Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee

Wild Animals in Travelling Circuses (Scotland) Bill

Written submission from Bernie Bell

I'll keep it short.

I honestly thought that it was already illegal to use wild animals in circuses. The fact that this is, in theory, still allowed, makes a non-sense of a lot of the work which has been done to protect species from being taken from the wild, and to prevent the potential associated damage to wild communities (killing the mother to take the young).

What is the point of legislating to protect wild animals, whilst allowing their use in this way? It's contradictory.

Please tighten up this law, as much as possible - it's simply not right to use animals in this way. We are trying to teach children an awareness of how delicate the balance of life is on this planet now - what point is there in doing that, if we than take them to a circus to see wild animals used as 'props' for an act?