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Redacted
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Our ref: FOI2021/24637
27 October 2021

Dear Redacted,

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) Regulations 2018

Thank you for your request for information of 5 October 2021 about the Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) Regulations 2018. We have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Your information request and our response are set out below.

Under the Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) Regulations 2018, I would like the following information as at 1 April 2021:-

- a) *By each reporting local authority, the number of licences in force for each licensable activity in its area, and*
- b) *The average level of fees each local authority has charged for licences it has granted or renewed for each licensable activity in the same reference period (as at 1st April 2021).*

We can confirm that this information is held by Defra. We attach the information at Annex C.

The information attached contains all data returned to Defra by local authorities this year.

Please note that It is up to local authorities to set their fees based on full cost recovery. Many councils will charge a separate application fee and fee for a 1, 2 or 3 year licence in which case the savings come from only having to pay the application fee once over a three year period.

If an operator feels that fees are disproportionate then these should be questioned with the local authority or the ombudsman can be contacted

Under Part 7, section 29 of the Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018, it is the responsibility of each individual local authority to provide the required information to the Secretary of State by the 31st of May each year. Please note that this does not constitute a full dataset, because not all local authorities provided information, and also some local authorities provided information that was either incorrect or incomplete.



We are currently working with local authorities to improve the way that information is submitted to increase the response rates in 2022.

Information disclosed in response to this FOIA request is releasable to the public. In keeping with the spirit and effect of the FOIA and the government's Transparency Agenda, this letter and the information disclosed to you may be placed on [GOV.UK](https://www.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.

We attach Annex A, explaining the copyright that applies to the information being released to you, and Annex B giving contact details should you be unhappy with the service you have received.

If you have any queries about this letter please contact me.

Yours sincerely

Redacted
Information Rights Team
InformationRequests@defra.gov.uk

Annex A

Copyright

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Annex B

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 Andrew Mobsby, Head of Information Rights via email at InformationRequests@defra.gov.uk and he will arrange for an internal review of your case. Details of Defra's complaints procedure are on our website.

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 Defra's own complaints procedure.

The ICO can be contacted using the following link:

<https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/official-information-concerns-report/official-information-concern/>