



Elin Jones, AM  
Llywydd  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
CF99 1NA

12 August 2019

Annwyl Elin,

## **WILD ANIMALS AND CIRCUSES (WALES) BILL**

I introduced the Wild Animals and Circuses (Wales) Bill to the Assembly on 8 July 2019.

The First Minister wrote to you on 7 June, enclosing for your consideration the Wild Animals and Circuses (Wales) Bill to determine whether it was within the competence of the National Assembly. The First Minister advised there is a provision within the Bill which requires the consent of the Secretary of State under Schedule 7B to the Government of Wales Act 2006. This relates to section 10 of the Bill – Crown land: powers of entry. The 2006 Act provides that a provision of an Act of the Assembly cannot confer or impose a new function on a reserved authority without consent of the Secretary of State. Section 10 provides that the power of entry conferred by the Schedule to the Bill may be exercised in relation to Crown land only with the consent of the relevant Crown authority (which includes the Crown Estate Commissioners, other government department or HM Treasury). These Crown authorities are reserved authorities under the 2006 Act.

At the time of the First Minister's letter, consent was pending and you recognised this in your response (ref: PO676/EJ/EW), where you noted not all of the provisions in the Bill were within the legislative competence of the Assembly.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
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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.

I can confirm consent has now been received and a letter from the Secretary of State giving consent is attached.

A copy of this letter and the attached also goes to the Chair of the Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee, and the Chair of the Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee.

Yn Gywir,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lesley". The signature is written in a light grey or blue ink.

**Lesley Griffiths AC/AM**

Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd, Ynni a Materion Gwledig  
Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs

Lesley Griffiths AM  
Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs  
Welsh Government  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
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28 July 2019

*Lesley Griffiths*

Thank you for your letter of the 7<sup>th</sup> May in respect of the Wild Animals and Circuses (Wales) Bill in which you sought consent from the UK Government for a provision in the Bill in relation to power of entry in Crown land but only with consent of the relevant Crown authority.

My officials have confirmed with relevant UK Government departments that we are content for consent to be given for this provision. As you acknowledge it is highly unlikely that an inspector would need to use this power. Furthermore, with a similar Westminster Bill having recently gained Royal Assent the goal of outlawing wild animals being used in circuses throughout Great Britain will be achieved once your Bill is on the statute book.

Therefore, I am content for consent to be given for the provision relating to Crown Land in the Wild Animals and Circuses (Wales) Bill.

Yours sincerely,



**Rt Hon Alun Cairns MP**

Secretary of State for Wales  
Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru