I am writing to say that whatever the law is now, either it is inadequate to protect people, or insufficient resources are available to implement it.

My friend was badly bitten by her friend’s dog last year. The wound showed there there could be no doubt that the owner was keeping a dangerous dog without due control.

I was surprised to discover that health professionals were not required to report the wounds and their source to the police.

This combined with other factors to allow the dog’s owner to think the matter could be kept private.

This compounded the psychological effects of the incident on my friend, to an extent I cannot overstate. I believe it also interfered with healing.

For whatever reason, my friend was not supported as a victim of crime, or helped to make appropriate responses. She was thus doubly a victim, firstly of the attack, and then of the failure of statutory services.

The effect was as if the authorities had colluded with the dog owner to isolate the victim.

Thank you for the opportunity to bring this matter to your attention.

Janet Dubé