



## **Professional Dog Walking Licence Scheme**

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **Why do I need a licence for commercial dog walking on Banstead Commons?**

The licensing scheme is being implemented under paragraph 18 of the [Metropolitan Commons Banstead \(Supplemental\) Act 1893](#) as a result of an increase in the number of dogs being walked commercially on the Commons in recent years. With other local greenspaces implementing their own schemes, the Conservators must consider the additional pressure this has put on Banstead Commons.

Professional Dog Walkers should be mindful that once the formal licensing scheme is introduced, if they knowingly continue to operate on our sites without a licence, their public liability insurance will be void and they may face prosecution.

#### **How will the licence scheme benefit Banstead Commons and their visitors?**

The Banstead Commons Conservators Professional Dog Walking Licensing Scheme enables us to manage and regulate the number of commercial dog walkers who operate on our four sites: Banstead Downs, Banstead Heath, Burgh Heath and Park Downs.

The scheme is an essential measure to ensure that safe access and use of Banstead Commons are available for all, to ensure respect between dog walkers and other users of Banstead Commons, and to protect Banstead Commons and wildlife.

#### **How do I apply?**

To apply for a licence to operate your dog walking business on Banstead Commons, please email [enquiries@bansteadcommons.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@bansteadcommons.org.uk)

You can also find information on our [website here](#).

#### **How long is the application process?**

Please allow three weeks for processing. Licences will be issued after receipt of full payment and will be given on a first come first served basis.

#### **How much is the Licence Fee?**

The licence fee is £365 per year. The licensing period starts on 1<sup>st</sup> of April and finishes on the 31<sup>st</sup> March each year.

Banstead Commons Conservators will provide more than one licence to dog walking businesses who operate with more than one walker on the Commons. Additional licenses will be issued at a reduced fee of £265 for each additional walker.

#### **Why is there a charge to the Licence Fee?**

Banstead Commons Conservators is a small, grant-funded organisation with a responsibility for a considerable area of protected land in the borough of Reigate and



Banstead. The associated charge will help to cover the administration and enforcement of the scheme.

The fee was decided by the Conservators after careful research and consideration of other licensing schemes elsewhere. With one licence entitling holders to use all four of our sites, spanning a total 1,350 acres, it represents value for money for professional dog walkers.

### **What is the Dog Walker Code of Conduct?**

Our Dog Walker Code of Conduct applies to all users of the Commons and can be found on our [website here](#). Notices are also displayed on our noticeboards and are periodically promoted on our social media pages. Licenced dog walkers are required to agree to the code of conduct.

### **How will a BCC licensed professional dog walker be identified?**

The Licence holder must always wear visible photo identification card and an armband which are provided by the BCC when operating on Banstead Commons.

### **Can my Licence be transferred to other professional dog walkers?**

No, all professional dog walkers must be individually licensed to operate on Banstead Commons. Transferring the licence will only be permitted if a special dispensation has been agreed in writing with Banstead Commons Conservators.

### **What is the maximum number of dogs a professional dog walker can walk at one time?**

To comply with the Reigate and Banstead Borough Council's Public Space Protection Order, licensed professional dog walkers may not walk more than four dogs. Professional Dog Walkers must not walk in tandem with any other dog walkers if the number of dogs collectively at any time exceeds six.

### **Where can professional dog walkers dispose of dog waste?**

Dog waste should be bagged and either placed in a bin or taken home.

Dog waste left on Banstead Commons is unpleasant for other users, is unhygienic and causes serious ecological damage to plant and animal communities. Anyone failing to clean up after their dog may have their licence revoked and be reported to the Dog Warden for dog fouling offences.

### **Do all dogs need to be on leads?**

Professional dog walkers must always keep your dogs under control and in sight. You must also ensure you have a lead available for each of your dogs and any dog whose obedience cannot be guaranteed must be kept on a lead.

Please read our [Dog Walker Code of Conduct](#) for further information.



## **Why are professional dog walkers being regulated and not other commercial activities?**

Commercial activity has always been controlled or prohibited on Banstead Commons. Most commercial activities are prohibited but some are regulated under the Metropolitan Commons (Banstead) Supplemental Act 1893. Charity and large group events (over 25 people) are regulated by authorisation.

## **How will you enforce the scheme?**

Commencing March 2025, there will be an increased staff presence on Banstead Commons. They will be issued with body worn cameras to assist with enforcement.

Banstead Commons Conservators are aware of many of the professional dog walkers who currently use our sites commercially and we aim to engage with them all prior to the introduction of the regulation.

Professional dog walkers should be mindful that once the formal licensing scheme is introduced, if they continue to operate on our sites without a licence, their public liability insurance will be void and, ultimately, they may risk prosecution.

## **As a licensed professional dog walker can I advertise on Banstead Commons?**

No. Banstead Commons Conservators do not permit any advertising on our noticeboards. However, once licensed, Banstead Commons Conservators will (with your permission) advertise your business on our [website here](#).

To assist with the awareness of the scheme, enforcement and to promote our Dog Walker Code of Conduct at key times during the year, (with permission) Banstead Commons Conservators will regularly promote authorised businesses that operate on the Commons by writing stories on our social media platforms.

## **What are the procedures for raising a concern or a complaint with the Conservators?**

Professional dog walkers can raise concerns regarding incidents on the Commons, wildlife or visitor related, directly to the Clerk & General Manager by telephone or [email](#). We encourage you to raise your concern at the time of the incident so that it can be addressed and formally recorded.