



My Ref: FOI 6393
Enquiries to: Information Requests
E-Mail: informationrequests@barnsley.gov.uk

Dear Requester,

Re: Request for Information – Freedom of Information Act 2000

I wish to confirm that the council has completed its search for the information which you requested.

The information requested and our findings are as follows: -

Please provide the following information for dog breeding licensing only.

Unless otherwise stated, please provide information for the period 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026.

Where requested, please provide a snapshot as at 31 March 2026.

Where your authority does not hold a particular figure, please state "not held" rather than leaving the response blank. Where figures are estimates, please identify them as estimates. Where categories overlap, please explain this in your response.

Please send your response to UKCampaigns@four-paws.org.uk.

1. In which team or department does responsibility for animal activity licensing sit?

Animal Health sits within Trading Standards/Regulatory Services

2. How many active dog breeding licences did your authority have as at 31 March 2026?

Information available on website:

[Licence to run a business involving animals](#)

If your authority records the number of licensed dog breeders separately from the number of active licences, please also provide that figure.

Not applicable.

3. Of the active dog breeding licences as at 31 March 2026, how many were issued for:

- | | |
|----------------|----|
| a) One year | 3 |
| b) Two years | 6 |
| c) Three years | 14 |

4. Between 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026, how many new dog breeding licence applications were:

- a) Received 3
- b) Approved 3
- c) Refused 0
- d) Withdrawn 0

5. Between 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026, how many dog breeding licence renewal applications were:

- a) Received 8
- b) Approved 7
- c) Refused 1
- d) Withdrawn 0

6. For any refused new or renewal applications, please provide the reason for refusal.

Refusal on welfare grounds

7. Between 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026, how many inspections were carried out in relation to:

- a) New dog breeding licence applications 3
- b) Dog breeding licence renewal applications 8
- c) Interim, additional, unannounced or compliance inspections outside the grant/renewal process - 0

8. Between 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026, how many complaints, allegations, service requests or intelligence reports did your authority receive relating to dog breeding?

45

9. Of these complaints, allegations, service requests or intelligence reports, how many related to:

- a) Alleged or suspected unlicensed dog breeding
- b) Complaints or allegations about licensed dog breeders
- c) Other dog breeding-related concerns (for example, noise, sickness in puppy)

- a) 31
- b) 4
- c) 2

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10. How many complaints, allegations, service requests or intelligence reports resulted in a physical visit or inspection to a site or premises?

Please split, where held, between:

- a) Licensed dog breeders** 4
- b) Alleged or suspected unlicensed dog breeders** 1

11. How many complaints, allegations, service requests or intelligence reports were investigated but did not result in a physical visit or inspection?

40

12. Where complaints, allegations, service requests or intelligence reports were investigated without a physical visit, please briefly describe the main method or methods used.

For example: desktop review, online advert checks, telephone/email contact, review of licensing records, or liaison with another agency.

All unlicensed allegations where an address can be identified are issued a letter advising of the requirements of the 2018 regulations. Any evidence is then reviewed alongside the response from the alleged breeder, any combination of the examples given may be used.

13. Of the complaints, allegations, service requests or intelligence reports received, how many were recorded as:

- a) Founded/substantiated**
 - b) Unfounded/unsubstantiated**
- We don't use those recording categories.

- c) No further action** 43
- d) Still under investigation at 31 March 2026** 1

14. How many alleged or suspected unlicensed breeders investigated during the period subsequently applied for a dog breeding licence? - 1

15. Between 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026, how many enforcement actions were taken in relation to dog breeding following complaints, allegations, visits, inspections, grant applications or renewal applications?

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Please provide numbers for:

- a) Written warnings 0
- b) Improvement Notices 0
- c) Fixed Penalty Notices 0
- d) Licence variations 0
- e) Licence suspensions 0
- f) Licence revocations 0
- g) Prosecutions commenced 0
- h) Referrals/reports to the RSPCA, SSPCA, USPCA or another enforcement body 0

16. How many prosecutions relating to dog breeding were undertaken or concluded during the period, and which team recorded or led those prosecutions? 0

17. For each concluded prosecution, please provide, where held:

No concluded prosecutions

18. Does your authority undertake any online proactive monitoring of puppy adverts, dog breeding adverts or social media sales activity as part of dog breeding licensing or enforcement work?

Yes

If yes, please state which platforms or sources are monitored, where held.

Data not retained

19. How many full-time equivalent staff are involved in animal activity licensing work, and what are the job titles of officers undertaking dog breeding inspections, visits or complaint investigations?

Please also state whether your authority has a dedicated animal welfare, animal health, animal licensing or equivalent officer post responsible for animal licensing and welfare work.

2 FTE shared across animal licencing and animal health work

20. For each officer undertaking dog breeding inspections, visits or complaint investigations, please provide:

a) The name of any OFQUAL-approved or other formal animal licensing training course completed

NVQ Level 3

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PO Box 634, Barnsley, South Yorkshire S70 9GG

b) The course provider

Pet Industry Federation

description of the practical element of the course, where held.

Available on course provider's website

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact Information Requests Via email.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are unhappy with the way the Directorate has handled your request, you may ask for an internal review. Please clearly mark your correspondence 'Complaint' and address it to:

Barnsley MBC
Information Requests Team
PO Box 634
Barnsley
S70 9GG
email: informationrequests@barnsley.gov.uk

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: -

Customer Services Team
Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Email: <http://www.ico.org.uk/foicomplaints>

Kind regards,

Information Requests Team, Barnsley MBC

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