



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]

Our ref: FOI2024/17761  
21 October 2024

Dear [Redacted] ,

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Figures for dog exemptions and neutering dogs**

Thank you for your request for information of 27 September 2024 about the figures for dog exemptions and neutering dogs. 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 many exemptions have been cancelled/void since June 30th Deadline for non compliance*
- 2) *How many exemptions have been court ordered sine 31st January, 2024?*
- 3) *How many dogs are due to still be neutered for each deadline*
  - *December 31st, 2024*
  - *June 2025*

We have reasonably assumed your request relates to XL Bully dogs.

Part 1 of your request

We are still processing neutering forms for XL Bully dogs that were required to be neutered by the 30 June 2024, including working with owners who made minor errors on their forms to ensure all the necessary information is provided and their dog remains exempt. Consequently, at this present moment in time, we do not hold a finalised total for exemptions that have been cancelled/void since 30 June 2024 deadline for non-compliance.

Part 2 of your request

As of the 7 October 2024, 91 certificates of exemption have been issued by Defra, following a court order.

Part 3 of your request

Dogs aged under 12 months on the 31 January 2024 need to be neutered by the 31 December 2024. In March this year, the Government announced that there would be an extension for the youngest dogs that were aged 7 months or less on the 31 January 2024.

These dogs would need to be neutered by the 30 June 2025. There is a total of approximately 6300 dogs that need to be neutered by the 31 December 2024 and 5800 dogs by the 30 June 2025 respectively.

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**

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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 Vanessa Drury, 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/>