

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



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Your ref P-05-951  
Our ref LG/01597/20

Janet Finch-Saunders MS  
Chair of the Petitions Committee

Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales

13 July 2020

Dear Janet

Thank you for your letter of 23 June regarding Petition P-05-951 – Impose a legal limit on the maximum number of breeding bitches in licensed breeding establishments in Wales.

In my appearance at the Climate Change and Rural Affairs Committee on Thursday 11 June, I re-affirmed my commitment to introducing legislation to ban the third party sales of puppies and kittens in Wales before the end of this term of the Senedd. Work on this new legislation is underway and a final formal consultation was launched on 22 June <https://gov.wales/ban-third-party-sales-puppies-and-kittens>.

In my Written Statement on 4th March, following the review of the dog breeding regulations I commented:

*'...for new regulations to be effective we must also tackle the barriers to enforcement Local Authorities are facing before proposing amendments to the current Breeding Regulations. The need for consistency of inspection and enforcement by Local Authorities is paramount in ensuring the welfare of breeding dogs and their offspring. Dog breeding premises are not evenly distributed across Wales and means some Local Authorities are struggling to cope with demands.'*

Therefore I am pleased to advise, working closely with Local Authorities, work is underway in relation to tackling barriers to enforcement; enhanced training; better guidance; and improved use of resources within Local Authorities as part of a three year Welsh Government funded pilot project.

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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.

You mention the findings from the review undertaken via a Task and Finish Group from the Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework Group in your letter. Please be assured it is being used in relation to the work with the Local Authorities project, indeed the scoping document included some of the findings to identify how the pilot would operate, and will be referenced over time and going forward with improvements for the welfare of dogs and puppies in breeding establishments in Wales.

The establishment of the project with Local Authorities is a further opportunity to identify *at grass roots* where future changes to legislation, and it is important to stress this is a forward thinking process, *may* be required and is part of the data gathering and evidence process, including issues arising in relation to larger breeding premises in Wales. I am sure you will appreciate we are having to carefully manage resources at present in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic so will not be commissioning any further bespoke research at this time.

We will continue to work with key stakeholders, including Local Authorities and the other Administrations to ensure we introduce changes which will have a lasting impact on the welfare standards of dogs and cats bred in Wales.

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**

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