Reference Number: DAERA/26-821

Department of
Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
An Roinn
Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe
Depairtment o'
Fairmin, Environment an' Kintra Matthers
www.daera-ni.gov.uk

Veterinary Service Animal Health Group
Information Communications Branch

[redacted]

Email: [redacted]

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

E-mail: vsinfocommsbranch@daera-ni.gov.uk

03 November 2026

Dear [redacted],

Freedom of Information Act 2000

With regard to your request for information received by the Department on 22 October 2026 which sought the following information:

I request clarification regarding the person or organisation that submitted the original Freedom of Information request in June 2025.

To the extent that you are legally permitted to do so, please confirm:

1. **The identity of the original requester, including their name or the organisation they represent.**
2. **Whether the requester provided reasons for making the request or explained their purpose or motives.**
3. **What public interest arguments or other reasons were provided to justify seeking this information.**
4. **Whether the requester has any known connection with any individuals, businesses, breeders, transporters, charities or other parties identified in the records.**
5. **Whether the request specifically targeted us or whether our details appeared incidentally within a wider request.**
6. **Whether any information relating to us has already been disclosed, and, if so, what information was disclosed, to whom and on what date.**

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.

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I can advise that the Department has completed its search and can confirm that it holds some of the information you requested which is outlined below.

1. **The identity of the original requester, including their name or the organisation they represent.**
   The Department holds some of this data, but is choosing not to release it under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Third part data of which you are not the data subject.
   In these instances, the Department is required to consider if disclosure would breach the first Data Protection Principle, which states the processing must be lawful, fair and transparent. The department has considered this element within the test attached at **Annex A** and has determined that no lawful basis for disclosure under FOI exists. Please bear in mind that any disclosure must be considered in terms of disclosure to the "world large" and not just to you, the requester. Consequently, third party personal data falling within the scope of this request has been withheld.

2. **Whether the requester provided reasons for making the request or explained their purpose or motives.**
   Data not held.

3. **What public interest arguments or other reasons were provided to justify seeking this information.**
   Data not held.

4. **Whether the requester has any known connection with any individuals, businesses, breeders, transporters, charities or other parties identified in the records.**
   Data not held.

5. **Whether the request specifically targeted us or whether our details appeared incidentally within a wider request.**
   The Department can confirm that the request related to all dog movements through Belfast Port during 2024. Your details appeared within the records captured by that request and were not the specific subject of the request.

6. **Whether any information relating to us has already been disclosed, and, if so, what information was disclosed, to whom and on what date.**
   At the time of your FOI request, the Department can confirm that no data was disclosed. However, as outlined in the Departmental letter 23 October 2026, the data in question was released on 30 October 2026 to the requestor.

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 manner in which 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 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

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