

<b>Report on</b>	Animal Welfare Service Delivery Statistics 2016/17
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	8 <sup>th</sup> May 2018
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Fiona McClements, Head of Environmental Health
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Fiona McClements

<b>Is this report restricted for confidential business?</b>	Yes	
If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	No	X

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	DAERA has recently published an annual report on animal welfare. The purpose of the report is to set out information relevant to the public in relation to the animal welfare service provided by each of three different enforcement bodies. This report is the first such report and reflects statistical information that has been provided to DAERA.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	<p>In Northern Ireland, the welfare of animals is protected by the Welfare of Animals Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 (the 2011 Act). The 2011 Act includes a duty of care in respect of all "protected animals" (i.e. animals under the control of a person whether permanently or temporarily). Responsibility for the welfare of an animal remains with the owner at all times. The 2011 Act sets out offences regarding animal welfare, for example: it is an offence to fail to take reasonable steps to ensure that the welfare needs of an animal are met; and it is an offence to take action, or fail to take action, that causes an animal to suffer unnecessarily.</p> <p>The three bodies that are responsible for the enforcement of the 2011 Act are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) (farmed animals only);</li> <li>• Councils (non-farmed animals, such as domestic pets and horses);</li> <li>• Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) (wildlife crime, animals on the road and other criminal activity such as dog fighting).</li> </ul> <p>Enforcement officers investigate complaints and take action to ensure the owner or keeper complies with the legislation.</p>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	The full report attached provides information relating to Enforcement Activity undertaken by all three enforcement authorities outlined above, and is attached to this document for full consideration.
3.2	As mentioned in the background to this report Councils are responsible for enforcement of the Welfare of Animals (NI) Act 2011, as it applies to Non-Farmed Animals. This means domestic pets of any vertebrate species such as cats, dogs, horses and donkeys.

	Animal welfare cases in the Mid Ulster District Council area are investigated by the shared 'Western Area Animal Welfare Team' that also covers the Fermanagh & Omagh District Council and the Derry & Strabane District Council areas.			
3.3	The Officers have statutory enforcement powers and can take a range of action to improve the welfare of non-farmed animals including, providing advice, issuing an improvement notice, taking animals into their possession (in extreme cases of suffering), and initiating prosecution action. The following information outlines enforcement actions by the Animal Welfare Service during the period 01 April 2016 to 31 March 2017.			
3.4	The table below is broken down by NI wide figures, Western Region figures and finally Mid Ulster District figures.			
	Period 01/04/16- 31/03/17	NI	Western Region	Mid Ulster
	No. of calls received	6332	1340	395
	No. of referrals to other agencies	1291	364	104
	No. of animal welfare cases	5041	976	291
	No. of AWO inspection visits. (each call may require more than one visit)	9460	1930	540
	No. of Improvement Notices Served	235	21	5
	No. of Animals Seized	283	14	2
4.0	Other Considerations			
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications			
	Financial: N/A			
	Human: N/A			
	Risk Management: N/A			
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments			
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/A			
	Rural Needs Implications: N/A			
5.0	Recommendation(s)			
5.1	Members to note the main issues with regard to animal welfare highlighted in this report. A copy of the attached report will be made available to the public via the Council website.			
6.0	Documents Attached & References			
6.1	Appendix 1 – Animal welfare service delivery statistical bulletin 2016/17			