

# Agenda – Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee

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Meeting Venue:

Committee Room 3 – Senedd

Meeting date: 10 October 2019

Meeting time: 09.20

For further information contact:

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Committee Clerk

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## Pre-meeting (09.20–09.30) PRIVATE

### 1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest

(09:30)

### 2 Scrutiny session with the Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs on the Wild Animals and Circuses Wales Bill

(09:30–11.00)

(Pages 1 – 30)

Lesley Griffiths AM, Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs

Tom Henderson, Senior Bill Manager, Circus Bill – Welsh Government

Richard Lewis, Lawyer – The Welsh Government Legal Services Department

Jackie Price, Senior Responsible Officer, Circus Bill – Welsh Government

Attached Documents:

Briefing paper

Letter



### **3 Papers to note**

#### **3.1 Update from the Minister for Economy and Transport to the Committee's Report on the Welsh Government Draft Budget 2019 – 2020**

(Pages 31 – 42)

Attached Documents:

Letter and update

#### **3.2 Correspondence from Chris Barltrop on the Wild Animals and Circuses (Wales) Bill**

(Page 43)

Attached Documents:

Correspondence

#### **3.3 Correspondence from Circus Mondao on the Wild Animals and Circuses (Wales) Bill**

(Pages 44 – 45)

Attached Documents:

Correspondence

#### **3.4 Correspondence from PAWSI on the Wild Animals and Circuses (Wales) Bill**

(Page 46)

Attached Documents:

Correspondence

#### **3.5 Correspondence from Rachael Smith on the Wild Animals and Circuses (Wales) Bill**

(Pages 47 – 49)

Attached Documents:

Correspondence

**11.00 – 12.00 PRIVATE**

**4 Discussion of evidence received and consideration of the key issues raised under item 2**

**5 Consideration of the Committee's follow up report on the Welsh Government's progress on Marine Protected Area (MPA) management in Wales**

(Pages 50 – 81)

Attached Documents:

Draft report

Document is Restricted



Ein cyf/Our ref MA-L/LG/0489/19

Mike Hedges AM  
Chair  
Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee  
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3 October 2019

Dear Mike,

### **Wild Animals and Circuses (Wales) Bill**

Thank you for your letter of 25 September regarding the Wild Animals and Circuses (Wales) Bill. My responses to the Committee's questions are below.

- 1. Can you provide an explanation of the ethical justification for a ban on using wild animals, over and above that set out in the Explanatory Memorandum and given in your evidence to the Committee on 18 July?*

Travelling circuses have toured the United Kingdom for over two centuries. They are commercial operations which exist to provide entertainment. The number of travelling circuses using wild animals, and the number and variety of wild animals in those circuses, has greatly declined in recent years. The public appetite for this type of entertainment is not what it once was and there are now just two circuses touring England and Wales with wild animals. Both are based in England but regularly visit Wales. Each time they do there are renewed calls to ban the practice. The Welsh public and third sector organisations, including the British Veterinary Association, the Born Free Foundation and the RSPCA, have consistently supported and campaigned for a ban on the use of wild animals in travelling circuses.

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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.

Petitions calling for a ban on the use of wild animals in circuses in Wales have twice been considered by the National Assembly for Wales' Petitions Committee.<sup>1 2</sup>

In 2017 I consulted on the introduction of a licensing or registration scheme for mobile animal exhibits, including circuses. I also asked for views on banning the use of wild animals in travelling circuses. There was overwhelming support from respondents for a ban and I committed to exploring opportunities to bring forward legislation to do so.

Many of the calls for a ban focus on perceived animal welfare issues, and there is a strong body of opinion that the welfare needs of wild animals in travelling circuses cannot be met. The introduction of a ban on welfare grounds is considered in paragraphs 3.15 to 3.30 of the Explanatory Memorandum accompanying the Wild Animals and Circuses (Wales) Bill. I will not repeat the Explanatory Memorandum here, but I will briefly set out why using delegated powers in the Animal Welfare Act 2006 to ban the use of wild animals in travelling circuses would not be appropriate.

I would need to be satisfied there is compelling scientific evidence demonstrating the welfare of wild animals kept in travelling circuses is compromised in order to introduce a ban under the 2006 Act. Based on the evidence available, it cannot conclusively be proven the welfare of wild animals in travelling circuses is better or worse than animals in similar situations. I cannot, with confidence, say there are no welfare issues, rather, there is insufficient directly relevant scientific evidence of those issues available. Given the relatively small number of animals, and wide range of species which have different needs, it is doubted the results of any further research would be sufficiently meaningful and robust to better inform the debate.

In addition, both of the travelling circuses which regularly visit Wales have, for the last seven years, been licensed under the Welfare of Wild Animals in Travelling Circuses (England) Regulations 2012. The regulations, made under the Animal Welfare Act 2006, have required travelling circuses to have in place care plans for their wild animals; keep specific records; notify the licensing authority of tour itineraries; have regular veterinary inspections; and adhere to specific welfare requirements for the training, performing, transport and environment of their wild animals. Despite the 2012 Regulations being unpopular with a number of animal welfare organisations opposed to the use of wild animals in travelling circuses, it has to be assumed both travelling circuses complied with the licensing requirements otherwise they would not be permitted to tour with their wild animals.

The Committee will be aware the 2012 Regulations expire on 19 January 2020, a day before the Wild Animals in Circuses Act 2019, prohibiting the use of wild animals in travelling circuses in England, is scheduled to come into force.

Over time, it has become clear that there are wider ethical considerations which go beyond the question of whether the welfare of wild animals in travelling circuses is compromised. With the coming into force of the Wales Act 2017, and the reserved powers model, we have the power in Wales to introduce primary legislation on ethical grounds.

Last year I consulted on primary legislation to ban the use of wild animals in travelling circuses in Wales, based on ethical grounds. There were over six and a half thousand responses to the consultation with 97% supporting my proposal to introduce legislation that would make it an offence for a wild animal to be used in a travelling circus. Whilst consultation exercises are not ballots or opinion polls, the overwhelming support from

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<sup>1</sup> NAW, P-04-653 Ban the Use of Wild Animals in Circuses in Wales

<<http://www.senedd.assembly.wales/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=13740&Opt=0>>

<sup>2</sup> NAW, P-05-796 Calling on the Welsh Government to Ban The Use of Wild Animals in Circuses in Wales

<<http://www.senedd.assembly.wales/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=20656&Opt=0>>

respondents for the introduction of legislation to make it an offence for a wild animal to be used in a travelling circus is further indication of the strength of public feeling on this matter.

The Wild Animals and Circuses (Wales) Bill seeks to address ethical concerns by banning the use of wild animals in travelling circuses in Wales. This is the same approach taken by the Scottish and UK Governments which considered there was insufficient evidence to justify a ban on welfare grounds but sufficient justification to do so on an ethical grounds.

Using wild animals in travelling circuses is outdated and fails to reflect current public opinion on how animals should be treated and represented. There is no benefit to society or to the wild animals that justifies their use purely for our entertainment. It contributes little to further our understanding of wild animals and their natural behaviour, or to their conservation in the wild. It is doubtful the animals have a good quality of life, and certainly not a life that is in-keeping with members of their species kept in other environments, such as zoos which are heavily regulated, or free-living members of their species.

I am also concerned about the impact seeing wild animals perform in travelling circuses, purely for entertainment, has on the attitudes of people towards animals, particularly the developing attitudes of children. This is a view shared by many respondents to last year's consultation, who agree banning the use of wild animals in travelling circuses can contribute to encouraging respectful and responsible attitudes towards all species.

People can continue to enjoy travelling circuses, but we need to move on from wild animals being paraded around as a spectacle for our amusement. By banning the use of wild animals in travelling circuses we would join a growing number of countries which consider it unacceptable to use sentient beings in this outdated way.

*2. Can you provide an explanation of why you consider the ban a proportionate intervention, and how you have satisfied yourself that it complies with the rights set out in the Human Rights Act 1998?*

Banning the use of wild animals in travelling circuses will influence the characteristics of the two travelling circuses still using wild animals. The small and declining number of wild animals kept by travelling circuses suggests their presence is not a major factor in determining their popularity. It is possible, over time, travelling circuses will choose to no longer use wild animals. However, this is not guaranteed, and given the ethical argument I have set out above, I believe a ban is both proportionate and justified. Travelling circuses would continue to be welcome in Wales, provided they do not use wild animals.

The objective of this Bill is to prevent the use of wild animals in travelling circuses. I am satisfied the provisions of the Bill comply with the Human Rights Act 1998. Travelling circuses will be able to tour and perform as before, albeit without wild animals.

I have resisted calls for an outright ban on travelling circuses keeping animals. A ban on keeping wild animals would constitute the complete deprivation of property and engage the right to the peaceful enjoyment of possessions, which is protected by Article 1 of Protocol 1 to the European Convention on Human Rights. The Human Rights Act 1998 incorporates A1P1 into domestic British law. A1P1 provides that *'Every natural or legal person is entitled to the peaceful enjoyment of his possessions. No one shall be deprived of his possessions except in the public interest and subject to the conditions provided for by law'*. Controlling how an animal is used in a travelling circus environment is less of an interference than depriving an owner of it entirely. If travelling circuses choose to keep their wild animals, that is their prerogative, provided they do so within the law.

I am also satisfied the penalties and powers of enforcement are proportionate. The Schedule sets out the powers of entry including the conditions that must be satisfied before a warrant to enter a dwelling may be granted and the limitations of a warrant. These enforcement powers are not novel and mirror those already in place in other legislation.

I look forward to meeting the Committee again on 10 October to provide further evidence on the general principles of the Wild Animals and Circuses (Wales) Bill.

Regards,

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

**Lesley Griffiths AC/AM**

Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd, Ynni a Materion Gwledig  
Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs



Ken Skates AC/AM  
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth  
Minister for Economy and Transport

Agenda Item 3.1  


Ein cyf/Our ref MA/P/KS/0111/19

Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Mike Hedges AM  
Chair  
Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee

[SeneddCCERA@assembly.wales](mailto:SeneddCCERA@assembly.wales)

1 October 2019

Dear Mike

Further to my formal response on the Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee's report on the Welsh Government Draft Budget 2019-2020, I am writing with the updates that I agreed to provide a number of the recommendations. The updates are attached at Annex 1.

Yours sincerely,



**Ken Skates AC/AM**  
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth  
Minister for Economy and Transport

## Update by the Welsh Government on recommendations to the report of the Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee on the Welsh Government Draft Budget 2019-2020

### Recommendation 3

The Committee recommends that the Cabinet Secretary should report back to this Committee within the next six months on the uptake of funding under the decarbonisation Call to Action. This should include information on any steps that have been taken to encourage uptake.

**Response:** Accept

I will provide Committee with updates summarising the overall numbers of projects supported and funding awarded under each of the Calls to Action. I will provide those updates at six monthly intervals at the end and mid-year point of each financial year.

**Update:** Below are the project approvals for the Economy Futures Fund from its launch in May 2018 - to date, broken down into the individual Calls to Action.

Call To Action	Number	Investment
Decarbonisation	6	£ 22,447,000
Exports and Trade	6	£ 1,288,560
High Quality Employment, Skills Development and Fair Work	24	£ 25,335,776
Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Headquarters	34	£ 2,695,386
R&D, Automation and Digitalisation	63	£ 5,708,153

### Recommendation 4

The Committee recommends that the Welsh Government should report back to this Committee within the next six months on progress of the development of an electric vehicle charging point network and its plans for further development in this area.

**Response:** Accept

The Minister for Economy and Transport's Written Statement of 11 October 2018 referred to the aim that Transport for Wales would go out to procurement in Spring 2019, when Assembly Members would be updated further.

**Update:** Discussions with chargepoint operators are informing our approach and charging strategy to be published in 2020. Transport for Wales is engaged in the detailed development of the roll out of the rapid charging network. The number of publicly accessible chargepoints is now 830, up from 670 at April 2019. This includes the addition of rapid charging points in Mid Wales. We will update the committee on progress with this issue within the next 6 months.

## **Recommendation 6**

The Committee recommends that the Welsh Government should report back to this Committee within 6 months on progress in addressing Roadside Nitrogen Dioxide Concentrations. This should include an assessment of the impact of 50mph limits in specified locations.

**Response:** Accept in Principle

Whilst data is being collected on a monthly basis, the full effects of the 50mph speed limits will not be known until full 12-months' worth of data has been obtained and analysed. This will not be available until September 2019 at the earliest. However, updates in respect of progress on the 'Action Plan' and 'Precautionary Retained Measures' as outlined in the supplemental plan to the UK plan for tackling roadside nitrogen dioxide concentrations will be available when required.

**Update:** The full effects of the 50mph speed limits on reducing levels of nitrogen dioxide are not yet known. However, the data for the 12-month period since their initial implementation in June 2018 has now been obtained and is currently being reviewed alongside the associated traffic speed and volume data for each of the 5 locations on the motorway and trunk road network. The report outlining the results of this review will be completed by the end of September and published shortly afterwards.

In respect of the 'Action Plan measures', the following is confirmed:

- A494 Deeside – 50mph speed limit retained via traffic regulation order made under Section 84 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act (RTRA) 1984 that came into force on 16 August 2019. Detailed traffic sign layouts and average speed camera enforcement equipment were installed during July and August;
- A483 Wrexham – 50mph speed limit retained via traffic regulation order made under Section 84 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act (RTRA) 1984 that came into force on 16 August 2019. Detailed traffic sign layouts and average speed camera enforcement equipment were installed during July and August;
- A470 Upper Boat to Pontypridd – 50mph speed limit retained via traffic regulation order made under Section 84 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act (RTRA) 1984 that came into force on 17 June 2019. Detailed traffic sign layouts and average speed camera enforcement equipment is being installed during August and September;
- M4 Port Talbot - 50mph speed limit retained via traffic regulation order made under Section 17 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act (RTRA) 1984 that came into force on 24 July 2019. Detailed traffic sign layouts and average speed camera enforcement equipment is being installed during August and September;
- M4 Newport – Setting of a maximum 50mph speed limit via the existing variable speed limit system came into operation in February 2019. No changes to the existing speed limit signs and spot speed camera enforcement are necessary. Design development of the Variable Diversion measure is ongoing, due to the need to continue dialogue with the Police and Newport City Council over the possible effects of diverting of traffic onto the local road network.

In respect of the Precautionary Retained Measures, development has recently commenced and will include discussion with the relevant Local Authorities, as several of the proposals are likely to result in traffic diverting away from the motorway and trunk road network. A recommendation on whether some or all of these Precautionary Retained Measures should be implemented will be included with the report to be released in September.

## **Recommendation 7**

The Committee recommends that the Welsh Government should report back to this Committee within the next 6 months on its plans in relation to 20mph limits.

**Response:** Accept

We are continuing to work with partners to explore the options offered by the devolution of powers relating to national speed limits in Wales. We will work with Public Health Wales and Cardiff Council to understand the impact of the implementation of 20mph zones across large parts of Cardiff, and if the implementation of 20mph limits, investments in active travel including the funding of on street cycle hire and strategic cycle routes together have the potential to deliver improvements in road safety, air quality and increased take up of active travel modes. Using the lessons learnt from developments in Cardiff we will also review our guidance on setting local speed limits to assess if it is still fit for purpose in light of the devolution of powers to set speed limits.

As part of the forthcoming work, the costs that would arise from changing national speed limits will be assessed.

We will update the committee on progress with this issue within the next 6 months.

**Update:** The First Minister announced on 7 May that 20mph should be the default speed limit for residential areas. Officials have worked with the Welsh Local Government Association to establish a multi-disciplinary Task and Finish Group to consider how best to implement a default 20mph speed limit in built areas across Wales. The Task and Finish Group has begun its work and has been asked to provide recommendations to Ministers by the summer of 2020.

## **Recommendation 8**

The Committee recommends that the Welsh Government should report back to this Committee within the next six months on the progress of the “Green Corridors on the Welsh Trunk Road Network” initiative.

**Response:** Accept

Regular reporting on the progress of this initiative is already planned.

Some of the initiative’s original proposals require further investigation and more detailed planning which might require additional resources and would be subject to further Ministerial submissions and approval.

**Update:** Since my approval and announcement of the Green Corridors Initiative in July 2018, my officials in Transport’s Network Management division have been developing plans and started to deliver improvements on the ground to meet the initiative’s objectives. Please see Annex 2 for further details.

## **Recommendation 9**

The Committee recommends that the Welsh Government should report back to this Committee within 6 months on the status of any reviews relating to WelTAG 2017.

**Response:** Accept

WelTAG 2017 was published in December 2017. It replaced WelTAG 2008 and should be applied to all transport interventions that require Welsh Government support. Any schemes that were being developed using WelTAG 2008 at the time were expected to move over to WelTAG 2017 at the earliest convenient point. Welsh Government has recently hosted workshop sessions across Wales to discuss WelTAG user's experiences and examples of best practice. Key themes have been identified where users require further support and guidance and this requirement is being addressed. The intention is to convene similar sessions at a later stage.

Some of the recommendations of the review may require additional resources and would be subject to further Ministerial submissions and approval.

We will update the committee on progress within the next 6 months.

**Update:** Welsh Government has recently hosted workshop sessions across Wales to discuss WelTAG user's experiences and examples of best practice. Key themes have been identified where users require further support and guidance and this requirement is being addressed.

**Update by the Welsh Government on accepted recommendations to the report of the Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee on the Welsh Government Draft Budget 2019-2020**

**Recommendation 8**

The objectives of the initiative are;

- Place building and landscape improvements. Including targeted tree planting, wildflower verges and other appropriate landscape improvements.
- Identifying other improvements to the environmental quality of urban and rural transport networks (for example, boundary treatments such as provision of hedges or slate fences appropriate to the area) and seeking opportunities to include in existing work programmes or planned infrastructure renewals and upgrades.
- Enhancing habitats and improving connectivity (resilience of ecosystems). Including opportunities to improve connectivity of habitats, both within the existing soft estate and to the wider landscape and taking action to protect and conserve protected species.
- Nature Based Solutions. As part of improving and operating a safe, efficient and sustainable transport network, developing the principles of nature based solutions, embedding them into the design and planning processes.
- Appropriate maintenance. Review our maintenance standards, making sure they are both appropriate and meeting our aims for a safe and sustainable transport network and the aspirations for making Wales a world class tourist destination and provide multiple benefits.
- There are also cross-cutting objectives for Communication, Collaborating and Partnering, contributing to the Wales Transport Strategy, Monitoring and Evaluation, and Progress Reporting.

**1. Delivery**

The approach to delivering the initiative seeks to identify 'Quick Wins' alongside developing longer term plans and proposals. Work is being funded through Transport's capital programme.

a) 'Quick Wins'

Starting in the summer of 2018 officials worked with the North and Mid Wales Trunk Road Agent (NMWTRA) and South Wales Trunk Road Agent (SWTRA) to identify potential 'Quick Win' opportunities for the initiative. As a result the following examples have been completed or are near completion;

- 50,000 daffodils were planted by NMWTRA at 'gateway' locations on the A55, A494 and A483; and 75,000 daffodils were planted by SWTRA on the M4 Cardiff Gate Area. Further bulb planting is planned in the autumn of 2019.
- Over 13Ha of road verges in mid Wales have been added to areas being actively managed for wildflowers; where maintenance operations have been

improved to create conditions where wildflower communities can thrive and spread. Other road verge sites across Wales are now being routinely assessed and identified for managing as wildflower areas.

- 6000 Primroses and Cowslips are being planted along the A40 at Johnstown, Carmarthen.
- In support to National Eisteddfod at Llanrwst this year; wildflower enhancement work was carried out on verges along the A470 on the approaches to the town.
- Landscape restoration projects including native tree and shrub planting was carried out along the following routes during the winter 2018-19. A465 Hereford Road, A449, A40 (east) and the A483. A total of 9,265 trees and shrubs were planted as part of these projects.
- Nature based engineering solutions – Natural planting techniques to replace unsightly pvc webbing snow fencing in Brecon Beacons National Park on the A470 at Storey Arms. Planting trials have been established to determine best method and most appropriate plant species.



*'Camelot' Daffodils, M4 South Wales*

Identifying and delivering 'Quick Wins' will be an on-going part of the initiative for its duration.

b) Longer term planning and proposals

Officials also commissioned the Trunk Road Agents to prepare detailed proposals for the priority areas identified under the initiative and deliver a range of measures to improve the landscape quality, enhance habitats and improve connectivity, action on protected species and nature based solutions. This work involves the assessment of gateway sites and other priority areas against the objectives, followed by the design and implementation of measures on the ground. Where possible looking to utilise (or in the longer term, develop) local supply chains. This work will start to be delivered in 2019 and will be on-going for the duration of the initiative with more sites being added in subsequent years.

Sites being taken forward with delivery starting during current financial year <b>2019/2020</b> .	Description of works and improvements currently planned – other opportunities will be identified, assessed and developed for these sites .	Delivering against Green Corridor Initiative objectives	Timetable
North and Mid Wales Trunk Road Agent Area			
A494 Deeside (Gateway)	<p>Landscape restoration works including tree thinning and coppicing, tidying existing planted areas, opening views where appropriate and rejuvenating existing ponds.</p> <p>New tree planting at several locations e.g. Deeside Park junction.</p> <p>Bulb planting at Shotwick interchange and other locations.</p> <p>Creation of wildflower areas at Deeside Park junction with other areas currently being considered.</p> <p>New shrub and tree planting along edge of carriageway at Aston Mead to improve screening.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Place Building and landscape improvements.</li> <li>2. Enhancing habitats and improving connectivity (resilience of ecosystems) and Action on Species.</li> <li>3. Nature based solutions.</li> </ol>	<p>Starting – Late summer / autumn 2019.</p> <p>Main period of delivery – autumn 2019 to spring 2020.</p> <p>Some work may be on-going into following year or further opportunities identified and developed.</p>
A55 Broughton (Gateway & The Wales Way)	Bulb planting at several locations.		



	<p>Landscape restoration works around Junctions 36A, 35A and other areas including tree thinning and coppicing and strengthening existing planting.</p> <p>Creation of wildflower areas nr. Drury Lane.</p> <p>New tree planting at several locations.</p>		
A483 Gresford (Gateway) – including Wrexham bypass	<p>Additional bulb planting with native species.</p> <p>New shrub and tree planting at Rossett interchange.</p> <p>Further opportunities for tree and shrub planting and wildflower areas are currently being investigated along the Wrexham bypass.</p>		
A5/A483 Chirk (Gateway)	<p>Bulb planting at several locations.</p> <p>Landscape restoration works including tree thinning and coppicing, strengthening planting, tidying existing planted areas, opening views of wider landscape where appropriate e.g. nr. Green Lane.</p>		

	<p>Creation of wildflower areas at several locations.</p> <p>New tree planting.</p>		
A483 Llanymynech (Gateway)	<p>Bulb planting and creation of wildflower areas at several locations through Four Crosses.</p> <p>Strengthening existing planting and extending hedgerows.</p> <p>Pond restoration to improve ecology.</p>		
South Wales Trunk Road Agent Area			
M4 Second Severn Crossing (Gateway) – From Prince of Wales Bridge to decommissioned Toll Booth Plaza	<p>Open up views of historic landscape and iconic views across designated sites of high landscape and ecological value through;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Landscape restoration and, removal of undesirable species and scrub control.</li> <li>• Reclaiming grassland areas.</li> <li>• Tree planting with appropriate species to link with surrounding landscape.</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Place Building and landscape improvements.</li> <li>2. Enhancing habitats and improving connectivity (resilience of ecosystems) and Action on Species.</li> <li>3. Nature based solutions.</li> </ol>	<p>Starting – Late summer / autumn 2019.</p> <p>Main period of delivery – autumn 2019 to spring 2020.</p> <p>Some work may be on-going into following year or further opportunities</p>

	Further enhancements through planting native bulb species and wildflowers into grassland areas.		identified and developed.
M48 / A466 Chepstow (Gateway)	Provide better visibility and visual connection with surrounding landscape through; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Landscape restoration and, removal of undesirable species and scrub control.</li> <li>• Planting to improve the connectivity of habitats.</li> </ul> Improving visual appearance to enhance a sense of place through; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthening existing planting.</li> <li>• Tree planting with appropriate species to link with surrounding landscape.</li> <li>• Additional bulb planting and other seasonal colour.</li> <li>• Creating wildflower areas.</li> </ul>		
A40 Monmouth (Gateway)			
A470 nr. Cefn Coed (Wales Way) – approach to Brecon Beacons national Park from the south.			

c) Other areas of work

- The Wales Way - Transport officials are engaging with Visit Wales colleagues to determine how Green Corridors can support the Wales Way tourism initiative. An initial pilot audit and assessment of the A487 from Cardigan to Machynlleth was jointly carried out in July 2019 to determine practical measures such as opening and maintaining iconic seascape and landscape views. This work will now move forward into a detailed planning phase.
- Embedding the principles of green corridors in the design and delivery of new road infrastructure projects. This will form part of the on-going dialogue between officials and project teams in delivering sustainable design solutions, supported by guidance documents in how to apply green corridors principles (currently being developed).
- As part of the Green Corridors initiative I asked officials to keep our maintenance standards under review, making sure they are both appropriate and meeting our aims for a safe and sustainable transport network. I also challenged them to explore opportunities for collaborating with others.

As a result Transport officials have been working with Plantlife (the British conservation charity working nationally and internationally to save threatened wild flowers, plants and fungi), taking part in a UK wide working group looking at improving road verge maintenance. Other group members include Highways England, Transport Scotland, the South Wales Trunk Road Agent, local authority representation, principle highways contractors and other stakeholders. The purpose of the working group was to produce comprehensive best practice guidance for those who manage road verges such as local authorities and others.

This work has now concluded, with the guidance due to be published and launched by Plantlife in September.

The guidance's target audience is all those authorities and organisations that have responsibility for the management of roadside verges in the UK. It is a practical guide for highways managers, road engineers, operations managers, landscape architects and all those engaged with verge management and creation.

The publication complements safety considerations and focuses on those areas where there are no safety constraints restricting management. Its aim is to shift the balance so that over time species-rich habitat becomes the predominant asset across the network. The management approaches set out represent cost effectiveness in terms of the benefits to be realised, in some cases identifying opportunities for cost savings by reducing cutting frequencies when it is appropriate to do so.

# Agenda Item 3.2

## FURTHER NOTES FROM CHRIS BARLTROP 03.10.19

Thank you for allowing these further comments. I must be brief.

1. Whips: it's not practical for trainers to go close to each animal when working with a group. Whips are not weapons but extensions of a trainer's arms, used as a sort of semaphore of taught cues. Like a fly fisherman, a trainer has great control over where the tip of the lash lands; you can touch an animal gently to signal to it, even when it's moving as part of a group. A whip won't crack if it touches an animal; whip-cracking is for show, adding drama.
2. Activist language: words are misused to arouse emotions. As examples: 'Breaking-in an animal' uses that word as we used to say we were 'breaking-in' a new pair of shoes, not to say damage is done. 'On the road' expresses 'on tour', not literally travelling day and night, day in and day out.
3. Language is also often pejorative to the circus people, who are characterised as untrustworthy 'travellers' with all the prejudice that can bring.
4. Although they like to be thought of as 'charities', activist organisations are commercially-operated. Because circus life and practices are an 'unknown' and are easily misrepresented, kind-hearted animal lovers donate heavily to anti-circus campaigns. A glance at Company Accounts shows virtually nil expenditure on animals; income goes on salaries, office suites, political lobbying, and publicity to generate further income. It's in their commercial interest to condemn.
5. There is often confusion between 'animal welfare' and 'animal rights' (AR), a philosophy whose stated aim is to end all contact between humans and animals. The AR philosophy opposes the provision of better welfare, arguing that animals should not be in human care at all. Proselytising animal rights activists shout down 'welfarists', denying others a right to their views.
6. Leading on from that point, and noting some of the comments of the activists on the 26<sup>th</sup> September panel, the AR agenda clearly states they wish to move on from circuses to ban all human/animal activity. Where will that leave Welsh falconers and pony-trekking businesses, farmers and horse-riders and zoos, Welsh film-makers? They and more are targeted; the 'activist' panel said so. There's an economic and social cost to consider in endorsing these ideas. This is a dangerous path to take, it will affect far more than circuses.
7. Since exactly similar activities will continue but which are not circuses, this proposed legislation is discriminatory.
8. I note mention of 'sanctuaries'. I do not believe that transferring animals from the professional care in their circus 'family' to organisations which, by the nature of their setting-up, are not 'animal people' and whose husbandry will perforce be inferior. The 'sanctuary' mentioned is a commercial operation.
9. Finally, it is officially acknowledged by DEFRA that there is 'no welfare problem with circus animals'. The arguments against circuses are theoretical; the circus people are practical professionals, masters of their craft. I hope you will recognise that.

Thank you again.

# Agenda Item 3.3

Dear Committee Members

First I would like to thank you once again for inviting me to give evidence on the 2 October 2019.

There are some issue that I would like the committee to consider.

Our animals have purpose built stabling and transport that has been inspected by Defra zoo vets as part of our Licensing inspections. Yes, the animals travel, but they all load into and unload into the transporter very willingly as they feel content and this is no different to someone who transports their horse to a horse show each weekend. All our animals have hay while travelling and maximum time on the transporter is 4 hours which is well within the transport for animal's regulations. All our exotic animals are stabled at night under tents in large roomy pens and in daytime they have access to electric fence paddocks till evening. It's the same as any zoo but with the nature of the circus at every new site they will get new grass unlike other industries where they always live in the same paddock.

Training. Is once a day, about ten minutes for each animal and once our exotic animals have been introduced to the circus as a performance it would not be necessary to do any further training, and they would only perform twice a day for about 2 minutes, which they enjoy.

Training does not go on for hours on end like the animal rights people like you to believe , it's more a case of little and often.

As it would now be considered that animals are sentients. So what about their feelings and health in all of this? They are happy to be a part of the circus. All of our animals thrive in this environment; look exceptionally well; live exceedingly long lives (ie our past zebras lived to the ages of Sinbad 26 years, Zebedee 32 years old). They are free to roam around our circus sites as and when they please. There is no evidence to say that our animal are any worse off than zoos or safari parks (see Radford Report), its only the animal rights opinion that it is ethically not correct. They are pushing for a ban and we circuses are only the tip of the animal rights iceberg. We also need to think the effect this could have on the wild animals to leave them behind at home and rip them away from their herd and family. Would that not cause them stress being forced to be given away to a sanctuary as Miss Carys Bennett suggested?

I would like to point out that some off the other side's evidence was misleading. We care very much about the welfare off our animals and would not dream of sending them to inferior conditions at Hillside animal sanctuary, as was recommended by Miss Bennett. If Miss Bennett has truly done research as she claims on how we whip our animals and have cruel training methods I would like to see her research and know where she got this information as none of which are true. I am shocked that she has also not done any research into the sanctuary before making such a recommendation. Hillside animal sanctuary have no experience in Exotic animals -- they had one dromedary camel a few years ago that they claimed "could have ended up in a circus " if they did not have it. I have seen some shocking things written about them in the media and to think that she would recommend them is shocking. They have a problem looking after the domestic animals. There has been instances of their horses escaping onto roads; one was killed after a collision with a vehicle near Great Yarmouth, they turn out groups of horses onto the marshes that run either side of the Acle Straight with only ditches bordering the fields onto a fast main A road, with no shelter from the

elements be it sun, rain or wind, ( 5 freedoms not being met)Or would it be just for the sanctuaries benefit so they can claim to have rescued animals from a circus and drum up business for the sanctuary?

The owner of the sanctuary Wendy Valentine in 2005 was cautioned by police over a protest she staged in Norwich city centre.

In 2001 along with a colleague she was fined for trespassing on to a pig farm in north Norfolk, They pleaded guilty to entering an infected premises during the SWINE FEVER outbreak, and was fined nearly £5000. The judge described the way valentine and accomplice collected evidence as IMPROPER, ILLEGAL, INTRUSIVE AND IRRESPONSIBLE. He also dismissed their video evidence.

So I'm surprised that Miss Bennett would suggest to send our animals to a place like this where they have no respect for the law or care about transmitting diseases.

Hillside is home to 2500 horses and ponies, 650 cattle, 500 sheep and goats, 300 pigs and lots of other rescued small animals. How many staff do they have to give the individual care to these animals?

As it's her who is the accuser, I would like Miss Bennett to prove that Circus Mondao has welfare issues with their training methods or conditions as she implies in her statement. We don't have any animals that stand on their front paws or balance on balls or ropes.

Miss Bennett makes quotes from a trainer in America. She is misinforming you. The person she has quoted was a groom and would never have trained any elephants. PETA is one of the organisations that had to pay Ringling Brothers circus \$15.75 million dollars in damages for making false allegations, The activists payment of large sums to another witness were condemned by the judge as bribery; the witness was proved to be a perjurer. These are examples of the falseness of campaigns from these organisations, condemned by the US judge as "vexatious , groundless and unreasonable"

We have proved that the Licensing scheme works well and would look forward to seeing Wales have a similar licence. Whereas reading between the lines the animal rights team thought DEFRAS licence was no good.

The only two static circuses in the UK do not have grazing or outdoor paddock for the animals but it will be acceptable to have wild performing animals there! A sealion show in a zoo is not a static circus as she stated. So much of these people's words is twisted to mislead you.

I feel we meet all of the Five Freedoms. If not would we not be in Court?

We feel a lot of what the three animal rights panellists say is just repeating allegations and giving their opinion and not scientific facts, purely playing on emotions.

We are happy to send you video links of our animals at the circus alternatively you can go to our Facebook page CIRCUS MONDAO and click on videos, you will find a whole catalogue of videos that we do on a weekly basis showing how we move the animals and care for them.

Thanks.

## Agenda Item 3.4 Gene Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee

From Rona Brown, PAWSI, Performing Animals Welfare Standards International.

Calls for a ban. In your Explanatory Memorandum you quote percentages of respondents who replied to surveys, consultations and petitions and later in the document do explain more fully regarding the actual numbers of respondents. However in discussion you only quote the percentages, 96%, 97%, etc. This is misleading to the general readers and general public as the respondent's never total more than 10 thousand or thereabouts. This is out of 3 million or more Welsh population, and in truth the majority of respondents are not truly Welsh and do not live in Wales. It is much the same in England. Also you report quite accurately that 6,546 thousand of respondents to one consultation 4,19 thousand were identical and sent by Born Free. At the meeting on Wednesday one of your gentlemen said the surveys etc, were a representative of the public, forgive me if I have not quoted your words correctly. Carol spoke well about the public who respond and she is correct that most of the respondents are guided by the Animal Rights group they support. I would ask you therefore to change your policy of just quoting percentages and post and talk in real numbers as the way you do it now is misleading and tend to side with the Animal Rights. You also quote the Linda Joyce Jones petition as evidence when she got people to sign by telling untruths, which I pointed out to the petitions Committee.

Ethics. Ethics is a very subjective matter and is personal to us all and we all have different views on what it actually means. Most ordinary people view ethics as moral principle or a guide line on how they live their lives and subconsciously it rules their behaviour and the way they carry out their activities. However it is not something they dwell on daily, it is inherent in them and often is something in their makeup they learnt as a child. They know what is right or wrong and without even thinking about it as a general will behave correctly. There are no ethics laws, but there are laws in various formats which govern morality or rights and wrongs, disobey these laws or be punished. So if we accept that there are rights and wrongs we have to ask is it morally correct to ban something which is being undertaken by one group and ban them from doing it but not ban other groups doing the same activity under a different name? Or is it morally acceptable to use the reason for the ban based only on a small minority who do not like the group bring banned? Law makers are bound by moral codes which they sign up to when becoming lawmakers and law upholders. All MPs, AMs and other civil servants are governed by the 7 Nolan Principles and other codes of conducts, which are all based around being unbiased, researching the truth, and making fair and unbiased decisions. So those who think that animals "ought" not to be in circus should look at the evidence of the last 7 years of licensing in England and other records of longevity in human care as opposed to longevity in the "wild", welfare, enrichment, etc, should ask themselves if it is just their opinion or the actually truth. The licensed circuses and others want regulations in Wales and they want the bad people punished and the good people rewarded with a license, they want circus animals to be cared for and be secure in the hands of good people.

Thank you for listening to me on Wednesday and thank you for allowing me to submit these further bits and bobs.

Rona Brown.



## Agenda Item 3.5

I write in response to the wild animals in travelling circuses evidence sessions and to the petition calling for a ban on all animals in circus and travelling shows and the animal exhibits licencing as I believe many issues under the ban of wild animals in travelling circuses are relevant here.

Sentience must be applied at a biological level to be non discriminatory....difficulties acknowledged within....

Transportation is all legal and should not be up for discussion Welfare is exemplary within this individual business sector proven within law science and application All these welfare issues claimed by animal rights representatives and petitioners to be false and their use found to promote the petitioners cause.I believe this makes the use of the original petition to be inadmissible evidence consequently invalidating the numbers representing the thoughts and feelings of the people of Wales and England..in fact anywhere this so called evidence is produced..as signatures gained were gained by the use of false information and emotive language creating false allegations....inciting hatred amongst the susceptible ...I believe this is a 'manipulation of A to B to gain what A wants'.the proposed ban in itself an act of abuse. The same laws covering domestic abuse within existing framework...

I believe Lesley Griffiths AM to be a major contributing factor pawn in this pursuit.she posts on her own Facebook her support to the 'underdog' of society her actions of discrimination here prove otherwise and I believe this to prove the need for her dismissal.I believe from her own media she is against the causes of mental health issues. Discrimination and abusing a system 'allow A to gain power over B'is a major cause of mental health issues.

Lesley Griffiths AM on 1st October 2019 supported a national framework to help remove barriers disabled people experience in everyday life.The animal circus and animal industry to me as a disabled person,in the way I use contact with animals is a physical and mental therapy,and one that mentally and physically stimulated my mind and body.I wish to freely continue to use my self supported therapy without restrictions imposed by her Lesleys proposal.

I believe the actions of the petitioners and animal rights industry against circus,decades worth,are an illegal act of abuse,manipulation of conscious thought(sentience),manipulation of finance for personal gain and a perfect example of 'why we love to hate'...crowd following mentality e.g use of emotive false information to increase hatred to gain a following to manipulate for A to gain power over B.

Why does B have to keep proving to A by evidence and licensing that B is correct when A is the accuser? why does B have to keep paying to prove their innocence when already proven by licensing and regulations already imposed by A's claims originally to prove B correct?

Is this not abuse and non deployment of laws regarding protection of peaceable living,protection of B against harm from A and separation of a person's within a society? Where does innocent until proven guilty apply here? Here the circus are

innocent and the petitioners and supporting industry are guilty...requiring action through criminal law.

I believe the licensing application will action the same ways of discrimination...example :why will A have to have a license and B not?again an act of the innocent having to prove themselves to others that are imposing the believe that animal owners do not respect sentience and ignore the animals welfare requirements broad spectrum ownership....and implying a falsely advertised belief.

In answer to why so few supporters of circus with animals have responded,I believe the majority of the population,especially those responsible for animals have zero faith in animal rights industry especially the RSPCA ,and due to this take zero interest in what they say,or the falsified promotion of these industries,as practical evidence and personal experiences have proven their inclusion in practice to be detrimental to animal welfare as an integral part of their actions.

The bubble we live in is a bubble created by blind faith that our governing bodies will act within the law for us,and do the unbiased jobs the governing bodies are believed to carry out .....severe lack of knowledge within general public needs addressing between what's happening in assembly and the direct contact with the general populace.

I am disgusted that Welsh government have to time restrict this particular case due to sunset clauses imposed by previous government no longer dealing with this contentious issue.it creates an unjust situation for all.my concerns if your report does not support the laws of discrimination,rights of persons and trade by january,the legitimate standing of licenses goodwill run out ..licenses need to be unnecessary by law of the Animal welfare act 2006 coverage or need extending again as they are viable effective licensing.my concern that if we do not address this it will lessons proof the circus had to ensure its protection against abuse and allegations made by other parties as it is the only form of protection in action.

Self regulation of the Animal welfare act 2006 is evident and sufficient for all other industries within society.I also believe Joyce Watson to be a biased member of committee due to her personal attack using words including 'selectiveness towards Thomas Chipperfield ...I found it very derogatory and an insult to him.

I call for the prosecution of these acts of discrimination and abuse,and to compensate the victims with consideration to the historical and present harassment of these people ,as within any other sector of society.

I would like to add my concerns about offenses and persons responsible.....if we continue with the suggested proposal we need to look at criminality when owner has placed an animal on loan to another etc it is not precise enough to cover the differences of responsibility

I would like to address the problem of failure of habituation for the animals ..for example if they are removed from their home environment the travelling circus...what

happens if they do not adjust and need to go back to that environment for their welfare?

Please apart from colour define the difference of a circus marque to any other marque used to ensure welfare during the performance and exhibit of animals against inclement weather...most county shows do not provide this protection on site and is a valuable asset used to ensure all welfare is maintained at all sites...it is a shelter and permanent home structure that is transportable that is entirely familiar to the animals

I believe animal rights to be acting in a superior manner to others using their considerably larger financial standing gained immorally to target a small industry to gain a political footing .I believe this point of question needs raising due to the incredible amount of money donated to politics using falsified information and agenda to gain that money in origin..making politics a paid pawn.  
I am already at a no confidence conclusion in my own view of governing bodies ...this proposed act is emphasising this to me ..I have deep concerns of the future of Welsh politics and the people it is representing.

Rachael Smith

# Agenda Item 5

By virtue of paragraph(s) vi of Standing Order 17.42

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