

## Response to Request for Information

Reference      FOI 000288  
Date            15 July 2016

### *Horses Flygrazing*

**Request:**

Under the Freedom of Information Act I write to you regarding horses that fly graze on council land in Wolverhampton. Often they are tied for weeks with no access to water, other times they roam about.

What is your policy regarding such horses, as unlike Dudley, I have been informed that you do not have a horse warden. In this case, who is actually collecting these horses and where are they going? RSPCA only get involved if there is a welfare issue. So who is actually responsible for these horses as nobody in the council seems to be able to tell me over the phone which is pretty awful. It would seem that the plight of these animals is totally invisible.

Environmental Health staff at Wolverhampton Council will visit and inspect fly-grazing horses whenever we receive service requests from concerned members of the public. In cases where there are concerns relating to welfare of the horses, or we are of the opinion the horses are on land without the land owner's consent, we will make every effort to make contact with the owners of the horses. We are authorised to serve statutory notices under the Animal Welfare Act and, in cases where we wish to remove the animals from the land we have a formal arrangement in place with a neighbouring Local Authority who will facilitate this.

We do have secure accommodation where horses can be taken.