



## **Request**

I am writing under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information concerning unlicensed dog-boarding establishments (kennels, home-boarding, dog-daycare, etc.) within the authority's area over the past five years (2021–2025 inclusive — or the most recent five-year period for which data is held).

1. The total number of investigations / enforcement actions your authority has opened in that period into *unlicensed* dog-boarding / animal-boarding establishments (kennels, catteries, day-care, home-boarding, etc.).

For each such investigation / enforcement action:

2. Name and (full or partial) address / postcode of the premises (or a unique reference ID)
3. Date when investigation/enforcement began
4. Type of alleged breach (e.g. operating without a licence; unlicensed boarding; failure to meet licence/animal-welfare standards)
5. Outcome of the investigation (e.g. licence issued, prosecution, closure, warning, no further action)
6. If prosecution: date of conviction, offence, penalty/outcome (fine, ban, destruction of licence, etc.)
7. The number of complaints or reports received by your authority (from public, other agencies or referrals) relating to suspected unlicensed animal-boarding / dog-boarding establishments over that period (2021–2025).

## **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/ksi\\_20043244\\_en.pdf](http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2004/ksi_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

There are 296 records to review which will take approximately 10 minutes to review each record due to the history attached to each record. It is not possible to retrieve the information requested without officer time manually reading the text within the complaints.

This equates to in excess of the 18hours officer time stipulated in the FOI Act.