

Lesley Griffiths AS/MS
Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd, Ynni a Materion Gwledig
Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref LG/02835/20

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Chair of the Petitions Committee

8th December 2020

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your letter of 30 November, regarding the Ban on Game Bird Cages.

The Welsh Government has published a Code of Practice for the Welfare of Gamebirds Reared for Sporting Purposes.

<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2020-11/gamebirds-reared-for-sporting-purposes-welfare-code-of-practice.pdf>

The Code was developed in consultation with stakeholders including representatives from the shooting industry and welfare organisations. The purpose of the Code is to provide practical guidance in relation to Section 9 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006.

Whilst raised cages are permitted by law, it is important to note that the welfare of gamebirds is covered by the Animal Welfare Act 2006. The Act makes it an offence to cause unnecessary suffering to an animal and also contains a duty of care so those responsible for an animal must take reasonable steps to ensure its welfare.

Our Code of Practice states that when birds are housed or penned, the accommodation should be well constructed and managed and of sufficient size to ensure good health and welfare. The code also states that barren raised cages for breeding pheasants and small barren cages for breeding partridges should not be used. All laying systems used for the housing of birds should be designed and managed to ensure the welfare of the birds and any system should be appropriately enriched.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Gohebiaeth.Lesley.Griffiths@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Lesley.Griffiths@gov.wales

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Any future changes made to the current Code of Practice for the Welfare of Gamebirds or welfare legislation will be made with due consideration given to all stakeholder feedback along with relevant research, analysis and evidence.

Any concerns about a specific gamebird rearing premises should be reported to the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) or the relevant Local Authority as they are responsible for the delivery and enforcement of animal health and welfare provisions on behalf of the Welsh Government.

Yours Sincerely,



Lesley Griffiths AS/MS

Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd, Ynni a Materion Gwledig
Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Gohebiaeth.Lesley.Griffiths@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Lesley.Griffiths@gov.wales

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.