

Ref: EIR / 6316

22nd April 2026

Environmental Information Regulations Request - Stray Dogs, Kennelling and Outcomes 2025

I refer to your EIR request and respond as follows:

I am submitting a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding the handling of stray dogs and kennelling arrangements within your authority.

Please provide the following information for the period 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2025, or the most recent 5-year period available:

1. Stray Dog Intake and Outcomes

- a) The total number of stray dogs taken into your authority's care**
b) Of those, the number: Reclaimed by owners:

- **Rehomed (via rescues or otherwise)**
- **Euthanised**
- **Transferred to rescue organisations**

Derry City and Strabane District Council provides the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) with statistical information on a wide range of dog control service areas including dog attacks, dog fouling, stray and unwanted dogs, rehoming and reclaiming figures and humane destruction figures inter alia. This information is provided by Councils on a quarterly basis, collated and held by DAERA. It is then referred to by Councils and DAERA when providing responses to dog related information requests from the media, the public, animal welfare, as well as FOI responses. This yearly statistical information (1st April to 31st March) can be found in the DAERA website for the requested years, listed

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under Council Dog Summary Statistics, the link page is <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/council-dog-summary-statistics>.

2. Kennelling and Costs

a) The average cost per dog per day for kennelling

The average cost to council is very difficult to gauge due to having to factor in variations in the number of dogs being kennelled, their kennelling duration, whether the dogs are reclaimed, and the cost of operating and maintaining the kennel owned council dog shelter. Council however does apply a cost to dog owners reclaiming their dog: Day 1 (administration plus kennelling) £16.00 and then £8.50 per day afterwards for maximum of 5 days.

b) The average length of stay for stray dogs

DCSDC does not hold such information. "Reclaimed dogs" are within a 5-day period. After 5 days stray dogs can be sold or rehomed through an animal charity. Healthy dogs that are capable of being rehomed are kennelled until supporting animal rehoming charities are able to collect the dogs.

c) The total annual cost of stray dog kennelling (if available)

The kennels were managed by an animal charity until December 2023 where there was no cost to council. Council does not hold accurate figures for the annual cost of kennelling stray dogs.

3. Holding Period and Decision Making

a) The standard holding period for stray dogs before outcome decisions

A dog owner must reclaim their stray dogs within 5 days. After this period council will then decide to rehome the dog either by selling or rehoming

through by a number of local rehoming charities. If the dog is ill or not capable of being rehomed due to its aggressive behaviour a decision will be made to humanely put the dog to sleep.

b) Whether your authority has arrangements with rescue organisations for rehoming

Yes, DCSDC works closely with a number of animal rehoming charities.

c) If so, the criteria used to determine whether a dog is suitable for rehoming

Stray dogs are kennelled for a minimum of 5 days before they can be rehomed. During that period the kennel supervisor/dog wardens will assess the behaviour and temperament of each dog. The animal rehoming charity will be made aware of any notable behavioural issues, which is recorded, and the animal charity will decide whether to rehome that dog. Dogs that are ill, aggressive or have a history of aggression are not deemed rehomeable. Banned breeds cannot be legally rehomed.

4. Dogs Suspected of Prohibited Type

Where recorded:

a) The number of stray dogs identified or suspected to be of a prohibited type

This yearly statistical information (1st April to 31st March) can be found in the DAERA website for the requested years, listed under Council Dog **Summary Statistics**, the link page is <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/council-dog-summary-statistics>.

b) The number of such dogs:

- **Referred to police**
- **Retained in kennels pending assessment**
- **Euthanised**
- **Transferred to rescue (if applicable)**

DCSDC occasionally receive referrals from the police as councils in Northern Ireland deal with banned breeds. The police only deal with dogs that are or have been used for "dog fighting". There have been no referrals made by DCSDC to the police.

c) Whether stray dogs identified or suspected as being of a prohibited type are afforded the standard statutory 7-day holding period under Section 149 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990

Banned breeds are held for a considerably longer period as a court destruction order must be sought.

d) Where such dogs are not afforded the 7-day holding period, please provide:

- **the policy or legal basis for this decision**
- **whether the dog is immediately transferred to police and the point at which responsibility transfers from the local authority to the police**

Not Applicable

e) Whether any internal guidance or policy exists regarding the handling of stray dogs suspected to be of a prohibited type, and if so, please provide a copy

Not Applicable

If you are dissatisfied with our response, you have rights of review and appeal; these rights consist of two review processes.

Firstly, our internal review procedure is available by contacting:

John Kelpie
Chief Executive
Derry City and Strabane District Council
98 Strand Road
Derry BT48 7NN
Tel: 028 71253253 or email: john.kelpie@derrystرابane.com

Secondly, you can appeal directly by contacting the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
CHESHIRE SK9 5AF
Tel: 0303 123 1113 (local rate) or email: casework@ico.org.uk

I would however advise that the Information Commissioner has indicated that a review will not be undertaken unless the Council has first had an opportunity to re-consider its decision.

Yours sincerely

Seamus Donaghy
Head of Health & Community Wellbeing