

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



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

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

Rt Hon Thérèse Coffey MP  
Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs,  
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs  
Seacole Building  
2 Marsham Street  
London SW1P 4DF

[Secretary.State@defra.gov.uk](mailto:Secretary.State@defra.gov.uk)

25 May 2023

Dear Thérèse,

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. I would be grateful for an update on how the recommendations are being addressed and the timescales for each action.

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.

Given the recent rise in dog attack incidents, do you have any plans to review the DDA? If there are no current plans to strengthen the Act, has the time come to replace this legislation with a legislative vehicle which better addresses the dog control issues being encountered in the UK?

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:  
0300 0604400

[Gohebiaeth.Lesley.Griffiths@llyw.cymru](mailto:Gohebiaeth.Lesley.Griffiths@llyw.cymru)  
[Correspondence.Lesley.Griffiths@gov.wales](mailto:Correspondence.Lesley.Griffiths@gov.wales)

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 to promote responsible dog ownership and keep under constant review what we can do here in Wales to prevent the dangers posed by irresponsible dog ownership.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lesley Griffiths". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end of the name.

**Lesley Griffiths AS/MS**  
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