



Ein cyf/Our ref: MA/LG/1466/23

Rt Hon Suella Braverman KC MP
Home Secretary
Home Office
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25 May 2023

Dear Suella

You will be aware of the disturbing reports of fatalities and serious injuries recently on children and adults as a result of dog attacks in the UK. Sadly, here in Wales, this included the death of 10-year-old Jack Lis in November 2021 who was attacked by a dog at a friend's home in Caerphilly.

I welcome DEFRA and Welsh Government officials working together on the Responsible Ownership Working Group which is considering the recommendations of our jointly funded research into dog attacks.

Perceived shortcomings of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 (DDA) have recently been raised by Members of the Senedd, particularly in relation to the prohibited breed list contained within the Regulations. Whilst it has always been my stance any dog has the potential to cause harm and show aggression, there does appear to be a disproportionate number of incidents involving American XL Bully breeds.

As recommended in the research paper, AW140: Investigation of measures to reduce dog attacks and promote responsible ownership amongst dog owners with dog control issues in the UK, can you provide assurance of how effective preventative measures, available to police officers under the Anti-social Crime and Policing Act 2014, are being taken?

In addition, can you confirm which measures you are taking to improve records of dog attack data in the UK?

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Promotion of responsible dog ownership is a priority for the Welsh Government and our Code of Practice for the Welfare of Dogs outlines the obligations on owners to keep their dogs under control. My officials are working closely with third sector organisations and keep under constant review what we can do here in Wales to prevent the dangers posed by irresponsible dog ownership.

Yours sincerely



Lesley Griffiths AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Materion Gwledig a Gogledd Cymru, a'r Trefnydd
Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and Trefnydd

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