May 2018

I am writing to draw your attention to a debate that was held in the Scottish Parliament on 8 May relating to the issue of control of dogs.

The focus of the debate centred on the way in which the powers provided to local authorities in the Control of Dogs (Scotland) Act 2010 are being used. This was in the context of concerns being expressed about the numbers of incidents of dog attacks and other out of control dogs within our communities. A link to the official report of the debate is below.


In the debate, I advised MSPs that I would seek information from local authorities about how the dog control notice powers contained in the 2010 Act were being used. It would therefore be helpful if you could provide details of:

- how your local authority makes use of the powers contained in the 2010 Act;
- whether you consider the issue of out of control dogs and irresponsible dog ownership is getting better, worse or staying the same within your area; and
- any other relevant information you can provide that would help an assessment be made about how effective the operation of the 2010 Act has been.
I would be grateful if your local authority response could be sent to Philip Lamont (by email – Philip.lamont@gov.scot) by Friday 8 June. Philip would also be happy to answer any queries you may have.

A copy of this letter has been sent to Jenny Marra, Convener of the Scottish Parliament’s Public Audit and Post-Legislative Scrutiny Committee. I would advise that the information provided will be shared with the Public Audit and Post-Legislative Scrutiny Committee to help inform any decision to undertake post-legislative scrutiny of the operation of the 2010 Act.

Yours sincerely,

Annabelle Ewing

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