



Our Ref: ATIC2638

[REDACTED]
{By Email}

4 February 2022

Dear [REDACTED]

PROVISION OF REQUESTED INFORMATION

Thank you for your request for information about puppy imports, which APHA received on 10 January 2022. Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000.

The information you requested and the response is detailed below:

“This is an update to freedom of information requests: ATIC1805 and ATIC 1648

For the calendar years 2019, 2020 and. 2021

How many puppies were detected at our ports of entry that were suspected of being smuggled here illegally (illegally landed).

From previous requests it would appear that the data relates to detections at Eurotunnel and the Port of Dover.

Can you please specify if other ports are included and to list them please?”

The Animal Plant and Health Agency have provided the following figures for the years 2019 to 2021 for puppies detected at the ports of entry that were suspected of being illegally landed.

Illegal Puppies			
PORT	2019	2020	2021
Dover	81	268	285
ET Coquelles	53	91	139
ET Folkestone	13	254	136
Harwich	6	8	12
Total	153	621	572

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

The Animal Welfare (Kept Animals) Bill was introduced in Parliament on 8 June 2021. The Bill allows us to protect the welfare of pets by introducing restrictions to crack down on the low welfare movements of pets into Great Britain and includes powers to introduce new restrictions on pet travel and the commercial import of pets on welfare grounds, via secondary legislation.

The Government ran a consultation on proposed restrictions to the commercial and non-commercial movement of pets into Great Britain. We are currently analysing the responses to the consultation and will publish a summary in due course.

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

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

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.