

Lesley Griffiths AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Ynni, Cynllunio a Materion Gwledig
Cabinet Secretary for Energy, Planning and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-796
Ein cyf/Our ref LG/05175/17

David John Rowlands AM

government.committee.business@wales.gsi.gov.uk

November 2017

Dear David

Thank you for your letter of 21 November regarding a petition from Linda Evelyn Joyce Jones on banning the use of wild animals in circuses in Wales.

The Welsh Government is committed to ensuring a high standard of welfare for all animals kept in Wales is maintained at all stages of their life. The way we treat animals is an important reflection of the values of our society. Animals should be protected from pain, injury, fear and distress.

I recognise there is concern the welfare needs of some animals kept by Mobile Animal Exhibits (MAEs), including circuses, cannot be met in a travelling environment. MAEs are diverse and there is no standard licensing regime or requirement for routine inspection. We must decide whether or not a change of policy and/or the law is required in Wales to protect the welfare of animals in MAEs. A licensing or registration scheme could improve the welfare of animals in travelling environments and also legitimise businesses operating as MAEs in Wales.

With this in mind, I have recently consulted on the introduction of a licensing or registration scheme for MAEs. I also asked for views on banning the use of wild animals in circuses. The public consultation, which lasted 12 weeks, closed for responses on 8 October 2017.

Officials are now analysing responses to the consultation, the first on this subject, which will be used to inform the next steps. Details of the outcome will be published on the Welsh Government website in due course.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

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.

At present there are no circuses based in Wales and I have not dismissed the possibility of working with the UK Government to bring in a joint ban on the use of wild animals in circuses. Officials attend regular meetings with Defra and the Devolved Administrations and are committed to moving this policy area forward.

Regards
Lesley

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