



Animal &  
Plant Health  
Agency

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Our Ref: ATIC1420

[REDACTED]  
{By Email}

17 Aug 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

## PROVISION OF REQUESTED INFORMATION

Thank you for your request for information on Pet Travel which we received on 09 Aug 2018. Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI)

The information you requested and our response is detailed below:

- 1) If a deal on free movement of pets is not negotiated in the Brexit negotiations, what measures would EU pet owners have to take to bring their animal to the UK (as well as UK-based pet owners to the EU)?

Please note that in the immediate future there will be no impact and current rules and procedures will apply. The government will be starting to consider the implications to trade to try and ensure that any impact is minimised and that market access will continue. I am afraid we have no further information at the moment and you will therefore need to get in contact closer to the time of the EU exit.

- 2) According to the Guardian newspaper:

"Currently a dog, cat or even a per ferret travelling from the UK to the EU and back again can do so without being quarantined, as long as they have a passport and have been microchipped."

How could Brexit affect this streamlined procedure?

Please note that in the immediate future there will be no impact and current rules and procedures will apply. The government will be starting to consider the implications to trade to try and ensure that any impact is minimised and that market access will continue. I am afraid we have no further information at the moment and you will therefore need to get in contact closer to the time of the EU exit.

3) Approximately how many pets enter and leave the UK towards the EU, and vice-versa, in a given year?

The data regarding the Pet Travel Scheme is based on information provided by checkers employed by approved carriers of pet animals. The information that we have provided for 2015 to 2017 is a true reflection of the information that we have access to. We can't guarantee the accuracy of this data, as we can only rely on the information that has been provided by a third party.

With regards to the annual throughput for pets, the figures are higher than previous years as prior to 2015 we relied on pet carriers to input data electronically onto a legacy database. We began to have reservations about how accurate this data was and therefore issued a caveat with any stats we provided. Because of this APHA moved to a new method of collecting data which is more accurate, although still reliant on accurate and timely data entry by the external companies (the carriers).

<b>Pets entering the UK from the EU</b>			
<b>Year</b>	<b>Cats</b>	<b>Dogs</b>	<b>Ferrets</b>
2015	14496	164836	90
2016	24145	275876	129
2017	26480	287016	765

APHA are not able to provide the data regarding the number of pets travelling from Great Britain to the EU as we do not record information of pets travelling with a passport to the EU under the Pet Travel Scheme (PETS).

4) In a no deal Brexit scenario, what rules would apply on quarantine for animals travelling from the EU to a third party state and vice-versa?

Please note that in the immediate future there will be no impact and current rules and procedures will apply. The government will be starting to consider the implications to trade to try and ensure that any impact is minimised and that market access will continue. I am afraid we have no further information at the moment and you will therefore need to get in contact closer to the time of the EU exit.

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](mailto:enquiries@apha.gsi.gov.uk)

## Annex

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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