



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

Animal and Plant Health Agency
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Our Ref: ATIC2059

[REDACTED]
{By Email}

19 June 2020

Dear [REDACTED]

PROVISION OF REQUESTED INFORMATION

Thank you for your request for information about the import of lion trophy hunting products which we received on 08 June 2020. Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI).

The information you requested and our response is detailed below:

“I refer you to a previous answer to a Freedom of Information Act (2000) you supplied concerning lion trophy hunting imports into the UK (your reference ATIC0932 – your letter 26 September 2016).

We would request further information from you under FOI Act (2000) to supply us with the following information:

1. In your letter of 26 September 2016, APHA indicates that during 2000-2015, 29 lion trophies/hunting products were imported into the UK. CITES official trade records indicate that during 2000-2015, at least 123 lion trophies/hunting products were imported. Could you please account for this discrepancy?”

Import permits for hunting trophies for lions (*Panthera leo*) have only been required in all cases since 2015. Before this date these hunting trophies could, if certain criteria were met, be imported to the UK without obtaining a CITES import permit under a derogation in place for the import of personal effects. Therefore the figures prior to this date previously provided are what APHA have issued import permits for and may not reflect the actual imports.

“2. From 2015 to 2018 (where reliable CITES records end – always two years behind current date) CITES trade records indicate that the UK imported a further 51 lion “trophies” and possibly 13 further lion hunting trophies imported under the “skins”/“skulls” categories. Exporters include South Africa, Namibia, Mozambique, Tanzania. Could you please supply us with your totals of imported lion hunting trophies/skins/skulls to either match or dispute the official CITES trade records during this time?”

APHA is an Executive Agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and also works on behalf of the Scottish Government, Welsh Government and Food Standards Agency to safeguard animal and plant health for the benefit of people, the environment and the economy.

From 2015-2018, the UK recorded the following items as confirmed imports. 32 Lion hunting trophies, 3 Skins and 8 Skulls. Over this period of time the definition of a Hunting Trophy has changed, where possible, to reflect the numbers of animals traded.

“3. Could you supply us with all lion product numbers imported into the UK in 2019 under the “trophy/skin/skull” categories?”

In 2019 the UK recorded the import of 5 Lion Hunting Trophies. There were no individual records for Skin or Skull as they have been incorporated into the definition of trophies.

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.

An Annex is attached 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. During the current Coronavirus outbreak, our offices will be closed.

Yours sincerely

ACCESS TO INFORMATION TEAM

Email: enquiries@apha.gov.uk

Annex

Copyright

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Complaints

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request, you may make a complaint or appeal against our decision under section 17(7) of the FOIA or under regulation 11 of the EIRs, as applicable, within 40 working days of the date of this letter. Please write to the Access to Information Manager at the address at the top of this letter or email enquiries@apha.gov.uk and the team will arrange for an internal review of your case.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, section 50 of the FOIA and regulation 18 of the EIRs gives you the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) for a decision. Please note that generally the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have first exhausted APHA's own complaints procedure. The ICO can be contacted at:

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

Coronavirus

However, following the changes to Government advice, from Tuesday 24 March 2020 the ICO offices will be closed. They will therefore not be able to collect correspondence sent via post. Where possible, they ask that you [contact them online](#) or call on 0303 123 1113