

Edinburgh Dog and Cat Home submission of 25 March 2024

PE2058/E: Require all dog boarding kennels to install smoke detectors, smoke alarms and sprinkler systems

At Edinburgh Dog and Cat Home the safety and welfare of our animals is paramount and therefore anything that would enhance this whilst under our care we would be supportive of. However that said, as a charity on an aging estate, we are always mindful of the financial practicalities that such legislation places on organisations such as our own, and any changes must remain proportionate to the risks involved.

As such, we believe that Fire Alarm System and Multi Sensors should be mandatory. Multi sensors work by detecting a rapid increase in heat and smoke detection and therefore give the best possible chance of detecting a fire. In addition, the Fire & Rescue Service made changes in July 2023 to reduce unwanted fire alarm signals meaning that they would not respond to a trigger from a single sensor detection. Therefore multi sensors offer the greatest protection.

With regards to sprinkler systems, these are more complex particularly in aging facilities whereby existing infrastructure may not be able to cope with the additional demands that such a system would bring, therefore has the potential to significantly increase the costs associated with both the installation and ongoing maintenance around it. To that end, perhaps a more staged approach whereby sprinkler systems are mandatory for new build facilities only.