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[Redacted]

By email: [Redacted]

Our ref: FOI2024/09022  
21 May 2024

Dear [Redacted],

## **REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Applications for XL Bully Exemption Certificates**

Thank you for your request for information of 24 April 2024 about applications for XL Bully exemption certificates. We have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Your information request and our response are set out below.

- 1. As of 01.03.24, how many applications for XL Bully exemption certificates have (name of specific department) received?*

We do not hold the information requested as of the 1 March 2024.

However, we can confirm that the total number of applications received was 67,631. Please note that this figure includes successful applications and those that were not eligible, for example, because they were duplicates or contained errors.

- 2. As of 01.03.24, how many applications have been accepted, rejected and how many are outstanding? Please provide a breakdown of how many of these are from individuals and figures from rehoming organisations.*

We do not hold the data requested as of the 1 March 2024.

The final number of applications received was 67,631. Please note that this figure includes successful applications and those that were not eligible, for example, because they were duplicates or contained errors. The total number of certificates issued is 57,277.

A total of 15 certificates of exemption were issued for dogs in rescue and rehoming organisations.

- 3. As of 01.03.24, which organisation, company or government department has been tasked with carrying out spot checks at people's homes or rehoming organisations who have applied for exemption certificates?*

Police are responsible for the enforcement of the ban on XL Bully type dogs.

- 4. What is the total sum taken in fees for exemption certificate applications?*

The application fee is £92.40. This covers the administrative costs for the life of the dog, including processing the application and lifetime record management. The total sum of application fees taken is still being calculated due to ongoing consideration of individual payment disputes.

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

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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 they 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/>