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Rt Hon Tom Brake MP  
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*h Tom.*

Thank you for your further letter of 21 December on behalf of your constituent, Ms Gaye Fisher of 21 Hawthorn Road, Wallington, about dog on dog attacks. I am replying as the Minister responsible for this policy area and I apologise that a response was not sent to you sooner.

We do not accept that Community Protection Notices (CPNs) are complex. On the contrary they are easy to administer and can be used for any number of different scenarios of dogs causing a nuisance. Many of which are identified in the guidance that has been issued to the police and local authorities. A copy of the guidance as it relates to low level dog nuisance can be found here on the Gov.UK website, here:

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/dealing-with-irresponsible-dog-ownership-practitioners-manual](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dealing-with-irresponsible-dog-ownership-practitioners-manual).

For example a council officer in a park sees a dog owner with a dog running loose and asks the owner to place the dog on the lead. If the owner refuses, the officer can issue a tear off written warning and then issue a CPN more or less on the spot if the person refuses to comply. In most cases people will comply without the need for the CPN to be issued. Similarly CPNs can be issued for dogs causing a nuisance or threatening postal or other delivery staff at a property, or for example where a dog is persistently escaping from a property. In short, CPNs allow the local authority to require a person accused of low level nuisance to stop or face a serious penalty.

We considered other overseas' laws and one of these was the Calgary model. We, however, note that the success of the Calgary model relies on an effective licensing scheme. Whilst this may be possible in a city the size of Calgary (approx. 1.2 million people) it has not been as successful in a country with a population of 65 million. There used to be a licensing of dogs scheme in this country but it was abolished in 1988 due to a lack of compliance (estimated to be around 40% compliance). In the end the licensing scheme became a licence for responsible owners. Northern Ireland still has a licensing scheme with a similar compliance rate. Without an effective compliance rate, it is difficult to see how such a scheme could be effective in reducing dog attacks. Irresponsible owners, the ones that need to be on a licensing scheme, are likely to avoid it.

We agree that more needs to be done to tackle irresponsible ownership of dogs and are researching ways this can be achieved.



Thank you once again for taking the time to contact me about this important issue.

Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance with this or any other matters in the future.

With best wishes,

  
**DAVID RUTLEY MP**