



Ian Andrew  
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15 May 2023

Dear Ian

**Re: BPCA correspondence dated 3 April 2023 to the Economy Transport and Rural Affairs (ETRA) Committee of the Senedd re the Committee's Stage 1 Report on the Agriculture Bill**

I have received a copy of the correspondence you have sent to the Senedd's ETRA committee and others, as well as the Committee's reply.

As part of the targeted stakeholder consultation, my officials engaged with the Chair of the All-Wales Pest Group (the forum for Local Authority pest control services) who contacted all 22 Local Authorities in Wales on several occasions to ensure all those who wished to participate had the opportunity to do so.

We have not received any further evidence, or any concerns about the representation of the views of Local Authorities in Wales, in the seven months since publication. Therefore, I remain confident of our assessment of this evidence. The provisions within the Bill are founded on a wide body of evidence and not just individual responses to a consultation, which is underlined by the process undertaken by the Committee in their scrutiny of the Bill. The Committee's report devotes more than four pages to explanation and analysis of their scrutiny and the evidence received in relation to the glue trap provisions in Part 5 of the Bill.

The Welsh Government policy objective is to raise the standards of animal welfare in Wales. Thus to permit the continued use of glue traps by pest controllers, either Local Authority or a private company, would prevent this from being achieved.

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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.

No correspondence has been received from Rentokil since the Explanatory Memorandum was published in September. However, as your letter includes an email exchange between the BPCA and Rentokil indicating their current policy is now to use glue traps, I was pleased to remove the specific reference, particularly as it was only provided as an example. This change has been included in the recently updated Explanatory Memorandum which has been provided to the Senedd for publication.

Finally, I must re-emphasise, the provisions to ban the use of glue traps are not founded on any single element. As the Explanatory Memorandum accompanying the Bill demonstrates, the evidence in relation to the animal welfare concerns inherent with glue traps is laid out and the policy objective to improve welfare standards is clear. The BPCA's support for the ban on the general public's use of glue traps is itself recognition this method of pest control is inhumane. Those who wish to continue to use glue traps have not offered substantive evidence of how the significant animal welfare concerns regarding glue traps can or would be addressed under a licensing scheme. The Welsh Government will not license cruelty.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lesley Griffiths". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

**Lesley Griffiths AS/MS**  
**Y Gweinidog Materion Gwledig a Gogledd Cymru, a'r Trefnydd**  
**Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and Trefnydd**

Copy

All Members of the Economy, Trade, and Rural Affairs Committee