Winchester City Council

FOI REF:	17916
RESPONSE SENT:	06/10/2026

Request (responses in bold).

I would be grateful for your authority's response to these five questions:

1. 26°C limit Do you treat 26°C as an absolute maximum that must never be exceeded, including during exceptional external temperatures of 30–35°C or above? Yes / No. If no, briefly explain how you approach a temporary exceedance.

No. We would look at the licensee's methodology, policy and procedure for dealing with high temperatures

2. Regulatory status If a sleeping area temporarily exceeds 26°C during exceptional hot weather, do you regard that, by itself, as: (a) a departure from Defra Guidance;

(b) a breach of a license condition;

(c) a breach of the 2018 Regulations; or

(d) none of these without further welfare concerns?

We would take each case on its own merits - it may or may not be considered a breach depending on the circumstances

3. Higher standards Would a temporary exceedance of 26°C during exceptional weather automatically prevent an otherwise compliant operator from achieving or retaining higher standards? Yes / No.

Not necessarily. We would take each case on its own merits - it may or may not be considered a breach depending on the circumstances

4. Extreme-weather measures What measures would you expect an operator to take in exceptional heat (for example fans, cooling areas, water, altered operating hours or closure)?

We would look at the operator's methodology, policy, procedure and the equipment available and consider whether it is sufficient to meet the standard

5. Written extreme-weather policy As Defra guidance requires operators to have a written policy covering extremes of temperature and abnormal weather, do your

inspectors request sight of and review this policy during licensing or inspection, and is that review recorded?

Yes, although the procedure may not be re-checked at every inspection of the same premises

Freedom of Information Request

Separately, under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please provide:

1. Any written policy, internal guidance, inspection guidance or officer instructions held by the authority concerning extreme temperatures and/or application of the 26°C guidance to licensed dog day care establishments.

There is none

2. The number of occasions during the last five years on which the authority has taken licensing or enforcement action specifically because a dog day care establishment exceeded 26°C during exceptionally hot weather.

There is none

For question 2, where held, please identify whether the action involved a breach of a license condition, refusal/removal of higher standards, reduction in star rating, variation, suspension or revocation of a license, or other formal enforcement action.

I am seeking recorded information only and do not require personal information identifying individual license holders.