

## **Public Interest Test – FOI**

**Reference Number – DAERA/26-60**

### **Requested Information**

A copy of the briefing paper for meeting held between the Minister, his staff, and members of the All-Party Group for Animal Welfare

### **Exemption / Exception under consideration**

Section 35 – Government Policy.

### **Reasons why the public interest would favour disclosure:**

- The Freedom of Information Act gives a right of access to information that the Department holds; and
- There is a general public interest in promoting transparency, accountability, public understanding and involvement in the democratic process.

### **Reasons why the public interest would favour withholding:**

- Some of the information within the briefing document provides detail regarding the policy development of the sale and supply of pups and kittens (Lucy's Law), which is still ongoing. Disclosure of this information could undermine the policy development process and result in less robust, well-considered or effective policies.

### **Conclusion**

Following consideration of the Public Interest Test the Department has decided to exempt the information from disclosure, under Section 35, as this is necessary to protect the integrity of the policy making process.

**Veterinary Service and Animal Health Group**