



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

Animal and Plant Health Agency
Access to Information Team
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www.gov.uk/apha

Our Ref: ATIC1797

[Redacted]

{By Email}

29 August 2019

Dear [Redacted]

PROVISION OF REQUESTED INFORMATION

Thank you for your request for information regarding imports of live animals for the exotic pet trade, which we received on 6 August 2019. Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI).

The information you requested and our response is detailed below:

"I am writing to make a freedom of information request on data of live animal imports relating to the exotic pet trade held on the Trade Control and Expert System (TRACES) database, or held otherwise.

I would like data relating to the number of non-domesticated animals imported to the UK for commercial purposes, including both imports from non-EU countries and EU trade into the UK.

Please provide available data, listing the number of live animals imported for each of the past 5 years:

- Broken down by calendar year (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018)
- Broken down by species or lowest available taxonomic category
- Including the country of origin
- Including the country from where consigned
- Including the animal source (wild-caught, captive-bred, ranched etc.) if available
- Including the purpose for import (commercial, zoo, private collection etc.) if available
- Including all reptiles, amphibians, birds, non-domesticated mammals
- Excluding plants, fish, invertebrates
- Excluding all livestock
- Excluding other domesticated mammals: cat, dog, guinea pig, donkey, horse, ferret, rabbit, fancy mouse, fancy rat. Please include other mammals not on this list whose status as domesticated or not is uncertain

Please provide any necessary data keys to enable me to interpret the data sets provided if not set out as above."

We then received clarity that this request was for both endangered animals, and those not in danger.

All the information, including 2018 figures, are already available in the public domain on the CITIES Trade Database regarding the exotic species imports into the UK; and any other country where they have provided their yearly returns to the CITES Secretariat.

The link below refers:-
<https://trade.cites.org/>

If you have difficulty sourcing any of the information you should speak to the Secretariat for guidance. The contact details are available on <https://www.cites.org/> (Please see reference to Section 21 regarding this below).

Attached at Appendix 1 is the information regarding animals not in danger. The information provided is a true reflection of the data 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.

TRACES does not record the animal source (wild-caught, captive-bred, ranched etc.). TRACES also does not record the purpose of import as the exotic pet trade, and as such this data covers all commercial imports of the specified animals. The purpose for import (commercial, zoo, private collection etc.) has not been provided as TRACES does not break down the purpose of import in this manner.

Details of commodity codes listed on the data can be found at the below link.

<https://www.gov.uk/trade-tariff>

Section 21

As this information is reasonably accessible to you by other means, it is exempt from disclosure under section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act.

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.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:

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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.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