

# **WILD ANIMALS IN TRAVELLING CIRCUSES (SCOTLAND) BILL**

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## **POLICY MEMORANDUM**

### **INTRODUCTION**

1. As required under Rule 9.3.3 of the Parliament's Standing Orders, this Policy Memorandum is published to accompany the Wild Animals in Travelling Circuses (Scotland) Bill introduced in the Scottish Parliament on 10 May 2017.
2. The following other accompanying documents are published separately:
  - Explanatory Notes (SP Bill 12–EN);
  - a Financial Memorandum (SP Bill 12–FM);
  - Statements on legislative competence by the Presiding Officer and the Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change, and Land Reform (Roseanna Cunningham MSP) (SP Bill 12–LC).
3. This Policy Memorandum has been prepared by the Scottish Government to set out the Government's policy behind the Bill. It does not form part of the Bill and has not been endorsed by the Parliament.

### **POLICY OBJECTIVES OF THE BILL**

4. The policy objective of the Bill is to prohibit the use (performance, display or exhibition) of any wild animal (as defined in the Bill) in a travelling circus in Scotland, based on ethical grounds.

### **Policy background**

5. The issue of wild animals in travelling circuses has been a source of longstanding unease to many, with full/partial bans now existing in many other European Union (EU) and non-EU countries. Significant concerns were raised regarding the use of wild animals in travelling circuses during the Scottish Government's 2004 consultation on the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Bill (subsequently enacted as the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006).
6. Since then, a steady stream of letters to Scottish Government Ministers from MSPs, the general public and animal welfare organisations has shown that ongoing concerns not only involve perceived animal welfare issues but deal also with the ethical point of whether it is acceptable, in today's society, to regularly transport wild animals throughout the country in order to make them perform for financial gain and public entertainment.

7. In response to this public concern around the use of wild animals in travelling circuses, the Scottish Government ran a public consultation from January 2014 to April 2014 on proposals to ban such use on ethical grounds. A total of 2,043 responses were received. The response was overwhelmingly in favour of a ban, with, amongst other findings, 95.8% respondents of the view that there are no benefits to having wild animals in travelling circuses. 95.7% of respondents also took the view that the concerns surrounding the travelling circus environment could only be resolved by banning wild animals in travelling circuses.

### **Alternative mechanisms investigated**

8. It may be useful to be aware that before coming to the decision to develop and introduce the Wild Animals in Travelling Circuses (Scotland) Bill other potential mechanisms to address the issue were explored.

#### Welfare based regulation

9. The UK Government set up a Circus Working Group in 2007 to consider evidence relating to transportation and accommodation of wild animals in travelling circuses, and establish whether or not there was justification for a ban on welfare grounds. Mike Radford, an academic lawyer, was appointed Chairman of this working group. The Circus Working Group published a report in 2007 (the “Radford report”<sup>1</sup>) which found, despite the longstanding concerns of many, that there was insufficient evidence to support a ban on the use of wild animals in travelling circuses on welfare grounds. However, it also noted that this did not mean that there were not welfare concerns, and indeed stated that the status quo was not a tenable option. A number of reasons were given: expectations had been raised that Government would do something; most other industries using wild animals in commercial contexts were regulated; the state of uncertainty facing circuses required resolution; the present situation was acting against the interests of the animals involved; there was support from all sides of the debate for reform.

10. Since the Radford Report, therefore, consideration has been given to a number of approaches to protecting the welfare of wild animals in travelling circuses. Following on from debate during the passage of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 through the UK Parliament, the UK Government carried out a public consultation on how best to safeguard the welfare of wild animals in travelling circuses in England. 94.5% of respondents considered that a ban on the use of wild animals in travelling circuses would be the best option to achieve better welfare standards. It was considered that a complete ban would require primary legislation, but that there were potential legal impediments given the conclusion of the Radford report that there was insufficient evidence to support a ban on welfare grounds. Therefore, in May 2011, the UK Coalition Government announced its decision to introduce a licensing scheme for wild animals in circuses in England, using powers provided by the Animal Welfare Act 2006. This scheme was established by The Welfare of Wild Animals in Travelling Circuses (England) Regulations 2012 (SI 2012/2932)<sup>2</sup> and came into force in England in January 2013.

11. The Scottish Government has been advised that this welfare-based regulatory mechanism has proved satisfactory to the two existing English-based travelling circuses and their limited

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1 <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20130402151656/http://archive.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/farmanimal/welfare/documents/circus-report.pdf>

2 <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2012/2932/contents>

selection of wild animals. However, it is not considered an appropriate mechanism for Scotland for three main reasons:

- In terms of wider applicability, due to the lack of scientific data on the welfare requirements of wild animals within the travelling circus environment, and the difficulty in gathering such information for the range of species potentially involved, such a scheme is unlikely to be able to ensure best welfare for each and every possible travelling circus wild animal species;
- There are no travelling circuses with wild animals based in Scotland and only two have visited in the last eight years. Such a mechanism would require a disproportionate resource to implement, monitor and enforce in Scotland;
- Setting up a regulatory mechanism to allow the continued use of wild animals in travelling animals in travelling circuses would completely fail to address the ethical concerns raised in response to the Scottish consultation in 2014.

12. In April 2016, the Welsh Government published “The Welfare of Wild Animals in Travelling Circuses” by Jo Dorning, Stephen Harris and Heather Pickett<sup>3</sup>. This was described as an impartial literature review and an analysis of the scientific evidence available as to whether captive wild animals in travelling circuses and other animal shows achieve their optimal welfare requirements as set out under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 and other relevant legislation. In December 2016, the Welsh Government announced that it will be working on a new scheme (such as licensing or registration), for ‘Mobile Animal Exhibits’ including circuses, which display domestic and exotic animals in Wales. It plans to undertake a public consultation on this in due course. The Scottish Government welcomes and fully supports this work; however, the Scottish Government considers that it goes much wider than the remit of this Bill; straying into territory that is currently covered in Scotland by the Performing Animals (Regulation) Act 1925. The Scottish Government will monitor progress with interest as this Act is somewhat dated and might benefit from review.

### Ethics based UK Bill

13. Despite the absence of robust welfare evidence, it is apparent from the Scottish Government consultation in 2014 that there are strong ethical concerns over the use of wild animals in the travelling circus environment. Therefore, it is the view of the Scottish Government that measures are required that will specifically address these ethical concerns.

14. The UK Government came to a similar conclusion and announced, on 1 March 2012, that it intended to bring forward primary legislation at the earliest opportunity to ban circuses from using wild animals on ethical grounds. Their licensing scheme was intended to ensure high standards of welfare for wild animals in circuses, until a ban could be introduced. The UK Government Minister, Lord de Mauley, wrote to the Devolved Administrations in November 2012 offering to extend the territorial scope of its, as initially drafted, England-only Bill, to their areas.

15. The then Minister for Natural Resources and Food in the Welsh Government, Alun Davies, wrote to the UK Government in June 2013 confirming he would want his officials to

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<sup>3</sup> <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0BwoLvRr2QUI3UGNMbHVnVUs3b2c/view?pref=2&pli=1>

work with Defra to produce a Bill that applied to England and Wales. The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs in Northern Ireland announced that officials from Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland would consider the issue of wild animals in travelling circuses jointly and report back at a future meeting of the North South Ministerial Council. The Scottish Government confirmed that it was to consult on the issue of a ban and indicated that, pending the outcome of the consultation, it would hope to work with Defra to produce a single piece of legislation that covered Scotland and England.

16. In April 2013 the UK Coalition Government published a draft *Wild Animals in Circuses Bill* for pre-legislative scrutiny. The draft Bill made it an offence for any circus operator to use a wild animal in performance or exhibition in a travelling circus in England on ethical grounds. In its scrutiny report, the UK Parliament's Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Select Committee suggested a proscribed list of wild animals in circuses, rather than a complete ban, which the UK Government rejected.

17. The UK Government (as at April 2017) has confirmed its intention to introduce legislation to ban the use of wild animals in circuses when parliamentary time allows, indeed bringing forward a ban on wild animals in circuses was a Conservative Party Manifesto commitment in 2015. However, as of April 2017, more than three years after the initial offer of a joint UK Bill, no date had been set for a Bill to be introduced to the UK Parliament. It is currently unclear whether the matter of wild animals in circuses will remain in the UK Governments sights after the next election.

### **The Scottish Bill**

18. With no confirmed date for the introduction of a UK Bill, bringing forward the proposed Bill in Scotland would see Scotland lead the way for the rest of the UK in tackling the important ethical issue of the use of wild animals in travelling circuses in, the Scottish Government believes, the most timely and proportionate manner possible.

19. The Bill proposes to make it an offence to use any wild animal in a travelling circus in Scotland. There are no travelling circuses based in Scotland that use wild animals; therefore the Scottish Government considers that the ban should come into effect with no period of grace. Further explanation of the effects of the policy is given later in this document.

20. The Scottish Government appreciates that this might theoretically mean changes for the two circuses based in England that still use wild animals in some of their acts; however, neither circus have visited Scotland for a number of years. Travelling circuses will continue to be very welcome to come to Scotland with alternative acts.

### Tackling a unique combination of ethical issues

21. The ambit of the Bill has been precisely focused with clear reasons in mind. The Scottish Government understands that the use of wild animals in travelling circuses, involves:

- The use (performance, display or exhibition) of wild animals whose nature (telos) is still genetically and behaviourally hardwired to be expressed in their natural, wild environment;

- The performance of tricks generally not normally seen naturally, in an artificial environment for the entertainment of the viewing public;
- The keeping of animals in temporary and/or mobile animal accommodation that cannot generally provide the sizeable and complex living conditions that many wild animals require to carry out behaviours or functions according to their natures (telos);
- A significant proportion of time travelling from one site to another, further significantly curtailing the ability of wild animals to undertake their natural and instinctive activities;
- Little or no education or conservation value, and no significant benefit other than maintaining a tradition considered by the majority to be outdated and morally wrong.

22. The Scottish Government considers that the use of wild animals in travelling circuses presents a situation that is not replicated by other forms of animals use and that, uniquely, presents a cumulative ethical challenge to Scottish society in all three of the areas described below. For this reason, the Scottish Government considers that there is a strong ethical argument for a ban in this case.

23. **Impact on respect for animals** – Over the years there has been a general shift in how animals are perceived by the general public, from novel items of entertainment to sentient creatures that should be respected and valued. Many people now consider it outdated and morally wrong to make animals perform tricks and acts that they would not otherwise perform naturally, simply to entertain or impress the viewing public. Similarly, it is also considered morally wrong to place animals in accommodation unsuited to their natures and put them on display as a spectacle in order to attract the public to pay to see other acts. Furthermore, many are concerned about the message that the use of animals in such a manner gives to children and young adults. Exposure to an environment in which animals are kept in accommodation unsuited to their natures and made to perform unnatural tricks purely for entertainment value could promote a perception of animals as an entertainment commodity rather than as sentient beings with their own purpose. This could inhibit the development of respectful and responsible attitudes towards animals in the future.

24. **Impact of travelling environments on an animal's nature (telos)** – From an ethical perspective, a good life for an animal is considered to be one that is full and active and characteristic of its kind, allowing it to fulfil its intrinsic nature, or telos. Wild animals in travelling circuses are generally kept for long periods in temporary, mobile and, by necessity, relatively barren accommodation (for example indoor facilities may simply be the waggon in which they are transported, outdoor paddocks may be limited in size by the site available to the circus and security concerns, and environmental enrichment may be limited by time constraints and space factors). They are also transported over long distances, and all these factors taken together mean the animals will generally be obstructed in the pursuit of those activities natural to them. That obstruction is considered morally wrong, regardless of whether or not the animals can be proven to suffer, as it compromises the integrity of that animal's nature and therefore its well-being.

25. **Ethical costs vs. benefits** – It might seem appropriate for ethical arguments applied to one sector of animal use to also be applied to other situations. There are many other sectors of animals use that provoke concern from some quarters regarding, for example the environment in which the animals are kept, how long they are transported for, or being asked to perform.

Intensive farming, animal racing, animal hunting and pets are all regular topics in Ministerial post bags. However, it seems apparent that, despite a range of individual views, the majority of individuals in Scotland agree that there are clear benefits to be obtained from some animal uses, for example in food production, conservation of exotic species, or medical research. In these areas, it is the role of Government to ensure that the welfare of those animals involved is protected to the highest standards possible, and plans are continually being developed in this area. It is where society sees significant ethical challenges and little or no benefit that the strongest calls, for a complete ban on such use, are heard.

## **EFFECT OF THE POLICY**

26. The policy intention is to ban the use of wild animals in travelling circuses. The key definitions in the Bill are:

- The term “use”, for the purposes of the Bill, means performance and display or exhibition, whether for the payment of money or not. Performance would include, but not be limited to, tricks or manoeuvres by wild animals viewed by the public. Exhibition and display involves the taking of active steps to exhibit or display animals to the public;
- “Wild animal”, for the purposes of the Bill means an animal other than one which is of a kind that is commonly domesticated in the British Islands (i.e. in the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man);
- An animal is of a kind that is domesticated if the behaviour, life cycle or physiology of animals of that kind has been altered as a result of the breeding or living conditions of multiple generations of animals of that kind being under human control.

27. It is not the policy intention to ban the ownership or keeping of wild animals by a travelling circus, if such animals are not performing or being exhibited. The policy will apply to a travelling circus only and not to other uses of wild animals by other types of commercial or charitable bodies, such as zoos or safari parks. The proposed ban will not apply to a static circus, if there is no transportation of animals off-site for performance or exhibition. The Bill will apply to Scotland only.

28. A person who is a circus operator commits an offence if the person causes or permits a wild animal to be used in a travelling circus. A person who commits such an offence is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale (currently £5,000). It is not intended that there is to be any reasonable excuse or defence to a breach of the ban on use of wild animals.

29. Section 7 of the Bill deals with commencement. This section and section 8 (the short title of the Bill) come into force on the day after Royal Assent. However, other provisions of the Bill, once enacted, will be brought into force via regulations. There will be no period of grace or transitional provisions. There are no travelling circuses with wild animals based in Scotland. It is not expected that any such circuses will be appearing in Scotland when the substantive provisions are brought into force as none have visited for several years. The Bill will be well publicised and the Scottish Government is in contact with the UK circus industry.

## **CONSULTATION**

30. The Scottish Government has consulted those that it is believed have an interest in the proposed Bill, either because they might be affected by it, or because they have an interest in the issue of wild animal use in travelling circuses.

### **Other UK Administrations**

31. The Scottish Government is liaising with the UK Government and the other devolved nations and is aware that there is much shared ground around ethical concerns on this issue. The Scottish Government is also aware that Wales and Northern Ireland are considering differing approaches but note that, to date, they have not undertaken the level of public consultation that the Scottish Government has.

32. While the UK Government (as at April 2017) remains publically committed to introducing a similar ban to the one proposed here (a 2015 manifesto commitment), it has, to date, been unable to find the parliamentary time to do so. This has caused concern amongst stakeholders and the wider public. Given the clear level of support for a ban in Scotland, the Scottish Government believes that this issue is now most appropriately and timeously pursued through the Scottish Parliament. However, the Scottish Government will continue to consult with the UK Government and other devolved administrations to ensure that the Bill will be effective, fair and workable, and that wider UK stakeholders who may be affected by the ban have the opportunity to have their voices heard throughout the Bill process and beyond.

### **Formal consultation**

33. The Scottish Government's Consultation "Should the use of wild animals in travelling circuses be banned in Scotland?"<sup>4</sup> was issued on 22 January 2014, ran for 12 weeks, and closed on 16 April 2014.

34. The purpose of the consultation was to identify any ethical concerns the public may associate with the use of wild animals in travelling circuses, consider how any such issues identified could be resolved and, in particular, gauge public support for, or opposition to, a possible Scottish ban on the use of these animals on ethical grounds. The consultation received a total of 2,043 responses.

35. In terms of questions, the consultation focused specifically on the three main areas of ethical challenge outlined previously. These were, in a travelling circus context, the impact on respect for animals, the impact on an animal's telos (its intrinsic nature) in a travelling environment and how the ethical costs and benefits balance up.

36. Full results from the consultation analysis were published in May 2015<sup>5</sup>.

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<sup>4</sup> <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2014/01/5291>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0048/00480385.pdf>

37. Key results include:

Impact on respect for animals:

- 89.5% of respondents believed exhibitions and performances compromised respect for the animals concerned;
- 94.7% of respondents believed use had an adverse impact on the development of respectful and responsible attitudes towards animals in children and young people;
- 94.7% of respondents did not consider that the situation could be remedied by anything other than a complete ban.

Impact on telos (animals' inherent nature) in the travelling environment:

- 90.8% of respondents considered the ability of wild animals to undertake natural behaviours was compromised in travelling circus environment;
- 90.8% of respondents thought that no natural behaviours could be facilitated within the travelling circus;
- 95.7% of respondents did not believe that the concerns raised surrounding the travelling environment could be resolved without banning the use of wild animals in travelling circuses.

Ethical costs and benefits:

- 95.8% of respondents did not consider there were any benefits to having wild animals in travelling circuses;
- 93.7% of respondents did not believe there were sufficient benefits to justify the potential compromise to the wider well-being of wild animals kept in a travelling circus;
- 96.7% of respondents thought that no conflict existed between compromising the well-being of wild animals and obtaining any benefit because no justifiable compromise was possible; the only possible solution was a ban.

## **Industry**

38. An additional questionnaire in support of the Business Regulatory Impact Assessment (BRIA) and Financial Memorandum (FM) process was emailed to 140 key people, including representatives of the circus and audio-visual industry, landowners and respondents to the 2014 Scottish Government consultation that self-identified as working within the circus industry, screen production and entertainment sectors. Officials also offered to meet with anyone who wished to discuss matters in more detail. Responses to the questionnaire informed the BRIA and FM accordingly.

39. Officials have met with a representative of the Circus Guild and Performing Animals Welfare Standards International (PAWSI) and with a representative of Producers Alliance for Cinema and Television (PACT) to discuss this issue further. The Scottish Government is planning to meet with further representatives of the circus industry in May and ongoing liaison is planned to keep all industry stakeholders informed throughout the Bill process.

## **Animal welfare organisations**

40. Scottish Government officials regularly engage with animal welfare organisations on a number of animal welfare matters and have discussed the progress and rationale behind the Bill. Specifically on the matter of wild animals in travelling circuses, officials have recently met with OneKind, Scottish SPCA, Born Free and Animal Defenders International and have spoken separately with People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (Peta) and the British Veterinary Association. As with industry stakeholders, ongoing liaison is planned to keep all animal welfare stakeholders informed throughout the Bill process.

## **Local authorities**

41. Officials liaised closely with local authorities throughout the drafting of the Bill through a COSLA representative. They played a key role in providing feedback on the development of the enforcement schedule of the Bill, were consulted for information for the BRIA, and were asked to comment on the proposed section on Costs on Local Authorities in the FM. As with other stakeholders, continuing liaison is planned to keep Local Authorities informed throughout the Bill process.

## **IMPACT ASSESSMENTS**

### **Equal opportunities**

42. The Scottish Government undertook a screening exercise to assess likely impact on equality. This Bill does not affect the needs of people with ‘protected characteristics’ (race, sex, disability, age, sexual orientations, gender reassignment and religion or belief). A “no EQIA” declaration was completed and no Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) was undertaken.

43. The Bill’s focus is on addressing the ethical concerns surrounding the use of wild animals in travelling circuses. Any impact on the wider community will be positive in relation to shaping attitudes to the ethical treatment of animals, but such impact will not be specific to any one protected characteristic, but to broader Scottish society.

44. There are currently no travelling circuses in Scotland. It is also very unlikely that any travelling circus that uses wild animals will visit Scotland. There will be no impact upon the core circus experience as currently offered by circuses that successfully tour Scotland without wild animals.

45. It is not the policy intention to ban the ownership or keeping of wild animals by a travelling circus, if such animals are not performing or being exhibited. Circuses would be free to visit and tour in Scotland, and present the core circus experience, only without the use of wild animals.

46. The Scottish Government believes that this ban would not directly or indirectly result in any amendments to an individual’s employment or terms and conditions. There are no travelling circuses in Scotland with wild animals that would be affected. The two circuses in England and those in Europe that still have wild animal acts have not visited Scotland more than twice in the

last eight years. Putting a ban on using wild animals in place in Scotland should not impact greatly on the employees of travelling circuses that have shown little interest in visiting here.

### **Human rights**

47. The Scottish Government is satisfied that the provisions in the Bill are compatible with the European Convention on Human Rights. The Bill's focus is on addressing the ethical concerns surrounding the use of wild animals in travelling circuses. Beyond the travelling circus, and even then only on those that use wild animals, the impact of the Bill on human rights will be negligible. Its real benefit will be measured in terms of addressing the ethical concerns of the wider public.

48. Powers of enforcement, including powers of entry and search, are provided in schedule 1 in order to enforce the ban. These enforcement powers largely mirror those already in force in relation to the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 and so can be considered to be, to some extent, tried and tested. The limits of these powers are detailed in schedule 1. For example the exercise of enforcement powers are limited to circumstances where there is a reasonable belief of an offence, and entry and search, in circumstances of urgency, without a warrant (under paragraph 5(1)) are not available for domestic premises. Therefore the Bill has been drafted with due regard to human rights.

### **Island communities**

49. There will be no impact on island communities as a result of this proposed ban.

### **Local government**

50. The enforcement powers conferred by the Bill will sit alongside those already established in the Performing Animals (Regulation) Act 1925 and the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006.

51. All travelling circuses using any performing animals need to register with the appropriate local authority under section 1(1) of the Performing Animals (Regulation) Act 1925. Section 2 of this Act provides inspectors with powers to prohibit or restrict the exhibition and training of performing animals where this has been accompanied by cruelty, while section 3 provides powers to enter and inspect premises. Local authorities send an inspector along to any such circus within their area to ensure that the required registration is held and that the training and performances of the animals comply with the requirements of the Act.

52. In addition, any travelling circus with animal performers coming to Scotland also receive a visit from Scottish SPCA inspectors to check animal welfare under the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006. Local authority inspectors are also authorised under this Act.

53. As previously noted, if a ban was put in place it remains unlikely that any travelling circus that uses wild animals would visit Scotland as such visits have been rare in recent years. However, these inspection arrangements would stay in place as they would still be required for domestic animal performances. The Scottish Government considers that it would not be difficult to determine if an offence had been or is being committed under the Bill, since use is defined on

the face of the Bill as performance or exhibition of wild animals, both of which involve an audience. As such, this is not the sort of offence that lends itself to secrecy and it is very unlikely that travelling circuses would use wild animals once a ban was in place. The additional duty placed upon the appointed inspectors is therefore expected to be minimal.

### **Sustainable development**

54. The provisions of the Bill are strictly limited to the specific subject of wild animals in travelling circuses. The Bill will have no impact on biodiversity, human health, landscape, material assets or cultural heritage. The actual physical impact of the Bill will be minimal; its real benefit will be measured in terms of addressing the ethical concerns surrounding the use of wild animals in travelling circuses. Accordingly the Bill does not fall under section 5(3) of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005.

### **FINANCIAL EFFECTS**

55. A BRIA and FM have been completed. There are few anticipated costs to the Scottish Administration beyond developing and preparing the Bill. Offences under section 1 and paragraph 14 of schedule 1 are expected to be rare, since the Scottish Government understands that only two travelling circuses with wild animals has visited Scotland in the last eight years, and the associated costs to the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service and the Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service in relation to prosecution of those offences is therefore anticipated to be minimal. It is estimated that costs to local authorities will also be minimal as enforcement of the Bill would be conducted alongside other existing circus-related activities, for example the functions of authorities under the Performing Animals (Regulation) Act 1925 and Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006, or their functions relating to public entertainment licencing.

56. There will be no cost to Scottish travelling circuses with wild animals as there are no such businesses. It is unlikely that there will be any cost to the two English circuses with wild animals as they have not visited Scotland for a number of years; nor indeed have any other travelling circuses with wild animals.

57. Some consideration has been given to the potential impact of the Bill on Scottish businesses that might benefit from supporting visiting travelling circuses with wild animals. For example, there is the potential for travelling circuses to spend in local communities, for example on printing, casual hire, laundry, animal feed or bedding, and veterinary care. There is also the potential for a ban to have wider impacts, for example on the sourcing of animals for use in TV/film/advertising and on the venue managers/landowners who might consider hosting travelling circuses with wild animals. There is little available evidence on the impact of travelling circuses with wild animals in Scotland in these regards. However, it is anticipated that the Bill would result in minimal cost to supporting businesses as to our knowledge there have only been two visits to Scotland by travelling circuses with wild animals in the last eight years.

*This document relates to the Wild Animals in Travelling Circuses (Scotland) Bill (SP Bill 12) as introduced in the Scottish Parliament on 10 May 2017*

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