

Dear Haidee

I am writing to provide the Committee with additional evidence obtained under the Freedom of Information Act with respect to inspections undertaken by Caerphilly Council of the facilities at Valley Greyhound Stadium, as it is clear the Committee were not given a full or accurate picture during the evidence sessions on the 23 October 2025 (see below FOI 25/1535 : Request for information - Reference: 9502-9430-2455-1334).

Indeed, it appears that Mrs Katie Bennison was not entirely frank with, or indeed deliberately mislead, the Committee in her answers (para 284 & 286). As the information below makes clear Council officials attempted to visit the Valley track on three separate occasions in recent months as a result of complaints they received between June and September 2025. On the first two of these occasions (19/06/25 & 08/08/25) Council officials were initially admitted then asked to leave or refused access altogether. On the third occasion officials found "evidence of a potential S.9 Animal Welfare Act 2006 Duty of Care breach in relation to unsuitable conditions in that the kennels that the dogs were being kept in were assessed by the Officers as being dirty. Officers gave informal advice regarding cleaning during the visit to the dog trainers which was then followed up in writing." (see below).

None of this is consistent with Katie Bennison's claim that Council officials only visited the track at the invitation of the Valley management, in 2024, during the WG consultation (presumably the consultation on the Licensing of animal welfare establishments, activities and exhibits). Indeed, Caerphilly Council appears to have no record of their officials visiting the track at all during 2024. She certainly did not disclosed that the track had told Council officials to leave the site and subsequently refused them admission altogether, or that the trainers at the track has subsequently been given informal advice with respect to evidence of a breach of S.9 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006.

Regards



Greyhound Rescue Wales.