

Lesley Griffiths AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Amgylchedd a Materion Gwledig
Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-779
Ein cyf/Our ref LG/02016/17

David John Rowlands AM
Chair - Petitions committee.
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
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19 September 2017

Dear David

Thank you for your letter of 25 August regarding a petition on compulsory scanning of domestic pet microchips by Local Authorities.

I understand the concerns about dogs being found dead. A recent Local Authority survey revealed that the majority of respondents routinely scan dog carcasses found on trunk roads and notify the owners where possible.

The Welsh Government introduced legislation, which came in to effect in April 2016, requiring the compulsory microchipping of dogs in Wales. The issue of compulsory scanning was considered in the formulation of the microchipping regulations but given the considerations above, we saw no need to set down that Local Authorities compulsorily scan dogs.

Local Authorities are an independent statutory authority and is democratically accountable to its community for the decisions its makes. It is of course important that each Local Authority makes the most efficient use of the resources available to it. However, it is also the case that each authority is responsible for managing its own financial affairs.

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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.

It is important that in determining how local resources are allocated and spent on delivering its responsibilities, each authority should engage meaningfully with its communities. We would encourage that people raise directly with Local Authorities any concerns they have with regard to the compulsory scanning of microchips for domestic pets. Contact details are available on the Council's website. They may also wish to contact their local councillor, who as their elected representative is able to raise concerns with the Council on their behalf.

Regards
Lesley

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