

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



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-915
Ein cyf/Our ref LG/07098/19

Janet Finch-Saunders AM
Chair of the Petitions Committee

Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales

15 October 2019

Dear Janet

Thank you for your letter of 8 October regarding petition P-05-915 Call for better enforcement of puppy farms in Wales.

I am deeply disturbed by the accounts of non-compliance raised following BBC Wales' investigation into the licensing of breeding premises in Wales. I have already committed to reviewing the Animal Welfare (Breeding of Dogs)(Wales) Regulations 2014 and also made my intentions clear on the value I see in banning third party sales of puppies and kittens. However, I appreciate urgent action is needed in this area. With this in mind:

- I have written to the Animal Health and Welfare Framework Group to accept their offer of help and request an urgent and immediate review of the dog breeding regulations.
- I have written to all Local Authority CEOs to raise concerns and invite relevant representatives to a meeting with the Chief Veterinary Officer for Wales to discuss the enforcement of regulations.
- The Chief Veterinary Officer immediately referred the BBC programme to the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons.
- Officials are developing a campaign aimed at prospective puppy purchasers highlighting the importance of sourcing responsibly.

I have recently published a Written Statement on wider dog breeding issues which can be found at: <https://gov.wales/written-statement-dog-breeding-wales>

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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.

The Welsh Government will continue to work with key stakeholders, including Local Authorities and the other Administrations to ensure we introduce changes which will have a lasting impact on the welfare standards of dogs and cats bred in Wales.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lesley Griffiths". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end of the name.

Lesley Griffiths AC/AM

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Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs

**LEAVE BLANK TO ALLOW FOR PRINTING
FAILURE TO DO SO WILL COUNT AS A
REDRAFT.**

To: Lesley Griffiths – Minister for Environment, Energy & Rural Affairs LG/07098/19

From: Leigh McCarthy - OCVO

Ext: 25 5652

Date:

P-05-915 Call for better enforcement of puppy farms in Wales.

1. The Petitions Committee have written to you regarding a petition for better enforcement of puppy farms in Wales.
2. The attached response details the work being carried out on dog breeding and revisiting the Animal Welfare (Breeding of Dogs) (Wales) Regulations 2014 to further improve welfare conditions at breeding establishments once a ban on third party sales has been introduced.
3. Draft response for your approval.