

Alun Davies AC / AM  
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Amaethyddiaeth, Bwyd, Pysgodfeydd a  
Rhaglenni Ewropeaidd  
Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and  
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Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-333  
Ein cyf/Our ref AD-/00037/13

William Powell AM  
Chair Petition's committee  
Ty Hywel  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

February 2013

### **Enforcement of micro chipping and equine passport legislation**

Thank you for your letter of 23 January in respect of the petition that is currently being considered, calling for effective enforcement of the Equine Identification (Wales) Regulations 2009.

As part of the approach I am taking in dealing with the issue of fly grazing I have made it clear that I expect enforcement authorities to take a very robust approach to the problem and use all available legislation open to them. This includes the enforcement of the equine identification regulations.

I am disappointed with Defra's decision not to award a new contract for the provision of a central equine database and concerned about the difficulties that the loss of the database is causing to enforcement authorities. I am also concerned that in reaching this decision Defra did not consult the Welsh Government. Defra considered the views of the Animal Health and Welfare Board for England who concluded that the costs of continuing to fund a database were not justified.

I have also given an undertaking to review the legal framework and to seek any additional powers enforcement authorities might require to enable them to effectively deal with the problem. In order to inform this review, I will undertake a consultation in early March. A copy of the consultation will be forwarded to the Committee Clerk for your information as well as to members of the Cross Party Group on the Horse for their consideration and input.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alun Davies', with a small horizontal line underneath the name.

**Alun Davies AC / AM**

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