



Animal &  
Plant Health  
Agency

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[REDACTED]  
{By Email}

Our Ref: ATIC1052

6 April 2017

Dear [REDACTED]

## PROVISION OF REQUESTED INFORMATION

Thank you for your two clarified requests for information about pet passports which we received on 15 March 2017. Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

The information you requested and our response is detailed below:

### “Request A

1. How many blank pet passports were issued to vets in 2014?
2. How many blank pet passports were issued to vets in 2015?

This information is available on GOV.UK via the following link:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/503226/ATIC0808.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/503226/ATIC0808.pdf)

As the information is reasonably accessible to you by other means, it is exempt from disclosure under section 21 FOIA.

3. How many blank pet passports were issued to vets in 2016?

95449

4. How many blank pet passports have been issued to vets so far in 2017?

20460

5. How many blank pet passports were issued between 24th June and 31st December 2016?

APHA does not record the amount of passports issued between two specific dates in a month, we can only provide full months. Therefore, between 1 June 2016 and 31 December 2016 there were 53160.

6. How many blank pet passports were issued between 24th June and 31st December 2015?

APHA does not record the amount of passports issued between two specific dates in a month, we can only provide full months. Therefore, between 1 June 2015 and 31 December 2016 there were 71917.

### Request B

1. Which countries have you accepted pet passports from and how many per country were accepted in 2016?
2. Which countries have you accepted pet passports from and how many per country were accepted in 2015?
3. How many pets were refused entry to the UK in 2015?
4. How many pet were refused entry to the UK in 2016?"

Pet dogs, cats and ferrets travelling under the EU Pet Travel Scheme can enter Great Britain from the EU and certain other countries using pet passports. APHA is not responsible for collecting data which identifies the country that prepared the pet passport. Instead APHA requires transport companies approved to carry pet animals to enter this data on a [Government owned] database known as the PETS database. The information from this database shows the number of pet passports by country that were accepted in 2016 and 2015, please see Appendix 1.

However because of our concerns around the accuracy of the data, in mid-2015 APHA proactively implemented an interim measure. This was to capture non-commercial import data that would run in parallel to the existing system. This would then establish whether or not the data available from the PETS database was accurate.

This interim process has confirmed to APHA the accuracy of the PETS database data. Although still reliant on the accurate and timely data entry by the carriers, the new method shows a higher number of animals travelling than the data held in the PETS database. The new method focuses on identifying volumes of animals travelling and gathers greater details on non-compliances found. However the new method is not yet able to capture the number of pet passports, accepted by approved carriers, broken down by the country of origin which prepared the passport.

The figures below relate to the total number of dogs, cats and ferrets imported under the Pet Travel Scheme for which a failure to comply with the requirements was recorded. This data covers imports from EU and non-EU countries. In the case of pets entering Great Britain by air, as the pet checks are carried out on arrival this may mean that the

animal(s) did still enter but could only do so if they were transferred to an approved quarantine facility.

2015	7897
2016	6819

The information that APHA has provided is a true reflection of the information that is held. However APHA cannot guarantee the accuracy of this data as it has been provided by third parties. APHA continue to work with approved transport companies to impress upon them the need to accurately capture all the required data and to submit the data in a timely manner.

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.

I attach an Annex 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**

Email: [enquiries@apha.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@apha.gsi.gov.uk)

## **Annex**

### **Copyright**

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### **Complaints**

If you are unhappy with the result of your request for information you may request an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this letter.

If you wish to request an internal review, please contact: The Access to Information Team at [enquiries@apha.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@apha.gsi.gov.uk) or at the postal address at the top of this letter, who will arrange for an internal review of your case.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Please note that generally the Information Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have first exhausted APHA's own complaints procedure. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF