

APPENDIX 4

Boston Borough Council Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) Dog Controls

Consultation Report

August 2023



Introduction to this consultation

1. This report details the responses received for the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) Dog Controls Legislation (Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014) consultation undertaken during August 2023.
2. The exercise was performed to seek residents' views on Boston Borough Council renewing its Public Spaces Protection Order around Dog Controls.

Methodology

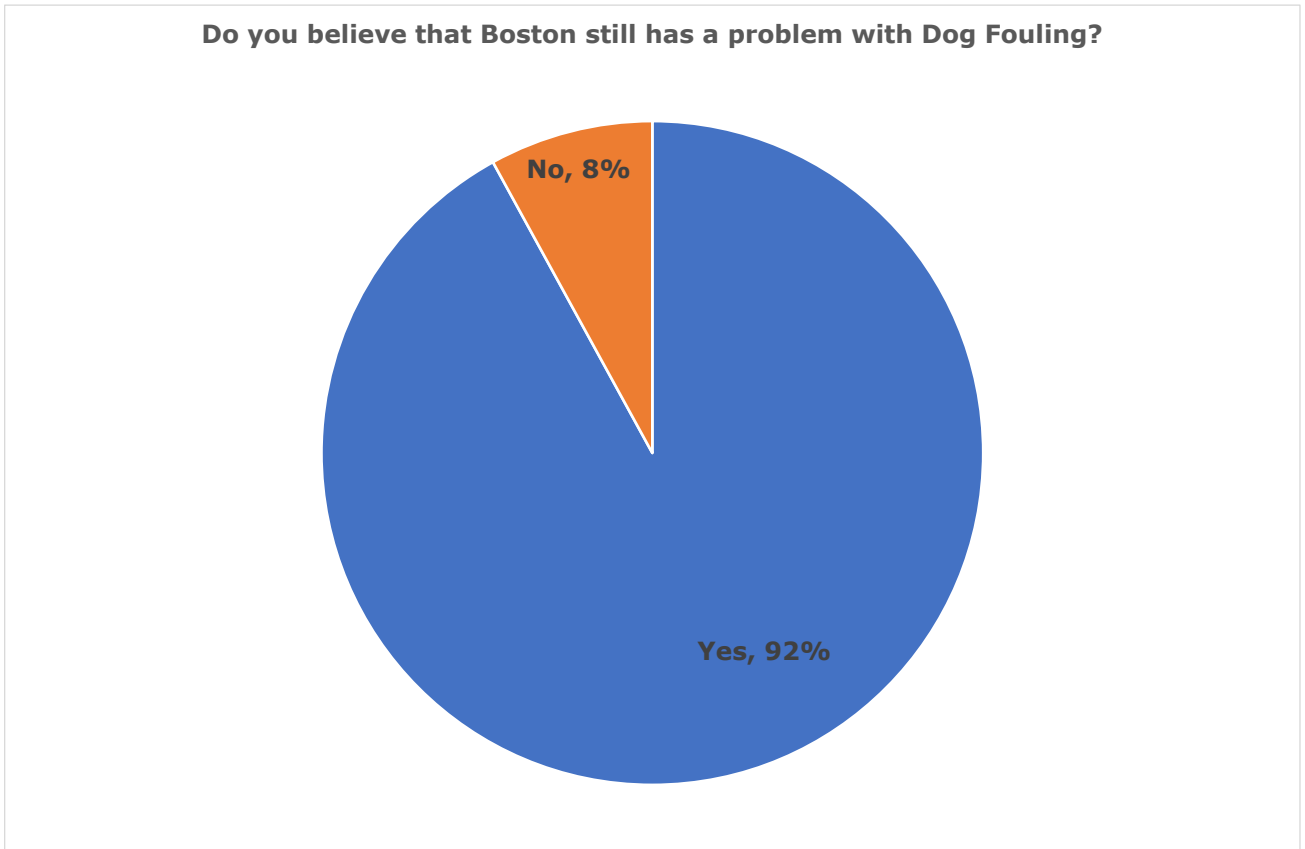
3. The consultation was promoted on social media with a link and QR code to the consultation throughout the consultation period.
4. A link to the electronic questionnaire was made available on Boston Borough Council's website. Paper copies of the questionnaire were available on request.
5. It should be noted that base data has been rounded to the nearest number (so may add up to between 99% and 101%).

Response Rate

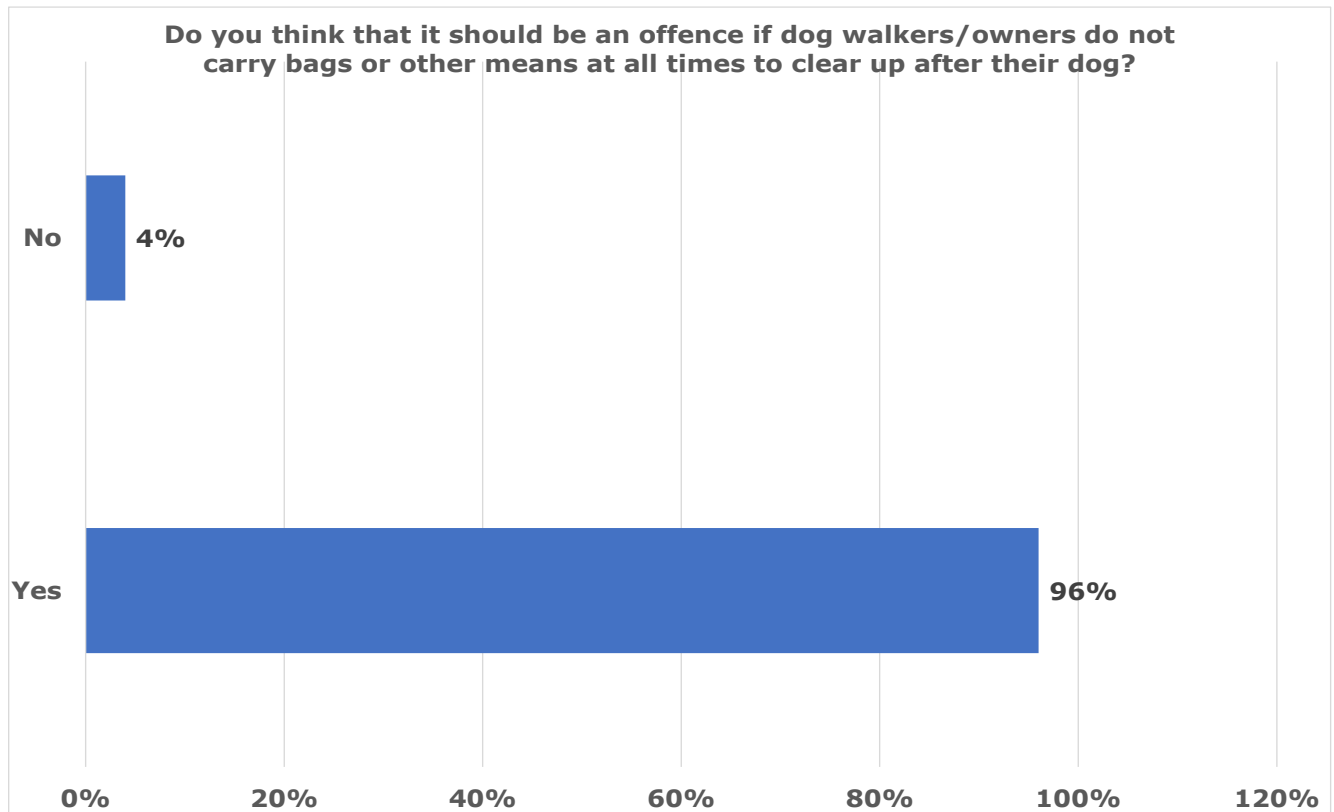
6. 109 electronic responses were received.

Results and Analysis

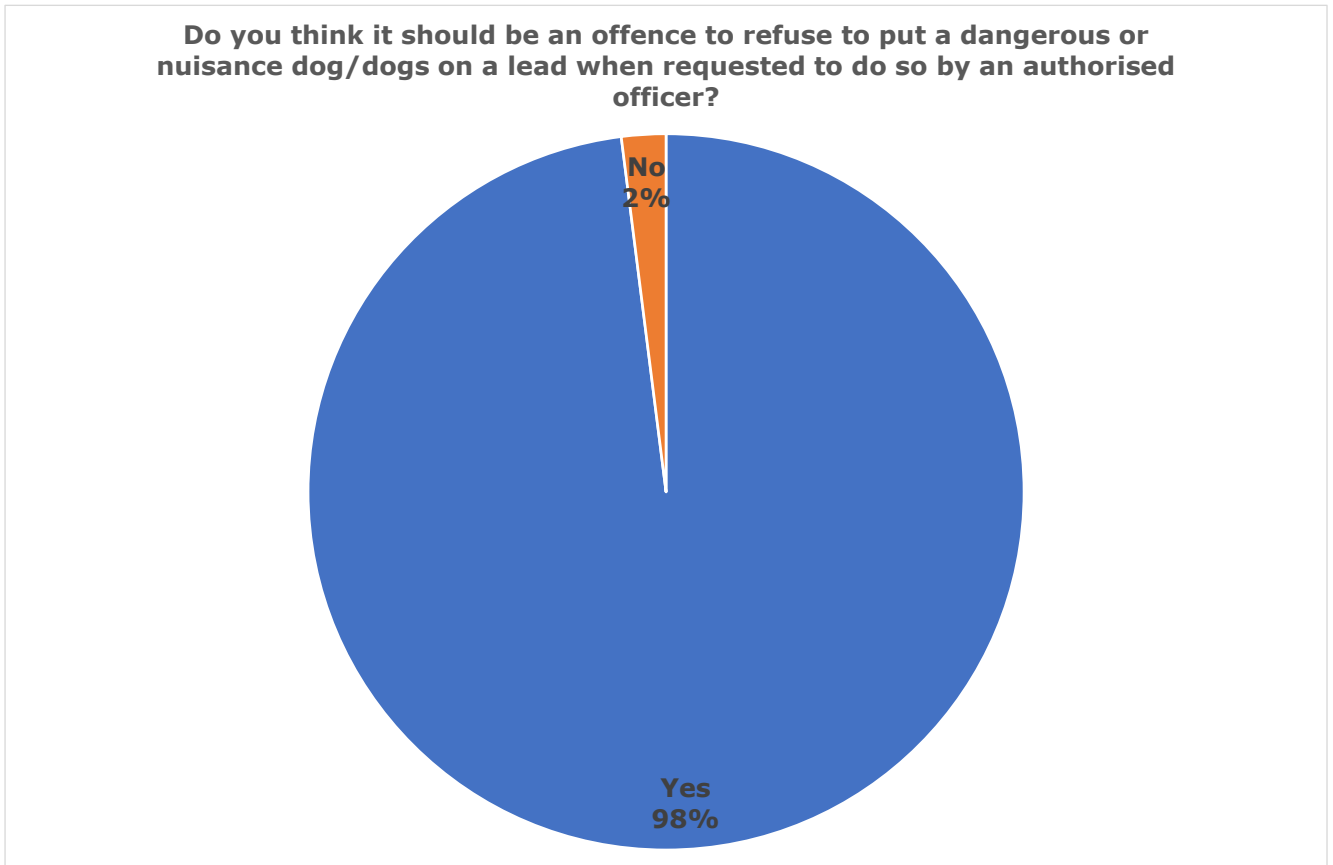
7. The pie chart below shows that 92% of all respondents believed that Boston still had a problem with dog fouling, with the remaining 8% (9) of all respondents believing it did not.



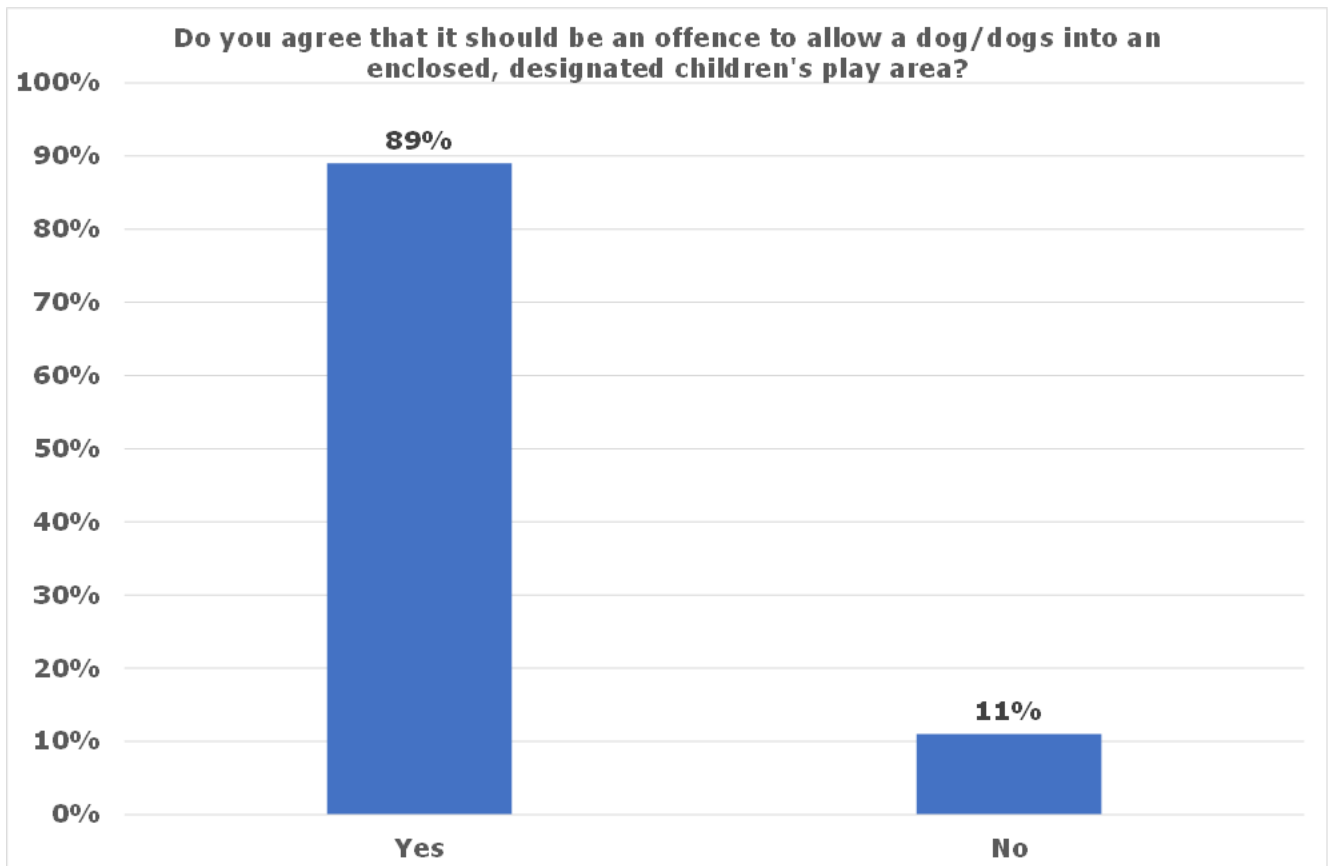
8. The chart below shows that 96% of all respondents thought that it should be an offence if dog walkers/owners did not carry bags or other means at all times to clear up after their dog, with the remaining 4% (4) of all respondents stating it should not be an offence.



9. The pie chart below shows that 98% of all respondents thought it should be an offence to refuse to put a dangerous or nuisance dog/dogs on a lead when requested to do so by an authorised officer, with the remaining 2% (2) of all respondents considering it should not be an offence.



10. All respondents were asked if they agreed that it should be an offence to allow a dog/dogs into an enclosed, designated children’s play area. As can be seen from the chart below 89% of all respondents agreed that it should be an offence to allow a dog/dogs into an enclosed, designated children’s play area, with the remaining 11% (12) of all respondents considering it should not be an offence.



11. All respondents were given the opportunity to provide any comments they would like to make. Most respondents agreed with the proposals, but a few felt that there were difficulties in enforcing them. A few people commented that it was the owner’s fault if they had a dangerous or nuisance dog. One respondent felt that just because a dog was on a lead it wasn’t necessarily under control. There were some general comments/complaints made about nuisance dogs in the area respondents lived in and several respondents thought that dogs should not be allowed in play areas although there needed to be exceptions for dogs such as support dogs. A few people suggested that there should be designated dog areas/dog friendly areas in Boston. A full breakdown of comments is available on request.