



Petitions Committee

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Rt Hon George Eustice MP
Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs

1 February 2022

Dear Secretary of State

I am writing to follow up on our previous correspondence about petitions we have received calling for changes to legislation regarding specific types of dogs.

Since I wrote to you on this subject last September, a further e-petition on this issue [e-petition [603988](#), "Repeal Breed Specific Legislation"] has received the 100,000 signatures to be entitled to be considered for debate.

This latest petition cites [research](#) the Government commissioned Middlesex University to conduct on responsible ownership across all breeds of dog, which was published last December. The petition states that this research has cast doubt on one of the core assumptions of the Dangerous Dogs Act: that certain breeds of dogs are inherently more dangerous, and argues that the Government should therefore immediately repeal breed specific legislation.

The Government's response to this petition states that repealing the breed specific provisions in dangerous dogs legislation with no other changes would increase the risks to public safety. However, the Government also states that the report produced by Middlesex University will provide the basis for the consideration of reform in this area and that it is already working with the police, local authorities, and stakeholders to consider the recommendations made in this report further.

Before the Petitions Committee decides whether and when to schedule a further debate on this subject, I wanted to ask you to provide some more information about how the Government is working with the police, local authorities, and stakeholders – and which stakeholders the Government is working with – to consider the recommendations further, when you expect this work to be completed, and if and when you expect to publish proposals for reform of existing legislation governing dog ownership, including dangerous dogs legislation.

I'd be grateful if you could provide a reply to the above request by Thursday 24 February.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Catherine". The lettering is cursive and fluid, with a large initial 'C'.

Catherine McKinnell MP
Chair of the Petitions Committee