

PE2087/G: Pass a law making exercising a dog in a cemetery an offence

Stirling Council written submission, 23 April 2025

Only assistance dogs are allowed within our cemeteries, this is part of the current Management Rules.

We have received a number of complaints from members of the public concerned about dog fouling in a cemetery environment, the most recent one related to Strathblane Cemetery.

We have signage up in a limited number of our cemeteries informing visitors that only assistance dogs are allowed but this is very difficult to monitor/police as we have 60 burial grounds across our area.

The intention is to continue to erect signage on an ongoing basis. The main issue is if the public choose to ignore the signage, there is very little we can do.

We had signage up in one of our busiest cemeteries (St Thomas) and also in an outlying cemetery but the signage was actually removed by persons unknown in both cemeteries within a week of it being put in place, we have now installed more secure signage but we cannot guarantee this will not be removed as well, this obviously comes at an unnecessary cost to the service.

Passing a Law prohibiting dog exercising would be a step in the right direction, but the public would have to be aware of that law and would have to abide by it or authorities would require to be allocated additional resource to allow enforcement to be undertaken.

As far as I am aware, no fines have been issued regarding dog fouling in cemeteries.