

# Help document

# Supporting information for a complaint to the Greyhound Board of Great Britain

All this contact information is available on the internet in the public domain or can be inferred from email address formats.

* Complaints email is complaints@gbgb.org.uk
* Their Managing Director is Mark Bird Mark.Bird@gbgb.org.uk
* Their GBGB Welfare and Integrity Manager is Duncan Gibson  Duncan.Gibson@gbgb.org.uk
* We do not know inspected Hillside but the Senior Stipendiary Steward is Paul Illingworth Paul.Illingworth@gbgb.org.uk

First request a complaint reference number and request a copy of the GBGB complaints process.

If they do not follow their own complaints process it will make it easier to escalate to UKAS later

We have compared our observations and experiences with the relevant GBGB welfare statement, Rules of Racing and other regulations. Within each of the following sections, the questions are uniquely numbered to make the complaint clear and easy to respond.

**Feel free to use this help document as your starting point and of course add any other issues or concerns you have to your complaint.**

# Kennel Inspections

Licensed Kennels are subject to an Annual Veterinary Kennel Inspection – the deadline for submitting the form following the inspection is 1st September. In addition there should be at least 2 unannounced visits a year.

## Why were the kennels allowed to deteriorate into the condition in which they were left on 28 October 2018?

## When exactly did the 2017 and 2018 annual inspections take place, who conducted them and what were the outcomes?

## Will the GBGB disclose copies of the 2017 and 2018 reports including any video or photographic evidence?

## How many unannounced visits have Stipendiary Stewards made to Hillside since Tony Taylor assumed full responsibility in 2016?

## Across annual and unannounced visits form 2015 – 2018, Hillside should have been checked at least 7 times how could the increasing disrepair and filthy conditions have gone unnoticed and unaddressed?

# Mark Bird stated in an email on 2 November

“I have spoken to the Stipendiary Steward who I asked to speak to Mr Taylor yesterday and she confirms that the photos you posted were of a set of kennels condemned by the GBGB 3-4 years ago, not least because there was no drainage present. Mr Taylor’s greyhounds were in separate kennels, which were in a much better condition. Mr Taylor moved to new kennels last weekend and I attach some photos taken yesterday by the Steward highlighting the conditions of the new kennels.

 I understand however, that an ex-kennel hand of Mr Taylor’s had kept her own pet dogs (non-greyhounds) in the condemned block, whilst she had worked. The Steward highlighted that if they had seen the pet dogs in those conditions upon their visits, they would have asked for the dogs to be removed.”

There were freshly soiled bedding and full flypapers hanging in the third block – expiry dates on item ranged from 2010 – 2013 so it’s highlight unlikely they have been there since 2014

## The first and second kennel blocks are not in “much better condition” – deeply ingrained filth up the walls and floors, chewed bars and door frames, deep scratches in the walls, poor ventilation , unabsorbent plastic bedding – is this really your definition of “better condition”?

## If the 3rd kennel block had been condemned “3-4 years ago and really should have been demolished” – why on the numerous visits in those 3-4 years was demolition not mandated?

## Can you provide photographic evidence from the 3 annual visits that the block was unoccupied?

## At least two of the kennel hands dogs were greyhounds so you have been misinformed – and if her dogs were using the condemned block – whose dogs were in the cupboard in the reception room and why was dog faeces on the floors in both the reception block and staff caravan?

# DEFRA Post Implementation Review

The GBGB has failed to honour an agreement with the Government and obtain UKAS accreditation for trainer's kennels by December 2017 and are trying to achieve this by 2020. If this standard had been implemented on time, then situations like Hillside may have been avoided.

## Why have you missed your agreed deadline by 11 months?

## Why do you need until 2020 to achieve this?

## How does the GBGB propose to ensure greyhounds are not living in squalor in other kennels like Hillside for until 2020?

# Rule of Racing 61 - Report of sickness, injury, etc.

Affane Duke was seriously injured on Monday 18 April 2016 and left untreated until one of the syndicate owners intervened and took him next door Celia Cross Greyhound Trust on 20 April 2016 for help. Whilst Hillside was still debating whether to “retire” him to CCGT, Affane Duke was receiving emergency veterinary treatment for an internal bleed from a nicked femoral artery and a torn femoral sheath and torn gracilus muscle.

## Did Hillside report this injury to the GBGB?

## Why did they allow the dog to suffer for 3 days?

# Rule of Racing 62 Death of a Greyhound

There have been at least two sudden deaths at Hillside March 2014 and November 2013 as reported by kennel hand Debbie Room on public Facebook posts.

## Were these deaths reported?

## Were necropsies carried out to determine the causes?

## What were the outcomes?

# Rule of Racing 212: Minimum Requirements for all residential Licensed Kennels and Transportation of Greyhounds

**Rule 212i** states Each Greyhound shall be accommodated in secure Kennels with not more than two Greyhounds housed in each unit.

We believe around 82 greyhounds were living at Hillside – so either there were more than 2 in a kennel OR the “condemned” third block was in fact still in use.

**Rule 212v** states Each Kennel shall be provided with adequate natural or artificial light and regulated ventilation. *Kennel Block 1 corridor roof could be opened but there were no windows – scarcely adequate in the heatwave. Kennel Block 2 – unable to open most corridor windows – due to dirt, grime and cobwebs clear that have not been opened for some time and Kennel Block 3 no windows either just one tiny vent on door and a roof that again did not look as if it had been opened for years.*

**Rule 212vi** states that all excreta and soiled material shall be removed at least twice daily and more often if necessary from all living compartments and at least once daily from exercise areas.

But deep staining of walls and floors and completely full flypapers prove this has not been carried out in any of the three blocks.

**Rule 212vii** states that all Greyhounds accommodated on the premises shall be provided with suitable bedding material and be given adequate exercise.

However the bedding found was non-absorbent shredded plastic and apart from dogs living in back paddock – dogs were only heard never seen outside in paddocks, the paddocks are overgrown and clearly unused.

**Rule 212xiii** states all supplies of food shall be kept in a secure place which shall be kept clean and vermin free at all times.

There was a rat hole in the food preparation area floor

**Rule 212xiv** states all reasonable precautions shall be taken to prevent and control the spread of infectious or contagious diseases.

The drain in the food preparation area floor was clogged and stinking

## Why were the kennels only deemed unacceptable?

## Why was no disciplinary action taken against Tony Taylor for breaking all these rules?

## Why is Tony Taylor still a licensed trainer

# Rule of 216 - Greyhound Treatment Books and Kennel Books

The GBGB web page <http://www.gbgb.org.uk/norethisterone.aspx> stipulates that Trainers must record all use of norethisterone in their GBGB Treatment Book. Stipendiary Stewards will rigorously monitor Treatment Books during kennel inspections and trainers that do not maintain their books in accordance with Rule 216 are likely to face disciplinary action. The suppression of a bitch must be reported to the Racing Manager at a GBGB Racecourse in accordance with Rule 57.

Numerous empty blister packs of Norethisterone were found in the food preparation area.

## Did Taylor record their use in the GBGB Treatment Book?

## Will the Stipendiary Steward inspecting his current kennels check his treatment book for ongoing use of Norethisterone?

# Timing, size and justification for the “£30-4K” grant awarded to Tony Taylor

The Trainers Assistance Fund Grants awarded to 21 trainers in June 2018 totalled £79K.

In March 2018 over £60K was awarded to 16 trainers. In July 2017 £34K was awarded to 8 trainers. The GBGB website states that a development grant is for the improvement of facilities for the benefit of greyhounds, whilst an improvement grant is to raise the conditions of a kennel in-line with GBGB minimum standards. A maximum award of £8,000 is available.

In a Greyhound Star article dated 1 August – Tony Taylor states ““I am planning to move back into Keston by around October but the place is in need of around £35,000-£40,000 worth of renovation work. I was originally offered a GBGB grant for these kennels but once I realised Robert’s plan, decided to put the money towards the Keston kennels.””

## Why was a grant awarded at all to an elderly trainer who has allowed first his Keston and then Hillside kennels to fall into disrepair?

## What type of grant was awarded – development or improvement or both?

## If this was a capital grant - how can a trainer decide on which kennels to spend a grant – when notification of planned works must be made to the stipendiary steward who will visit the kennel, film the intended area of development and submit a report to the TASC committee?

## When was the grant awarded?

## Were the Keston kennels licensed at the time the grant was awarded?

## Why did the GBGB allow him to use this grant exclusively to refurbish his old Keston kennels whilst allowing dogs to live in unacceptable conditions at Hillside?

## Why did the GBGB award a grant more than three times the maximum £8000 award?

## When were the Keston kennels licensed – before or after dogs were transferred there?

## Did dogs based at the Keston kennels prior to 28th October race at Hove?