

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-05-937
Ein cyf/Our ref LG/02588/20

Janet Finch-Saunders MS,
Chair of the Petitions Committee,

Dear Janet

11th November 2020

Thank you for your letter of the 28th of October regarding the live boiling of crustaceans.

The Welsh Government is committed to ensuring high standards of welfare for all animals kept in Wales at all stages of their life, including at the point of slaughter. The way we treat animals is an important reflection of the values of our society. Animals should be safeguarded from pain, injury, fear and distress. The Animal Welfare Act 2006 provides protection for animals under the control of man, and Welsh Ministers have made and issued legislation and codes of practice to protect and promote animal welfare in Wales under this Act.

Defra and the Devolved Governments of Scotland and Wales have recently commissioned an independent external review of sentience in decapod crustaceans and cephalopod molluscs. The review will consider whether decapods and cephalopods are sentient and therefore whether any additional animal welfare protections need to be afforded to these species. The review could have implications for existing practices involving these animals.

I have noted the Environment Secretary, George Eustice's, commitment to ensure animal sentience is recognised in UK law after we leave the EU and also his Government's view of the importance of this.

We fully agree animals are sentient beings and we will continue to promote and enhance animal welfare, both now and after we have left the EU, within domestic legislation.

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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.

Officials from England and Wales are now working together on the introduction of a Recognition of Sentience Bill, which underlines our commitment to continue improving standards of animal health and welfare in Wales.

It is my intention to put forward a Legislative Consent Motion for those aspects of the Animal Welfare (Recognition of Sentience) Bills which apply to Wales.

The Welsh Government agreed to be included in the draft Animal Welfare (Recognition of Sentience) Bill, which was put out to consultation in December 2017.

The consultation also set out proposals to ensure animal sentience is reflected in domestic law when we leave the EU. A summary of responses was published 7 August 2018 and work on this will continue.

Yours Sincerely



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