

P-05-1061 Give financial support to Pet Boarding businesses, Correspondence – Petitioner to Committee, 31.01.21

To the petitions committee,

Thank you for your time in this matter, my response to the replies you have had are below.

- *“We recently confirmed that discretionary support will continue to be available through local authorities in Wales for businesses not on the non-domestic rates (NDR) system who are materially impacted. Discretionary grants of up to £2,000 will continue to be available”.*

All kennels and catteries are on the NDR system so are not eligible for this support.

- *“Most businesses should also be able to access certain support available from the UK Government – including the Job Retention Scheme”.*

The Job Retention Scheme has been very helpful for retaining staff, but it does not cover bills such as insurances and essential maintenance. The other support from the UK government applies to England with the Welsh government setting out the requirements for eligibility.

- *“In addition, alternative funding can be accessed such as the UK Government Bounce Back Loans and the Development Bank of Wales has loan and equity funding available immediately to Welsh businesses”.*

Loans are helpful but they must be paid back, this adds debt to a business at a time when they have no income. That lost income will never be recovered, and the long term affects of loans being used to pay the bills is potentially damaging to the long term stability of the business.

- *“Therefore, relief from licence fees for animal boarding establishments and not to other businesses from which Local Authorities recover licence fees for example breeders, pubs, music venues etc could be seen as unfair and unjust”.*

“The Welsh Government does not deem kennels and catteries eligible for the non domestic rates (NDR) system linked Restrictions Business Fund grants”.

I find it a little insulting that the failure to remove licence fees is justified as being unfair and unjust while simultaneously deeming us not eligible for the NDR system linked grants which are available to pubs, music venues etc. Help has been specifically provided for the travel and tourism sector and the hospitality sector while we have been left to fend for ourselves despite the clear and obvious links to those sectors.

- *“We will continue to do all we can to support Welsh businesses through these incredibly difficult times and consider options beyond the current package of support”.*

The largest support packages put in place by the Welsh Government are the ERF grants. However, to gain access to these grants' businesses must meet the criteria. There are

several factors that rule out small businesses such as ours. The following criteria are the problems:

Must be VAT registered with a turnover of at least £85,000

The majority of our businesses are small with turnovers below this. This criteria alone puts some of Wales most unique family run businesses at risk, not just in our industry but across the board.

Must employ at least one member of staff through the PAYE system.

Many of our businesses are family run and only employ dog walkers on a self-employed basis and thus are ruled out of the support.

This petition was organised by the Pet Boarders Alliance (Wales) and this response has been made available and approved by its 68 members listed below. As a group we hope that Welsh Government will stick to its pledge to *consider options* to support our industry.

Aderyn Cat Resort	Gedrys Farm Kennels & Cattery
Alyn Boarding Kennels & Cattery	Gelli Farm Kennels & Cattery
Aristocats and Top Dogs	Greenacres Cattery
Barnlake House	Hafod Y Bryn Boarding Kennels
Berry Hill Kennels	Heathroy Kennels & Cattery
Broadlane Kennels	HMC Pet Care Dog Boarding & Cattery
Brook Park Farm Boarding Cattery	Iris's Animal Farm Cattery
Bryn Difyr Boarding Cattery	Islwyn Boarding Kennels
Cartref Boarding Kennels & Cattery	Kelsion Boarding Kennels
Cat Hotel Ewole	Kenwood Kennels
Cawdor Kennels and Cattery	Kerrylee Boarding Kennels & Cattery
Cefn Coed Kennels	Linton Boarding Kennels
Cilfynydd Boarding Kennels & Cattery	Lisvane Cattery
Clements Dale Cattery	Longcroft Luxury Cat Hotel Barry Island
Clwb Boarding Kennels	Maes Gwyn Boarding Kennels
Cottage Cattery Ceredigion Bwthyn Y Cathod	Moggy Mews Cattery
Country Hound Kennel	Mountain View Boarding Kennels
Crosslands Kennels	Nash Mountain Boarding
Crynant Boarding Cattery	Pantafarn
Cwm Cou Boarding Cattery	Pantymilah Kennels
Cwtches for Cats	Pentyrch Boarding Kennels
Dderwen Boarding Kennels & Grooming Centre	Pinecroft Cattery
Downs-side Cattery	Sophisticats Cattery Llanelli
Drws-y-Coed Boarding Kennels & Daycare Centre	Springfield Boarding Kennel & Cattery
Ewloe Boarding Kennels & Cattery	Springfiels of Blackwood
Faaram Court Boarding Kennels & Cattery	Sunnybank Boarding Kennels
Fforest Boarding Kennels, Cattery & Small Pets	Tal-y-Cafn Boarding Kennels & Cattery
Four Paws Boarding Kennels & Cattery	Tasha's Pets Home from Home.
Foxcombe Cats Hotel	The Boarding Centre Ltd
	The Cat Cwtch Swansea
	The Elms Cattery
	The Hairy Hound Nanny Service

The Home From Home Cattery
The Knoll Cattery Carmathen
Ty Coch Stud Farm Boarding Kennels and
Cattery
Ty Gwyn Boarding Kennels & Cattery
Tythegston Boarding Kennels
Waunbricks Boarding Kennel
Yew Tree Cattery