



Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1253  
Ein cyf/Our ref LG/00032/22

Jack Sargeant MS  
Chair – Petitions Committee  
Senedd Cymru  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

14<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 20 January, regarding Petition P-06-1253 Ban Greyhound Racing in Wales.

Animal welfare is a priority for the Welsh Government and our recently published Animal Welfare Plan for Wales 2021-26 (AWPW) includes a framework for the realisation of the four animal welfare Programme for Government commitments. It also outlines how we will integrate a broad range of ongoing animal welfare policy work, including statutory guidance for existing Regulations, licensing of animal exhibits, microchipping of dogs and cats, welfare of animals in transport, and Codes of Practice. The need for review of existing animal welfare legislation is also recognised, along with maintaining some flexibility should new policy actions be required: <https://gov.wales/animal-welfare-plan-wales-2021-26>

Our AWPW presents a visionary and challenging programme for action which, to become a reality, will require working in partnership with specialist external stakeholders, compliance with the requirements associated with public consultations, and the availability of evidence which is both robust and proportionate to support any new legislation.

A petition with UK Government to ban greyhound racing in order to end unnecessary deaths and suffering of racing dogs closed on 30 April 2021 receiving 104,885 signatures. The UK Government has not announced plans to ban greyhound racing, but have stated in their response that the Greyhound Board GB are to improve their guidance on animal welfare.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

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

[Gohebiaeth.Lesley.Griffiths@llyw.cymru](mailto:Gohebiaeth.Lesley.Griffiths@llyw.cymru)  
[Correspondence.Lesley.Griffiths@gov.wales](mailto: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.

I am aware of the petition to ban greyhound racing in Wales and have received several pieces of correspondence on this issue. I am also aware of a possible change in ownership of the only greyhound-racing track (independent) in Wales and the declared intention of the owners to seek registration with the Greyhound Board GB. It is currently the intention of the Welsh Government to consider greyhound racing in Wales as part of a future licensing scheme, as set out in our AWPW.

In 2019 some funding was secured via the Welsh Government/Local Authority Partnership Delivery Plan to enable Caerphilly County Borough Council to carry out welfare inspections at the Valley Greyhound Stadium during the evening / weekend races. The objective was to facilitate inspections under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 and the voluntary Code of Practice for the Welfare of Racing Greyhounds. Unfortunately, the onset of Covid-19 resulted in a number of delays to the implementation of the plan. However, at least three Caerphilly CBC inspections have now taken place at the Valley track. The Local Authority Enforcement Project, funded by Welsh Government, has been approached to support these and future inspections.

In relation to the policy development for the possible licensing of greyhound racing, my officials will be engaging with a broad range of interested parties, including:

- the LA Enforcement Project lead, Gareth Walters;
- Caerphilly Local Authority;
- the joint AWWN/CAWWG working group; and
- other relevant stakeholders.

It is not possible at this stage to provide a specific date for the introduction of potential new legislation in this area, as consideration of the issues involved is likely to be embedded within other policy development work. However, the AWPW sets out overarching timelines to indicate how the work will progress in this and other areas.

Yours sincerely,

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.

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