

Appendix 8 – Business Regulation Charges 2017/18

Regeneration and Environment Directorate – Fees and Charges 2017-18
13/03/2017

The Business Regulation Service administers / determines a number of licences and permits that are relevant to the commercial activities of local businesses. In addition, the council also provides services to businesses to assist them in their compliance with regulatory requirements (such as weighbridge verification).

Where fees are not prescribed by legislation, the council has the power to make charges for specific services. The council must set fees for licences / permits / services on a cost recovery basis only; therefore there must be no increase in fees unless there has been a corresponding increase in the cost to the council in administering / determining the application for such a licence / permit. As officer / staff costs make up the majority of the fee that is charged, it is proposed that the fees for 2017/18 are increase in line with the 1% increase in staffing costs across the service (due to the recent pay award) – rounded up to the nearest whole pound.

A further report will be submitted to the Licensing Committee / Board on licensing activities falling within that Committee's terms of reference.

Proposals are as follows:

Animal Health

The Council licences riding, animal boarding and breeding establishments, pet shops, dangerous wild animals and performing animals primarily to ensure animal welfare conditions are met. Regulation for some premises incorporates inspection undertaken by a veterinary surgeon, the costs of which are charged in addition to the licence fees.

Bereavement Services

Cabinet Member will be aware that the Bereavement Services Partnership commenced on 1st August 2008. The fees charged by Dignity Funerals Ltd for the bereavement services it provides are reviewed in April each year. This review is currently in progress, this involves the benchmarking of the proposed fees against those charged by comparable authorities within the region, and a comparison against the national average.

Food, Health & Safety

The Council registers premises for activities such as ear piercing, electrolysis, tattooing and acupuncture primarily to check and maintain appropriate health & safety standards.

The fees for the water samples are set to cover the costs associated with the interpretation, recording and provision of advice following water sampling being undertaken. This service is available to commercial leisure facilities, schools and those in charge of private drinking water supplies. The fees are in addition to those charged by the laboratory and courier (these fees vary depending on the parameters tested, and the location of laboratory used, these charges are passed directly on to the customer that requests the sample). Certain fees are also prescribed in the private water legislation.

Weights & Measures

Fees are charged for the testing and stamping (verification) of weights and measures used for trade.

The fee reflects the hourly cost based on the provision of a single weights and measure inspector. The hourly cost has been calculated based on average salary levels, plus all necessary on-cost for the delivery of the service. Guidance is available that sets out the methodology used to calculate the amount to be recovered. An additional fee may be charged to cover the cost of hiring specialist equipment (such as the heavy test unit).

A full schedule of the proposed 2017/18 fees and charges is attached to this report as Appendix A.

Appendix A – Business Regulation Proposed Fees and Charges 2017/18 (excl. VAT)

	Current Fee	Proposed Fee
ANIMAL HEALTH		
Animal Boarding Establishments	239	242
Animal Boarding Establishments (Home Boarding)	167	169
Riding Establishments	239	242
Performing Animals	147	149
Dog Breeding Establishments	147	149
Dangerous Wild Animals	147	149
Pet Shops	147	149
Zoos (First licence 4 years)	1050	1061
Zoos (Renewal licence 6 years)	1553	1569
FOOD, HEALTH AND SAFETY		
Ear-piercing – PREMISES	123	125
Ear piercing - person carrying on the business	26	27
Tattooing – PREMISES	181	183
Tattooing - person carrying on the business	26	27
Acupuncture – PREMISES	152	154
Acupuncture – person carrying on the practice	26	27
Electrolysis – PREMISES	152	154
Electrolysis – person carrying on the business	26	27
Interpretation of water sample results (payment in addition to analysis charge)	Nil	8
TRADING STANDARDS		
Weights and Measures Inspector (hourly rate)	58.71	60
Weights and Measures Technical Assistant (hourly rate)	35.21	37