

## **Public Protection's Licensing Team update** **4 March 2024**

### **Fees and charges**

The proposed fees and charges for 2024-25 were confirmed at the Full Council Meeting on the 20 February 2024. The fees under the Licensing Act 2003 and a number under the Gambling Act 2005 are statutory and not subject to change unless the Government amend regulations permitting amendments, however Animal Activity fees are not prescribed in regulation.

The Local Government Association issued guidance in December 2023 on locally set licensing fees [LGA guidance on locally set licensing fees | Local Government Association](#)

### **Licence applications – weekly list**

Apologises to Members but following the loss of Linda Holland in November the list of licensing applications has not been circulated. This e-mail has now re-started and will be sent directly from the technical support team to avoid any delays in this being sent. If you have any queries about this, please do let us know.

### **Home Office letter on Planning and Licensing**

On 15 January we received a letter from Rt Hon Chris Philp MP, Minister of State for Crime, Policing and Fire, regarding local authorities' licensing and planning functions. The key messages in the letter were:

The Government also intends to:

- further strengthen the section 182 Guidance that accompanies the Licensing Act 2003 by providing detailed advice on practical ways that local licensing and planning regimes can collaborate;
- explore how to provide further support for applicants on the importance of early identification of potential difficulties across the two regimes when making a licensing application, including clarification on the agent of change principle and what it means in practical terms for licensing applicants;
- consider whether the licensing application proforma would benefit from an additional question on potential planning requirements; and
- continue to explore possible ways of unifying pavement and off-sales licence applications.

When further details on this are published, we will bring this issue back to the Licensing Committee.

### **Martyn's Law – Consultation**

The consultation for Martyn's Law, more officially known as the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Bill, started on the 5 February, with the consultation

open until the 18 March 2024, further details can be found here:- [Martyn's Law: standard tier consultation - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/martyns-law-standard-tier-consultation)

The bill will impose requirements in relation to certain premises and events to increase their preparedness for, and protection from, a terrorist attack by requiring them to take proportionate steps, depending on the size and nature of the activities that take place at the premises.

The proposed requirements would apply to those responsible for qualifying public premises and qualifying public events. They might be individuals but, in most cases, would be a business or other organisation.

One of the conditions for premises would be that they be wholly or mainly used for a listed purpose, such as the provision of entertainment and leisure facilities to the public.

The proposals set out different requirements for:

- standard tier premises, which would have a capacity of 100-799 individuals
- enhanced tier premises and qualifying public events, both of which have a capacity of 800 individuals or more

This consultation is focused on the requirements proposed in relation to standard duty premises, which are referred to as the “standard tier”.

## **Animal Licensing**

Studley Grange Butterfly World have recently received their periodical zoo inspection with a secretary of state appointed inspector and licensing officers in attendance.

Dangerous Wild Animal Licences have been renewed using the conditions that have previously acknowledged by committee.

We are awaiting impact of new legislation for Animals (Penalty Notices) Act 2022 and a primate licensing scheme under the Animal Welfare Act - Under the changes, introduced via secondary legislation under the Animal Welfare Act 2006, it will no longer be possible to keep primates in domestic settings as household pets in environments that fail to provide for their needs.

Licensing is expected to come into force in 2026, subject to parliamentary processes, with existing keepers having two years from the Statutory Instrument being approved to reach compliance with the licensing conditions.

## **Licensed XL Bully Breeders**

XL Bully breeders should have now stopped all breeding activity as it will be a criminal offence to sell, transfer, exchange, gift or advertise these dogs from 31 December 2023. Wiltshire Council has not licensed any breeders for these types of dogs.

The Licensing Officers and Dog wardens are working closely with Wiltshire Police to monitor the impact of these changes, with Police leading on the identification of XL Bully's that should now be registered.

The website has been updated with further information [Dangerous dogs - Wiltshire Council](#)

### **Team updates**

A service wide restructure has been taking place for the Public Protection Service since late November. This has resulted in significant management changes to the service including the licensing team. The new structure is detailed at the end of this update with the new roles shown in red.

Following Linda Holland's early retirement in November, a service restructure has been carried out and Claire Francis was appointed as the new Public Protection Manger (Community Protection) with responsibility, amongst other things, for the Licensing Team as from 5 February 2024.

Claire is an Environmental Health Officer by background and has experience in Environmental Protection, Pest Control, Dog Wardens, and Anti-Social Behaviour. Please do drop Claire an e-mail or call if you have anything you wish to discuss or to say hello. [Claire.francis@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:Claire.francis@wiltshire.gov.uk) Telephone: 01249 706309.

The managers will also be recruiting an Assistant Team Leader/Principal for the Licensing team, which will reduce operational capacity of the team. A copy of the new service structure is shown at the end of this report.

### **New ICT system**

The Public Protection Service will be moving to a new database in April called "Arcus Global". This has been years in the planning and will open opportunities to speed up how applicants apply for licenses and will start to automate some of the licence processes. We are aiming to minimise disruption to the service delivery, but there will be a period where we change from one system to the new one.

### **Useful information from the Local Government Association**

The Local Government Association has produced a range of tips and advice sheets for members of their Council's licensing committee which may be helpful. Please see the link below.

[Licensing committee: Councillor tip sheets hub | Local Government Association](#)

## Officer Areas

OFFICER	AREAS
Lisa Grant & Teresa Isaacson	Royal Wotton Bassett
	Marlborough
	Calne
	Devizes
	Pewsey
Roy Bahadoor & Carla Adkins	Chippenham
	Malmesbury
	Corsham
	Trowbridge
	Westbury
Kat Edge & Andy Noble	Salisbury
	South Wiltshire
	Amesbury
	Tidworth
	Southwest Wiltshire
Emma Hyde	Melksham
	Bradford On Avon
	Warminster

## Licensing Officers contact details

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**John Carter**  
**Head of Public Protection**  
**23 February 2024**

