

5. QUESTIONS

Part 1 - ABOUT YOU

1. Are you responding as:

- an individual – in which case go to Q2A
 on behalf of an organisation? – in which case go to Q2B

2A. Which of the following best describes you? (If you are a professional or academic, but not in a subject relevant to the consultation, please choose "Member of the public".)

- Politician (MSP/MP/peer/MEP/Councillor)
 Professional with experience in a relevant subject
 Academic with expertise in a relevant subject
 Member of the public

Optional: You may wish to explain briefly what expertise or experience you have that is relevant to the subject-matter of the consultation:

2B. Please select the category which best describes your organisation:

- Public sector body (Scottish/UK Government or agency, local authority, NDPB)
 Commercial organisation (company, business)
 Representative organisation (trade union, professional association)
 Third sector (charitable, campaigning, social enterprise, voluntary, non-profit)
 Other (e.g. clubs, local groups, groups of individuals, etc.)

Optional: You may wish to explain briefly what the organisation does, its experience and expertise in the subject-matter of the consultation, and how the view expressed in the response was arrived at (e.g. whether it is the view of particular office-holders or has been approved by the membership as a whole).

Scottish Local Authority involved in the administration and enforcement of the current legislation governing pet shop licences

3. Please choose one of the following:

- I am content for this response to be published and attributed to me or my organisation
- I would like this response to be published anonymously
- I would like this response to be considered, but not published (“not for publication”)

Please give a reason why you have requested anonymity or asked for your response not to be published:

4. Please provide your name or the name of your organisation.

This will not be published if you have asked for the response to be anonymous or “not for publication”. Otherwise this is how your name/name of your organisation will be published.

Name: The Highland Council

Please provide details of a way in which we can contact you if there are queries regarding your response. (Email is preferred but you can also provide a postal address or phone number. We will not publish these details.)

5. Data protection declaration

- I confirm that I have read and understood the privacy notice attached to this consultation which explains how my personal data will be used.

Part 2 - YOUR VIEWS ON THE PROPOSAL

Aim and approach

1. Which of the following best describes your view of the proposal to strengthen the licensing regime for pet shops in Scotland?

- Fully supportive
- Partially supportive
- Neutral (neither support nor oppose)
- Partially opposed
- Fully opposed
- Unsure

Please explain the reasons for your response.

2. Could the aims of the Bill be better delivered in another way (rather than by the means of a Bill in the Scottish Parliament)?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

Please explain the reasons for your response.

3. Under the proposal, pet shop licence fees would be based on a recovery of the costs incurred by local authorities in processing applications and inspecting premises to ensure animal welfare standards are maintained. In your view, which of the following should local authorities do?

- (a) Charge all pet shops the same licence fee
- (b) Charge all pet shops the same basic licence fee, but charge the costs of inspections separately to each pet shop.
- (c) Differentiate licence fees for pet shops according to other criteria (e.g. shop surface area).

Please give reasons for your answer. If you have selected option (c) please indicate which criteria you think should be used.

The costs need to reflect the size of operation and amount of officer time required to process the applications. If the fees are based on costs of inspections, this would incentivise businesses to achieve better compliance to avoid additional costs emerging from a protracted inspection.

4. Which of the following best expresses your view of developing statutory licence conditions, building on the current Model conditions for pet vending, that would apply to all pet shops in Scotland?

- Fully supportive
- Partially supportive
- Neutral (neither support nor oppose)
- Partially opposed
- Fully opposed
- Unsure

Please give reasons for your answer, including any advantages or disadvantages of the proposal.

This would assist with greater consistency of enforcement and afford applicants and businesses a clearer understanding of what is ultimately required by law. It may also facilitate easier enforcement by Local Authorities.

5. Which of the following best describes your view of banning the sale of puppies and kittens in pet shops?

- Fully supportive
- Partially supportive
- Neutral (neither support nor oppose)
- Partially opposed
- Fully opposed
- Unsure

Please give reasons for your answer, including any advantages or disadvantages of the proposal.

6. Which of the following best describes your view of pet shop licence applications listing all animal categories they intend to sell, with owners under an obligation to inform the local authority before stocking any new categories?

- Fully supportive
- Partially supportive
- Neutral (neither support nor oppose)
- Partially opposed
- Fully opposed
- Unsure

Please give reasons for your answer, including any advantages or disadvantages of the proposal.

Will allow better overview of the business and also ensure that the staff have the relevant training/experience prior to animals being sold. Especially important where subsequent stock is bought which was not mentioned on the original application.

7. Which of the following best describes your view of mandatory inspections for all pet shops before an initial licence is granted?

- Fully supportive
- Partially supportive
- Neutral (neither support nor oppose)
- Partially opposed
- Fully opposed
- Unsure

Please give reasons for your answer, including any advantages or disadvantages of the proposal.

Much easier to assist business with compliance prior to opening, rather than seeking enforcement after the licence has been granted. Also, businesses more likely to be motivated to comply in order to be granted licence, instead of the threat of enforcement.

8. Which of the following best describes your view of all local authorities using a standardised approach to conducting and reporting on inspections of pet shops?

- Fully supportive
- Partially supportive
- Neutral (neither support nor oppose)
- Partially opposed
- Fully opposed
- Unsure

Please give reasons for your answer, including any advantages or disadvantages of the proposal. Is there any reason why a standardised approach would not be appropriate?

Will ensure consistency across all Local Authorities.

9. Which of the following best describes your view of local authorities using a risk-based assessment and issuing longer-term licences to pet shops that demonstrate a low risk to animal welfare?

- Fully supportive
- Partially supportive
- Neutral (neither support nor oppose)
- Partially opposed
- Fully opposed
- Unsure

Please give reasons for your answer, including any advantages or disadvantages of the proposal.

Will allow resources to be allocated to premises where they are most needed.

10. Which of the following best describes your view of enabling local authorities to contract other qualified professionals (in addition to their own officers and vets) to carry out and report on pet shop inspections, including qualified officers from other local authorities?

- Fully supportive
- Partially supportive
- Neutral (neither support nor oppose)
- Partially opposed
- Fully opposed
- Unsure

Please give reasons for your answer, including any advantages or disadvantages of the proposal.

Allows more flexibility especially in areas where specialist vets may be limited.

11. Which of the following best describes your view of enabling local authorities to take steps to address non-compliance with licence conditions , giving licensees the opportunity to make improvements before any further action is taken, with the power to revoke a licence as a last resort?

- Fully supportive
- Partially supportive
- Neutral (neither support nor oppose)
- Partially opposed
- Fully opposed
- Unsure

Please give reasons for your answer, and any detail you think relevant, including what appropriate intermediate steps could be.

12. Which of the following best describes your view of increasing the maximum fine for failing to comply with the legislation, in line with more recent animal welfare legislation?

- Fully supportive
- Partially supportive
- Neutral (neither support nor oppose)
- Partially opposed
- Fully opposed
- Unsure

Please give reasons for your answer, including any advantages or disadvantages of the proposal.

Some enforcement matters could be dealt with in isolation with other elements of the business allowed to operate, rather than revoking the licence which would see the closure of the business until compliant.

13. Which of the following best describes your view of placing an obligation on pet shop owners to provide advice to people buying pets?

- Fully supportive
- Partially supportive
- Neutral (neither support nor oppose)
- Partially opposed
- Fully opposed
- Unsure

Please give reasons for your answer, including any advantages or disadvantages of the proposal.

Financial implications

14. Taking account of both costs and potential savings, what financial impact would you expect the proposed Bill to have on:

(a) Local authorities

- Significant increase in cost
- Some increase in cost
- Broadly cost-neutral
- Some reduction in cost
- Significant reduction in cost
- Unsure

(b) Pet shop owners

- Significant increase in cost
- Some increase in cost
- Broadly cost-neutral
- Some reduction in cost
- Significant reduction in cost
- Unsure

(c) Individuals (including pet owners)

- Significant increase in cost
- Some increase in cost
- Broadly cost-neutral
- Some reduction in cost
- Significant reduction in cost
- Unsure

(d) Animal welfare organisations

- Significant increase in cost
- Some increase in cost
- Broadly cost-neutral
- Some reduction in cost
- Significant reduction in cost
- Unsure

Please explain the reasons for your response.

15. Are there ways in which the Bill could achieve its aim more cost-effectively (e.g. by reducing costs or increasing savings)?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

Please explain the reasons for your response.

Equalities

16. What overall impact is the proposed Bill likely to have on equality, taking account of the following protected characteristics (under the Equality Act 2010): age, disability, gender re-assignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion and belief, sex, sexual orientation?

- Positive
- Slightly positive
- Neutral (neither positive nor negative)
- Slightly negative
- Negative
- Unsure

Please explain the reasons for your response.

Sustainability

17. Do you consider that the proposed bill can be delivered sustainably, i.e. without having likely future disproportionate economic, social and/or environmental impacts?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

Please explain the reasons for your response.

General

18. Do you have any other comments or suggestions on the proposal?

A need for consistent training for all staff who will be carrying out the inspections.

Calendar year restrictions removed - based on date issued instead.

Any responsibility to provide a vet report (if required) placed on the applicant rather than on the Local Authority - this would remove time delays in getting licences issued.