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[Redacted]

By email: [Redacted]

Our ref: FOI2024/08000  
8 May 2024

Dear [Redacted],

### **REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: XL Bully Dogs and exemption records**

Thank you for your request for information of 11 April 2024 about XL Bully dogs and exemption records. We have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Your information request and our response are set out below.

- 1. Please can you provide me with the number of applications for exemption certificates received by Defra from owners who wish to retain an XL Bully – from the start of the ban until the date of this request.*
- 2. Please can you provide the monthly breakdown for exemption applications received since the ban came into force.*
- 3. If possible, please can you also break down the applications received by geographical location, to the smallest and most specific location for which the information exists? (Eg: postcode, town, region, constituency or council area or police service jurisdiction, country etc)*
- 4. In addition – if Defra holds the information – is it possible please to provide the number of XL bullies that have been euthanised since the ban came into force.*

In response to the requests made:

1. We can confirm that the total number of applications received for certificates of exemptions is 67,631. This includes successful applications and those that were not eligible, for example, because they were duplicates or contained errors. The total number of certificates of exemption issued is 57,277.
2. Since 1 February 2024, it has been a criminal offence to own an XL bully without a certificate of exemption. Please note that the application deadline for certificates was midday on 31 January 2024.
3. As of 12 April 2024, the information that you have requested was not held by Defra broken down in this way.

4. At the time of your request, we had received 397 valid euthanasia compensation claims for XL Bully dogs.

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](mailto:InformationRequests@defra.gov.uk)

## Annex A

### Copyright

The information supplied to you continues to be protected by copyright. You are free to use it for your own purposes, including for private study and non-commercial research, and for any other purpose authorised by an exception in current copyright law. Documents (except photographs or logos) can be also used in the UK without requiring permission for the purposes of news reporting. Any other re-use, for example commercial publication, would require the permission of the copyright holder.

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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 [Redacted], Head of Information Rights via email at [InformationRequests@defra.gov.uk](mailto: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/>