

**From the Office of the Minister
Michelle McIlveen MLA**



Department of
**Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs**

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Our Ref: COR/1330/2016

Your Ref: SS/JT

Date: 10 November 2016

Dear Sara

Thank you for your letter of 5 October 2016 to Minister McIlveen MLA, on behalf of your Council's People and Communities Committee, about their Motion calling for a review of breed specific legislation to avoid the removal from their owners of prohibited dogs that have not posed a danger to the public. Your letter has been passed to me for response.

The Department understands that the Council is currently reviewing its handling of a recent high profile case involving the seizure, assessment and return of a pit bull. We would be interested in learning of the findings of that review, and will then consider whether the existing legislative provisions could be reviewed to allow the impact of seizure on dogs and their owners, to be more effectively managed, while ensuring appropriate protection for the public.

I trust that your Committee will find this reply helpful.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ruth Galwey'.

RUTH GALWEY
Private Secretary to Michelle McIlveen MLA

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