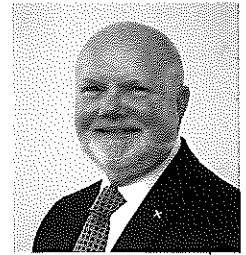




The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba



Colin Beattie

Member of the Scottish Parliament for Midlothian North and Musselburgh

Convener
Public Audit and Post Legislative Scrutiny Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

Our ref: CB/GS

Date: 22 February 2019

Dear Convenor,

Control of Dogs (Scotland) Act 2010

I am writing on behalf of my constituent who came to give evidence at the Dalkeith public consultation in regards to the Control of Dogs (Scotland) Act 2010. The constituent has now indicated that the issue they had with Dog Boarding in the neighbouring house has now been resolved, however, my constituent feels that while the committee is considering how to manage dog attacks and the fallout, it is also worthwhile to consider extending regulation to cover Dog Walkers and Dog Boarder's.

My constituent asks that their case be considered as a possible example of how communities are impacted under the present regulatory regime. I have detailed some of their case below;

The constituents live in a cul-de-sac in a small rural village, where until recently was very quiet and tranquil. Recently a dog boarding house was set up next door and had up to 10 dogs at one time in the property. Some weekends the business owner was leaving the dogs unattended and the neighbours have had to put up with barking for up to 2-3 hours at a time

The neighbours around the boarding house were left having to deal with packs of dogs howling, barking and fighting in the house and garden, the dogs were sometimes left in the van causing howling outside on the street upsetting the majority of the street.

Due to the high volume of dogs the dog boarder had it was hard for her to keep under control these animals. On a few occasions the dogs gave gone into neighbouring gardens. The title deeds for all the properties in the street stated that only one dog per household is permitted providing it is not a nuisance. However, the local authority gave permission to allow a dog boarding business to be run from this house.

This decision has impacted on the health and wellbeing of residents, who have endured this noise for some time and it has greatly affected the quality of people's lives in the street.

Once a local authority has approved a license, there is no way to manage this due to many regulatory ambiguities arising from inadequate legislation.

I look forward to hearing the committee's views on this issue.

Kind regards.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Colin Beattie', written over a horizontal line.

Colin Beattie MSP
Midlothian North & Musselburgh