

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



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-1026
Ein cyf/Our ref LG/02221/20

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Chair – Petitions Committee

Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales

24th September 2020

Dear Janet Finch-Saunders

Thank you for your letter of 4 September, regarding the petition you have received from the National Anti-Snaring Campaign who are requesting a ban on the snaring of wildlife for use in the fur trade.

The Welsh Government controls the use of snares through the legal restrictions contained principally in the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, the Animal Welfare Act 2006, Wild Mammal Protection Act 1996 and the Deer Act 1991. There is currently no legislative controls in place on the manufacture and sale of snares.

The Animal Welfare Act 2006 makes provision for the issuing of codes of practice for the welfare needs of animals. Failure to comply with such a code is not an offence in itself. However, failure to comply with a relevant provision of a code of practice may be relied upon by a court as tending to establish liability.

In 2015, the Welsh Government introduced a new [Code of Best Practice on the Use of Snares in Fox Control](#) under Section 14 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006. In drawing up the Code officials worked and continue to work with stakeholders which supported the continued use (agriculture and gamekeeper interest groups) and those which would like to ban all snare use (animal welfare groups). Regulators such as Natural Resources Wales and the Police have also been included in ongoing stakeholder meetings. As I have previously said if this voluntary approach fails to drive up operator practice and animal welfare standards I would seek to regulate the sale and use of snares in Wales.

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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.

Before the end of this term, I will publish a White Paper which will pave the way for the introduction of an Agriculture (Wales) Bill during the sixth Senedd term. I intend the Bill to provide the legislative powers to regulate all aspects of the sale and use of snares in Wales.

Regards



Lesley Griffiths AS/MS

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