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(Redacted)

By email: [Redacted] [Redacted]

Our ref: FOI2024/24909
27 January 2025

(Redacted)

Dear ,

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Dog Exemption Index

Thank you for your request for information of 31 December 2025 about the Dog Exemption Index. We have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Your information request and our response are set out below.

- 1. How much it has cost to run the index of exemption scheme, i would appreciate the last financial years with the amount spent.*

Regarding the first part of your request, the information is not held by Defra. Defra does not cost account against staff time spent on any particular piece of work.

- 2. How many exemptions have been made through court order since 1st January 2024 and which "type" of dog it would be helpful for a monthly total with type defined*

We have issued 342 exemption certificates since 1 January 2024, following Contingent Destruction Orders being issued by the courts.

Type of Dog	Number of Exemption Certificates Issued
Dogo Argentino	4
Japanese Tosa	1
Pit Bull Terrier	94
XL Bully	243

- 3. How many exemptions have been withdrawn/void since July 2024 due to missing the deadline.*

We understand this question to refer to the neutering deadline. We are still processing neutering forms for XL Bully dogs. This includes working with owners, who made minor errors on their forms, to ensure all the necessary information is provided and their dog remains exempt.

With regard to part 3) of your request, the information that has been requested is not held.

4. *How many dogs has died and had exemptions removed since 1st January 2024 & what is the reason for death if collected*

Approximately 900 dogs issued with certificates of exemption have died since 1 January 2024. An approximate figure has been provided as we are currently verifying this data. We do not collect or hold the reasons for death.

5. *How many dogs are currently on the Index of exemption schemes and what type.*

As of the 5 January 2025, the total number of dogs on the Dangerous Dogs Index, broken down by breed, is as follows (this excludes dogs that have either died or been exported):

Type of Dog	Number on Dangerous Dogs Index
Dogo Argentino	24
Japanese Tosa	4
Pitbull Terrier	2687
XL Bully	56665

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

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 ^(Redacted), Head of Information Rights, via email at 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/>