



## Petitions Committee

House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

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The Rt Hon Steve Barclay MP  
Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs  
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

15 November 2023

Dear Secretary of State

Congratulations on your recent appointment.

I am writing regarding the Government's failure to respond to e-petition [643611](#), entitled "Bad owners are to blame not the breed - don't ban the XL bully".

The standards for responding to e-petitions, which have been agreed between the Petitions Committee and the Leader of the House, state that Government responses should be provided within 14 days and no later than 21 days of being requested.

A response to this petition was first requested on 15 September 2023, and despite repeated requests, the Government's response is now almost six weeks late. This is clearly not acceptable.

When a petition receives over 10,000 signatures petitioners are entitled to a response from the Government that directly responds to the request of their petition, and this should be provided in a timely fashion.

The Government has already announced its plans to ban XL Bully dogs, and brought forward legislation to give effect to this ban, so it is not clear what is holding up the Government's response to this petition.

I would be grateful if you could provide the Government's response to this petition, and an explanation for the delay in providing this, by no later than 23 November, to ensure that we are able to publish this ahead of the debate on this petition, which will take place on Monday 27 November.

I am copying this letter to the Leader of the House.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cat Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Cat Smith MP  
Chair of the Petitions Committee