

Rebecca Evans AC / AM
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Amaeth a Physgodfeydd
Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref:
Ein cyf/Our ref: **SF/RE/0179/15**

Claire Lawson
Chair
Animal Welfare Network Wales (AWNW)

28 January 2015

CLAWSON@rspca.org.uk

Dear Claire,

I am writing in response to your report on “**The Case for the Regulation of Animal Welfare Establishments**”. I am grateful for the effort that has been made by the AWWN in producing this report. I am conscious though that this response is some time after the report was first produced and I apologise for that but I am sure you will appreciate that priorities in relation to animal welfare in Wales have taken a huge step forward with the creation of the Wales Animal Health and Welfare Group.

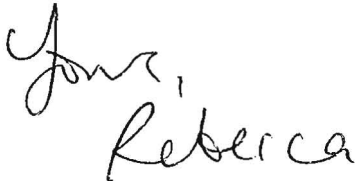
Your report provides considerable information on the issue of sanctuaries. I recognise that this topic, as you have mentioned in the report, has been in consideration since before the development of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 and was raised specifically in consultation to that Act. This policy area is now fully devolved to Wales. Whilst I would have hoped that since 2007, when the Animal Welfare Act 2006 was commenced, progress in this area could have been made in ensuring the welfare of animals had improved, your report suggests that this has not necessarily been the case.

My officials, having looked at this report carefully, have noted that you acknowledge that the majority of organisations involved in keeping animals do so in compliance with the Animal Welfare Act 2006, but that when things go wrong the picture is very different and very distressing. It is also evident that it can be difficult to know who is doing what, where and when.

I have asked Dr Christianne Glossop, the Chief Veterinary Officer, to bring together urgently a meeting to discuss a way forward from this report. This will include you and appropriate representatives from the AWW, a representative from the Animal Health and Welfare Framework group and officials. There are several issues that might usefully be discussed following on from the report and possible next steps.

I am also copying this letter to the Chair of the Petitions Committee of the National Assembly for Wales and the Chair of the Environment and Sustainability Committee given their interest in this matter

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rebecca', written in a cursive style.

Rebecca Evans AC / AM
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Ffermio a Bwyd
Deputy Minister for Farming and Food