

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

***Comhairle nan Eilean Siar* written submission, 2 May 2025**

I refer to your email seeking information on the management of dog presence and behaviour in cemeteries. Your question topics and responses are detailed below.

1. Existing policies on the presence and behaviour of dogs in cemeteries

The Comhairle's Cemetery Management Rules state that
"No dogs shall be admitted with the exception of guide dogs".

It is recognised that some people continue to visit cemeteries with dogs and we only usually follow up if complaints are made or there is issues with fouling.

These rules do not cover the numerous private cemeteries in the islands.

2. The number of complaints received regarding the behaviour of dogs in cemeteries

Past records are limited due to a recent cyber-attack but there were two complaints in 2024/25.

3. The number of fines issued for dog fouling in cemeteries

0.

4. Whether local cemeteries have any signage regarding the presence and behaviour of dogs.

The Comhairle have no centralised records of this but cemeteries, which have had issues, have dog fouling signage outside the cemetery and Comhairle owned cemeteries with noticeboards may have guidance notes displayed.