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[Redacted]

By email: [Redacted]

Our ref: FOI2025/12819
2 July 2025

Dear [Redacted]

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: XL Bully dog- neutering and withdrawals

Thank you for your request for information of 13 June 2025 about XL Bully dog- neutering and withdrawals. 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 the most current data available, the number of XL bully dogs currently registered with a certificate of exemption.*

As of 17 June 2025, 56,346 XL Bully dogs are registered with a Certificate of Exemption.

It is important to note that this figure is subject to change due to reasons which include but are not limited to: duplicate applications being identified and removed; dogs that have died being removed; dogs that have been exported being removed; and dogs which have been added following a court order.

- 2) Since the XL bully ban was introduced how many applications have you received from owners who wish to withdraw a certificate of exemption because they think their dog is no longer an XL bully?*

- 3) The number of successful applications from Q2*

We are writing to inform you that Defra does not hold the data in relation to parts 2) and 3) of your request, as the withdrawal scheme has not yet been implemented. Where an owner has a Certificate of Exemption and no longer thinks that their dog is an XL Bully, it will be possible to apply to Defra to withdraw the certificate. It is not possible to apply for this at the current time. Defra will provide more information about this process in due course.

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

Information Rights Team

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.

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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/>