I’d like to urge the Members of the Scottish Parliament (MSPs) to support the Bill that bans the use of wild animals in traveling circuses. This email is in response to the Government allowing for views on the drafted Bill, to inform the next review by the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee.

Given the strength of public opinion and consistent support for a ban, it seems an ethically based Bill is entirely reasonable. Recent polling showed over 90% support a ban. The tricks which animals are trained to perform are neither natural movements for the animals, nor educational for those watching them. Circus animal acts do not teach respect for animals or appreciation of the species with whom we share our planet; in fact, they teach the opposite. Circuses do little to educate their audience about the natural behaviour of the wild animals on display, or the importance of their conservation.

It would be wonderful to see a country as incredible as Scotland be a world leader in this issue. Many other countries are dealing with this same issue, and Scotland could be the very country that sets off change around the world.