

Bil Anifeiliaid Gwyllt a Sycrasau (Cymru) | Wild Animals and Circuses (Wales) Bill  
WA 14

Ymateb gan : Unigolion

Evidence from : Individuals

The general principles of the Wild Animals and Circuses (Wales) Bill

Well now Welsh Government, it appears we are nearing journey's end and what a journey it has been since 2015! The review you tried to set up with the RSPCA using their go-to scientists was comprehensively debunked by Professor Ted Friend, a real expert in animal behaviour and welfare. This caused so much embarrassment, Lesley Griffiths hid the letter Prof Friend sent her from the Welsh Assembly so there would be no questions raised about banning the use of wild animals in circuses.

We then found out through FOIs that the RSPCA go-to scientist was allowed to agree his own criteria for the review, thus he was able to circumvent conflicting counter-evidence. And, to round it off another FOI found the peer review team loaded with an RSPCA scientific manager and ex-scientific manager giving them a 2:1 advantage to pass the review as peer reviewed even though it had already been arranged to ignore conflicting evidence. Quite brilliant really.

Of course the Welsh Government embarrassingly didn't check to see if our dynamic duo from the RSPCA had a track record of publicly speaking out against circuses. If they had, they would have found both have been quoted in the press in favour of ban. Still the look on the faces of Dr Ross Clubb and Rob Atkinson would have been quite the picture when they read Professor Ted Friend's analysis of his own research and how it was presented and referenced in the review.

*"I am concerned that very few people have actually read my scientific publications and discovered that Harris's spin is 180 degrees from what we found."*

No mincing with words there and don't forget they passed it!

Then, if matters couldn't get any worse for the Welsh Government, by chance the real name of the chief maligner of the circuses was discovered. This provided an ideal opportunity to make public copies of signed witness statements and excerpts from an unpublished book explaining how the circuses had been setup in the nineties with faked videos. It turns out Spike is none other than Terry Hill, he is currently working for the charity, the League Against Cruel Sports, apparently capturing illegal hunting in Scotland.

but two occasions. Paul Cross, one of the farm's head keepers, also told us Spike mixed other groups of animals together more than once when Dicky was away. He called for help and Paul ran with sticks to help. Spike asked him not to tell anyone. Later Paul saw himself waving sticks on TV.

Other staff who worked with Spike when Dicky was away complained he didn't clean out the animals enough and he let the meat shed become filthy. He left rotten meat on the floor and the door open. In usual practice the shed was hosed daily. There were high hooks for the meat and any bad meat was incinerated. There were woods directly behind the shed – Spike's failure to follow basic husbandry rules resulted in rats coming in from the woods to the meat shed. This, of course, he video-filmed.

This now meant cowardly politicians have stood back since the nineties and disgracefully watched as the circuses moved from town to town and allowed them to be harassed and bullied by a multitude of animal rights charities all taking turns to get their name in the local/national papers by inferring the circuses are cruel. They used the same old format, a handful of ne're-do-wells holding placards at the circus entrance hoping to intimidate families away from visiting under the banner of a 'right to protest'. It never once occurred to the politicians that they have neglected their public duty and they should have been defending the right of the circuses to go where they please unmolested by extremists.

Having been humiliated over the evidence in the review, and the fact Welsh politicians neglected their duty, stood back and watched folk get abused and bullied, it comes down to this, an **opinion poll consultation**. Although you haven't told anyone about the 'opinion poll' part of the consultation yet, have you Welsh Government?

This opinion poll is only announced after the consultation has closed and they have counted the responses ensuring the ban brigade have won. They then announce a ban off the back of more responses in favour of prohibition. The last consultation just 11 people in Wales voted to ban wild animals in circuses out of a possible 4 million population, but roughly 800 animal rights fanatics from the rest of the world pushed them over the line. If they lose the count and the rest of the world is caught napping they can find another motive. Something like, they banned it in England and Scotland, we will be left behind.

So despite the twisted science, the abuse, harassment and intimidation, the fact that politicians neglected their public duty, whatever happens an excuse will be found to fulfil the narrative of the animal rights groups regardless of the evidence of skulduggery. But why? It's about the money, it's always about the money. Labour took a £250k bung before the 2015 General Election from the Political Animal Lobby for animal rights legislation. And you don't pay that sort of money and expect nothing in return. (See fig 1)

So to answer the question is there a need for legislation to deliver the Bills stated policy objection, **absolutely not, the use of wild animals in circuses should not be banned.**

There is however a very pressing need for government to review its links to animal rights groups pretending to be charities. The review needs to include the way they collude with one another to turn a blind eye to harassment, bullying, intimidation of innocent civilians and an annihilation of perfectly legitimate businesses, this needs to be addressed under the heading 'A dereliction of public duty'. Also the Government and their friends in animal rights presenting bent science and loading peer reviews in the hope it fools the public needs reviewing. Then of course the acceptance of 'bungles' for legislation from fanatical groups will be central to the review. We look forward to its publication.

(Fig1)

