

Our ref: 715,980

Your ref:

NDD - Directorate Services Team
Manager
9th Floor
The Cube
199 Wharfside Street
Birmingham B1 1RN

12 February 2015

I am writing regarding your request for information, received on 19 January 2015. In that request, you asked us for the following information:

- 1. The annual number of canine fatalities handled by the Highways Agency and its contractors since the year 2000 when the mandatory policy started.*
- 2. The annual numbers of canine fatalities in that period which were handled according to the guidelines (the paragraph at the end of 7.17 provides some leeway).*

We have estimated that the cost of compiling information relating to these two questions will exceed £600. Section 12 of the Act does not oblige us to comply with requests if they exceed this limit.

We are unable to provide figures for the annual numbers of canine fatalities as this information is not held centrally and would be difficult to extract from any logs that are kept by the various contractors. Please also be aware that some of this information is no longer held by the Agency due to the many changes of contractor over the past 15 years.

We have, however, previously published a response to a similar Freedom of Information request for dog and cat deaths numbers from 1 September 2012 to 10 September 2014: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/animal-deaths>

- 3. This may be more difficult, but some indication of the costs of handling a fatality (a monetary value would be good, but failing that an indication of operative time would be useful).*

This information is not held centrally. The Agency's maintenance contracts are structured so that its managing agents are paid a "lump sum" for a wide range of general maintenance duties. These include dead animal removal duties. We do not disaggregate this "lump sum" budget and spend on these particular types of activities, so animal removal costs cannot be extracted.

In keeping with the spirit and effect of the legislation, all information is assumed to be releasable to the public unless exempt. We may therefore be publishing the information you requested, together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context, via our website: <http://www.highways.gov.uk/>

If you are unhappy with the way we have handled your request you may ask for an internal review. Our internal review process is available at: <http://www.highways.gov.uk/foicomplaints>

If you require a print copy, please phone the Highways Agency Information Line on 0300 123 5000; or e-mail ha_info@highways.gsi.gov.uk . You should contact me if you wish to complain.

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. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

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

If you have any queries about this email, please contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

Email: ndd_c_dst@highways.gsi.gov.uk