

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

## West Dunbartonshire Council written submission, 1 May 2025

I refer to your email of 4 April 2025 requesting information on behalf of the Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee regarding the presence and behaviour of dogs in cemeteries.

I can advise as follows:

- **Existing Policies:** The following rules are extracted from the West Dunbartonshire Council ("the Council") Rules and Regulations for the management of cemeteries:

### **Dogs to be Under Control**

a) A person shall not allow any dog belonging to them or in their charge to enter or remain in any cemetery unless such dog is led by a leash and kept under proper and effective control. No person shall allow any dog belonging to them to foul any part of the cemetery.

b) The Director or their representative is authorised to remove from the cemetery any person who contravenes the provision of this regulation.

- **Complaints:** On average, we receive 15 complaints per year regarding the behaviour of dogs in cemeteries.
- **Fines/Invoices:** To date, there have been no fines or invoices issued by the Council for dog fouling in cemeteries.
- **Signage:** Signage exists advising that dogs should be kept on a lead in our cemeteries.

Please let me know if you need any further information or clarification on these points.