



Ein cyf/Our ref OQ56814

Jane Dodds MS

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22 November 2021

Dear Jane,

Thank you for your question regarding greyhounds during Plenary on 15 September. I apologise for the delay in responding.

Work relating to the potential licensing of the one greyhound racing track we have in Wales is linked to the policy development of the *draft* Regulations for Animal Exhibits. During the previous Government's term of office there were, in fact, two full consultations undertaken. The first was generic and the second was specifically in relation to the inclusion of sanctuaries (animal welfare establishments) following the responses to the consultation. The responses to the second consultation raised the issue of including racing tracks in Wales and I agreed it was worthy of a third consultation to consider inclusion. The summary of responses to the second consultation can be found [here](#).

However, the onset of Covid-19 resulted in a number of areas of policy development work having to be suspended and a clear focus taken on priority work. It was as a result of this focus we were able to bring forward, despite challenging circumstances, the Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (Wales) Regulations 2021, which at present focusses on pet sales. Going forward, the intention is to amend these Regulations with additional Schedules to include other activities involving animals.

The shape and structure the Welsh Government will take as a result of the Programme for Government commitments, and our Animal Welfare Plan for Wales, will be to outline the approach for further priority licensing of activities involving animals. At present the Programme for Government mentions animal exhibits, however we will consider whether sanctuaries and greyhounds could be included. It should be noted, whatever approach is taken, a requirement to undertake further public consultations will be necessary. Essentially, we have to return to the beginning of the legislative process rather than just undertake a single issue consultation. The timing and priority of this work has yet to be determined.

I appreciate key stakeholders involved in either animal exhibits, sanctuaries or, indeed, greyhound racing may find this disappointing, but we cannot circumvent the changes which have occurred or the circumstances we are now presented with. Please be assured it is the intention of this new Government to bring forward meaningful legislation during our term of office.

Also please note officials in the Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer for Wales have kept key stakeholders updated via the Animal Welfare Network Wales or the Companion Animal Welfare Group Wales. Further engagement with all relevant stakeholders will be undertaken in the future.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lesley Griffiths". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end of the name.

**Lesley Griffiths AS/MS**  
**Y Gweinidog Materion Gwledig a Gogledd Cymru, a'r Trefnydd**  
**Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and Trefnydd**