



Ein cyf/Our ref LG/00247/22

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair - Petitions committee

27th May 2022

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 6 May, regarding Petition P-06-1283 to introduce the mandatory microchipping of cats in Wales.

Our Animal Welfare Plan for Wales 2021-26 includes a commitment to consider extending compulsory microchipping to include kittens and cats. Proposals in this area will draw upon research published in 2021 which was joint-funded with other GB administrations. Following completion of our analysis of the research, we will consider whether amendments are required to the current microchipping regulations for dogs, along with possible new measures for kittens and cats. Any proposed changes would be subject to a full public consultation process.

I am aware the UK Government intends to pursue this policy issue following its own public consultation. My officials will continue to liaise with their counterparts in Defra on this matter. However, due to other committed priorities within our ambitious animal welfare policy agenda, we will not be progressing alongside the UK Government's proposed legislative process.

With reference to the issue of microchip scanning and databases, work in this area has been informed by two recent research reports, on microchipping and responsible dog ownership, commissioned jointly by UK administrations. Additionally, a policy paper on pet theft published by Defra, the Home Office and the Ministry of Justice was published in 2021. Each of these papers make reference to microchipping, database ownership and ease of access.

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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.

We will continue to work in partnership with the UK Government to consider future changes in relation to microchipping databases for both cats and dogs, including matters around accessibility and a single point of entry. Officials will endeavour to align our policies wherever possible to ensure enforcement requirements are not compromised, especially on the border between England and Wales.

Yours sincerely,

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
Y Gweinidog Materion Gwledig a Gogledd Cymru, a'r Trefnydd
Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and Trefnydd