

10 November 2023

Mr David Reid
HM Senior Coroner for Worcestershire

Dear Mr Reid

REGULATION 28 REPORT TO PREVENT FUTURE DEATHS

Wychavon District Council understands your concerns set out in the Regulation 28 Report dated 22 August 2023 relating to the tragic death of Lawson Bond.

Historically, the Worcestershire Regulatory Services (WRS) Intelligence Team has undertaken project based proactive monitoring, for a fixed period of time, of a number of the most prominent selling sites on the internet known to be used by unlicensed breeders. This has been successful, identifying 30 unlicensed breeders across Worcestershire. The breeder in this particular case generally advertised on a site not covered by the project work as it had not featured in previous intelligence gathering.

Going forward from this month, for a minimum period of 12 months, the intelligence gathering project for Wychavon will be a continuous, business-as-usual activity. The work will cover a significantly larger number of key selling sites and we will ensure that the on-going intelligence gathering activity includes searches for the approximately 65 breeds classed as "large" by the Kennel Club and, guided by the expertise of the Dog Warden Team, any similar breeds that might meet these criteria. We will review the outcomes of this work at the end of this initial 12-month period with a view to continuing if successful.

We would also respectfully suggest that specialist internet selling sites which routinely deal with breeders, particularly breed-specific sites, should have their own controls in place to ensure that those advertising who meet the "business" threshold are licensed. We understand that a number do this, refusing to take adverts from people who they believe ought to be licensed and are not. However, this does not stop individuals potentially creating new accounts or using different names to avoid controls. Although it is not perfect, we would ask you to encourage those taking adverts to maintain a robust position with those they believe are acting in the course of a business.

Please do not hesitate to contact me again if I can provide anything further.

Yours sincerely

Chief Executive