

Briefing for the Public Petitions Committee

Petition Number: [PE1842](#)

Main Petitioner: Valerie Deerin-Morris

Subject: Regulate the professional dog walking industry

Calls on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government regulate and licence the professional dog walking industry.

Background

Commercial dog walking businesses, their owners and staff are not currently subject to any Scotland-wide regulatory or licensing regime. Commercial dog walkers are required to comply with relevant animal welfare legislation and must follow the guidance in the [Scottish Outdoor Access Code](#) when exercising access rights granted by the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003.

Some local authorities have introduced limited regulation of commercial dog walkers, e.g. the City of Edinburgh Council's [Management Rules for Parks and Greenspaces](#) require all commercial dog walkers to register with the Council and abide by a [Code of Conduct](#) if they want to access parks and green spaces under its control.

[Professional Dog Walkers Guidelines](#) have been drawn up by a group of interested non-governmental organisations including the RSPCA, Dogs Trust and Pet Industry Federation. However, these have no statutory force and legal references in this document are to English rather than Scottish legislation, although the principles and best practice highlighted are applicable in both nations.

Scottish Government Action

The Scottish Government has not taken any substantive action on this issue.

Scottish Parliament Action

The Scottish Parliament has not taken any substantive action on this issue.

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November 2020

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