

Dear Minister McConalogue,
Martin Blake, Chief Veterinary Officer,
Louis Duffy, Director of Services, Cork County Council
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I am contacting you in relation to the recent court hearing at Midleton District Court on June 15th 2023. On this date Michael O'Reilly, a **Government Veterinary Inspector**, withdrew his appeal against the closure of his dog-breeding facility and Cork County Council also withdrew a closure notice that had been issued to him on May 23rd 2023.

On May 23rd, Mr. O'Reilly had been ordered by Cork County Council to immediately close his unregistered dog breeding facility following a list of serious animal welfare and public health concerns.

The closure order ([link here](#)) stated these included: *lack of cleanliness, gross faecal soiling, malodour, unsuitable structures, unsuitable space provision, lack of socialisation and stimulation, inadequate exercise facilities, contaminated feed and water provision and evidence of vermin harbourage had been found during an inspection of the premises.*

Then just 23 days later on June 15th, it was reported in [the Irish Examiner](#) that Cork County Council issued a statement following the court hearing on that date to state that "the closure notice was withdrawn by Cork County Council following a further inspection, which indicated that the requirements of the notice had been fully complied with, and that the location in question had ceased operating as a dog breeding establishment."

Not only do I query how all of the above was rectified in such a short space of time including a successful rehoming of the dogs that were mistreated under Mr O'Reilly's care, but I also wish to know from you what steps are being taken by the Department of Agriculture, as Mr. O'Reilly's employer, to investigate his ability to perform his role as a protector of **animal welfare in this country**? If he was found to be housing and mistreating multiple dogs at an unregistered breeding facility which he owned and was in charge of, in the horrific conditions that were outlined above posing a "serious and immediate threat to animal welfare and/or public health", surely this calls into question his moral and professional outlook on how all animals should be treated in this country.

The above case is not in keeping with efforts to effectively monitor and improve policy in the area of animal welfare and at odds with recent government announcements.

I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience on this disturbing matter.

Best,