

Alun Davies AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Cyfoeth Naturiol a Bwyd
Minister for Natural Resources and Food



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref
William Powell AC/AM
Chair,
Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay

22 May 2013

Don Bill

Thank you for your letter of 7 May enclosing a petition from Councillor Dilwar Ali.

I recently met Councillor Ali with Julie Morgan AM to hear his concerns about the legislative proposals contained in the Home Office's Anti Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Bill which was introduced into Parliament on 9 May.

As I said in my written statement, the Welsh Government is committed to ensuring that out-of-control and dangerous dogs are dealt with effectively. We are committed to a statutory framework that will make it unlawful for dogs to be dangerously out-of-control on private premises and committed to the protection for assistance dogs.

I strongly believe in the preventative agenda of dealing with out of control dogs before they become dangerously out of control and that is why the Welsh Government remains committed to promoting responsible dog ownership to protect children, families and communities but also to improve dog welfare which is often at the heart of the problem.

I believe there is a need to bring about cultural change in dog ownership, which cannot be achieved by legislation alone. I also want to raise awareness around the proper care of dogs in areas such as socialisation and training which is vital in dealing with the problem of dangerous dogs.

I have given careful consideration to how these objectives could best be achieved so that our children, families and communities are better protected.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
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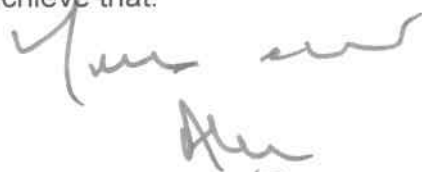
Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)

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I have met Ministers in the UK Government to ensure that the necessary collaborative arrangements are in place to provide enforcement authorities in Wales as well as England with the right tools to be able to deal effectively with problem dogs and their owners.

Whilst I fully understand why Councillor Dilwar Ali and petitioners want to see dog control notices introduced, I can assure them and Members of your Committee that whatever the name of the tools that are used to deal with out of control dogs and their owners, my objective is to ensure that those tools are appropriate and effectively fit for purpose.

I strongly believe that the most important issue is having a fully trained and effective enforcement regime in place across Wales as well as England and my intention is to work to achieve that.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alun Davies', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Alun Davies AC / AM

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Minister for Natural Resources and Food