



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

Animal and Plant Health Agency
Access to Information Team
Weybourne Building
Ground Floor
Woodham Lane
New Haw
Addlestone
Surrey
KT15 3NB

F 01932 357608

www.gov.uk/apha

Our Ref: ATIC1362

[REDACTED]
{By Email}

29 June 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

PROVISION OF REQUESTED INFORMATION

Thank you for your request for information commercial dog transporter authorisations which we received on 06 June 2018. Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI).

The information you requested and our response is detailed below:

'I was hoping someone could tell me the following:

1. How many current type 1 and type 2 transporter authorisations are in place for commercial dog-related businesses (importers/charities/breeders/sellers)

There are 5113 currently valid Type 1 and 2 Transporter Authorisations where the Transporter has been granted authorisation to transport 'Other' species. Please note that this also includes transporters who are authorised to transport 'All' species.

2. Are there any current transporter authorisations for dog sitting/dog walking businesses? If so how many?

The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) do not record the purpose of an authorisation. Therefore APHA are unable to advise on whether any of the 5113 are for commercial dog-related businesses.

3. Have any specific conditions ever been imposed on an authorisation in regards to the transport of dogs/puppies?

In order to check which Transporter Authorisations contain conditions which restrict the transporter to transport animals APHA would have to locate all 5113 copies of authorisations and check each Transporter Authorisation individually. Each Transporter Authorisation is a bespoke document containing a variety of conditions placed upon the authorisation. All Transporter Authorisations with a start date prior to April 2014 were stored as paper copies, these Transporter Authorisations have been destroyed when the

APHA Centre for International Trade – Carlisle office flooded in December 2015. In light of these circumstances we are unable to supply this information and following guidance from the Information Commissioners Office (ICO) a Section 12 exemption has been applied, details of which can be located following question 5.

4. Does APHA inspect vehicles transporting dogs/puppies at ports or control posts?

APHA conduct mid-journey compliance checks on vehicles at ports where APHA have a presence. There are no requirements under Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport for vehicles transporting canines to stay at livestock control posts.

Not every vehicle transporting animals is checked, the checks are either random or intelligence based.

5. Have any non-conformities been found with vehicles transporting dogs/puppies? If so what have they been/how many?'

In the last 3 years there have been 578 checks on vehicles transporting dogs, and 371 of these have shown non-compliances.

In order to conclude whether any recorded non-compliance involves the vehicle rather than a documentation or welfare issue, each statutory notice would have to be located and analysed. Following advice laid down by the Information Commissioners Office (ICO) a Section 12 exemption has been applied,

Section 12

Questions 3 of your request has been withheld under section 12(1).of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

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, and equates to 24 hours of staff time.

It may be helpful to explain why your request would involve a significant cost. The information you have requested is held in 3 particular locations and formats. It is not held in a collective way to enable APHA to easily access it. We would need to manually interrogate the records.

In accordance with the Information Commissioner Office (ICO) guidance on section 12, APHA can confirm a representative sampling exercise has been carried out.

The timings have been calculated for locating, analysing and recording each Transporter Authorisation is 10 minutes. Therefore, 3940 (5113 minus the 1173 lost to the flood)

authorisations would have to be checked. The timings have been calculated for locating, analysing and recording each Transporter Authorisation is 10 minutes. The total time to check all 3940 records would amount to approximately 657 hours. This is in excess of the 24 hour limit set out in section 12(1), and therefore the information has been withheld.

Question 5 of your request has been withheld under section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

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, and equates to 24 hours of staff time.

It may be helpful to explain why your request would involve a significant cost. The information you have requested is held in 3 particular locations and formats. It is not held in a collective way to enable APHA to easily access it. We would need to manually interrogate the records.

In accordance with the Information Commissioner Office (ICO) guidance on section 12, APHA can confirm a representative sampling exercise has been carried out.

The timings have been calculated for locating, analysing and recording each Statutory Notice is 10 minutes. The total time to check all 578 records would amount to approximately 62 hours. This is in excess of the 24 hour limit set out in section 12(1), and therefore the information has been withheld.

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

The information supplied to you is Crown copyright, unless otherwise stated, and is protected by the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988. You are free to use it for your own purposes, including for the purposes of news reporting. You can find details on the arrangements for re-using Crown copyright information at:

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/open-government-licence.htm>

Information you receive which is **not** subject to Crown Copyright continues to be protected by the copyright of the person, or organisation, from which the information originated. You must ensure that you gain their permission before reproducing any third party (non Crown Copyright) information.

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