



Our ref:
FOI2023/16647
22 September 2023

Dear [REDACTED]

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: quarantine services

Thank you for your request for information of 25th August about quarantine services. APHA have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Your information request and our response are set out below.

“1. How long have PetQ Services been authorised to administrate quarantine services for DEFRA/APHA?

APHA only authorise quarantine facilities. A list of quarantine facilities can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/rabies-quarantine-authorised-premises-and-carriers/rabies-quarantine-authorised-premises-and-carriers>

2. How many companies other than Pet Q Services are authorised to administrate quarantine services for dogs and cats on behalf of DEFRA/APHA?

APHA do not hold information on the administrators of facilities. A list of quarantine facilities can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/rabies-quarantine-authorised-premises-and-carriers/rabies-quarantine-authorised-premises-and-carriers>

3. For Pet Q Services and for each of these companies, how many quarantine facilities do they each administrate?

APHA do not hold information on the administrators of facilities. A list of quarantine facilities can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/rabies-quarantine-authorised-premises-and-carriers/rabies-quarantine-authorised-premises-and-carriers>

4. For each of these quarantine facilities (grouped by company administrating them), how many dogs, and also how many cats, were detained under their services on suspicion of the rabies vaccination being given too early according to the manufacturer's guidelines of 12 weeks/3mnths?

This information has been exempted from release under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA): Section 40(5B)(a)(i) - Neither Confirm Nor Den in relation to personal data. And Section 43(3) – Neither Confirm or Deny Commercial Interest

An explanation of these exemptions is below.

APHA can provide total number of cats and dogs:

CATS	DOGS	TOTAL
7	142	149

5. Of those, for each of these facilities (grouped by company administrating them), how many dogs, and also how many cats, were seen by an independent vet after being detained/seized and before the decision to detain them further in quarantine?

For each of these quarantine facilities (grouped by company administrating them This information has been exempted from release under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA): Section 40(5B)(a)(i) - Neither Confirm Nor Den in relation to personal data. And Section 43(3) – Neither Confirm or Deny Commercial Interest

An explanation of these exemptions is below.

APHA can provide total number of cats and dogs:

CATS	DOGS	TOTAL
7	142	149

Every animal detained is seen by an independent veterinarian and is monitored throughout their stay in quarantine. Independent veterinarians are employed by the quarantine facility.

6. Of those same dogs and also cats in 4. how many were re-aged as being a. older than the age determined by the independent vet; and b. younger than the age determined by the independent vet?

APHA do not hold this information.

7. Regarding Calagran Four Paws Hotel quarantine facility in Chesterfield, how many of the same dogs and also cats as in 4. how many were re-aged as being a. older than the age determined by the independent vet; and b. younger than the age determined by the independent vet?"

APHA do not hold this Information.

Information that exempted from release under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA): Section 40(5B)(a)(i) - Neither Confirm Nor Den in relation to personal data and Section 43(3) – Neither Confirm or Deny Commercial Interest is explained below

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA):

Section 40(5B)(a)(i) - Neither Confirm Nor Deny in relation to personal data.

APHA can neither confirm nor deny it holds the information that you have requested.

The duty in section 1(1)(a) of the FOIA does not apply by virtue of section 40(5B)(a)(i) of the FOIA. If the information you have requested were held it would amount to personal information belonging to someone other than yourself and release would contravene any of the data protection principles in Article 5(1) of the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).

This statement should not be taken as an indication that the information you have requested is or is not held by APHA.

The terms of this exemption in the FOIA mean that APHA do not have to consider whether or not it would be in the public interest for us to confirm or deny the information is held.

Section 43(3) – Neither Confirm or Deny Commercial Interest

We can neither confirm nor deny that APHA holds information falling within the description specified in your request.

The duty in section 1(1)(a) of the FOIA to tell you whether we hold the requested information does not apply by virtue of section 43(3) of the FOI Act, which relates to commercially sensitive information. In applying these exemptions, we have had to balance the public interest either confirming or denying that APHA holds information falling within the description specified in your request.

APHA recognise there is a public interest in confirming whether information exists concerning Quarantine premises. However, there is a stronger public interest in neither confirming nor denying whether this information exists. It is important that commercial entities are able to communicate and work with APHA without fear that any discussions details of contracts might be released. Doing so could also harm APHA's relations with commercial businesses.

Therefore, APHA have concluded that in all the circumstances of the case, we should neither confirm nor deny that APHA holds this information.

This statement should not be taken as an indication that the information you have requested is or is not held by APHA.

Information disclosed in response to this FOI 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.

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

enquiries@apha.gov.uk

Annex

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.

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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 within 40 working days of the date of this letter. Please write to the Access to Information Team 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 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

Please click [here](#) for further contact details.