



Subject:	Response received from Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA)
Date:	11th June, 2024
Reporting Officer:	Siobhan Toland, Director of City Services
Contact Officer:	Jim Hanna, Democratic Services and Governance Manager

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.	
Insert number <input type="checkbox"/>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Information relating to any individual2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime	
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	To note the correspondence received from the Director of Animal Health and Welfare Policy Division on behalf of DAERA.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to note the correspondence as set out in the report.
3.0	Main report
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	The Committee will recall that, at the People and Communities meeting held on 9th April, 2024, it was agreed to write to the Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, to enquire as to what impact the new legislation in respect of XL Bully Type dogs would have on local councils and animal welfare charities, and what resources would be allocated to deal with those impacts.
3.2	The Committee is advised that a response has been received from the Director of Animal Health and Welfare Policy Division on behalf of the Minister.
3.3	In his response he advises that Department officials are continuing to engage with the Northern Ireland Dog Advisory Group (NIDAG) on the implementation of the policy, this includes ascertaining what additional costs would be incurred for councils as a result of the new restrictions. This work was currently ongoing, and, in the weeks ahead as the exemption scheme is finalised it notes that consideration would be given as to what financial assistance the Department could provide.
3.4	He assures the Members that the Minister is acutely aware of the impacts on councils and has publicly expressed his desire to work with councils to support them where possible, within the Departmental budget. He is conscious that there might be some organisations within the animal welfare charity sector that could be impacted because of the restrictions, however, notes the Department has no legislative powers to intervene or provide financial assistance. Historically, the Department has not funded any animal welfare charities directly in the past, nor does it have any budget to do so in the future.
3.5	Finally, the correspondence states that the Department for Communities (DfC) remains responsible for policy and strategy relating to the voluntary and community sector and provides advice to charities on sustainability and does offer targeted funding initiatives, which are open to qualifying organisations.
3.6	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> None associated with this report.
3.7	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> None associated with this report.
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached

	Appendix 1 – Response from Department for Infrastructure
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