

Question from Cllr Benington for Written Response

As a result of the recent Animal Protection Legislation, an inspection has been carried out at Boarding Catteries and I assume Boarding Kennels for Dogs, by a Veterinary Surgeon or similarly qualified Person from the City Of London Veterinary Service. I have received complaints that some very long established and very efficient Boarding Cattery owners are so concerned at this inspection and the unnecessary rules, conditions and reductions in the number of boarding cats permitted by the Inspector, that they intend to close their business, or will have to pay substantial sums to change their premises. These businesses are long established, mainly run by a husband and wife, which have no history of welfare problems.

Can the Portfolio Holder answer the following questions:

- a. How many Catteries have raised objections to their inspections, either formally or informally?
- b. The total reduction in numbers of cats allowed to be boarded by the Inspector for the Borough?
- c. The justification for these decisions in detail, please do not answer it is a matter of "Animal Welfare".
- d. Is this just another example of "one size fits all" by the Inspector?
- e. The qualifications of the Inspector from the City of London.

Answers to the Questions:

Answer to Question A:

The number of catteries that have raised objections to their inspections is three.

Answer to Question B:

Prior to this legislation the last licensing year had 575 cats within the Borough. Under the new legislation this number is now 409 cats equating to a reduction of approx. 29%

Answer to Question C:

The justification for a decision is clearly laid down by the standards required by the statutory DEFRA Guidance. This guidance outlines the conditions that must be complied with in order to receive an animal activities licence for the activity of providing boarding for cats. Having said that, the basis for the primary legislation does fall back to welfare of animals.

Answer to Question D:

No, it is not just another example of ‘one size fits all’ by the Inspector. Decision making is based on the guidance, and subsequent engagement between the Council Officer and authorised vet.

Answer to Question E:

The inspectors must be “suitably qualified” as such they must either:

- **Hold a Level 3 certificate or equivalent granted by a body, recognised and regulated by the Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation which oversees the training and assessment of persons in inspecting and licensing animal activities businesses, confirming the passing of an independent examination. A person is only considered to be qualified to inspect a particular type of activity if their certificate applies to that activity.**

Or:

- **Hold a formal veterinary qualification, as recognised by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (“RCVS”), together with a relevant RCVS continuing professional development record; and**
- **Until October 2021, any person that can show evidence of at least one year of experience in licensing and inspecting animal activities businesses.”**