Animal & Plant Health Agency

Animal and Plant Health Agency
Access to Information Team
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[REDACTED]
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Our ref: FOI2026/07774
14 April 2026

Dear [REDACTED]

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Number of dogs or puppies imported into the UK from Ireland

Thank you for your request for information of 8th April about Number of dogs or puppies imported into the UK from Ireland. APHA have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Your information request and our response are set out below.

"I am writing to enquire whether your office holds any data, or can provide an estimate, on the number of dogs or puppies imported into the UK from Ireland. I appreciate that this may be difficult to quantify due to movements through different ports and routes, as well as the nature of pet travel and commercial transport. However, I would be very grateful for any available figures, estimates, or guidance on how such movements might be assessed. If more detailed data is not available, I would also appreciate any advice on alternative sources or approaches that could help in estimating these numbers.

I would be grateful if you could provide the figures specifically for the years 2019, 2020, and 2024. I would also appreciate annual figures for the period 2019–2025 inclusive, if that data is available."

Please find the information that APHA hold in the table below. Please note APHA do not hold this data prior to 2021.

Commercial Imports from Republic of Ireland	
Year	**Number of Dogs**
2021	6658
2022	6719
2023	6389
2024	5722
2025	5647

We are unable to provide non-commercial data for dogs from Republic of Ireland because the data regarding the Pet Travel Scheme covers pets entering Great Britain and is based on information provided by checkers employed by approved carriers of pet animals and cannot be separated into EU and Rest of the World (RoW).

The information that we have provided is a true reflection of the information that we have access to. We cannot guarantee the accuracy of this data, as we can only rely on the information that has been input into external customer facing systems by third parties.

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, 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

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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.