



Comhshaol, Pobal agus Rialtas Áitiúil
Environment, Community and Local Government

Óifig an Aire
Office of the Minister

24th May, 2016.

Mr. Tom O'Neill,
Meetings Administrator,
South Dublin County Council,
County Hall,
Tallaght,
Dublin 24.



RE: REP738/AK/16

Dear Mr. O'Neill,

I have been asked by Mr. Simon Coveney, T.D, Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government, to refer to your correspondence in relation to dog littering offences.

The Litter Pollution Act 1997 provides the statutory framework to combat litter pollution. Section 22 of that Act specifically refers to dog related litter offences in a variety of public and private locations and places an onus on the person in charge of the dog to immediately remove the faeces and ensure that it is disposed of in a sanitary manner. Failure to comply with this legislation is subject to an on-the-spot litter fine of €150.

Increased penalties for littering, including dog fouling, were addressed in the Protection of the Environment Act 2003, which came into operation on 1 October 2003 and introduced a maximum fine of €130,000 on conviction on indictment for litter offences, while increasing the maximum fine on summary conviction to €3,000.

These fines and penalty provisions are enforceable by Litter Wardens, Dog Wardens and members of An Garda Síochána.

The Litter Pollution Act, 1997 provides local authorities with a wide range of powers to tackle litter effectively and requires a structured approach to litter management planning. Under the Act, the primary management and enforcement response must come from the local authorities; accordingly, it is a matter for each authority to investigate individual instances of littering/dog fouling and to take the appropriate enforcement and clean up actions having regard to local circumstances and priorities.

This Department also provides funding annually to local authorities under the Anti-Litter & Anti-Graffiti Awareness Grant Scheme. This funding can be used by local authorities to raise awareness of specific issues that may arise in their functional areas. Several local authorities have used money provided under this scheme in recent years, to raise awareness of the particular dangers caused by the incorrect disposal of dog faeces.



The Minister believes that raising awareness of the litter problem and educating our young people is key to effecting a long term change in society's attitudes towards litter disposal but ultimately, it is the responsibility of each individual to ensure that they play their part in preserving the environment for others through the responsible disposal of their litter.

The Minister is satisfied that there are adequate provisions in place to deal with this issue when enforced. Your suggestion, to make it a requirement for persons in charge of dogs to carry a plastic bag for the purposes of cleaning up after their pets, has been noted for consideration in any future review of litter legislation. I trust that this clarifies the position for you.

Yours sincerely,


Niamh Redmond,
Private Secretary