# Luton homeowner defends against dog fouling complaint



A Luton homeowner, Mai Bufton, has come forward with an unusual complaint she received from Luton Borough Council, which threatens prosecution over alleged excessive dog fouling in her garden. The incident, which has drawn attention on social media, begins with a complaint about what a passerby or neighbour mistakenly interpreted as dog excrement but turned out to be bark chippings.

On receiving an email from a council investigations officer, the 26-year-old customer service advisor discovered that a complaint had been lodged regarding reported ‘excessive’ dog fouling on her property. Bufton, who owns two French bulldogs and a Frenchie-Pei, asserts that she regularly cleans her garden.

Expressing her disbelief at the situation, Mai recounted, “It was all a bit weird. I was shocked to receive that email and at first I thought it was a scam.” When she sought clarification about the identity of the complainant, the council was unable to disclose any details. Bufton suspected that a “petty” neighbour might have looked into her garden and noticed some mess before she had a chance to remove it.

The complaint led to the council reminding Mai of her responsibilities under The Environmental Protection Act 1990, which dictates that failure to maintain a property free of dog fouling could result in a nuisance from smells or flies. The relevant notice warned of possible prosecution if the issue continued, stating that she should undertake a thorough clean-up of her rear yard.

The email included an admonition to ensure that her property remained tidy and free from dog waste. Mai responded by sending photos of her garden, which, according to her, featured only bark and no dog mess. Bufton noted that the council appeared to have misjudged the images, as they did not closely inspect them and potentially mistook the bark for dog faeces.

In her own assessment, Mai reflected, “I wouldn’t understand if my whole garden was full of dog poo. It’s like one or two where I haven’t been standing out there with a carrier bag underneath their butt.” She further elaborated on her perspective, questioning the logic behind expecting her dogs to defecate indoors, as she preferred it to occur in her garden.

The incident has prompted a lively discussion online, with many users rallying in support of Bufton and branding the complainant as a “Karen,” while others raised concerns regarding the potential environmental health implications of dog fouling. Some comments recognised the value of cleanliness in private gardens, particularly in warmer months when odours could become more pronounced.

Following the submission of her evidence to the council, Mai stated that the complaint was subsequently dropped. She expressed irritation at the notion of someone monitoring her private space, saying that no further issues have arisen since she clarified the situation.

Luton Borough Council has declined to comment on the case, leaving Bufton relieved that the matter has been resolved without needing additional follow-up. With the summer months approaching, Mai hopes that other dog owners will not encounter similar misunderstandings regarding dog waste in their own gardens.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://m.luton.gov.uk/Page/Show/Environment/environmentalcrime/Pages/Pay-your-fixed-penalty-notice.aspx> - This URL supports the aspect of dog fouling regulations in Luton, mentioning that failure to clear dog waste can lead to a fixed penalty notice.
* <https://m.luton.gov.uk/Page/Show/Environment/Dog%20warden%20services/Pages/Be-a-responsible-dog-owner.aspx> - This URL provides information on responsible dog ownership in Luton, including legal consequences for failing to properly manage dog behavior.
* <https://www.gov.uk/report-dog-fouling> - This URL explains how to report dog fouling issues to local councils in England and Wales, relevant to the context of Mai Bufton's experience.
* <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/43> - This URL provides access to The Environmental Protection Act 1990, which includes provisions related to maintaining properties free of dog fouling.
* <https://www.noahwire.com> - This URL is the source of the original article about Mai Bufton's situation with Luton Borough Council regarding an alleged dog fouling complaint.