



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

Animal and Plant Health Agency
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www.gov.uk/apha

Our Ref: ATIC2694

[REDACTED]
{By Email}

28 February 2022

Dear [REDACTED]

PROVISION OF REQUESTED INFORMATION

Thank you for your request for information about Zoos, which APHA received on 1 February 2022. Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000.

The information you requested and the response is detailed below:

“Please would it be possible to:-

- Obtain the most current up to date list of licensed GB / UK zoos (which you have previously provided us with).”

The information you have requested can be found in the attached document Appendix 1.

This information was drawn from a list of all zoos in GB which are on our database. The list may not be 100% accurate as it is the responsibility of the individual Local Authorities to alert us to any changes.

The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) only hold information of collections in GB which fit the definition of a zoo within the meaning of the Act. The Zoo Licensing Act 1981 requires the inspection and licensing of all zoos in Great Britain - a zoo is defined as any establishment where animals of wild species are exhibited to the public. Section 1 makes clear that all zoos that are open to the public, with or without charge on seven or more days in a twelve-month period need a licence from their local authority to operate.

- “Do you have a review process which measures the effectiveness of the zoo licensing process in GB. If so can we request the most recent report.”

The operation and implementation of the zoo licensing system in the UK is kept under review by the UK’s Zoos Expert Committee (ZEC). Further information on ZEC can be found here: [UK Zoos Expert Committee \(ZEC\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk). Prior to that

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.

Defra did pay for a research project – “Review of local authorities’ implementation of the Zoo Licensing Act 1981 in England and Wales”. That was in 2011.

It was published on Defra’s RandD website though – so has the advantage of already being in the public domain - [Defra, UK - Science Search](#)

As this information is in the public domain it is exempt citing Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

- “How many zoo inspectors are currently appointed.”

There are currently 44 appointed inspectors.

- “How many times do you have to nominate inspectors in a year (how many requests from LAs do you receive)”

On average we nominate inspectors for around 110 inspections.

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.