



Finlay Carson MSP  
Convener  
Rural Affairs, Islands and Natural Environment Committee  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
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c/o Scottish Animal Welfare Commission Secretariat  
Animal Health and Welfare Team  
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9 November 2022

Dear Finlay

In its consideration of the Petition to ban greyhound racing in Scotland (**PETITION PE1758: END GREYHOUND RACING IN SCOTLAND**) on 20th April the Rural Affairs, Islands and Natural Environment Committee agreed to write to the Scottish Animal Welfare Commission for its views on this issue. I responded with SAWC's collective views on 23<sup>rd</sup> May. On 4<sup>th</sup> October, the RAINE Committee asked SAWC for an updated view on how it intends to respond in light of the recent completion of a joint review by Dog's Trust, RSPCA and Blue Cross which has led them to call for a phased end to greyhound racing.

SAWC has continued to monitor the progress of discussions around this topic, including the change of policy on the welfare of racing greyhounds by the above organisations following their unpublished internal review. SAWC maintains its stance of not supporting the continuation of unlicensed tracks in Scotland. However, we have taken the decision to undertake more research and fully consider the available evidence, in order to reach a balanced conclusion on the various issues that have been raised. I expect SAWC's work in this area to continue into the new year, and I aim to send you our further collective views by the end of February.

I hope that these comments have been helpful in the meantime, and I look forward to being back in touch next year.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cathy Dwyer'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Cathy' written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name 'Dwyer'.

Professor Cathy Dwyer  
Chair  
Scottish Animal Welfare Commission