From the Chairman of the Committee

Lord Gardiner of Kimble
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Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
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Controlling Dangerous Dogs

I write further to my Committee’s Report *Controlling dangerous dogs* published in October 2018 which recommended that: “Defra should commission a comprehensive independent evidence review into the factors behind canine aggression, the determinants of risk, and whether the banned breeds pose an inherently greater threat.” We also asked “to receive regular progress updates on the evidence review” and for the results to “be used to inform the Government’s future dog control strategy.”

We welcomed the Government’s Response to our Report which informed the Committee that Defra had commissioned further research from Middlesex University to look at the following:

“(a) Assess the effectiveness of current dog control measures including the use of the powers provided to police and local authorities in 2014.

(b) Identify and examine the factors and situations that may cause dog attacks, including whether any particular types of situation or domestic setting influence dog aggression and dog attacks; how behavioural problems among dogs might best be addressed; and how policy might need to develop to deal with dog behavioural problems.

(c) How to promote responsible dog ownership and, in particular, identify the help and information needed for dog owners who have experienced dog control issues or who are vulnerable to these (this includes evaluation of risk factors).”

The response also said the Committee would be kept updated on the progress of the research and the findings would be published later this year.
We have not heard anything further to date, and several stakeholders and members of the public have raised the lack of an update with the Committee. I would therefore be grateful if you could provide the Committee with an update on progress, and when we can expect the research to be published?

Neil Parish
Chairman of the Committee