

Scottish Government submission of 18 March 2024

PE2058/C: Require all dog boarding kennels to install smoke detectors, smoke alarms and sprinkler systems

Thank you for your letter of 28 February 2024 to Chris Booth on behalf of the Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee in connection with the above Petition. I have been asked to provide the information requested by the Committee.

Question 1: When will the analysis of the responses to the consultation on the licensing of activities involving animals be published?

Response: The Scottish Government's analysis of responses was published on 16 February 2024. The analysis can be found here: [Licensing of activities involving animals: consultation response analysis - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/licensing-activities-involving-animals-consultation-response-analysis-2024/pages/16-february-2024.aspx).

Question 2: Whether the Scottish Government will give specific consideration to fire safety in the forthcoming animal boarding regulations?

Response: Presently, animal boarding is regulated by the Animal Boarding Establishments Act 1963. The 1963 Act already includes a provision that requires local authorities (as the enforcement body) to consider the need to ensure that appropriate steps are taken (by the licence holder/applicant) to protect animals in case of fire before granting any animal boarding licence. The Scottish Government is considering revoking the 1963 Act and regulating animal boarding instead under the Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (Scotland) Regulations 2021 (the 2021 regulations). Should we progress this proposal, consideration will be given to the issue of fire safety in boarding kennels and how best this can be addressed under any future licensing scheme, within the scope of the enabling powers set out in the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006.

Question 3: Whether its approach and consideration of fire safety requirements for animal sanctuaries and rehoming centres will differ from boarding kennels?

Response: Regulation of animal sanctuaries and rehoming activities is regulated under the 2021 regulations. In respect to fire safety, the general conditions of licence that apply to holders of a rehoming or animal welfare establishment licence, simply require that a written emergency plan, acceptable to the licensing authority, must be in place, and must include details of the emergency measures to be taken for the extrication of animals. The guidance written to assist the licensing authority in the enforcement of this license condition states:

“Suitable firefighting, prevention and detection equipment must be provided and maintained in good working order. Any buildings must have at least one working smoke detector (or other suitable fire detection system) installed in a suitable location on each separate level / floor of the property and there must be at least one carbon monoxide detector”.

In light of the recent tragic incident involving dogs being boarded in kennels, Scottish Government animal welfare officials will seek to engage with colleagues in Fire Protection and Safety Unit to explore and identify appropriate and enhanced fire safety measures and how these may best be incorporated in any future licensing scheme for animal boarding providers.

Animal Welfare Team