

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-05-919
Ein cyf/Our ref LG/07186/19

Janet Finch-Saunders AM
Chair of the Petitions Committee

Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales

23 October 2019

Dear Janet

Thank you for your e-mail of 15 October regarding petition P-05-919 'Do not implement licensing for show dogs, cats and shown horses, which has been received from 'Our Dogs'.

You will appreciate we are in a consultation period, therefore I can only comment on the draft proposals as they stand and not what the final requirements of the licensing scheme will be, which could be subject to change dependent on the feedback received from the consultation.

I am aware of a campaign generated by The Kennel Club, and publicised by 'Our Dogs' which has given the impression people who show their dogs in Wales or further afield will need to be licensed under the proposed licensing scheme. This is not the case. The Regulations as currently drafted do not mention show dogs and the Guidance makes a passing reference to local dog shows as an example of an activity involving pets which should not be considered for licensing; this in no way is intended to imply other dog shows should be licensed and the wording of this point will be considered post-consultation if the results suggest this is necessary. Likewise, the regulations do not mention show cats or shown horses as examples of pets which should be licensed.

I am passionate about Welsh tourism and agri-business and believe this licensing scheme will be beneficial as it will reassure visitors to Wales and residents alike we take the welfare of all animals, including those used for exhibiting purposes, seriously.

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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 have made it clear throughout the policy development process this licensing scheme is to be proportionate yet fit for purpose; it is not intended to create unnecessary burden on those who may be subject to a licence. The evidence provided through the consultation process will be crucial to inform officials of the impact the scheme may have on the people and biodiversity of Wales.

Regards
Lesley

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