

Marie Ward
Chief Executive



Comhairle Ceantair
**an Iúir, Mhúrn
agus an Dúin**
**Newry, Mourne
and Down**
District Council

19th September 2020
Our Ref: NS/182/2020
By email & post

Edwin Poots MLA
Minister for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
Parliament Buildings Room 309
Ballymiscaw
Stormont
Belfast
BT4 3XX

Email: Edwin.poots@mla.niassembly.gov.uk

Dear Minister Poots MLA,

I have been asked to write to you on behalf of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council.

At the Council's Neighbourhood Services (NS) Committee in August, Elected Members requested for Dog Fouling Legislation to be reviewed. This is in relation to the maximum amount payable under a Fixed Penalty Notice in respect of littering and dog fouling offences, where fines should be increased from the current limit of £80 to £250. As part of this review, consideration could also be given to the possibility of devolving powers for setting Fixed Penalty rates to Councils for these offences.

The Council would appreciate if you could give this matter consideration, due to littering and dog fouling being a major issue within our District and Northern Ireland as a whole. Increasing the Fixed Penalty may also assist in achieving a 'polluter pays' principle.

It would be helpful as part of the reply for the Department (DAERA) to indicate likely/proposed timescales for any changes.

Thank you in anticipation.

Your sincerely,

Roland Moore

Director of Neighbourhood Services

Oifig an Iúir
Newry Office
O'Hagan House
Monaghan Row
Newry BT35 8DJ

Oifig Dhún Pádraig
Downpatrick Office
Downshire Civic Centre
Downshire Estate, Ardglass Road
Downpatrick BT30 6GQ

0330 137 4000 (Council)
council@nmandd.org
www.newrymournedown.org

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