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Our ref: FOI2024/00917
8 February 2024

Dear Redacted ,

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: XL Bully Certificates of Exemption - cost and number

Thank you for your request for information of 11 January 2024 about XL Bully certificates of exemption - cost and number. We have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Your information request and our response are set out below.

It has recently been announced that owners of XL American bulldogs will be required to obtain a Certificate of Exemption to continue to legally keep their dogs. An application for the Certificate must be made. The cost of the Certificate is set at £92.40.

- 1. Please can you provide details of how this cost has been arrived at. What is the cost intended to cover in relation to the provision of the Certificate? The information required relates not only to a breakdown of costs per Certificate but to any information on the costs that have been determined would arise nationally for its administration and how this has been used to arrive at a figure of £92.40 for each Certificate.*

We can confirm that the cost of the certificate for exemption has been set in line with the historical cost of Certificates of Exemption. Please note that the amount paid covers the administrative costs involved in the processing of applications.

- 2. Please can you also provide any details of the numbers of XL American bulldogs in the U.K. that the scheme is anticipated to relate to and estimates of the number of Certificates of Exemption that are likely to be needed to be provided that have been used by Government.*

The government originally estimated that England and Wales had a population of 10,000 XL bully dog types. We are monitoring this position and will review these figures once all certificates have been processed.

- 3. Finally, please indicate the total estimated revenue from sale of the Certificates that the Government has projected.*

We do not hold a current forecast of the expected total amount paid for certificates of exemption.

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, 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

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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/>