



Ein cyf/Our ref MA-LG-3776-21

Huw Irranca-Davies MS,
Chair, Legislation, Justice and
Constitution Committee

24 November 2021

Dear Huw,

Animal Welfare (Kept Animals) Bill

I am writing in response to the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee report on the Welsh Government's Legislative Consent Memorandum in relation to the Animal Welfare (Kept Animals) Bill.

I have set out my response to the Committee's two recommendations below:

Recommendation 1. The Minister should, at the earliest opportunity and in advance of the Senedd's debate on the relevant consent motion, provide the Committee with an update on the discussions had with the UK Government about the necessary carve out from the relevant restrictions in Schedule 7B to the Government of Wales Act 2006.

Response: Following discussions with the UK Government, Defra confirmed their agreement to making modifications to the consenting arrangements. Government amendments to the Bill have been tabled which include provision which 'carves out' the need for Minister of the Crown consent in the future in respect of the consenting arrangements in Schedule 7B to GOWA.

Recommendation 2. The Minister should, at the earliest opportunity and in advance of the Senedd's debate on the relevant consent motion, provide the Committee with further detail on the Welsh Government's analysis of clause 46 given the UK Government's intention to use the powers in the clause to make regulations for the purpose of meeting WTO obligations; confirm whether the Minister was aware of the UK Government's proposals in this regard and whether the Minister is supportive of this approach.

Response: My officials have discussed this with Defra and I am content with the proposed approach. The measures in clause 46 will impact principally the illegal trade in puppies. It is possible there will be broader impacts on the trade of legal pets as these measures could potentially be applied to the commercial importation of dogs. However, proposals to introduce future measures in regulations will be considered in more detail at that stage. An impact assessment, which would include appraisal of any WTO implications, would need to be considered in respect of the detailed proposals and this would be undertaken at a GB level before introducing any restrictions via regulations. In addition, proposals in respect of secondary legislation would be subject to consultation and/or further stakeholder engagement before being introduced.

I trust the above is of assistance.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lesley Griffiths". The signature is written in a light grey or blue ink.

Lesley Griffiths AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Materion Gwledig a Gogledd Cymru, a'r Trefnydd
Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and Trefnydd