



Response Date:16/02/2026

2026/146 - Enforcement of Illegal Tail Docking of Dogs

In response to your recent request for information regarding;

I am writing to request information regarding the enforcement of legislation relating to illegal tail docking in Wales of those specific working breeds (Spaniels, Terriers, hunt-point-retrieve breeds) that can have an exemption under certain circumstances.

Please provide, for each of the most recent five 12 month periods:

- 1. The number of investigations opened by the police in England/ Wales concerning suspected illegal tail docking of all dogs**
- 2. How many of those investigations were for suspected illegal docking of a dog in the working dog breeds classification eg Spaniels, Terriers, HPR(Hunt, Point, Retrieve)? How many of these investigations involved a rescue organisation? How of those involving a rescue organisation was importing dogs from outside of the UK/ Republic of Ireland?**
- 3. The number of cases of illegal docking of a dog in the working breed classification were referred for prosecution?**
- 4. The number of prosecutions brought and their outcomes (e.g. cautions, convictions, no further action).**
- 5. Any guidance issued internally to officers on identifying and enforcing offences relating to illegal tail docking.**

If the information is held by a central body rather than at force level, I would be grateful if you could advise where this request should be directed.

We searched for Animal Welfare Act offence occurrences recorded on Niche 2021-2025 + KW search of occ summary/orl for "dock" or "docking" – there was a 'nil' return.

THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN PROVIDED IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000, AND IS CORRECT AS AT 13/02/2026

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www.heddlugogleddcymru.police.uk

Police Headquarters,
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