

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



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-937  
Ein cyf/Our ref LG/00039/22

Jack Sargeant MS  
Chair - Petitions Committee

14 February 2022

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 20 January, regarding Petition P-05-937 Stop Boiling Crustaceans Alive (lobsters, crabs, crayfish, prawns etc).

We are following the progress of the Animal Welfare (Sentience) Bill ('the Bill') with interest. This is a UK Government Bill and its provisions do not apply to Wales. The Bill recognises animals are sentient beings and creates the Animal Sentience Committee as an accountability mechanism whose aims are to ensure UK Ministers have due regard to their welfare needs when formulating and implementing UK Government policy.

The London School of Economics (LSE) and Political Science 'Review of the evidence for sentience in decapod crustaceans and cephalopod molluscs' was published in November 2021. The authors found there is strong evidence of sentience in cephalopod molluscs and decapod crustaceans, and recommended they be included in UK animal welfare law in an explicit way. The Bill was subsequently amended by the UK Government to bring these invertebrates into the scope of the Bill.

Officials will continue to engage with their Defra counterparts on the progress of the UK Government Bill and the tacit inclusion of decapods crustaceans and cephalopod molluscs. Any consequential amendments to the Animal Welfare Act 2006 must be based on scientific evidence.

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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.

We will take account of the recommendations in the LSE review, along with other relevant research, analysis and evidence, in a reasonable and proportionate manner, in the context of our own policy agenda for Wales.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lesley Griffiths". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping 'L' and 'G'.

**Lesley Griffiths AS/MS**  
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