

Mr George Adam, MSP
Minister for Parliamentary Business
Via email:
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Please ask for: David Robertson
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Date: 5 April 2023

Dear Mr Adam

MOTION ON DOG FOULING

At its meeting held on 30 March 2023, Scottish Borders Council unanimously agreed to support the following Motion –

“Following many complaints over several years from Sports Groups and parents of children, Scottish Borders Council agrees to write to the Scottish Government requesting an addition to the Dog Fouling (Scotland) Act 2003 to create a new offence. It is requested that it be made an offence for a person in charge of a dog to allow it to defecate at any time on a sports pitch or children’s play area.”

Members were clear that something needs to be done about this very annoying and persistent type of anti-social behaviour. Dog fouling is at its worst and potentially most unhealthy when it is left on sports pitches and children’s play areas. While it is recognised that it is the minority of dog owners who do not pick up after their dogs, the message needs to be for all dog owners to keep their dogs off these particular areas and ensure there is a proper deterrent in place if this does not happen. There needs to be specific action to protect children in particular, and indeed, all sports pitch users from this health hazard. It is not the intention to ban dogs from parks, but to keep them away from specific sites. Even if every dog owner picked up after their pet, it is not always possible to remove all traces of dog fouling - whatever the best intentions of the owner - hence the reasoning behind this Motion.

Therefore I would ask you to support this proposed addition to the Dog Fouling (Scotland) Act 2003, which will protect not only children and those using play areas and sports pitches in the Scottish Borders, but all such users across Scotland.

Yours sincerely



David Robertson
Chief Executive