

# Janet Finch-Saunders AM/AC

Assembly Member for Aberconwy  
Aelod Cynulliad dros Aberconwy

Shadow Secretary for Local Government  
Ysgrifennydd yr Wrthblaid ar gyfer Llywodraeth Leol

Cllr Gareth Jones  
Leader  
Conwy County Borough Council

*By email*

Ref: TYH/JFS/HM  
19<sup>th</sup> June 2017

## **Re: URGENT – FPNs / Dog Control Orders**

Dear Cllr Gareth, Leader,

I feel compelled to write to you once again on behalf of many residents who have approached me pertaining to enforcement measure used by, or on behalf of, the local authority, as regards dog fouling, littering, and dogs off leads. The latter, in particular, causing much anger, frustration and confusion with many residents and visitors.

A number of constituents have reported to me that they have allegedly felt intimidated by the apparent actions of enforcement officers, and the issue has been widely reported in the local media.

Reports have also been made to me of officers breaching parking restrictions which, in itself, would be grounds for the Council to issue an FPN. This matter, too, has been covered in the local media recently.

I strongly support the Council in taking steps to tackle out of control dogs and FPNs are a useful tool. But you will, no doubt, agree with me that enforcement needs to be undertaken in an appropriate way which does not intimidate the public. You are as aware as I am that tourism is a major industry in Conwy, and I am concerned that potentially over-zealous enforcement activities – and the subsequent media coverage – may actually deter visitors and holiday-makers from our area.

Having taken legal advice from the National Assembly for Wales, I note that, before making a dog control order, the Council is required, among other things, to –

*“...cause to be displayed at conspicuous positions on or near the affected land such notices as it considers sufficient to draw to the attention of members of the public using that land the effect of the proposed order being made.”* This is set out in Regulation 3(b) of the Dog Control Orders (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Wales) Regulations 2007/702. Paragraph 41 of the Welsh

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Janet Finch-Saunders will treat in confidence any personal information which you may pass on to her, and she will normally allow her staff to see it, so that they can consult with relevant authorities in order to help and advise you. We may wish to write to you from time to time to keep you informed on issues which you may find of interest. Please let us know if you do not wish to be contacted for this purpose.

Mi wnaiff Janet Finch-Saunders cadw unrhyw wybodaeth bersonol yn gwbl gyfrinachol, ac fel arfer mi fydd rhaid iddi rannu'r wybodaeth 'efo aelodau o staff i'w galluogi nhw i ddelio 'efo'r awdurdodau perthnasol er mwyn eich helpu a'ch cynorthwyo chi. Efallai mi fydd angen i rywun ysgrifennu atoch er mwyn darparu'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf o bwys. Gadwch wybod i ni os nad oes diddordeb gennych mewn cael eich cysylltu at y diben hwn.

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Government's guidance on this subject supplements this requirement and can be found here-  
<http://gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/epq/cleanneighbour/cnpublications/dogcontrol/?lang=en>

The law and the guidance make it clear that the public must be given fair warning that the dog control order is in force in the area. I am led to understand that, in most cases, there is no notice or the appropriate street signage. This accords with my own observations that such notices seem to be either absent or very scarce.

I do feel that a review of enforcement processes is required, along with this service being brought back in-house. Your comments on this and all matters raised in this letter would be gratefully received.

In addition – following various correspondence from myself to the Council over the past few months on this issue, and increased public outcry through media and social media, it is clear that this is an issue which will not go away. In response to demand from my constituents, I am therefore calling a public meeting to seek to address this, and would like to formally invite you to attend and speak.

The meeting will be held in the **Bodafon Suite of the Imperial Hotel, Llandudno, at 6pm on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2017.**

I look forward to seeing you there, and would most grateful if you could kindly confirm your attendance to Miss Hannah Moscrop: [hannah.moscrop@assembly.wales](mailto:hannah.moscrop@assembly.wales).

Yours sincerely,

Janet Finch-Saunders AM/AC

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