

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



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Paul Davies MS
Chair
Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Paul.Davies@senedd.wales

7 December 2022

Dear Paul,

Further to our scrutiny session on the Agriculture (Wales) Bill at the Committee session on the 16th of November. I promised to provide further information as set out below.

Glue Traps.

I committed to providing a note on the use of glue traps in public settings in Wales, including information on schools, hospitals and other healthcare settings, Local Authorities, and NHS contractors.

It is undeniable rodents can pose a serious public health risk in spaces which humans occupy. It is also reasonable to assume there are situations requiring a rapid solution such as, in hospitals, around the young and otherwise vulnerable, and in any form of food service.

Animal welfare is a priority for the Welsh Government and even in the hands of professional pest controllers, glue traps cannot be considered a humane method of capturing vertebrates. Adequate, efficient, and more humane forms of rodent control are available and in regular use in Wales. Such methods reduce the risk of capture or death of non-target animals as well as improving animal welfare standards. Pest control operators in the UK with a self-imposed ban on the use of glue traps are able to capture problem rodents in all circumstances. That experience is echoed abroad in countries where glue boards have been banned and alternative control methods adopted quickly.

A targeted consultation with stakeholders took place between November 2021 – January 2022 and included trade representatives of the pest control industry, as well as Local Authorities in Wales who handle pest control problems in various public health situations. In the written evidence to the consultation, the industry themselves were unable to determine the number of incidents when glue traps are used by their members specifically in Wales. The Local Authorities in Wales were able to make a more specific and accurate determination of the level of glue trap use.

As can be seen in the consultation [summary](#) document, their use is extremely limited. No Local Authority stated that glue traps were an essential method of rodent control.

DEFRA are currently designing a licensing system and are having issues, most notably with the fact there is no Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) Code for pest controllers and no qualifications or licence is needed to work in that type of role. Therefore, determining a legitimate application for a licence to use a glue trap would prove very problematic, rendering the definition of who is exempt in the regulations very difficult.

The Scottish Government are also seeking to bring forward legislation to ban glue traps (without exception) in their current Parliamentary term. Their intention is to ban the sale as well as the use of glue traps.

The Common Land Working Group.

During the session, I shared a Working Group on common land has been formed, which provoked questions as to its membership.

Invitations have been issued to a range of stakeholders with an interest and expertise in administering agricultural programmes on common land. This includes the farming unions, and some individual commons associations, to ensure we have input direct from the graziers themselves.

The Group will initially consider the administrative elements of working with individual graziers and groups of graziers with grazing rights, and who depend on common land. A more detailed remit will be developed.

Additional stakeholders will be invited as the Working Group progresses, if we find that not all relevant interests are being represented.

The purpose of these Working Groups is to explore the developing SFS proposals and the relationship with common land, to insure the SFS is workable and accessible. The output from these working groups will be used to refine our SFS proposals in time for the final scheme consultation in 2023.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lesley Griffiths". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping 'L' and 'G'.

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