Local Government Act 1995

CITY OF PERTH

FENCING LOCAL LAW 2015

Under the powers conferred by the Local Government Act 1995, and under all other powers enabling it, the Council of the City of Perth resolved on 2 February 2016 to make the following local law.

PART 1 – PRELIMINARY

1.1 Citation

This local law may be cited as the City of Perth Fencing Local Law 2015.

1.2 Commencement

This local law comes into operation 14 days after the date of its publication in the Government Gazette.

1.3 Purpose and Effect

(1) The purpose of this local law is to prescribe a sufficient fence and the standard for the construction of fences throughout the district of the City of Perth.

(2) The effect of this local law is to establish the requirements for fencing within the district of the City of Perth.

1.4 Application

This local law applies throughout the district of the local government.

1.5 Repeal


1.6 Definitions

In this local law unless the context requires otherwise—

“Applicant” means a person who makes an application for approval under this local law;

“AS or AS/NZS” means an Australian or Australian/New Zealand Standard as published by Standards Australia as amended from time to time;
“authorised person” means a person appointed by the local government under section 9.10 of the Local Government Act 1995 to perform any of the functions of an authorised person under this local law;

“barbed wire fence” means a wire or strand of wires having small pieces of sharply pointed wire twisted around it at short intervals;

“boundary fence” means a fence, other than a dividing fence, that separates private land from land that is local government property or a thoroughfare;

“Building Code” means the latest edition of the Building Code of Australia published from time to time by or on behalf of, the Australian Building Codes Board, as amended from time to time, but not including any explanatory information published with that Code;

“building permit” has the meaning given to it in the Building Act 2011;

“Building Surveyor” means a Building Surveyor of the local government;

“CEO” means the Chief Executive Officer of the local government;

“Council” means the Council of the local government;

“dangerous” in relation to any fence means, with the exception of electrified, barbed and razor wire fences as separately specified under this local law—

(a) a fence containing exposed broken glass, asbestos fibre or any other potentially harmful projection or material; or
(b) a fence which is likely to collapse or fall, or part of which is likely to collapse or fall, from any cause;

“district” means the district of the local government;

“district planning scheme” means a local planning scheme of the local government made under the Planning and Development Act 2005;

“dividing fence” has the meaning given to it by the Dividing Fences Act 1961;

“electrified fence” means a fence carrying or designed to carry an electric charge;

“fence” means any structure, not including a retaining wall, used or functioning as a barrier, irrespective of where it is located and includes any gate;

“front boundary” means the boundary line between a lot and the thoroughfare upon which that lot abuts, or in the case of a lot abutting on more than one thoroughfare, the boundary line between the lot and the primary thoroughfare;

“front fence” means a fence erected on the front boundary of a lot or on a line
adjacent to the front boundary;

“front setback area” means the area between the building line of a lot and the front boundary of that lot;

“height” in relation to a fence means the vertical distance between—
(a) the top of the fence at any point; and
(b) the ground level or, where the ground levels on each side of the fence are not the same, the higher ground level, immediately below that point;

“local government” means the local government of the City of Perth;

“local government property” means anything except a thoroughfare—
(a) which belongs to the local government;
(b) of which the local government is the management body under the Land Administration Act 1997; or
(c) which is an “otherwise unvested facility” under section 3.53 of the Local Government Act 1995;

“lot” has the meaning given to it and for the purposes of the Planning and Development Act 2005;

“Non-Residential Lot” means any lot situated in the district that is not defined as a residential lot under this local law;

“notice of breach” means a notice referred to in clause 5.1 of this local law;

“occupier” has the meaning given to it in the Local Government Act 1995;

“owner” has the meaning given to it in the Local Government Act 1995;

“person” means any person, company, employer and includes an owner, occupier and licensee;

“razor wire fence” means a coiled strong wire with pieces of sharp cutting edges set across it at close intervals;

“Residential Lot” means a lot where a residential use—
(a) is or may be permitted under the district planning scheme; and
(b) is or will be the predominant use of the lot;

“retaining wall” means any structure which prevents the movement of soil or retains soil or structures in order to allow ground levels of different elevations to exist adjacent to one another;

“Schedule” means a Schedule to this local law;
“sufficient fence” means a fence described in clause 2.1 of this local law, but does not include a retaining wall;

“thoroughfare” has the meaning given to it by the Local Government Act 1995, but does not include a private thoroughfare which is not under the management or control of the local government.

1.7 Relationship with other laws

(1) In the event of any inconsistency between the provisions of a district planning scheme and the provisions of this local law, the provisions of the district planning scheme are to prevail.

(2) Nothing in this local law affects the need for compliance, in respect of a fence, with—

(a) any relevant provisions of a district planning scheme; and

(b) any relevant provisions that apply if a building permit is required for that fence under the Building Act 2011 or Building Regulations 2012.

1.8 Licence fees and charges

All licence fees and charges applicable under this local law shall be determined by the Council from time to time in accordance with section 6.16 of the Local Government Act 1995.
PART 2 – FENCES

Division 1 – Sufficient Fences

2.1 Sufficient fences

(1) A person shall not erect a dividing fence or a boundary fence that is not a sufficient fence, unless otherwise approved or required by the local government.

(2) Subject to subclause (3) and (4), a sufficient fence—

(a) on a Residential Lot is a dividing fence or a boundary fence constructed and maintained in accordance with the specifications and requirements of Schedule 2;

(b) on a Non-Residential Lot is a dividing fence or a boundary fence constructed and maintained in accordance with the specifications and requirements of Schedule 3;

(3) An application must be made to the local government for grant of consent to any variation to the specifications in Schedules 2 and 3.

(4) Unless an authorised person determines otherwise, a sufficient fence on a boundary between lots other than those specified in subclause (2) is a dividing fence constructed in accordance with the specifications and requirements of Schedule 2 or Schedule 3, whichever is appropriate.

(5) Notwithstanding any other provision in this local law, a dividing fence or boundary fence constructed of masonry, stone or concrete shall be a sufficient fence only if it is designed by a professional engineer and constructed in accordance with that design where—

(a) it is greater than 750 millimetres in height; or

(b) the Building Surveyor so requires.

(6) Notwithstanding any other provision in this local law, a dividing fence or boundary fence shall not exceed 1,800 millimetres height unless the approval of the local government has been obtained for such a fence.

Division 2 – General

2.2 Fences within front setback areas

(1) A person shall not, without the written consent of the Building Surveyor, erect a free-standing fence greater than 1,200 millimetres in height, within the front setback area of a Residential Lot within the district.
(2) The Building Surveyor may approve the erection of a fence of a height greater than 1,200 millimetres in the front setback area of a Residential Lot only if the fence on each side of the driveway into the lot across the front boundary is to be angled into the lot for a distance of not less than 1,500 millimetres along the frontage to a distance of not less than 1,500 millimetres from the frontage in order to provide appropriate splayed lines of vision for a motorist using the driveway for access to a thoroughfare.

(3) The provision of subclause (2) shall not apply to a fence—

(a) of open construction that does not obscure the lines of vision of a motorist using the driveway for access to a thoroughfare; or

(b) that does not adjoin a footpath.

2.3 Gates in fences

A person shall not erect a gate in a fence which does not—

(a) open into the lot; or

(b) open by sliding parallel and on the inside of the fence, which it forms part of, when closed.

without first obtaining the written approval of the local government.

2.4 Depositing fencing material on public place

A person shall not deposit or permit the deposit of any materials whatsoever used in the construction or maintenance of any fence, on any thoroughfare, public place or local government property unless the approval of the local government has been obtained.

2.5 Maintenance of fences

An owner of a lot on which a fence is erected shall maintain the fence in good condition so as to prevent it from becoming dangerous, dilapidated, or unsightly to the amenity of the locality.

2.6 Fences across rights-of-ways, public access ways or thoroughfares

A person must not, without the approval of the local government, erect or maintain a fence or obstruction of a temporary or permanent nature across any right-of-way, public access way or thoroughfare so as to impede or prevent use of those facilities in the manner for which they are intended and constructed.
2.7 Fences and Sightlines

Unless otherwise approved by the local government—

(a) front fences or boundary fences that are adjacent to a vehicle access point or a thoroughfare shall be truncated with the minimum dimension of the truncation being 2,000 millimetres or the fence reduced in height to no more than 750 millimetres, unless—

(i) the fence is an open fence that does not obscure the lines of vision of a motorist using the vehicle access point or thoroughfare; or

(ii) there is a distance of 3,500 millimetres between the fence and a carriageway or footpath.

(b) where a dividing fence is closer than 2,000 millimetres from a vehicle access point and connects to a thoroughfare, the dividing fence shall be reduced to 750 millimetres in height for the first 2,000 millimetres from the thoroughfare back into the lot.

(c) a corner Lot without the standard street corner truncation, with a front fence height that exceeds 750 millimetres in height of solid material is not permitted within the 6,000 millimetres by 6,000 millimetres corner sightline area.

(d) where two right of ways or laneways intersect, a 3,000 millimetres by 3,000 millimetres sightline is required so that a fence height that exceeds 750mm in height of solid material is not permitted.

2.8 Dividing Fences

(1) Notwithstanding the provisions of clause 2.1, an authorised person may approve the erection or repair of a dividing fence which is not a sufficient fence where all of the owners of the lots to be separated by the dividing fence make an application for approval for that purpose.

(2) In determining whether to grant approval under subclause (1), an authorised person may consider, in addition to any other matter they are authorised to consider, where the erection or retention of the fence would have an adverse effect on—

(a) the safe or convenient use of any land;

(b) the safety or convenience of any person; or

(c) the visual amenity of the locality.
2.9 Fencing Designs

Where required by an authorised person, fencing designs are to be certified by a professional engineer as being suitable for wind loadings found in Region D Category 2 areas in accordance with the current edition of AS/NZS 1170.0:2002 Structural design actions – General principles.

2.10 Pre-used fencing materials

(1) Notwithstanding clause 2.1, a person shall not construct a fence on a Residential Lot or a Non-Residential Lot from pre-used materials without the approval of the local government.

(2) Where the local government approves the use of pre-used materials in the construction of a fence under subclause (1), that approval shall be conditional on the applicant painting or treating the pre-used material as directed by the Building Surveyor.

2.11 Barbed wire fences and spiked or jagged materials

(1) An owner or occupier of a Residential Lot or a Non-Residential Lot shall not erect, affix or allow to remain on any fence on such a lot any barbed wire or other material with spiked or jagged projections, unless the prior written approval of the local government has been obtained.

(2) Any fence bounding a lot that has barbed wire or other materials with spiked or jagged projections affixed to it may only be approved if the wire or other materials are carried on posts at an angle of 45 degrees, with the bottom row being a minimum of 2,000 millimetres from the ground level.

(3) If the posts which carry the barbed wire or other materials referred to in subclause (2) are angled towards the outside of the lot bounded by the fence, the face of the fence must be set back from the lot boundary a sufficient distance to ensure that the angled posts, barbed wire or other materials do not encroach on adjoining land.

(4) An owner or occupier of a lot shall not erect, affix or allow to remain as part of any fence or wall, whether internal or external, on that lot any broken glass.

2.12 Electrified and razor wire fences

(1) An owner or occupier of a lot shall not—

(a) construct or use an electrified fence on that lot without obtaining the approval of the local government in the form prescribed in Schedule 4; or

(b) construct a fence wholly or partly of razor wire on that lot without obtaining the approval of the local government in the form prescribed in Schedule 5.
(2) The local government shall not approve an application for the purpose of subclause (1)(a)—

(a) in respect of a lot which is or which abuts a Residential Lot;

(b) unless the fence will comply with “AS/NZS 3016:2002 Electrical installations – Electricity security fences”; and

(c) unless provision is made so as to enable the fence to be rendered inoperable during the hours of business operations, if any, on the lot where it is erected.

(3) The local government shall not approve an application for the purpose of subclause (1)(b)—

(a) if the fence is within 3,000 millimetres of the boundary of the lot; or

(b) where any razor wire used in the construction of the fence is less than 2,000 millimetres or more than 2,400 millimetres above the ground level.

(4) An application for approval for the purpose of subclauses (1)(a) or (1)(b) shall be made by the owner of the lot on which the fence is or is to be erected, or by the occupier of the lot with the written consent of the owner.

2.13 Prohibited fencing materials

In constructing a fence a person must not use—

(a) broken glass or any other potentially harmful projections or material;

(b) asbestos fibre;

(c) material that is likely to collapse or fall, or part of which is likely to collapse or fall, from any cause; and

(d) pre-used materials unless the material is painted or treated to the satisfaction of an authorised person.

2.14 Building Code

(1) Subject to subclauses (2) and (3), a fence shall be constructed in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Building Code.

(2) Where there is inconsistency between the standards or requirements of this local law and those specified in the Building Code, the standards and requirements of the Building Code shall prevail.

(3) Subclause (1) shall not apply to an existing fence, except where the existing fence is demolished, pulled down or removed and re-erected, or in some
PART 3 – APPROVALS

3.1 Application for approval

(1) Where a person is required to obtain the approval of the local government under this local law, that person shall apply for approval in accordance with subclause (2).

(2) An application for approval under this local law shall—

   (a) be in the form determined by the local government;
   
   (b) be signed by the applicant and the owner of the lot;
   
   (c) provide the information required by the form; and
   
   (d) be forwarded to the local government together with any fee imposed and determined by the local government under and in accordance with section 6.19 of the Local Government Act 1995.

(3) An authorised person may require an applicant to provide additional information reasonably related to an application before an application is considered for approval.

(4) An authorised person may refuse to consider an application for approval which is not in accordance with subclauses (2) and (3).

3.2 Decision on application for approval

(1) The local government may—

   (a) approve an application for approval unconditionally or subject to any conditions; or

   (b) refuse to approve an application for approval.

(2) If the local government approves an application for approval, it is to issue to the applicant an approval in the form determined by the local government.

(3) If the local government refuses to approve an application for approval, it is to give written notice of that refusal to the applicant.

(4) Where a clause of this local law refers to conditions which may be imposed on an approval or which are to be taken to be imposed on an approval, the clause does not limit the power of the local government to impose other conditions on the approval under subclause (1)(a).
3.3 Compliance with approval

Where an application for approval has been approved, the applicant and the owner or occupier of the lot to which the approval relates, shall comply with the terms and any conditions of that approval.

3.4 Duration of approval

Unless otherwise stated in the form of approval, an approval granted under this local law—

(a) runs with the lot to which it relates;

(b) may be relied upon by any subsequent occupier or owner of the lot; and

(c) may be enforced by the local government against a subsequent occupier or owner of the lot.

PART 4 – MISCELLANEOUS

4.1 False or misleading statement

A person shall not make a false or misleading statement in connection with any application, requirement or request under this local law.

PART 5 – NOTICES OF BREACH

5.1 Notices of breach

(1) Where a breach of any provision of this local law has occurred in relation to a fence on a lot, an authorised person may give a notice in writing to the owner of that lot.

(2) A notice of breach shall—

   (a) specify the provision of this local law which has been breached;

   (b) specify the particulars of the breach; and

   (c) state that the owner is required to remedy the breach within the time specified in the notice.

(3) Should an owner fail to comply with a notice of breach, the local government may, by its employees, agents or contractors enter upon the lot to which the notice relates and remedy the breach, and may recover the expenses of so doing from the owner of the lot in a court of competent jurisdiction.
PART 6 – OFFENCES

6.1 Offences and penalties

(1) A person who fails to comply with a notice of breach commits an offence.

(2) A person who commits an offence under this local law is liable, on conviction, to a penalty not exceeding $5000, and if the offence is of a continuing nature, to an additional penalty not exceeding $500 for each day or part of a day which the offence has continued.

6.2 Modified penalties

(1) An offence against any provision of this local law is a prescribed offence for the purposes of section 9.16(1) of the Local Government Act 1995.

(2) The amount appearing in the final column of Schedule 1, directly opposite a prescribed offence in that Schedule, is the modified penalty for that prescribed offence.

(3) For the purpose of guidance only, before giving an infringement notice to a person in respect of the commission of a prescribed offence, an authorised person should be satisfied that—

(a) commission of the prescribed offence is a relatively minor matter; and

(b) only straightforward issues of law and fact are involved in determining whether the prescribed offence was committed, and the facts in issue are readily ascertainable.

6.3 Form of notices

For the purposes of this local law—

(a) the form of the infringement notice referred to in sections 9.16 and 9.17 of the Local Government Act 1995 is to be in the form of Form 2 of Schedule 1 of the Local Government (Functions and General) Regulations 1996; and

(b) the form of the withdrawal of infringement notice referred to in section 9.20 of the Local Government Act 1995 is to be in the form of Form 3 in Schedule 1 of the Local Government (Functions and General) Regulations 1996.
PART 7 – OBJECTIONS AND REVIEW

7.1 Objections and review

When the local government makes a decision under clause 3.2, the provision of Part 9 Division 1 of the *Local Government Act 1995*, and regulation 33 of the *Local Government (Functions and General) Regulations 1996*, apply to that decision.
## SCHEDULE 1

### OFFENCES AND MODIFIED PENALTIES

[Clause 6.2(2)]

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SCHEDULE 2
SPECIFICATIONS FOR A SUFFICIENT FENCE ON OR ABUTTING A LOT
DEVELOPED FOR RESIDENTIAL USES

[Clause 2.1(2)(a)]

Each of the identified categories in this Schedule is a sufficient fence on a Residential Lot and the fence design being certified by a professional engineer.

Timber fence
(a) corner posts to be 125mm x 125mm x 2,400mm and intermediate posts to be 125mm x 75mm x 2,400mm spaced at 2,400mm centres;
(b) corner posts to be strutted two ways with 100mm x 50mm x 450mm sole plates and 75mm x 50mm struts;
(c) intermediate posts to be doubled yankee strutted with 150mm x 25mm x 450mm struts;
(d) all posts to have tops with a 60mm weather cut and to be sunk at least 600mm into the ground;
(e) rails to be 75mm x 50mm with each rail spanning 2 bays of fencing double railed or bolted to each post with joints staggered;
(f) the fence to be covered with 75mm x 20mm sawn pickets, 1,800mm in height placed 75mm apart and affixed securely to each rail; and
(g) the height of the fence to be 1,800mm except with respect to the front set back area for which there is no minimum height but which is subject to clause 2.2.

Corrugated fence
A fence constructed of corrugated fibre reinforced pressed cement or steel sheeting constructed to manufacturer’s specifications or which satisfies the following specifications—
(a) a minimum in-ground length of 25 per cent of the total length of the sheet, but in any case shall have a minimum in-ground depth of 600mm;
(b) the total height and depth of the fence to consist of a single continuous fibre reinforced cement or steel sheet;
(c) the sheets to be lapped and capped with extruded “snap-fit” type capping in accordance with the manufacturers written instructions; and
(d) the height of the fence to be 1,800mm except with respect to the front set back area for which there is no minimum height but which is subject to clause 2.2.

Brick, stone or concrete fence
A fence constructed of brick, stone or concrete, which satisfies the following requirements and specifications—
(a) a site classification is to be provided by a professional engineer and the footing is to be designed in accordance with AS 2870-2011 Residential slabs and footings as amended;
(b) footings of minimum 225mm x 150mm concrete 15MPa or 300mm x 175mm brick laid in cement mortar;
(c) fences to be offset a minimum of 200mm at maximum 3,000mm centres or 225mm x 100mm engaged piers to be provided at maximum 3,000mm centres;
(d) expansion joints in accordance with the manufacturer’s written instructions; and
(e) the height of the fence to be 1,800mm except with respect to the front set back area for which there is no minimum height but which is subject to clause 2.2.

**Composite fence**
A composite fence which satisfies the following specifications for the brick construction—

(1) (a) brick piers of minimum 345mm x 345mm at 1,800mm centres bonded to a minimum height base wall of 514mm;
   (b) each pier shall be reinforced with one R10 galvanised starting rod 1 500mm high with a 250mm horizontal leg bedded into a 500mm x 200mm concrete footing and set 65mm above the base of the footing. The top of the footing shall be 1 course (85mm) below ground level;
   (c) the minimum ultimate strength of brickwork shall be 20MPa. Mortar shall be a mix of 1 part cement, 1 part lime and 6 parts sand;
   (d) the ground under the footings is to be compacted to 6 blows per 300mm and checked with a standard falling weight penetrometer; and
   (e) control joints in brickwork shall be provided with double piers at a maximum of 6,000mm centres;

or

(2) (a) brick piers of a minimum 345mm x 345mm x 2,700mm centres bonded to the base wall; and
   (b) each pier shall be reinforced with two R10 galvanised starting rods as previously specified.

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SCHEDULE 3
SPECIFICATIONS FOR A SUFFICIENT FENCE ON OR ABUTTING A LOT
DEVELOPED FOR NON-RESIDENTIAL USES

[Clause 2.1(2)(b)]

Each of the identified categories in this Schedule, with minimum and maximum
specifications where stated, is a sufficient fence on a Non-Residential Lot and the
fence design being certified by a professional engineer.

Galvanised or PVC fence and gate
A fence constructed of galvanised or PVC coated non-rail link mesh, chain mesh or
steel mesh which satisfies the following specifications—

(a) corner posts to be minimum 50mm nominal bore x 3.5mm and with
footings of a 225mm diameter x 900mm;

(b) intermediate posts to be minimum 37mm nominal bore x 3.15mm at
maximum 3,500mm centres and with footings of a 225mm diameter x
600mm;

(c) struts to be minimum 30mm nominal bore x 3.15mm fitted at each gate
and 2 at each corner post and with footings 225mm x 600mm;

(d) cables to be affixed to the top, centre and bottom of all posts and to
consist of 2 or more 3.15mm wires twisted together or single 4mm wire;

(e) galvanised link mesh wire to be 2,000mm in height and constructed of
50mm mesh 2.5mm galvanised iron wire and to be strained, neatly
secured and laced to the posts and affixed to cables. Vehicle entry gates
shall provide an opening of not less than 3.6m and shall be constructed of
25mm tubular framework with 1 horizontal and 1 vertical stay constructed
of 20mm piping and shall be covered with 50mm x 2.5mm galvanised link
mesh strained to framework. Gates shall be fixed with a drop bolt and
locking attachment.

Other fences

(a) a fence of cement sheet or steel sheeting constructed to the minimum
specifications referred to in Schedule 2;

(b) a fence constructed of aluminium sheeting when supported on posts and
rails provided that it is used behind a building line and is of a minimum
height of 1,800mm but no greater than 2,400mm; or

(c) a fence of timber, brick, stone or concrete constructed to the minimum
specifications referred to in Schedule 2.
SCHEDULE 4
ELECTRIFIED FENCE PERMIT
[Clause 2.12(1)(a)]

This is to certify that:

[Name] of [Address]

is permitted, subject to the conditions set out below, to have and use an electrified fence on:

[Address]

from ___________20_________ and until this permit is transferred or cancelled.

Approved By:

Name:_________________ Position_______________________
Date:____/____/_____

Conditions of Permit—
The holder of the permit must—
(a) display the permit in a prominent position on the land or premises on which the electrified fence has been erected;
(b) upon the request of a Building Surveyor produce to him or her the permit;
(c) within 14 days of a change in the ownership or occupation of the land or premises in respect of which the permit has been granted, notify the CEO in writing of the details of that change or those changes;
(d) obtain the written consent of the local government prior to the commencement of any alteration, addition or other work relating to or affecting the electrified fence; and
(e) comply with AS/NZS 3016:2002 Electrical installations – Electric security fences.

Transfer by Endorsement
This permit is transferred to [Name] of [Address]

from and including the date of this endorsement.

Approved By:

Name:_________________ Position_______________________
Date:____/____/_____
This is to certify that

[Name] of [Address]

Is permitted, subject to the conditions set out below, to have a fence constructed wholly or partially of razor wire on:

[Address]

From _____________ 20__ and until this permit is transferred or cancelled.

Approved By:

Name:_________________ Position_______________________

Date:____/____/_____

Conditions of Permit—
The holder of the permit must—
(a) display the permit in a prominent position on the land or premises on which the fence has been erected;
(b) upon the request of a Building Surveyor produce to him or her the permit;
(c) within 14 days of a change in the ownership or occupation of the land or premises in respect of which the permit has been granted, notify the CEO in writing of the details of that change or those changes; and
(d) obtain the written consent of the local government prior to the commencement of any alteration, addition or other work relating to or affecting the fence.

Transfer by Endorsement
This permit is transferred to [Name] of [Address]

from and including the date of this endorsement.

Approved By

Name:_________________ Position_______________________

Date:____/____/_____
The Common Seal of the City of Perth was affixed by the authority of the Council in the presence of

THE RT HON THE LORD MAYOR
MS LISA-M. SCAFFIDI

ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
MR MARTIN MILEHAM