



Request

I would appreciate it if you can tell me what enforcement you have taken in respect of reported breaches of the Animal Activity Licence in the last five years. Specifically I would appreciate

1. The number of reports of unlicensed home boarders from the public.
2. The number of reports from independent proactive investigation by the council.
3. What action was taken in respect of any complaints made to, or discovered by the council, and what form the action took.

Response

Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA) relieves a public authority from the obligation to comply with a request for information where the estimated time required to locate, review and extract the information exceeds a certain threshold set out in Regulations.

The Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 (SI 2004/3244) set out the rules in relation to the cost limit (otherwise called the "appropriate limit"). These Regulations are published by the Office of Public Sector Information (OPSI) and are viewable on their web site from this link:

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2004/uksi_20043244_en.pdf

The Regulations set out the cost limit for Government departments and for other public authorities. For local government, Regulation 3 states that the cost limit is £450 and Regulation 4(4) states that the prescribed hourly rate is £25. Regulation 4(4) further provides that where the local authority estimates the time taken to gather the information would exceed this limit (which based on the prescribed hourly rate, equates to 18 officer hours), it may refuse the request under section 12 of FoIA.

I am satisfied the cost limit applies to your request and will explain why this is the case

During the period 30 August 2020 to 29 August 2025 we received a total of 491 complaints in relation to animal licensing. Our system does not individually code these complaints in relation to allegations of unlicensed, or specifically home boarders.

After careful consideration, we regret that we are unable to comply with your request as to do so would entail a manual interrogation of the 491 complaints indicating. At an estimate of 10 minutes per record – this would take far in excess of the 18 officer hours stipulated in the FOI Act.