

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST 1161

I write further to your email dated 13 April 2020.

Your request has been dealt with under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), explained on our [freedom of information](#) page.

Your request (responses shown in italics:

Official Government advice states that anyone with horses, livestock or other animals (except for cats and dogs) should call their local authority if they are too unwell to care for their animals due to Covid-19 and if they don't have anyone to help them. The official advice is contained at this webpage, which I last accessed on 13th April 2020: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-advice-for-people-with-animals>. Please can you advise:

1. Has the local authority received any calls of the above nature?

No

- a. If this information is held, please advise which species help has been requested for.

N/A

2. What is the local authority's official response to such calls for help?

We do not hold any specific information on how we would respond to such calls however responses would be reviewed on a case by case basis specific to the request to comply with all relevant legislation / government guidance.

3. What arrangements has the local authority made, or planned to make, for those animals that cannot be cared for by owners in the above circumstances?

Under legislation we hold powers to seize animals if no other intervention is suitable. In circumstances requiring Trading Standards intervention, we would review calls on a case by case basis specific to the request to meet the needs of the animal(s). In this instance, the Council would lead the response in co-ordination with LLR, the Local Resilience Forum covering Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland, unless the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) specifies otherwise or guidance is updated.

The response to the pandemic is being co-ordinated by LLR Prepared which is the Local Resilience Forum covering Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland. It has statutory responsibilities arising from the Civil Contingencies Act 2004, which requires specific organisations to work together to prepare for, respond to and recover from different emergencies. Further information about the Council's response to the Covid-19 pandemic can be found in the Cabinet report entitled 'Coronavirus (Covid-19) Impact And Response Of The County Council' dated 24th March 2020:

<http://politics.leics.gov.uk/documents/b15204/Urgent%20Report%20-%20Coronavirus%20Covid-19%20Impact%20and%20Response%20of%20the%20County%20Council%20Tuesday%2024-Mar-20.pdf?T=9>

- a. Please describe the nature of any temporary arrangements that may be being made. Please break this down by species and/or animal type if appropriate.

We do not currently hold details of any generic temporary arrangements. The Council's Trading Standards would review required arrangements of animals on a case by case basis.

- b. Please describe the nature of any permanent arrangements that may be being made. Please break this down by species and/or animal type if appropriate.

We do not currently hold details of any generic permanent arrangements. The Council's Trading Standards would review required arrangements of animals on a case by case basis to support the permanency of the situation.

4. How much financial resource does the local authority have access to to help people with animals in the above circumstances?

We do not have a specific budget set aside for the above circumstances.

- a. Is this being provided by the local authority itself or by central Government?

N/A

The supply of information in response to a freedom of information request does not confer the right to re-use the information. UK copyright law allows information supplied for the purposes of private study and non-commercial research to be used without permission. Information supplied can also be re-used for the purposes of news reporting except for in the case of photographs.

GOING FORWARD

If you are dissatisfied with the information supplied please feel free to contact me on the number above for any queries in relation to this response. Please note that in responding to further enquiries I can only comment on the information contained within this correspondence and cannot provide any further information that may pertain to an additional FOIA request.

Please remember to quote the Authority's four digit reference number given at the top of this email in any future communications.

If you remain dissatisfied following the conclusion of the above informal review, you have the right to ask for an internal review. A request for a review whether formal or informal should be submitted within two calendar months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be sent to DPO@NWLeicestershire.gov.uk or the address above.

Further details on our appeals and complaints procedure can be found on our website [here](#).

If you remain dissatisfied following the conclusion of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at accessicoinformation@ico.org.uk.

Yours sincerely

Mackenzie Keatley
Information Governance Officer