Thank you for your clarified request for information about elephant ivory which we received on 1 November 2016. Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

The information you requested and our response is detailed below:

“I would be grateful if you could inform me how many export permits for post 1947 Elephant Ivory have been issued by the U.K. the quantities involved, and the countries to where the Ivory is shipped.”

Clarity was then sought over the requested period of time and the items of ivory:

“I request information about RAW Ivory exports over the last ten years.”

APHA want to be as open as possible in answering requests. The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) itself also requires us to help people obtain the information they are looking for. Your request covers information regarding post 1947 elephant ivory between 2006 and 2016. The 2016 data is not yet centrally located and is currently contained on paper application forms. Gathering this specific year together would involve a significant cost and diversion of resources from APHA's other work. To supply you with the requested information for 2016, we would have to examine approximately 20,000 CITES applications to identify whether the item was raw ivory, and post 1947.

Section 12(1) of the FOIA allows us to refuse a request for information if we estimate that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit, which currently stands at £600.

On the basis of our estimates, we consider that to supply the data for the entire requested period (2006 to 2016) would exceed this cost limit and, as such, we are refusing your request as it stands.

However, in accordance with Section 16 of the FOIA, APHA are to provide advice and assistance regarding information requests.

Please see Appendix 1 for the number of 'returned used' CITES re-export permits, for raw post 1947 elephant ivory between 1 January 2006 and 31 December 2015.

The information for 2016 will be centrally located by early 2017 and is due for completion at the end of February.

In addition APHA can advise that all ivory export/re-exports are recorded on the CITES Trade database which can be found here:

<https://trade.cites.org/>

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**

### **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

**Appendix 1 – Post 1947 raw ivory re-export permits issued and returned used by the United Kingdom between 01/01/2006 and 31/12/2015 – *Elephantidae* – All elephant species**

**Table A: Post 1947**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of Re-export permits</b>	<b>Country of Import</b>	<b>Part/Derivative TUS = Tusk</b>
2006	1	Switzerland	TUS
2007	6	South Africa	TUS
2007	2	New Zealand	TUS
2007	2	Thailand	TUS
2008	2	Canada	TUS
2009	4	United Arab Emirate	TUS
2010	2	USA	TUS
2010	2	China	TUS
2010	2	Australia	TUS
2010	1	New Zealand	TUS
2011	1	Australia	TUS
2012	1	United Arab Emirate	TUS
2012	2	Canada	TUS
2012	2	Qatar	TUS
2012	1	New Zealand	TUS
2013	1	Norway	TUS
2014	2	Australia	TUS
2014	2	South Africa	TUS
2015	2	Jersey	TUS