

Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS
Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog ac Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros
Newid Hinsawdd a Materion Gwledig
Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate
Change and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1465
Ein cyf/Our ref HIDCC/10256/24

Carolyn Thomas MS
Chair - Petitions committee
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

08 October 2024

Dear Carolyn,

Thank you for your email dated 17 September regarding a petition to make pet abduction a specific criminal offence in Wales.

From the outset, I am keen to stress that I acknowledge that pet abduction or the loss of a pet is exceptionally upsetting and distressing for owners and I appreciate their desire for action.

After careful consideration, the Welsh Government have decided to prioritise delivering existing commitments for animal welfare, which we believe will positively impact thousands of animals across Wales. Subsequently, Wales was not included in scope of the UK Parliament's Animal Abduction Private Members' Bill (now the Pet Abduction Act 2024).

Whilst the theft of a pet is already a criminal offence under the Theft Act 1968, the Welsh Government retains the right to legislate on this area in future, should this be necessary.

Please be assured, we continue to look at ways to provide education to help owners to protect their animals. This includes ensuring microchipping data is current, not tying pets up outside shops or leaving them unattended in gardens if not secure and not letting pets roam out of sight when out walking.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
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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.

Once again, thank you for writing to me on this issue and I hope this response provides some reassurance that we do take this issue seriously.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke at the bottom.

Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS

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