

**JEREMY QUIN MP**  
Member of Parliament for Horsham



**HOUSE OF COMMONS**  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

12th August 2016

*Dear Constituent,*

**RE: DANGEROUS DOGS ACT**

Thank you for contacting me about a Statutory Instrument relating to dogs of prohibited breeds that have been granted exemption.

As you will be aware, the Dangerous Dogs Act prohibits the ownership of dogs of four specific types. I agree with the Government that in making policy in this area, the priority must be to ensure the safety of the general public.

For this reason, the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 introduced a requirement for the courts, when considering a request for exemption, to take into account whether its keeper is a "fit and proper person" to look after it properly, and whether it would be kept in suitable accommodation. I believe these are relevant factors in determining whether a dog can be safely exempted. This Statutory Instrument was put in place to ensure that the assumptions an exemption is based on will apply throughout the dog's life.

Notably, it returned the position on ownership of prohibited dogs broadly to where it was before a court judgment in 2012. This judgment was seen as allowing dogs to be transferred to any other keeper by their owners without supervision, which Parliament never intended to allow.

I appreciate you may find this response disappointing, but I hope it will help you understand the rationale for the decision.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

*Yours sincerely,*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeremy Quin'.