

**Veterinary Service Animal Health Group**  
Information Communications Branch



Department of  
**Agriculture, Environment  
and Rural Affairs**

An Roinn

**Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil  
agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe**

Department o'

**Fairmin, Environment  
an' Kintra Matthers**

[www.daera-ni.gov.uk](http://www.daera-ni.gov.uk)

**Our reference:** DAERA/26-239

Via email:

[\[REDACTED\]@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@hotmail.co.uk)

VSAHG Information Communications Branch  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Jubilee House  
111 Ballykelly Road  
Limavady  
BT49 9HP

Email: [vsinfocommsbranch@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:vsinfocommsbranch@daera-ni.gov.uk)

23 April 2026

Dear [REDACTED]

### **Freedom of Information Act 2000**

Thank you for your email received by the Department on 08 April 2026, which you sought the information in bold below.

**I am requesting the following information for Northern Ireland, as held at the date this request is processed, preferably for each local authority listed below.**

- 1. The total number of currently licensed businesses authorised to sell animals as pets.**
- 2. Of those currently licensed businesses, how many are licensed to sell:**
  - Mammals**
  - Birds**
  - Reptiles and amphibians**
  - Fish**

I can advise that the Department has completed its search and can confirm it holds some of the information requested.

If you are deaf or have a hearing difficulty you can contact the Department via the Next Generation Text Relay Service by dialling 18001 + telephone number.

**INVESTORS IN PEOPLE**<sup>®</sup>  
We invest in people Standard

At 07 April 2026, there were 27 premises licensed where animals are kept primarily for the purpose of sale as pets. This figure does not include establishments that are awaiting a new or renewal decision on a licence application.

Of the premises licensed at 07 April 2026, the number licensed to sell each category is as follows:

Mammals:14  
Birds: 6  
Reptiles: 10  
Amphibians: 6  
Fish: 23  
Invertebrates: 6

A breakdown by local authority cannot be provided, as the information is not recorded or held in this format.

If you require any clarification, believe that any part of your request has been overlooked, misunderstood or misinterpreted, please contact me in the first instance to see if it is a matter that can be resolved.

If you are unhappy with the way your request for information has been handled or the decision to release/withhold information, you have the right to request a formal review by the Department. If you wish to do so, please contact The Review Section either by e-mailing [daera.informationmanager@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:daera.informationmanager@daera-ni.gov.uk) or by post at The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, Data Protection & Information Management Branch, Floor 2, Jubilee House, 111 Ballykelly Road, Ballykelly, Limavady BT49 9HP, within two months from the date of this letter.

If after such an internal review you are still unhappy with the response, you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, CHESHIRE, SK9 5AF, who will undertake an independent review of the Department's decision.

Yours sincerely,



**Veterinary Service Animal Health Group**

If you are deaf or have a hearing difficulty you can contact the Department via the Next Generation Text Relay Service by dialling 18001 + telephone number.

**INVESTORS IN PEOPLE**<sup>®</sup>  
We invest in people Standard