

31st October 2022

Dear Sir, Madam,

**Greyhound Racing in Scotland
RAINE Committee and Scottish Animal Welfare Commission**

We are writing following the Scottish Parliament debate on the future of Greyhound Racing in Scotland held on Thursday 6th October in which the Minister referred to the importance of the work being done by your Committee/Organisation in advising the government on its approach to animal welfare.

We were concerned that, during the debate, all those who spoke did so on the basis of briefings and information provided by groups who are opposed to greyhound racing and whose agenda is wholly one-sided. Incorrect claims were made, inaccuracies were spread and misinformation was portrayed as fact in ways that both undermine any legitimacy in the argument but also put on the official record information that is factually wrong. Further to this, a number of MSPs quoted the findings of a review conducted by the RSPCA and The Dogs Trust but there is no record of this review being either shared or published anywhere. This therefore give a false authenticity to what is in the public domain.

Given your committee's vital role and the importance that the Minister places on your advice, I would hope that you would be willing to meet with representatives of the Greyhound Board of Great Britain. We are ourselves an animal welfare organisation, tasked with the regulation of licensed greyhound racing in the UK. We would be grateful for the opportunity to meet with you and talk you through the facts for which we, as regulator, are held accountable by government and to brief you on our Welfare Strategy, 'A Good Life for Every Greyhound' which was published earlier this year with the support of government, academia, veterinarians and across the sport.

Please do let us know how we can liaise with you to ensure that you are best equipped with the factual information.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Bird
CEO – GBGB