

Government of Jersey
Union Street | St Helier | Jersey | JE2 3DN

Deputy Hilary Jeune
Chair, Environment, Housing and Infrastructure Panel

BY EMAIL

04 February 2026

RE: Policing of Parks

Dear Chair

Thank you for your letter dated 26th January 2026 regarding the Policing of Parks as part of your Animal Welfare and Control Review. Please find the relevant areas addressed below:

The Parks Team continually monitors the number of dogs using government owned parks and how owners interact with these spaces. With dog registrations increasing by 25% since 2020, the team has been reviewing current restrictions under the Policing of Parks (Jersey) Regulations 2005 (“the 2005 Regulations”) to assess whether they remain appropriate and realistic.

The main Government of Jersey parks currently fall under different categories within the 2005 Regulations, resulting in varied levels of dog access:

- Coronation Park – Part 2 Park: dogs permitted on leads in all areas (excluding the playground).
- Winston Churchill Park – Part 2 Park: dogs permitted on leads in all areas.
- Millennium Town Park – Part 1 Park: dogs permitted on leads but restricted to the pathways only.
- Howard Davis Park – Part 5 Park: dogs not permitted, due to the sensitivities associated with its Grade 1 listed status, including protected features such as the memorial graves. The park also supports a wide range of wildlife and hosts numerous public events within its walls, making it essential to maintain a calm, controlled environment.

Compliance at Coronation Park, Howard Davis Park and Sir Winston Churchill Park is generally good, with only a small minority failing to follow the existing rules. It is therefore proposed that the current restrictions in these parks remain unchanged.

As the Parks are intended to provide safe and inclusive spaces for families, it is essential to carefully assess how each area is used in practice, including the volume of children using open spaces and the potential impacts of increased dog activity. Changes being considered at present are:

1. Coronation Park Playing Fields

The playing fields into which the park is currently extending are, by definition, not covered by the 2005 Regulations at present. It is proposed that they be designated as a Part 2 Park, aligning them with the regulations already in place for Coronation Park.

2. Millennium Town Park

As a key green space in the centre of St Helier, where such spaces are limited, the Parks Team has reassessed its designation. It is proposed that Millennium Town Park be reclassified as a Part 2 Park, which would allow dogs on leads throughout the green open spaces (excluding the MUGA and children's play area, where dogs would continue to be prohibited).

Adopting these amendments would provide greater consistency across major Government of Jersey parks, with three of the main parks operating under the same Part 2 regulations. Howard Davis Park would continue to operate under Part 5 restrictions, which prevent dogs from entering the park due to its special status.

The Parks Team is also reviewing signage across all parks to ensure messaging is clear, consistent, suitably placed and aligned with park-specific regulations, improving public understanding and compliance.

Further review is required for additional locations covered under the 2005 Regulations. This should include an assessment of government owned playing fields, government-maintained gardens, and public spaces managed by the parishes, to ensure a consistent and proportionate approach across all public areas.

The 2005 Regulations reflect the law of the island, and any signs erected on land covered by the Regulations should be consistent with the law and erected by or with the permission of the landowner. Indeed, I cannot see why or how private individuals should be permitted to erect signs on public land, especially where these signs do not reflect the law. Should there be concerns with the status of a park, garden, or area covered by the Regulations, this should be raised with me directly or through a States Member in order that a change to legislation can be considered. Following your raising of this matter, I shall be making further enquiries to identify instances where this has occurred.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Andy Jehan', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Connétable Andy Jehan
Minister for Infrastructure