Scottish Parliament Finance and Constitution Committee
Call For Evidence On The Railway Policy (Scotland) Bill

1. East Renfrewshire Council
I refer to your e-mail and the call for evidence for the use of wild animals in circuses.

As a Council, I believe we should support the recommendation to prevent the use of wild animals in circuses.

Most modern circuses in the UK either no longer use animals, or use trained domestic animals for their shows. No circuses which use animals of any type have applied for a licence in Renfrewshire, according to the records available to us as a Council.

It should be noted that our colleagues in the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) or the Scottish Society for the Protection of Cruelty to animals (SSPCA) who undertake animal welfare duties would be more appropriate to provide detailed comment on the bill. Further to this it is Council policy that no performing animals are allowed to perform on Council land.

Therefore, the Council did not submit a response to the call for evidence by 9 June 2017 as requested in the e-mail. Officers within Public Protection (Trading Standards) are aware of the bill and the potential implications that this may have if wild animals are used in circuses in Renfrewshire, however, as noted above this is likely to be minimal it has never happened.