

Ms Ellen Thomas Kmiec
12 Forge Place
Abernant
Aberdare
CF44 0SD

Our Ref: RH/SR

Date: 15th October 2026

Dear Ms Thomas Kmiec

Response to Petition Regarding Dangerous Dog Act

Thank you for your petition and for raising your concerns regarding the recent dog attack.

I recognise the distress and concern that incidents of this nature can cause to those directly affected, local residents and responsible dog owners within the community. Any incident involving injury or a potentially dangerous dog is understandably alarming and can have a significant impact on people's sense of safety.

Under current legislation, matters relating to dangerous dogs and criminal offences involving dog attacks are primarily the responsibility of South Wales Police, who are the lead enforcement agency for investigating such incidents and taking any appropriate action. As such, the investigation and any decisions regarding enforcement are matters for the Police to consider based on the evidence available to them.

It may be helpful to note that South Wales Police leads the LEAD (Local Environmental Awareness on Dogs) initiative, which is delivered in partnership with local authorities and other agencies. The scheme is designed to improve engagement with dog owners of all breeds and promote responsible dog ownership through education, early intervention and partnership working. The initiative aims to reduce risks to communities arising from irresponsible dog ownership and antisocial behaviour by enabling partners to share intelligence and implement proportionate measures, including warning letters, acceptable behaviour contracts and, where appropriate, enforcement action.

Louise Davies

Cyfarwyddwr y Gwasanaethau Cymuned
Director of Community Services

Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Rhondda Cynon Taf
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In relation to this incident, the Council has made a LEAD referral to South Wales Police, ensuring that the matter is considered through the partnership framework established under the initiative. This enables relevant information to be shared with the Police and partner agencies so that any appropriate interventions can be considered alongside any police investigation.

The Council continues to support this partnership approach and will work closely with South Wales Police and other partners within the scope of its powers and responsibilities. However, as the Police are the lead agency for dangerous dog investigations, it would not be appropriate for the Council to comment on the details of any ongoing or concluded police investigation.

We appreciate the strength of feeling within the community and the concerns expressed through this petition. These concerns have been noted and will be shared with relevant partners as part of our ongoing commitment to promoting public safety, responsible dog ownership and community wellbeing.

Thank you again for bringing these concerns to our attention.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rhian Hope', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rhian Hope
Service Director – Public Protection