

Jenny Marra MSP
Convenor
Public Audit and Post-legislative
Scrutiny Committee

c/o Clerk to the Committee
Room T3.40
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

16th May 2018

Dear Jenny,

After speaking in the debate on dog attacks on Tuesday 8 May 2018, I was contacted by a member of the public who raised concerns regarding the Control of Dogs Act 2010.

The Control of Dogs Act was an important piece of legislation when it was passed in 2010. However, with the increasing number of workers and individuals attacked by dogs, this law has not been effective in bringing about more responsible dog ownership. Between January and June 2017, 205 children were taken to A&E and in the same period in NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde area 1057 children and adults went to hospital due to dog bites. In addition, the number of people receiving treatment for such bites in Scotland has risen from 1939 in 2015 to 2027 in 2016.

Legislation currently requires proof that the person in charge of the dog believed it would attack a person and that corroborating evidence exists of a previous bite or poor temperament. However, many feel that this legislation does not provide suitable outcomes for victims of dog attacks.

As a result, I would like to ask the Committee whether it has plans to scrutinise the legislation, or look into any issues surrounding its enforcement.

Yours sincerely,

Finlay Carson