

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I am contacting you on behalf of the RSPCA to request information relating to the trading of puppies in 2022. This information will provide invaluable data and insight into the puppy trade, which may be used to inform our strategic objectives, activities and campaigns. I am requesting the following information:

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| 1) In 2022, how many enquiries and/or reports of suspected illicit puppy trading were received by your local authority? | 1) We received 29 reports of unlicensed dog breeders in 2022. |
| 2) In 2022, how many of those are related to imported puppies? | 2) One of the reports was related to imported puppies. |
| 3) In 2022, how many investigations into suspected illicit puppy trading were carried out by your local authority? | 3) We carried out 29 investigations into the reports of unlicensed dog breeders in 2022. |
| 4) In 2022, how many investigations resulted in no further action? | 4) Nine of the above resulted in no further action. |
| 5) In 2022, how many investigations resulted in a formal warning/caution? | 5) 17 of the above resulted in a formal warning / caution. |
| 6) In 2022, how many investigations resulted in other, formal action? | 6) Three of the above resulted in other action, e.g., referred to relevant Licensing Authority as out of our area., advisory letter. |
| 7) In 2022, how many successful prosecutions did your local authority undertake in relation to illicit puppy trading? | 7) No prosecutions were carried out in relation to illegal dog breeding. |