Dear Lesley

Wild Animals and Circuses (Wales) Bill

Following on from the Committee’s recent evidence session to inform its scrutiny of the Wild Animals and Circuses (Wales) Bill, Members agreed I should write to you seeking further information on a number of issues.

You have stated that the Welsh Government wishes to introduce a ban on ethical grounds. However, paragraphs 3.31 to 3.35 of the Explanatory Memorandum accompanying the Bill (headed ‘Ethical grounds for a ban’) do not set out any ethical arguments that might underpin the Welsh Government’s position.

- Can you provide an explanation of the ethical justification for a ban on using wild animals, over and above that set out in the Explanatory Memorandum and given in your evidence to the Committee on 18 July?

- Can you provide an explanation of why you consider the ban a proportionate intervention, and how you have satisfied yourself that it complies with the rights set out in the Human Rights Act 1998?
The Committee would welcome a response from you in advance of your appearance before us on 10 October, and by Friday 4 October at the latest.

Yours sincerely,

Mike Hedges AM
Chair of Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee