Richard Lochhead MSP
Convener of the Committee
Public Petitions Committee
Room T3.40
Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

21 July 2015

Following my letter of 6 June regarding Petition PE1555 on electric shock and vibration collars for animals and your further discussions in the Petitions Committee, I am writing to confirm the current Scottish Government position on this issue.

After considering further information about the use of electronic collars in Scotland and other countries and on the basis for the ban in Wales, on 5 July I announced that a public consultation on this matter will be issued in the next few months. The press release can be found at:  http://scottishgovernment.presscentre.com/News/Electronic-training-collars-for-dogs-1ae8.aspx

The options to be suggested will include a ban or controls on the type of collars that may be used and how they may be used – which we have seen work in other parts of the world, for example in New Zealand and in Victoria, Australia.

I hope that this consultation will address the concerns raised by the petitioner and others about the use of electronic collars for training animals.

RICHARD LOCHHEAD