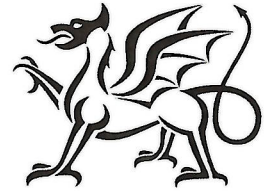


Lesley Griffiths AC/AM  
Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd, Ynni a Materion Gwledig  
Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-937  
Ein cyf/Our ref LG/07594/19

Janet Finch-Saunders AM  
Chair of the Petitions Committee

[SeneddPetitions@assembly.wales](mailto:SeneddPetitions@assembly.wales)

6 January 2020

Dear Janet

Thank you for your letter of 6 December, regarding the Petition from Cardiff Animal Rights to stop boiling crustaceans alive.

I am aware of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 and the public interest surrounding this issue. I understand the scientific evidence indicates crustaceans may feel something akin to pain. However, the definition of pain is yet to be resolved and the evidence to date is sparse.

The UK Government is considering such practices which may cause unnecessary pain or suffering in marine invertebrates such as lobsters, crayfish and crabs, which are not within the scope of the Animal Welfare Act 2006.

In the light of the revision of the current EU legislation expected, more scientific efforts should be expended on exploring the issue of pain experience in invertebrates. To reflect this in February, the Royal Society held an unprecedented meeting to identify key knowledge gaps, including how pain should be defined in animals (including crustaceans).

There is current ongoing research on protecting the welfare of Lobsters, Crayfish and Crabs at the time of killing. I have asked my Officials to stay abreast of scientific developments and work closely with the other UK Administrations to consider this further.

Regards  
Lesley

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