Dear Roseanna,

Wild Animals in Travelling Circuses (Scotland) Act 2018 - Guidance

On 16 April 2018, Andrew Voas, the Scottish Government’s Veterinary Adviser, wrote to the Committee to highlight the guidance developed to accompany the commencement of the Wild Animals in Travelling Circuses (Scotland) Act 2018. The Committee was offered the opportunity to review the guidance which it did at its meeting on 24 April 2018.

I am writing to outline the Committee’s view on this guidance.

Firstly, on behalf of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to review this. In general, the Committee believed the guidance addressed several of its concerns expressed during the parliamentary consideration of the Bill.

In particular, the Committee welcomed the description and advice for those following the guidance on the distinction between tame and domesticated animals. Similarly, the advice offered on how cases of doubt as to the domesticated or wild nature of an animal should be handled is clear and reflects the outcomes of the debates on the content of the Bill during its parliamentary consideration.

The Committee was of the view that, while the guidance is clear an offence would not be committed were animals from a travelling circus used on a loan basis by TV or film production companies, it was not clear how the use of animals on loan from a static circus would be interpreted. This may benefit from further clarification.

1 Letter from the Scottish Government on guidance on the Wild Animals in Travelling Circuses (Scotland) Act 2018 16 April 2018
The Committee seeks an update as to the development of regulations on the welfare of performing animals (as highlighted in your correspondence of 10 May 2017 and throughout the passage of the Bill), including on the Committee’s recommendations for extensive consultation on this.

On behalf of the Committee, I request a response by 30 May 2017.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

Graeme Dey MSP
Convener
Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee