



Animal &  
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Agency

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Our Ref: ATIC2587

[REDACTED]  
{By Email}

7 December 2021

Dear [REDACTED]

## PROVISION OF REQUESTED INFORMATION

Thank you for your request for information about import and export figures, which APHA received on 10 November 2021. Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000.

The information you requested and the response is detailed below:

"I, collecting data for my dissertation and was wondering if I could ask for the following information – Import and export of dogs to and from the UK from 2010 to 2021 (to date) Please could give me the figures for:

1. Number of dogs commercially imported (under the Balai Directive) into the UK between 2010 - 2021 (broken down by month and year).
  2. Number of dogs imported from abroad via the PETS scheme in each of those years (broken down by month and year).
- Could I also have the same for the total number export of dogs out of the UK between 2010 and 2021 ( broken down by month and year) please?"

Please see the data you have requested at Appendix 1. Please note that for 2016 to 2020 the data for commercial dogs imported (under the Balai Directive) was extracted from TRACES (Trade Control and Expert System) through the data warehouse facility by searching for imports of *canis familiaris*. These figures cover all commercially imported dogs including commercial puppies, rescue dogs, research dogs and unaccompanied pets. TRACES no longer holds data prior to 2016 so APHA are unable to supply data for the previous years requested.

The information extracted from here is a true reflection of the information that APHA 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.

For 2021 since leaving the EU, the import data was collated from PIMS which is APHA's (Post Import Management System) and accounts for all Imports that have been entered using IPAFFS (Import of products, animals, food and feed system).

Since leaving the EU APHA issues (EHC) Export Health Certificate 8454EHC for dogs to EU. APHA are unable to provide the number of dogs as this information is not

recorded, only the number of consignments. To provide the number of dogs APHA would need to access each individual health certificate and therefore this information has been withheld under Section 12 of the FOIA. Please see additional information below. From 1 January 2021 to 30 June 2021 please note there were no exports of dogs to EU.

The data regarding the Pet Travel Scheme covers pets entering Great Britain and is based on information provided by checkers employed by approved carriers of pet animals. APHA do not hold a monthly breakdown of data prior to April 2017, and the monthly figures for November 2021 have not been released because the month is still in progress.

## **Section 12**

You can refuse a request if deciding whether you hold the information would mean you exceed the cost limit, for example, because it would require an extensive search in a number of locations.

By virtue of regulation 12 (2) of the FOIA, APHA may refuse to disclose information if the request for the information would involve the diversion of resources and incur excessive cost, in some of the circumstances of the case, the public interest in applying the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information. In reaching our decision with respect to the public interest, we considered the following matters:

Regulation 12(2) of the FOIA also requires public authorities to apply a presumption in favour of disclosure. However, there is a strong public interest in withholding the information. Your request covers information some of which may not be held in the same location. Gathering this specific information together, would involve a significant cost and diversion of resources from APHA's other work.

It has been estimated that accessing and reviewing individual health certificates to obtain specific details for each export will exceed the appropriate limit, which currently stands at £600 (£25 per hour). On the basis of our estimates, we consider that the cost would far exceed this limit and, as such, we are refusing your request.

APHA consider that your request falls under regulation 12(2) on cost and resource grounds in determining whether all the information is held. Having carried out the above investigation, we have concluded that, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest falls in favour of applying the exemption.

The information that APHA has provided is a true reflection of the information that we have access to. APHA can not guarantee the accuracy of this data, as we can only rely on the information that has been provided by a third party.

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 or postal address at the top of this letter.

Yours sincerely

**ACCESS TO INFORMATION TEAM**

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

## Annex

### Copyright

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Copyright in other documents may rest with a third party. For information about obtaining permission from a third party see the [Intellectual Property Office's website](#).

### 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

If you need to contact the ICO during the Coronavirus pandemic, it's best to do so online. Please click [here](#) for contact details. You can also call them on 0303 123 1113.