

# Report – Port Health & Environmental Services

## Animal Reception Centre – Heathrow Airport: Annual Review of Charges

*To be presented on Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> January 2023*

*To the Right Honourable The Lord Mayor, Aldermen and Commons  
of the City of London in Common Council assembled.*

### **SUMMARY AND REPORT**

This report seeks approval of the increase to be applied to the Schedule in respect of services provided at the Heathrow Animal Reception Centre (HARC), for the forthcoming financial year 2023/24. The Schedule is attached at Appendix A to this report.

The charges for holding animals and provision of other services at the Heathrow Animal Reception Centre (HARC) require review towards the end of each year to enable an appropriate variation to be applied with effect from the following April. This advance consideration is necessary because the major proportion of the charges is in respect of quarantine animals and allied services and has to be introduced as an “additional byelaw” to the principal byelaws for the Centre. This takes somewhat longer than a more simplistic, discretionary fee increase. The second, smaller element of the charges is not byelaw controlled and relates to non-quarantine (export and boarding) charges but for practical and operational reasons the two are dealt with together.

The main source of income at HARC, the Pet Travel Scheme, is a non-statutory function and is thus open to competition from commercial enterprises. New operators of Live Animal Border Control Posts are able to seek designation at Heathrow Airport. A phased development plan was presented to your Port Health & Environmental Services Committee in January and May 2022 which detailed the City’s intentions to mitigate a risk of loss of throughput as a result of new competition.

There was zero increase to fees in 2022/23 due to high levels of income in 2021/22 and the continuing high demand for Pet Travel Scheme services.

Whilst the Animal Health and Welfare Service continues to generate a surplus, both costs and risk have increased. Last year, no increase on fees was made; however, energy costs continue to rise and are substantial for HARC due to its 24-hour opening and the need to temperature-control animal accommodation.

A 3% increase in HARC fees is, therefore, proposed for 2023/24. The 3% increase is intended to offset these costs and other risks, whilst ensuring that fees remain competitive for the Centre’s commercial customers. Fees for HARC services are charged in the main to airlines and pet shipping agents, who in turn may pass these costs onto their customers, trade consignees or pet owners.

The charge for reptiles (Section 1 part 4 of the Byelaws) has been edited to include reptiles and amphibians. Single species amphibian shipments are frequent, and the current byelaws do not have a clear charge for these.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

We **recommend** that the Byelaws contained at Appendix A to this report be made and the Comptroller and City Solicitor be instructed to seal the Byelaws accordingly.

### **Appendices**

- Appendix A – Revised Byelaws

All of which we submit to the judgement of this Honourable Court.

DATED this 29<sup>th</sup> day of November 2022.

SIGNED on behalf of the Committee.

**Deputy Keith David Forbes Bottomley**  
Chairman, Port Health and Environmental Services Committee