



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

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[REDACTED]
{By Email}

Our Ref: ATIC1195

24 November 2017

Dear [REDACTED]

PROVISION OF REQUESTED INFORMATION

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

The information you requested and our response is detailed below:

Notes on any data provided below:

The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) is an Executive Agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. For information on the Pet Travel Scheme (PETS), APHA only holds records for Great Britain (GB) (England, Scotland and Wales).

Information for Northern Ireland should be requested from the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs: <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/>

APHA additionally has access to UK statistical data from the EU Commission's Trade Control and Expert System (TRACES) system, for commercial imports and exports. The information extracted from here is a true reflection of the information that we have access to. APHA cannot guarantee the accuracy of this data, as we can only rely on the information that has been input into TRACES by a third party.

The data for commercial dog imports was extracted from TRACES through the data warehouse facility by searching for imports of *canis familiaris*. These figures cover all commercially imported dogs including commercial puppies, rescue dogs, research dogs and unaccompanied pets. In some cases imports were recorded on TRACES as "*Canis familiaris/Felis catus*", so we could not tell if these were cat or dog imports. These are included the spreadsheets in column "Mixed dogs/cats."

"Could you please provide me with the total number of dogs imported into the UK in 2015, 2016 and 2017. Please let me know the number of those imported under PETS for each of those years and the number of those imported commercially for each of those years."

Imports under PETS

The number of dogs entering Great Britain (GB) with a pet passport under the Pet Travel Scheme (PETS) for 2015 and 2016 is available on GOV.UK via the following link:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/616302/ATIC1085.pdf

As this piece of information is reasonably accessible to you by other means, it is exempt from disclosure under section 21 FOIA.

The number of dogs entering GB with a pet passport under the Pet Travel Scheme between 1 January 2017 and 31 October 2017 is 239,031. Data is collated on a month by month basis.

Dog imports under TRACES

The number of dogs entering the UK under TRACES for 2015 and 2016 is available via the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/foieir-responses-published-by-apha-july-2017>

The number of dogs entering the UK under TRACES between 01/01/2017 and 07/11/2017 (date of your request) is:

Dogs – 34325
Mixed dogs/cats - 302

Could you please tell me how many of the total number of dogs had UK passports?

Following a search of our paper and electronic records, I have established the information here that you have requested is not held by APHA.

Could you please then give me the number of dogs imported from Hungary in 2015, 2016 and 2017. Please separate those imported under PETS and those commercially imported

Imports under PETS

Under section 14(2) of the FIOA, APHA does not have to comply with a request for information which is identical, or substantially similar to a previous request submitted by the same individual.

In this instance APHA complied with an identical request (reference ATIC0873) you submitted in May 2016 to which we responded in a letter dated 24 June 2016. This supplied you with figures for dogs imported under the Pet Travel Scheme (PTS) 2015. It was explained why 2016 figures for dog imports under PTS is not held by APHA. This would also apply to 2017.

APHA have therefore applied section 14(2) to this part of your request.

Dog imports under TRACES

The number of dogs entering the UK from Hungary under TRACES for 2015 and 2016 is available on GOV.UK via the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/foieir-responses-published-by-apha-july-2017>

The number of dogs entering the UK from Hungary under TRACES between 1 January 2017 and 7 November 2017 (date of your request) is 1225.

Could I also please have the above information for dogs being exported from Lithuania? Poland and then for those being imported from Belgium.

Imports under PETS

Following a search of our paper and electronic records, the information that you have requested here is not held by APHA. The reasons were explained to you in a previous FOI response -ATIC0873.

Dog imports under TRACES

The number of dogs entering the UK from Lithuania, Poland and Belgium under TRACES for 2015 and 2016 is available on GOV.UK via the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/foieir-responses-published-by-apha-july-2017>

The number of dogs entering the UK from Lithuania, Poland and Belgium under TRACES between 1 January 2017 and 7 November 2017, for Lithuania, Poland and Belgium is:

Lithuania - 5
Poland - 404
Belgium - 4

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

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 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