

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

East Dunbartonshire Council written submission, 5 May 2025

I note your request on behalf of the Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee in respect of the petition PE2087: Pass a law making exercising a dog in a cemetery an offence.

I can advise the following on behalf of East Dunbartonshire Council in relation to the points raised.

1. existing policies on the presence and behaviour of dogs in cemeteries
 - a. Please find the link to the Bereavement services - East Dunbartonshire Council webpage which contains the current Cemetery Management Rules with a specific note that dogs should not be exercised within the confines of the Cemetery. However, it is very difficult to enforce this as cemeteries are open to visitors and several are managed and maintained remotely. I would add that the old No Dogs allowed signs were replaced a couple of years ago with the attached following a change in the Access Scotland Code.
 - b. The Cemetery Management Rules are currently being reviewed with the proposal to allow dogs within the cemetery if they remain on a lead and under control so the rule will match the sign attached.
2. the number of complaints received regarding the behaviour of dogs in cemeteries
 - a. Following a search of the East Dunbartonshire Council Complaints Database going back five years using a keyword search there is one complaint logged pertaining to dogs in a cemetery.
3. the number of fines issued for dog fouling in cemeteries
 - a. Regrettably, I am unable to provide this information.
4. whether local cemeteries have any signage regarding the presence and behaviour of dogs
 - a. I can confirm that there are signs in place (see attached) to highlight that dogs should be kept on a lead whilst within the cemeteries, but again it is difficult to enforce this if dog walkers choose to ignore them due to the remote nature of some of the cemeteries.

I trust this information is of assistance.