

Apply for a Certificate of Exemption to keep an XL Bully dog in Northern Ireland

Use this form to apply for a Certificate of Exemption for an XL Bully dog by post or e-mail.

Check if you have an XL Bully

Use the Conformation Standard guidance produced by the UK government daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/conformation-standard-xl-bully-type-dogs to check if your dog is an XL Bully. **If you have already licenced your dog as an XL Bully type, then you must apply for a Certificate of Exemption.** If you are still not sure after checking, you should apply for a Certificate of Exemption as a precaution.

Where to send this form

You should fill in this form and e-mail to ehealth@armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk or you can also post this form to:

Environmental Health (Dog Control)
Craigavon Civic and Conference Centre
Lakeview Road
Craigavon
Co. Armagh
BT64 1AL

We will process your application and send you either:

- a Certificate of Exemption
- a rejection letter or email

How to pay the exemption certificate fee

You should include the exemption certificate fee of **£92.40** with your application. The methods of payment we accept are included at the end of this form.

Third party public liability insurance

You must have third party public liability insurance for your XL Bully dog. The cover must start no later than 1 January 2025. Dogs Trust include insurance as part of their Companion Club membership dogstrust.org.uk/support-us/membership

You must renew this membership each year for the life of your dog. Proof of public liability insurance will be requested annually. This membership must be in the same name as the person applying for the exemption.

If you use a different insurance provider, you must check that the policy:

- covers you for death or bodily injury to any person caused by the exempted dog.
- is suitable for a prohibited breed as defined under the Dogs (Northern Ireland) Order 1983 as amended by Dangerous Dogs (Northern Ireland) Order 1991.

Neutering

You must arrange to have your XL Bully dog neutered through castration if it's male or spaying if it's female. Once your dog has been neutered, you must fill in a confirmation of neutering form which you can download here - armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/4456.-XL-BULLY-NEUTERING-FORM_LIVE.pdf and return it to us.

When you need to do this depends on how old your dog is on 31 December 2024:

- if your dog is **18 months** or older, we'll need the form by **30 June 2025**
- if your dog is younger than **18 months**, we'll need the form by **30 June 2025** or within one month of the dog turning 18 months, whichever is later.

If your dog has already been neutered, you can fill in the form straight away and return it to us.

Microchipping

All dogs in Northern Ireland must be microchipped at eight weeks old. All dogs must be microchipped before an owner applies for a dog licence.

Dog owners are responsible for ensuring that the contact details held against their dog's microchip number are accurate. If the details are not accurate, the dog is not considered as microchipped, and the dog licence will not be valid.

If you're not sure if your dog is microchipped, you should ask your vet.

If your dog is less than 8 weeks old when you apply for a Certificate of Exemption, you'll have until **31 March 2025** to send us the microchip number. You can do this by emailing ehealth@armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk or posting a letter to the address above.

If a vet certifies that your dog is unfit to have a microchip for a period of time, you must send us a copy of the veterinary certificate by 31 March 2025. Once the certificate expires, you must have your dog microchipped and send us the microchip number within 28 days.

Licensing

All dogs in Northern Ireland must be licensed. A dog licence lasts for 12 months. Application forms for a dog licence, or for the renewal of a dog licence, are available from council offices and on our website.

The licence fee for your XL Bully dog is £12.50.

Your Details

Name

Address

Do you live in Northern Ireland? Yes No

Date of Birth (Use DD/MM/YYYY format)

Phone Number

Email Address

Dog Details

	Name of Dog	Date of Birth of Dog (Estimate the date if you don't know it) (DD/MM/YY)	Colour of Dog	Sex of Dog (Male or Female)	Is Your Dog Neutered? (Yes or No)	Microchip Number (Leave blank if the dog is not microchipped)	Licence Number	Insurance policy start date/ Dogs Trust Companion Club membership start date (DD/MM/YY)
Dog 1								
Dog 2								
Dog 3								
Dog 4								
Dog 5								
Dog 6								

Certificate of Exemption requirements

You must:

1. Keep the dog at the same address as the certificate holder, except for a maximum of 30 days in a year.
2. Notify any change of address, excluding changes within the 30-day period mentioned above.
3. Notify of the dog's death or export.
4. Maintain suitable third-party insurance for the lifetime of the dog.
5. Keep the dog muzzled and on a lead in public places. Muzzling must adequately prevent biting, and the lead must be held by someone at least 16 years old.
6. Keep the dog in sufficiently secure conditions to prevent the dog's escape.
7. Provide access for reading the dog's microchip upon request by a district council dog warden.
8. Provide confirmation of suitable third-party insurance to a district council dog warden within 5 days of their request.
9. Provide the Certificate of Exemption to a district council dog warden within 5 days of their request.
10. If the dog is older than 18 months on 31 December 2024 provide evidence that the dog is neutered by 30 June 2025 or within one month of the dog reaching this age.
11. Provide a microchip number by 31 March 2025, if not given at the time of application, unless the dog is exempt.

Declaration

I understand the requirements listed above must be complied with throughout the lifetime of the dog, or by the date specified in the condition, for the dog to remain exempted.

I understand that I must not do any of the following in relation to the dog:

- breed from it
- sell or exchange it
- advertise or expose it for sale, give it as a gift, or advertise it as a gift
- abandon it or allow it to stray

I acknowledge that providing false details or failing to comply with the Certificate of Exemption requirements will invalidate the certificate, and the dog will not be exempt from the prohibition. In such cases, I may face prosecution, and the dogs mentioned in this application may be seized and destroyed.

Signature

Date of Signature

Methods of Payment

The fee for a Certificate of Exemption is £92.40. This should be paid at the time of application, by one of the following methods;

By Cheque

Make your cheque payable to 'Armagh City Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council'
You must enclose the cheque with your certificate of exemption application.

By Debit or Credit Card

Payment by debit or credit card can be made by calling ☎0300 0300 900

By Cash

Cash payments will be accepted in council offices.