



HAMPSHIRE
CONSTABULARY

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Our ref: Portsmouth – Other Matters
Your ref:

12th November 2021

Dear Mr. Evans,

RESPONSE TO PROPOSED DOG CONTROL PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER (PSPO) IN PORTSMOUTH

The Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire has forwarded your email of the 26th October 2021 to me, for comment. Having considered the email and the proposed order I have the following comments.

Reviewing the incidents held by Hampshire Constabulary on their Records Management System for the period 8th November 2020 to 7th November 2021 shows one incident mentioning dog fouling.

Portsmouth City Council have advise me that between November 2020 and October 2021, 388 dog fouling reports have been made. Across the City this represents just over 1 incident a day. As no enforcement action has been taken it would appear that none of the incidents have been witnessed. The PSPO creates a number of exemptions from the exigencies PSPO, it might be that some or all of the reports relate to those with an exemption from the order.

We would remind you that PSPOs will not be suitable or effective in all circumstances. It is important to consider carefully the right approach for identifying and addressing the problem behaviour. Other options should actively be considered before a PSPO is pursued – and where a PSPO is used, it should be carefully framed and employed alongside other approaches as part of a broad and balanced anti-social behaviour strategy.



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The proposal is to create a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) covering the whole of Portsmouth City Council Administration Area, requiring those in charge of a dog to:

- Prevent their dog from entering or remaining within a restricted area
- Remove their dog's faeces promptly
- Carry the appropriate means to remove the faeces
- Prove that they are carrying the appropriate means to remove the faeces
- Obey directions to place / keep dog secured on a lead

Enforcement of the offences created by this order is by authorised officers, which includes employees of Hampshire Constabulary. Hampshire Constabulary supports responsible dog ownership, and those initiatives aimed at reducing the issues related to dogs. However, given the current policing priorities and current staffing levels, in normal circumstances it is highly unlikely that Hampshire Constabulary will have sufficient personnel on duty to undertake any action in relation to any of the activities contained within the order.

Appropriate reporting methods should be put in place to ensure that members of the general public can quickly report incidents to the relevant department.

We would be concerned if the effects of this order, were to place an additional burden on our resources or create a perception within the general public that "the police" can be called to deal with incidents related to dog fouling.

Reading the order we have the following comments:

Section B, paragraph 2 (proposed new paragraph), contains he and his, perhaps this should be amended to include both genders.

Section D reads:

D. Dogs on leads by direction of a Police Officer / PCS or Authorised Officer

Should this be:

D. Dogs on leads by direction of a Police Officer / PCSO or Authorised Officer

I do note that in several places within the PSPO a lead with a maximum length of 2 metres is mentioned, this specification prevents the use of extending leads, which I notice are popular with dog walkers.

If I can be of further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

S York
Designing Out Crime Officer



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