



Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1391  
Ein cyf/Our ref HIDCC/01369/25

Carolyn Thomas MS  
Chair - Petitions committee

19 August 2025

Dear Carolyn,

Thank you for your letter of 25 July 2025, regarding petition P-06-1391 - Introduce regulation of the dog grooming sector, to protect the welfare of dogs and rights of owners, and your request for clarification on the timeline for this work.

On 24 June 2025 I issued a [written statement](#) on the Government's [response and next steps](#) to the [consultation](#) on the licensing of animal welfare establishments, activities and exhibits. As you know, we will take a phased approach to introducing a national model for the regulation of animal welfare, working closely with stakeholders, operational agencies, industry and the third sector.

My focus for the remainder of this Senedd term will be on developing proposals for the regulation of animal welfare establishments, including rescues, sanctuaries, rehabilitation and rehoming centres, and on delivering our other priorities for animal welfare, which are set out in our [five-year animal welfare plan](#) for Wales, 2021-26.

In focusing on animal welfare establishments in phase one, I hope to channel efforts to where regulation can deliver the greatest benefit, taking into account the evidence, views and information submitted and the particular issues arising from a current lack of regulatory oversight and support.

We will consider pet grooming in a secondary phase of the national model, and it is not currently within the scope of our priorities for the remainder of this Senedd term. I recognise the need for consistent, proportionate, and enforceable standards to protect animal health and welfare and am keen to see work progress as soon as practicably possible.

This marks a significant milestone in our commitment to improving animal welfare standards across Wales. Though it will not happen overnight, I am confident the national model will affect positive progress for thousands of animals across Wales, and I am committed to getting it right.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynir 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 responding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Thank you for writing to me. I hope you find this response helpful.

Yours sincerely,



**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