Derry City & Strabane
District Council
Comhairle
Chathair Dhoire &
Cheantar an tSratha Báin
Derry Cittie & Stràbane
Destrick Cooncil

Ref: FOI / 6520

21st July 2026

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 Request - Dog Breeding Licensing and Enforcement**

I refer to your FOI request and respond as follows:

**Please provide the following information for dog breeding licensing only.**

- **Unless otherwise stated, please provide information for the period 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026.**
- **Where requested, please provide a snapshot as at 31 March 2026.**
- **Where your authority does not hold a particular figure, please state "not held" rather than leaving the response blank. Where figures are estimates, please identify them as estimates. Where categories overlap, please explain this in your response.**

1. **In which team or department does responsibility for animal activity licensing sit?**

   **For example: Environmental Health, Licensing, Legal, Trading Standards, Animal Health, or another team.**

   Dog Control and Animal Welfare, Health and Community Wellbeing, Health and Community Directorate, 98 Strand Road, Derry BT48 7NN.

2. **How many active dog breeding licences did your authority have as at 31 March 2026?**

   0

   **If your authority records the number of licensed dog breeders separately from the number of active licences, please also provide that figure.**

   Not Applicable.

3. **Of the active dog breeding licences as at 31 March 2026, how many were issued for:**

   a. **One year**
   b. **Two years**
   c. **Three years**

   Not Applicable.

4. **Between 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026, how many new dog breeding licence applications were:**

   a. **Received**
   b. **Approved**
   c. **Refused**
   d. **Withdrawn**

   Not Applicable.

5. **Between 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026, how many dog breeding licence renewal applications were:**

   a. **Received**
   b. **Approved**
   c. **Refused**

d. **Withdrawn**

Not Applicable.

6. **For any refused new or renewal applications, please provide the reason for refusal.**

Not Applicable.

7. **Between 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026, how many inspections were carried out in relation to:**

   a. **New dog breeding licence applications**
   b. **Dog breeding licence renewal applications**
   c. **Interim, additional, unannounced or compliance inspections outside the grant/renewal process**

Not Applicable.

8. **Between 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026, how many complaints, allegations, service requests or intelligence reports did your authority receive relating to dog breeding?**

1 from DAERA.

9. **Of these complaints, allegations, service requests or intelligence reports, how many related to:**

   a. **Alleged or suspected unlicensed dog breeding**

1

**b. Complaints or allegations about licensed dog breeders**

0

**c. Other dog breeding-related concerns (for example, noise, sickness in puppy)**

0

**10. How many complaints, allegations, service requests or intelligence reports resulted in a physical visit or inspection to a site or premises?**

**Please split, where held, between:**

**a. Licensed dog breeders**

Not Applicable.

**b. Alleged or suspected unlicensed dog breeders**

1

**11. How many complaints, allegations, service requests or intelligence reports were investigated but did not result in a physical visit or inspection?**

0

**12. Where complaints, allegations, service requests or intelligence reports were investigated without a physical visit, please briefly describe the main method or methods used.**

**For example: desktop review, online advert checks, telephone/email contact, review of licensing records, or liaison with another agency.**

Not Applicable.

13. **Of the complaints, allegations, service requests or intelligence reports received, how many were recorded as:**

    a. **Founded/substantiated**

       0

    b. **Unfounded/unsubstantiated**

       1

    c. **No further action**

       1

    d. **Still under investigation at 31 March 2026**

       0

14. **How many alleged or suspected unlicensed breeders investigated during the period subsequently applied for a dog breeding licence?**

    0

15. **Between 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026, how many enforcement actions were taken in relation to dog breeding following complaints, allegations, visits, inspections, grant applications or renewal applications?**

    **Please provide numbers for:**

    a. **Written warnings**
    b. **Improvement Notices**
    c. **Fixed Penalty Notices**
    d. **Licence variations**
    e. **Licence suspensions**
    f. **Licence revocations**

g. **Prosecutions commenced**
h. **Referrals/reports to the RSPCA, SSPCA, USPCA or another enforcement body**

Not Applicable.

16. **How many prosecutions relating to dog breeding were undertaken or concluded during the period, and which team recorded or led those prosecutions?**

    **For example: Licensing, Legal, Trading Standards, Environmental Health, Animal Health, or another team.**

    Not Applicable.

17. **For each concluded prosecution, please provide, where held:**

    a. **Whether the case related to a licensed or unlicensed breeder**
    b. **Offence type**
    c. **Outcome**
    d. **Fine**
    e. **Costs awarded**
    f. **Disqualification order**
    g. **Proceeds of Crime Act/confiscation order, if applicable**

    Not Applicable.

18. **Does your authority undertake any online proactive monitoring of puppy adverts, dog breeding adverts or social media sales activity as part of dog breeding licensing or enforcement work?**

    **If yes, please state which platforms or sources are monitored, where held.**

    Facebook

19. **How many full-time equivalent staff are involved in animal activity licensing work, and what are the job titles of officers undertaking dog breeding inspections, visits or complaint investigations?**

    **Please also state whether your authority has a dedicated animal welfare, animal health, animal licensing or equivalent officer post responsible for animal licensing and welfare work.**

    - 3 Dog Wardens (4 - post April 2026)
    - 1 manager undertake a range of duties including licensing.
    - DCSDC also have the equivalent of one full time dedicated animal welfare officer.

20. **For each officer undertaking dog breeding inspections, visits or complaint investigations, please provide:**

    a. **The name of any OFQUAL-approved or other formal animal licensing training course completed**
    b. **The course provider**
    c. **A brief description of the practical element of the course, where held.**

    Dog Warden training has been composed of visiting other councils who undertake such inspections and receiving cascade training.

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@derrystrabane.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.