

Director of Open Spaces
Sue Ireland



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Date 15 June 2012

Mr Hugh Togher
Animal Welfare Team
DEFRA
Area 8B, 9 Millbank,
C/o 17 Smith Square,
London
SW1P 3JR

Dear Sir

Re: Consultation on package of measures to promote more responsible dog ownership and reduce dog attacks

I am responding on behalf of the City of London's Open Spaces to your request for views on possible new measures to better protect the public from dog attacks and to generate a more responsible attitude to dog ownership.

The City Corporation owns and manages over 10,700 acres of Open Space in and around London. Our sites are enjoyed by more than 23 million visitors each year. They are important wildlife habitats but also provide many facilities for visitors including a wide range of sports, play, fishing and dog walking. We manage many of these areas as charitable trusts and have been responsible for their care for nearly 150 years. With so many visitors and local communities involved, the management of dog walkers is a significant part of our work and we have recently entered into an agreement with the Kennel Club on "Taking the Lead on responsible Dog Walking"; to improve people's health and well-being through dog ownership, whilst respecting the qualities of the Open Spaces we manage and the needs of all visitors.

Your proposals are of particular interest to us but raise both policy and practical issues. As we haven't yet been able to form a clear view and we note that the EFRA Select Committee is considering matters until 2nd July; would we be able to provide our views to you by this second date?

Yours sincerely

Sue Ireland

Payne, Clare

From: Togher, Hugh (FFG-ANW) <Hugh.Togher@defra.gsi.gov.uk>
Sent: 18 June 2012 17:37
To: Ireland, Sue
Subject: Reply to your letter of June 15th 2012 regarding the consultation on the proposed package of measures aimed at tackling irresponsible ownership of dogs
Attachments: City of London - June 15th 2012 - Consultation.pdf
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Ms Ireland,

Thank you for your letter (attached) dated June 15th 2012 about the consultation on the proposed package of measures aimed at tackling irresponsible ownership of dogs. You asked whether we can accept your response if you reply by July 2nd 2012, the date the EFRA Select Committee meets.

The EFRA Select Committee meeting is separate to the consultation and, unfortunately, we cannot accept any consultation response received so far after the deadline of June 15th 2012. However we value any contribution the City of London can make to the consultation so if you can respond by **Friday June 22nd 2012** we will definitely accept it. Beyond then we cannot regrettably guarantee taking your views on board. I hope this extension is of some use to you.

<<City of London - June 15th 2012 - Consultation.pdf>>

Your sincerely,

Hugh Togher

Administrative Assistant

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Animal Welfare Act Implementation Team

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Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)

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Telephone 020 7332 3033
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Date 20 June 2012

Dear Sir

Re: Consultation on package of measures to promote more responsible dog ownership and reduce dog attacks

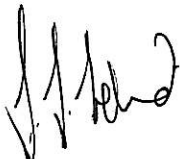
Further to your email of 18th June confirming an extension until 22nd June 2012 our response to the consultation is as follows:

The City of London has not yet been able to form a view on whether such a scheme is justified, both with regard to whether it is a proportionate response to the problem being addressed and the imposition of further bureaucracy and state direction which will inevitably be involved. It is thought that the previous dog licencing regime was abandoned because it was unwieldy, expensive to operate and intrusive.

If such issues can be resolved appropriately, there is – from an operational point of view – some interest in exploring the micro-chipping proposal, but only if such a scheme can be shown to be cost-effective and can be enforced simply and efficiently.

Thank you for allowing us this additional few days and I can confirm our continued interest in these matters.

Yours sincerely



Ms Sue Ireland
Director of Open Spaces