



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

All Local Authority Chief Executives

By e-mail only

**Public Audit and Post-legislative
Scrutiny Committee**

Room T 3.60

The Scottish Parliament

EDINBURGH

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19 July 2019

Dear Chief Executive

Post-legislative Scrutiny of Control of Dogs (Scotland) Act 2010

As you will be aware, the Public Audit and Post-legislative Scrutiny Committee has recently undertaken post-legislative scrutiny of the Control of Dogs (Scotland) Act 2010. The Committee has now published a report setting out its recommendations and conclusions, a link to which is provided below¹.

The Committee considers that, from the evidence it received, the 2010 Act has had limited effect in preventing or reducing the number of dog attacks in Scotland. The Committee concluded that current dog control law is not fit for purpose and, as such, has called on the Scottish Government to undertake a comprehensive review of all dog control legislation without delay.

The evidence received by the Committee indicated that up to 5,000 people per year, many of them children, attend Accident and Emergency departments for injuries caused by dog bites. Given the significant impact of such attacks on victims, the Committee has also made recommendations to improve the implementation of the 2010 Act while waiting for the Scottish Government to undertake its review.

The Committee agreed to write to each local authority requesting information on the immediate steps they will take to strengthen how they currently deal with out of

¹ <https://digitalpublications.parliament.scot/Committees/Report/PAPLS/2019/7/18/Post-legislative-Scrutiny--Control-of-Dogs--Scotland--Act-2010#>

control and dangerous dogs. This information will be published on the Committee's webpage and will be used to inform a Parliamentary debate in the Chamber on the Committee's report, to be held after the summer recess.

As such, I would be grateful if you could provide a response to this letter by **Friday, 30 August 2019**.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jenny Marra', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jenny Marra MSP
Convener