



Request

Dogs Country Club – Animal Activity Licence AAL0130 – Dog Day Care

Please provide copy of Inspection Report on or about 13 January 2025 that has led to Dogs Country Club no longer having an Animal Activity Licence for Dog Day Care, to include reasons for the licence not being renewed by Local Authority.

The Council's Animal Activity Licence Register dated 8 January 2025 shows AAL0130 was active as 1 Star and expiring on 28/02/2025. The Council's Animal Activity Licence Register dated 16 January 2025 does not show AAL0130. On 15 January 2025 Dogs Country Club's Facebook account stated they were closing Dog Day Care, partly due to Council Regulations'. Exact date of Inspection is not known, but it is reasonable to assume it was on a date between the period of the two registers i.e. 8th & 16th January 2025

Response

This licence is currently **SUSPENDED**, in accordance with the provisions of the Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018.

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.

Public Register

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