



REQUEST 17450

1. Dogs Country Club - Animal Activity Licence AAL0158 – Expiry Date 17/10/2025.

Please provide copy of Inspection report that formed the basis for this Animal Activity Licence to be issued and a copy of the licence. To include details of applicant.

2. Dogs Country Club - Animal Activity Licence AAL0158 – Expiry Date 17/10/2025.

Given previous Animal Activity Licence was due to expire 16/07/2027, please provide details of reason (s) why Dogs Country Club was reinspected on or about 18/10/2024.

Unlike earlier Animal Activity Registers the current record does not show the date the Licences were issued or details of the applicant. It is therefore assumed that given the licence expires on 17/10/2025, it was issued on 18/10/2024.

RESPONSE

1. Copy of licence below. Personal information redacted, where applicable.

A copy of the inspection form cannot be provided. The information requested is exempt under Section 30 (1)(b) of the FOI Act which states that:

Information held by a public authority is exempt information if it has at any time been held by the authority for the purposes of:-

- any investigation which is conducted by the authority and in the circumstances may lead to a decision by the authority to institute criminal proceedings which the authority has power to conduct.

This exemption is subject to a “public interest test”. This has been considered and concluded that as the information could still be referred to in any future proceedings, disclosing the information could potentially prejudice any future investigations.

Our public interest argument is as follows:

Public interest arguments in favour of maintaining the exemption:

The information contained within any correspondence relating to this business could be considered in determining whether or not legal proceedings should be instigated. The information would therefore form part of any legal file. Premature disclosure of this

information could therefore compromise the proceedings and prejudice the right to a fair trial.

Public interest arguments in favour of disclosure:

Disclosure would promote transparency and accountability in how the council carries out its regulatory function, in particular areas of non-compliance.

Balance of the public interest arguments:

Wigan Council are required to maintain a list of licensed businesses and their associated ratings on their websites. This therefore enables the public to check whether a business is licensed before deciding to use their services. This reduces the case for disclosure.

<https://www.wigan.gov.uk/Docs/PDF/Business/Licensing-Permits-Registrations/Public-register/Animal/Animal-Public-Register.pdf>

We are therefore of the view that, in this case, the public interest falls in favour of maintaining the exemption

2. Inspectors are permitted to carry out unannounced inspections at any time. In October 2024 an inspection was carried out as part of an investigation following receipt of a complaint. The above exemption applies to the release of any further information from this inspection.

Places Directorate
Licensing Section
PO Box 100
Wigan
WN1 3DS



Email: licensing@wigan.gov.uk
Web: www.wigan.gov.uk

Animal Activity Licence

AAL0158

WIGAN COUNCIL does hereby grant an animal activity licence to:

Dogs Northwest Ltd

of

Dogs Country Club, Laburnum Cottage, 191 Slag Lane, Lowton, Warrington, WA3 1BU

for the following activity(s):

Boarding for Dogs in Kennels

The number of dogs boarded at any one time shall not exceed 22.

The above premises has been risk assessed and a **1** star rating awarded 

This licence is valid from **18/10/2024** and shall remain in force until **17/10/2025**

This licence is issued in accordance with the provisions of the Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018, and is subject to the general conditions, and the relevant specific conditions specified in the legislation.

Signed: _____
Licensing Manager

Date of Issue: 20/11/2024

Processed by: _____