



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

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3 March 2022

Dear Huw,

Animal Welfare (Kept Animals) Bill

Thank you for your letter dated 8 February 2022 regarding the Supplementary Legislative Consent Memorandum (Memorandum No.2) (SLCM (No 2)) on the Animal Welfare (Kept Animals) Bill ('the Bill').

Your letter informed me the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee ('the Committee') had considered SLCM (No.2) at a meeting on 7 February and in the Committee's view it is missing information and lacks clarity. The Committee raised the following points:

- a) It is unclear as to which provisions of Part 1 of the Bill and Schedules 1 to 4 will require the Senedd's consent.
- b) It does not explain the provisions of Part 1 or Schedules 1 to 4 in any detail.
- c) The Committee was unsure as to the numbering used in SLCM (No.2) to identify relevant clauses in the Bill.

Response

The consent of the Senedd is required for the provisions of Part 1 of the Bill, and Schedules 1 to 4 (as amended). To address the points raised in your letter and to provide absolute clarity for your Committee and Members of the Senedd, I have today laid a revised version of SLCM (No 2). The revised SLCM (No 2), explains these provisions and also provides greater detail in relation to the amendments to Parts 2, 3, 4 and 5 of the Bill.

I am also enclosing with this letter, for reference, a table setting out the clauses of the Bill as introduced and as now amended. I hope this will assist with your consideration of SLCM (No 2). The clause numbering in the revised version of SLCM (No 2) laid today is consistent with the current version of the Bill published on 18 November 2021.

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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.

For absolute clarity the previous version of SLCM (No 2) laid on 7 January has been withdrawn and replaced by the SLCM (No 2) laid today.

The revised SLCM (No 2) sets out amendments made to the Bill, as reflected in the reprinted version of 18 November 2021 and also refers to the issue covered in the original LCM laid on 22 June 2021 in relation to Part 2 of the Bill on livestock worrying.

Defra Ministers have declined my request to amend Part 2 of the Bill to include the Welsh Ministers on the basis that they view the matter as reserved to the UK Parliament. Defra consider that the provisions in Part 2 of the Bill relates to dangerous, or dangerously out of control dogs. The Welsh Government does not support this view.

Whilst acknowledging “dangerous dogs” is a reserved matter I am still awaiting a response from Defra Minister as to why they consider they cannot confer powers in the Bill in relation to the definition of livestock which is devolved to Wales. Should agreement to amend the Bill not be forthcoming I may recommend the Senedd withholds its consent “in part” for Part 2 of the Bill. This matter is referenced in the new SLCM (No 2) for your Committee’s information.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lesley Griffiths". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

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

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