

Lesley Griffiths AS/MS
Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd, Ynni a Materion Gwledig
Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-1026
Ein cyf/Our ref LG/02590/20

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Chair of the Petitions Committee

11th November 2020

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your further letter of 28 October, regarding the petition to ban the snaring of wildlife for use in the fur trade (Petition P-05-1026).

My officials have met annually with stakeholders prior to and after the publication of the Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs (CCERA) on the use of snares in Wales in June 2017. Stakeholders have been asked to provide the Welsh Government with evidence as to the extent and use of snares in Wales. They have also been asked to help fill evidence gaps identified by the Welsh Government or suggest ways in which evidence is gathered and share any statistics or data which would assist the Welsh Government in considering whether a voluntary approach is driving up operator practice and animal welfare standards.

The evidence presented is then used produce an annual report, as recommended by the CCERA, and to demonstrate whether the Code has improved animal welfare and decreased the capture rate of non-target animals. A copy of the 2018 report can be viewed [here](#).

Due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, my officials were unable to meet with stakeholders earlier this year to gather 2019 data and evidence. As it seems unlikely a meeting can take place in the near future, stakeholders have been asked to provide any evidence and data gathered for 2019 and 2020 by email. I anticipate a report, which will cover both 2019 and 2020, will be published in the spring.

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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.

As I have stated in my previous letter of 24 September, if the evidence suggests the voluntary approach is failing to drive up operator practice and animal welfare standards I would seek to regulate the sale and use of snares in Wales. Whilst there is currently no legislative controls in place on the manufacture and sale of snares, I will publish a White Paper which will pave the way for the introduction of an Agriculture (Wales) Bill during the sixth Senedd term. I intend the Bill to provide the legislative powers to regulate all aspects of the sale and use of snares in Wales.

Yours Sincerely,



Lesley Griffiths AS/MS

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