



Ein cyf/Our ref LG/05807/19

Annwen Hughes

eirianroberts3@gwynedd.llyw.cymru

30 April 2019

Dear Ms Hughes

Thank you for your letter of 16 April regarding third party sales of puppies. I note your support on this issue.

Animal welfare and the responsible ownership of animals are priorities for the Welsh Government and the Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework Group (WAHWFG). We are committed to maintaining high standards of welfare for all animals kept in Wales at all stages of their lives.

The Animal Welfare (Breeding of Dogs) (Wales) Regulations 2014 came into force in April 2015. The Regulations require anyone with three or more breeding bitches to be licensed and introduced strict criteria for those licensed breeders. The introduction of the Regulations led the way in addressing welfare concerns at dog breeding establishments in Wales. This was the first legislation of its kind in the UK. That said, I believe the potential banning of third party sales is worthy of investigation and as I stated in my oral statement on the 19 June 2018 I have confirmed my intention to build on the improvements made since the Animal Welfare (Breeding of Dogs) (Wales) Regulations 2014.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400
Gohebiaeth.Lesley.Griffiths@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Lesley.Griffiths@gov.wales

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.

It is absolutely essential we address the root cause of any welfare concerns in changes to legislation. Information on the supply chain of puppies is of particular significance in this process. Following my commitment I launched a consultation on third party sales on the 19 February and this will close on the 17 May. I attach below a link to the consultation page and I look forward to your contribution.

<https://gov.wales/third-party-sales-puppies-and-kittens>

A handwritten signature in blue ink. The word "Regards" is written in a cursive style, and below it, the name "Lesley" is written in a similar cursive script.

Lesley Griffiths AC/AM

Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd, Ynni a Materion Gwledig
Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs