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L A Jourdan
By e-mail:
request-443493-67bcd324@whatdotheyknow.com

Our ref: RFI 9446
31 January 2018

Dear Mr/Ms Jourdan,

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: LEGAL CHALLENGE TO ADDING DOG TO THE INDEX OF EXEMPTED DOGS

Thank you for your request for information, which we received on 6 November 2017 about Defra's challenges to the adding of dogs to the Index of Exempted Dogs, under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991. We have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

I have set out the answers to your questions below:

- 1. What was the average length of time spent on a challenge to add a dog to the exempted register in the most recent year for which DEFRA holds information (please provide date range)?*

We have taken your question to mean the number of hours our litigation lawyers have spent since such legal challenges were started. There are two such cases and both are on-going but as of 5 December 2017, the average time so far taken was 94.5 hours.

- 2. In total, what were the costs to DEFRA of challenging the addition of dogs to the exempted register, for the most recent year for which DEFRA holds information (please provide date range)?*

For the period 27 January 2017 to 5 December 2017, the total costs for challenging two cases (which are ongoing) is £18,694.36.

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, 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 me.

Yours sincerely,

Marie Taylor
Information Rights Team
InformationRequests@defra.gsi.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 18 of the EIRs, as applicable, within 40 working days of the date of this letter. Please write to Nick Teall, Head of Information Rights, Area 4A, Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3JR (email: InformationRequests@defra.gsi.gov.uk) and he 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 at:

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