

WELFARE OF DOGS (SCOTLAND) BILL

[AS AMENDED AT STAGE 2]

SUPPLEMENTARY FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

INTRODUCTION

1. As required under Rule 9.7.8B of the Parliament's Standing Orders, this Supplementary Financial Memorandum is published to accompany the Welfare of Dogs (Scotland) Bill (introduced in the Scottish Parliament on 20 June 2023) as amended at Stage 2.
2. The purpose of this Supplementary Financial Memorandum is to set out the expected costs associated with amendments at Stage 2. It has been prepared by the Non-Government Bills Unit, does not form part of the Bill and has not been endorsed by the Parliament.

BACKGROUND

3. Of the new provisions introduced to the Bill at Stage 2, the only one identified as being likely to give rise to more than a marginal change in costs is the removal of Part 2 of the Bill, which sought to require the registration of litters of puppies where the owner does not already require to be a licenced breeder. The removal of Part 2 reduces the overall cost of the Bill on the Scottish Administration and this reduction in costs is set out in detail below.
4. Section 7 creates a requirement that Scottish Ministers must take reasonable steps to ensure public awareness and understanding of the code of practice. The Financial Memorandum estimated initial costs of £200,000- £250,000 and recurring costs of £55,000 for this provision. Amendments to section 7 on the code of practice require the Scottish Minister to a) take reasonable steps to ensure that there is awareness and understanding of the code of practice among school pupils, and b) consult organisations to determine what steps to take to ensure public awareness and understanding of the code of practice. These amendments stipulate further detail on the face of the bill as to what the public awareness raising work would involve. These types of steps were included in the broad awareness raising the member originally anticipated when costs were estimated. On that basis the Member in charge of the Bill considers that the costs set out in the original Financial Memorandum cover the amendments to section 7.

COSTS ON THE SCOTTISH ADMINISTRATION

Costs on the Scottish Government

5. While the Bill as introduced did not require a register of unlicensed litters to be established, the Member would have expected the Scottish Government to take steps to do so at an appropriate time. Estimates of setting up and running such a register were therefore included in the Financial Memorandum on introduction.

6. There was an estimated cost of £21,500 to the Scottish Ministers to establish the register and £16,000 per annum to maintain the register, with the option of recovering at least part of the cost through a registration fee.

7. There was also potentially a cost to the Scottish Ministers of producing guidance; which was expected to be minimal and met from existing budgets or included in the registration fee. The Member had estimated that this would cost between £2000 and £5000 each time guidance was produced or updated.

8. The Bill required Scottish Ministers to take reasonable steps to ensure public awareness and understanding of the licensed breeding regime and, at such a time as it was in place, the register of unlicensed litters. Based on the average cost of Scottish Government marketing campaigns in 2021-22, the Member estimated this would generate a one-off cost of £200,000-£250,000.

9. As a result of the removal of Part 2 of the Bill, none of these costs will now be incurred.

COSTS ON LOCAL AUTHORITIES

10. Increased demands on local authorities for enforcing the register were estimated in the Financial Memorandum. Again, these costs will not be incurred as a result of the removal of Part 2 of the Bill. The Financial Memorandum assumed that the amount currently spent by local authorities on officers responsible for investigating animal welfare issues would have increased as a result of the Bill. The basis for the estimated increase is set out at paragraphs 48 to 53 of that Memorandum. It was estimated that total annual enforcement costs covering all local authorities would have ranged between £60,000 and £90,000 per year. These would have been annual costs on a recurring basis following the establishment and implementation of the register.

This document relates to the Welfare of Dogs (Scotland) Bill (SP Bill 32A) as amended at Stage 2

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