



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

Seacole Building  
4th Floor  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF

T: 03459 33 55 77  
helpline@defra.gov.uk  
[www.gov.uk/defra](http://www.gov.uk/defra)

[Redacted]

By email: [\[Redacted\]](mailto: [Redacted])

Our ref: FOI2024/11863  
29 July 2024

Dear [Redacted],

## REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: XL Bully Dogs

Thank you for your request for information of 3 July 2024 about XL Bully dogs. We have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Your information request and our response are set out below.

*As stated on DEFRA's website*

*"Since 31 December 2023 breeding, selling, advertising, rehoming, abandoning and allowing an XL Bully dog to stray will be illegal. Also from 31 December 2023 XL Bully dogs must be muzzled and on a lead in public. From 1 February 2024 it will also become illegal to own an XL Bully dog unless it is on the Index of Exempted Dogs."*

*With this in mind - please can you tell me the following:*

- 1. The number of claims for compensation towards the cost of euthanasia of XL bully type dogs received by the Department between 31st December 2023 to 1 July 2024.*
- 2. The number of claims for compensation towards the cost of euthanasia of XL bully type dogs received by the Department between 1st February 2024 to 1st July 2024.*
- 3. The total number of applications for a Certificate of exemption to keep an XL Bully dog before the deadline closed.*
- 4. How many owners of an XL bully dog which is 12 months old or older, have completed your 'confirmation of neutering form' to tell you their dog has been neutered since the deadline of 30th June 2024.*
- 5. The total amount of compensation paid towards the cost of euthanasia of XL bully type dogs before the deadline of 15th March 2024?*

In response to requests 1 & 2, Defra received a total of 405 valid claims for compensation towards the cost of euthanasia for XL Bully type dogs.

Between 31 December 2023 and 1 July 2024, Defra received 345 claims.

Between 1 February 2024 and 1 July 2024, Defra received 184 claims.

In response to part 3, the total number of applications received for Certificates of Exemptions before the deadline was 67,631. This included 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 was 57,223.

In response to part 4, the deadlines for submitting neutering forms have not yet passed, and we have not received nor physically processed all forms. Consequently, we do not hold accurate records on the total number of completed neutering forms that have been received.

In response to part 5, as of 15 March 2024, the total amount of compensation that had been paid by Defra towards the cost of euthanasia for XL Bully type dogs was £63,000 (in relation to 326 valid claims).

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 us.

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.

Most documents produced by Defra will be protected by Crown Copyright. Most Crown copyright information can be re-used under the [Open Government Licence](#). For information about the OGL and about re-using Crown Copyright information please see [The National Archives website](#).

Copyright in other documents may rest with a third party. For information about obtaining permission from a third party see the [Intellectual Property Office's website](#).

---

## 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 <sup>[Redacted]</sup> 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/>