



Animal &  
Plant Health  
Agency

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Our Ref: ATIC2094

[REDACTED]  
{By Email}

29 July 2020

Dear [REDACTED]

## PROVISION OF REQUESTED INFORMATION

Thank you for your request for information on illegal pet trade which we received on 16 July 2020. Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI).

The information you requested and our response is detailed below:

“On illegal pet trade in the UK.

We did find a lot of very useful information on your website especially the Cats, Dogs and Ferrets Quarantine Licences 2013, 2014 and 2015 excel files but we would be very interested to know if we could access the data for 2016 to 2019.

We were also wondering if you do have record from more exotic species (such as reptiles for example) and they trade (legal and/or illegal) in the UK? It will be very interesting to investigate those as well. It looks like there is data published for exotic animal import licences 2014 and other rabies susceptible mammals import licences 2014 but could we access data for several years? Do we know if those species have been legally or illegally imported in the UK?”

The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) only holds records of illegally imported animals where the animal requires quarantine under the Rabies (Importation of Dogs, Cats and Other Mammals) Order. Please find data attached regarding all illegally imported animals quarantined under the Rabies Order between 2016 and 2019 at Appendix 1.

The definition of ‘illegally landed’ does not necessarily mean the animal was smuggled into Great Britain. Our definition of an illegal landing is any dog, cat or ferret that is landed in Great Britain which does not meet the import requirements and therefore requires quarantine under the Rabies Importation Order. While these figures may include some smuggled animals, it also includes:

- pet animals that arrive at UK airports and during the pets check are found to be non-compliant
- animals that are found 'inland' and after a trading standards investigation are found to be non-compliant

Data on illegal imports outside of the Rabies Order are not held by APHA. This information would come under the remit of the individual Local Authority.

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

## Annex

### Copyright

The information supplied to you continues to be protected by copyright. You are free to use it for your own purposes, including for private study and non-commercial research, and for any other purpose authorised by an exception in current copyright law. Documents (except photographs or logos) can also be used in the UK without requiring permission for the purposes of news reporting. Any other re-use, for example commercial publication, would require the permission of the copyright holder.

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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](mailto: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