

28 November 2023

Dear

### **ATISN 19332 – Low Welfare Activities Abroad**

Thank you for your request which we received on 27 November. You asked for:

1. The U.K. Parliament has recently passed legislation designed to 'to prohibit the sale and advertising of activities abroad which involve low standards of welfare for animals', in the form of the Animals (Low-welfare Activities Abroad) Act, 2023. This applies only to England and Scotland. What are the Welsh Government's current intentions regarding enactment of equivalent legislation applying to Wales.
2. What actions has the Welsh Government so far taken, if any, towards consideration of such legislation for implementation in Wales.
3. If the Government is intending to introduce equivalent legislation in Wales to that of the U.K. Government's Animals (Low-welfare Activities Abroad) Act, 2023, when would such legislation be likely to be scheduled.

### **Our response**

The information you requested is enclosed.

1. In relation to Welsh Governments current intentions, The Animals (Low-welfare Activities Abroad) Act 2023 applies only to England and Northern Ireland. The Welsh Government retains the right to legislate on this area in future, should this be necessary, but at present our plans for animal welfare in Wales must take precedence. Our [Animal Welfare Plan](#) presents an opportunity to raise Wales' profile and establish a reputation as exemplars of animal welfare, by first addressing the welfare issues within our own nation.
2. In relation to Welsh Governments consideration of the legislation, careful consideration was given to our involvement in this UK Government Private Members Bill and discussions undertaken with our UK Government and Devolved Counterparts. Ultimately, we concluded our involvement was not feasible and the Bill's handling did not provide the Senedd due time. We understand this stance was shared by our counterparts in Scotland. We retain the right to legislate on this area in future, should this prove necessary, but for now our priorities remain as set out in our 5-Year Animal Welfare Plan.
3. In relation to the Welsh Government's intention to introduce equivalent legislation, we have no immediate plans to introduce similar legislation in Wales.

## **Next steps**

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Government's handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Welsh Government's Freedom of Information Officer at:

Information Rights Unit,  
Welsh Government,  
Cathays Park,  
Cardiff,  
CF10 3NQ

or Email: [Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales](mailto:Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales)

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely