



Janet Finch-Saunders AC/AM

Aelod Cynulliad dros Aberconwy
Ysgrifennydd yr Wrthblaid ar gyfer Llywodraeth Leol

—
Assembly Member for Aberconwy
Shadow Cabinet Secretary for Local Government

PSPO Consultation
Regulatory & Housing Services
Conwy County Borough Council
By email

5th February 2018

Ref: TYH/JFS/HM

Re: PSPO Consultation

Dear Mr Brown,

I am writing with regards to the Dog Control Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) Consultation.

Firstly, I am delighted that this has now been brought forward for public consultation, given the considerable public concern on this matter.

Further to this, there are a number of queries which I should like to highlight, given the issues raised with my in my capacity as Assembly Member for Aberconwy, in relation to dog control in the area.

- The consultation mentions a desire to improve signage and ensure “signs in sufficient numbers with clear instructions and diagrams where the amended PSPO is in operation”. I would like to seek clarification that you intend to provide such signage in all areas designated under this PSPO – not just those which are amended from the previous Orders by the PSPO.
- The draft PSPO also states that: “A person in charge of a dog on land in the restricted area...must have with them appropriate means to pick up dog faeces deposited by that dog”. Given the concerns brought forward by so many in relation to the manner in which enforcement action has been undertaken by officers employed/contracted by the Council in relation to dog fouling, I would like to enquire as to whether it is possible to be more specific in this regard – will enforcement officers require dog walkers to produce one, or two, or more bags, or similar? The use of the wording ‘sufficient’ in the FAQs remains very broad.

[Cont.]

Mi wnaiff Janet Finch-Saunders cadw unrhyw wybodaeth bersonol yn gwbl gyfrinachol, ac fel arfer mi fydd rhaid i ddi rannu'r wybodaeth 'efo aelodau o staff i'w galluogi nhw i ddellio '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 genrych mewn cael eich cyysylltu at y diben hwn.

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.

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru
Bae Caerdydd, Caerdydd, CF99 1NA
Janet.Finch-Saunders@cynulliad.cymru
www.cynulliad.cymru
0300 200 7247

National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay, Cardiff, CF99 1NA
Janet.Finch-Saunders@assembly.wales
www.assembly.wales
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[Cont.]

- I note that a number of dog control matters require compliance by a dog walker, *unless they can show a reasonable excuse for not doing so*. Given the numbers of contested FPNs brought forward under the [then] Dog Control Orders, it may be asserted that enforcement officers do not seem to be taking this into account. Could you provide clarification as to whether showing a 'reasonable excuse' should be at the discretion of enforcement officers prior to an FPN being issued/not, or if it is to be at the discretion of the Council/enforcement company's appeals process, after the FPN has been issued?

I appreciate that some areas in this regard may be 'open to interpretation' by enforcement officers, however given the extraordinary levels of public representation I have received in relation to the Dog Control Orders and Dog Control PSPO, I am sure you will understand my eagerness to obtain clarity on these points.

Finally, as regards this consultation, I would be grateful for confirmation as to how it will progress – how responses will be considered, how the PSPO will go through the democratic process, and how residents and contributors to the consultation will be notified of the outcome.

I urge you to take fully into account all submissions, given the very high levels of public interest and concern on this matter, and I very much look forward to your response on these matters.

Yours sincerely,

Janet Finch-Saunders AM/AC

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