

**Lesley Griffiths AS/MS**  
**Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd, Ynni a Materion Gwledig**  
**Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs**



**Llywodraeth Cymru**  
**Welsh Government**

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-1097  
Ein cyf/Our ref LG/00265/21

Janet Finch-Saunders MS  
Chair of the Petitions Committee

23<sup>rd</sup> February 2021

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your letter of 9 February, regarding Petition P-05- P-05-1097 Ban game bird cages.

I am sure you will understand the unprecedented position we find ourselves in due to the ongoing pressures of the Covid situation and following transition out of the European Union. It is for these reasons that the review into the Code of Practice for the Welfare of Gamebirds is currently on hold. Any future changes made to the current Code of Practice for the Welfare of Gamebirds or welfare legislation will be made with due consideration given to all stakeholder feedback along with relevant research, analysis and evidence.

The existing Welsh Government Code of Practice for the Welfare of Gamebirds Reared for Sporting Purposes was developed in consultation with stakeholders including representatives from the shooting industry and welfare organisations. The purpose of the Code is to provide practical guidance in relation to Section 9 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006.

My officials advise that any concerns about a specific gamebird rearing premises should be reported to the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) or relevant Local Authority. They are responsible for the delivery and enforcement of animal health and welfare provisions on behalf of the Welsh Government.

The Code recommends that barren raised cages for breeding pheasants and small barren cages for breeding partridges should not be used and that any housing system should be enriched i.e. larger than raised cages.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Whilst raised cages are permitted by law, it is important to note that the welfare of gamebirds is covered by the Animal Welfare Act 2006. The Act makes it an offence to cause unnecessary suffering to an animal and also contains a duty of care so that those responsible for an animal must take reasonable steps to ensure its welfare.

My officials will be contacting all relevant stakeholders when we are in a position to progress with this work.

Yours sincerely,



**Lesley Griffiths AS/MS**

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