

# **Prohibition of Greyhound Racing (Wales) Bill:** Engagement Findings

November 2025



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# 1. Engagement Summary

The following engagement summary provides an overview of the engagement programme's design, facilitation, and findings.

## Background

- 1.** The Prohibition of Greyhound Racing (Wales) Bill has been referred to the Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport and International Relations Committee for Stage 1 scrutiny of its general principles.
- 2.** The Committee wished to understand public views on the Bill, the sport of greyhound racing, and related issues such as animal welfare, with particular reference to the following inquiry terms of reference:
  - Whether there is a need for legislation to deliver the Bill's stated policy objective, which is to prohibit greyhound racing in Wales.
  - Whether there are any unintended consequences arising from the Bill.
- 3.** The Citizen Engagement Team facilitated an online survey, shared publicly between 2 and 19 October. This report summarises the responses received.

## Objectives

- 4.** The engagement exercise had two main objectives:
  - a. To enrich the Committee's evidence-gathering process, offering a nuanced understanding of public perspectives on the Bill, the sport, and welfare considerations; and
  - b. To provide an accessible way for people in Wales to share their views and experiences relating to the Prohibition of Greyhound Racing (Wales) Bill.
- 5.** The objective of the survey design was to capture the reasoning, attitudes, and feelings of respondents towards greyhound racing and the proposed prohibition, as well as related welfare concerns. By using a survey, open to the general public, the Committee aimed to gain a broad sense of opinion and insight into the social and ethical views of the issue.

## Methodology

- 6.** A mixed method research design was adopted to understand public sentiment and the reasoning behind different perspectives. The survey included a number of structured questions alongside open-text responses, allowing respondents to explain the motivations, experiences, and opinions informing their views.
- 7.** This approach was not intended to generate a representative sample or focus on a statistical measure of public opinion. Instead, it aimed to illustrate the diversity of views expressed and provide insight into the values, reasoning, and contextual factors shaping those views.
- 8.** Accordingly, the findings should be interpreted as indicative of the sentiments of those who took part, rather than representative of the wider Welsh population. They provide valuable insight into the reasoning and attitudes of individuals who engaged with the consultation but do not seek to quantify levels of support or opposition within the population as a whole.
- 9.** The survey was disseminated using online platforms and through Senedd engagement activity to maximise accessibility. While every effort was made to encourage participation across Wales, it is recognised that engagement of this nature may be influenced by self-selection effects and by how awareness of the survey spread through interest and community networks. These factors are recognised as part of the natural limitations of open, voluntary participation exercises.
- 10.** The survey design and facilitation followed established Senedd practice for informal citizen engagement. Personal data collection was minimal, optional, and compliant with data protection and GDPR requirements to protect anonymity and encourage open participation.

## Participants

- 11.** Given the Bill's focus on banning greyhound racing in Wales, the survey invited only those living in Wales to respond. A total of 815 responses were received, of which 772 stated they were Welsh residents and were invited to complete the remaining questions.
- 12.** Responses were received from all Welsh local authorities and across all adult age categories. Further demographic detail is available in Annex 1.

## Summary of Findings

**13.** The data shows there is a clear division in support for banning greyhound racing in Wales, with responses nearly evenly split between ‘Yes’ and ‘No’ to the question of whether the Welsh Government should ban greyhound racing.

**14.** The following summary reflects the views and experiences of individuals who took part in the survey and is presented qualitatively to illustrate the range of perspectives expressed.

### Perspectives in favour of prohibition

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**15.** Respondents who supported prohibition tended to focus on issues of welfare and ethics. Their comments commonly reflected the following themes:

- **Animal welfare concerns** – Respondents frequently described greyhound racing as inherently harmful or exploitative. Many referred to reported injuries, neglect, or poor living conditions for retired dogs. Some respondents expressed the belief that no form of regulation could fully safeguard animal welfare within a profit-driven racing environment.
- **Moral and ethical considerations** – Several respondents viewed greyhound racing as inconsistent with contemporary values around animal rights and wellbeing. For these respondents, prohibiting the sport was framed as a moral obligation and a necessary reflection of societal progress.
- **Perceptions of public image and reputation** – A number of participants noted that ending greyhound racing could enhance Wales’s reputation as an ethical and animal-friendly nation.
- **Scepticism about self-regulation** – Some respondents expressed doubts about the effectiveness of existing welfare standards or the ability of the industry to self-regulate. They argued that previous incidents had undermined confidence in voluntary or internal monitoring systems.

### Perspectives opposing prohibition

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**16.** Those opposed to prohibition most often emphasised welfare standards, cultural identity, and potential economic consequences. Their reasoning reflected several recurring themes:

- **Confidence in existing welfare standards** – Opponents of prohibition often described current welfare practices as robust, citing veterinary oversight,

regulatory frameworks, and examples of responsible ownership. Some highlighted the positive relationships between owners and dogs as evidence that welfare was prioritised.

- **Cultural and community importance** – Several respondents emphasised the long history of greyhound racing in certain Welsh communities, describing it as a valued local tradition that brings people together. For them, prohibition represented a loss of cultural heritage and community identity.
- **Economic and social impact** – A frequently mentioned concern related to potential job losses, reduced tourism, or the closure of local facilities associated with the sport. Respondents raised the risk of negative consequences for those economically dependent on greyhound racing.
- **Unintended consequences** – A number of participants warned that prohibition could lead to unregulated or underground racing, or to increased abandonment of greyhounds. They suggested that strengthening regulation and enforcement, rather than an outright ban, would be a more effective approach.

**The Committee and the Citizen Engagement Team thank everyone who took part in this engagement exercise. Their insights have made an important contribution to the Committee's scrutiny of the Prohibition of Greyhound Racing (Wales) Bill.**

## 2. Engagement Findings

This section provides more detail on the responses received and the views expressed in favour and against the prohibition of greyhound racing.

### Perspectives in favour of prohibition

**17.** 53% of respondents answered 'Yes' to the question 'Do you think the Welsh Government should ban greyhound racing in Wales?'

#### Your experience with greyhound racing

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**18.** The first group of survey questions established respondents' familiarity or engagement with greyhound racing.

**19.** Of those in favour of prohibition, some have direct experience, with 17% having attended a greyhound race in the past, though very small numbers (3 respondents) state they would attend in the future. 20% have watched a race remotely, again with small numbers (6 respondents) open to doing so in future. 7% have placed a bet on a race, with very few (2 respondents) willing to bet in future.

#### Animal welfare

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**20.** The second group of questions explored respondents' attitudes towards the proposed legislative change.

#### ***To what extent are you concerned for the welfare of racing greyhounds?***

**21.** Of the respondents who agreed with a ban on greyhound racing, the vast majority (97.5%) answered that they were 'Very concerned' for the welfare of racing greyhounds, with 2% answering that they were 'Somewhat concerned'. 0.5% did not know.

**22.** Of those responses, a number of themes emerged in the open text box that followed:

#### Welfare and treatment concerns

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**23.** Respondents expressed significant concern about both the physical and psychological welfare of racing greyhounds. This included frequent mentions of injuries such as broken legs and fatal accidents, trauma, PTSD, and poor living conditions such as unhygienic kennels, lack of comfort and insufficient enrichment (meaning a lack of activities, toys, social interaction, or opportunities for exercise and mental stimulation that are important for a dog's overall well-being).

*"I am deeply concerned about the welfare of greyhounds used in racing. These dogs often live in poor conditions, suffer injuries, and face uncertain futures once they can no longer race. Many are abandoned, sent to overcrowded shelters, or put down. Breeding dogs purely for speed and profit is unethical and unfair."*

*"The sheer number of dogs who are injured or put to sleep through the racing industry is disgusting. Our rescue greyhound was in such a state with broken bones which weren't attended to by his racing owners."*

#### Abandonment, aftercare, and disposal

**24.** A recurring theme was the fate of greyhounds after their racing careers end. Respondents reported that greyhounds are often abandoned, euthanised, or sent to rescue centres, with insufficient support for rehoming and significant pressure falling on charities.

*"The treatment of the animals after they finish racing is of concern. Once they stop earning money what good are they to trainers? Many are abandoned and need rehoming."*

*"There is a huge discrepancy in the welfare and care that greyhounds receive during and after their time racing. The amount of greyhounds needing rehoming is huge and there is no protocol for the greyhounds that struggle to be rehomed."*

**25.** Overbreeding and the disposal of dogs that fail to meet expectations for racing are also cited as concerns.

*"The dogs are just a commodity to make money."*

*"When they aren't any good to race they just disappear."*

*"There is significant over breeding by breeders/trainers to find just a few dogs which they think will make the grade. The rest are discarded/killed when no longer required."*

## Regulation, oversight, and enforcement

**26.** Some respondents felt current regulations are insufficient or poorly enforced, calling for stricter oversight, more frequent welfare checks, and harsher penalties for mistreatment.

*"The welfare standards are not good enough; more oversight is needed."*

*"Unregulated, unsafe conditions, no regard for animal welfare, unsafe practices, unsustainable management."*

*"Adopter of 4 ex racing greyhounds, including a disabled dog whose leg was broken on the valley track since it has been licensed by GBGB (Greyhound Board of Great Britain) – regulation does not work."*

**27.** There are also concerns about the risk of unregulated or underground racing if the sport is banned.

## Ethical and moral considerations

**28.** Several responses frame greyhound racing as inherently cruel or outdated, objecting to the use of animals for entertainment or profit, especially where it could lead to suffering.

*"I think it's an incredibly cruel and archaic form of sport. Dogs are often at risk of fatal injury and are often discarded by breeders as soon as they hold no racing value."*

*"This activity is inhumane and Wales needs to join the vast majority of other countries in banning this vile practice."*

## Personal experiences and observations

**29.** Many respondents reference personal experiences with rescued or retired greyhounds, describing trauma, injuries, or behavioural issues resulting from racing.

*"I have seen first-hand the trauma and PTSD retired greyhounds have experienced, it's absolutely diabolical that it is still happening."*

*"We have rescued 2 greyhounds from the track. They have both been quite traumatised dogs. One was shut down totally and did not engage very much with us ever. The second younger dog took over a year to settle in, but still flinches. Hates ears touched after tattoos in ears and is nervous of men."*

*"I have worked as a vet at a greyhound track as part of my first job. I was asked to euthanise healthy young dogs almost every time I attended and some of those that sustained track injuries."*

## Economic and practical factors

**30.** Some responses mention euthanasia or killing of greyhounds for economic reasons, especially when they are no longer profitable or are injured. The stress and risks associated with transportation between races are also highlighted as welfare concerns.

**31.** Some also highlighted the lack of adequate rehoming support and the burden placed on charities.

*"Concerned about the racing industry's habit of discarding young dogs, often with injuries that may negatively affect their wellbeing and mobility as pets. The industry expects dog rescues not only to find forever homes for a constant stream of discarded dogs, and also to re-socialise them to get them used to living in a family home, and pay for any long-term vet care to manage mobility issues or chronic pain as a result of old racing injuries."*

## Your views on banning greyhound racing

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### ***Do you think banning greyhound racing could have any unintended consequences?***

**32.** Respondents who supported prohibition expressed a number of perspectives. The main themes were:

Welfare of greyhounds after the ban

**33.** Many respondents worry that a ban could lead to a sudden influx of unwanted greyhounds, with some being abandoned, euthanised, or sent to shelters that may not have the capacity to cope.

*“Without proper planning, many greyhounds could be euthanised or overwhelm dog shelters. Rehoming them is not always easy, as ex-racers can have behavioural issues or special needs that make adoption challenging.”*

**34.** Many highlight that animal charities and rescue centres could be overwhelmed by the sudden increase in greyhounds needing homes, especially in the short term.

**35.** There are calls for additional funding and planning to support these organisations during the transition.

*“My only concern is rehoming, it needs to be planned properly.”*

**36.** There is a strong call for phased implementation and government or charity support to ensure greyhounds are rehomed safely and not left at risk.

*“Dogs left over needing rehoming, so the ban must be phased to not overwhelm rehoming centres.”*

### Potential for illegal or underground racing

**37.** A significant number of responses mention the risk that banning the sport could drive it underground, making it harder to regulate and potentially increasing cruelty and suffering for the dogs.

*“I do have concerns that racing will go underground, become unregulated and create more suffering and pain to greyhounds. Much like dog fighting, I fear money will be made on the 'black market' and greyhounds' suffering will become invisible.”*

**38.** Some suggest that strict laws and effective enforcement will be needed to prevent illegal racing and protect animal welfare.

### Economic and employment impacts

**39.** Several responses note that banning greyhound racing could result in job losses for those employed at tracks and in related industries (e.g. betting, training).

**40.** Some mention loss of revenue for gambling companies and local economies, but many respondents feel these impacts are outweighed by animal welfare concerns.

*“Loss of revenue for gambling companies, plus job losses at the venues. But greyhound racing is not a cultural issue for Wales, so I don’t think the impact on Wales would be noticeable aside from the jobs and betting losses.”*

*“For those people employed at tracks and any allied activities, yes of course I feel sorry that they will likely lose their jobs, but I’m afraid that this ‘sport’ is unutterably cruel & must be stopped!”*

### Minimising negative consequences

**41.** A notable group of respondents believe that any negative consequences are either manageable, short-term, or far outweighed by the benefits to animal welfare.

*“No, only good thing will happen for the animals, and they are what matters.”*

*“Not really. Pro racing people will claim the dogs will suffer, but phased end will be manageable - and think how many dogs will be saved from suffering in the future.”*

**42.** Some mention that charities and the public are already preparing for the change, and that with proper planning, negative impacts can be minimised.

### Other notable themes

**43.** Some worry that dogs may be exported to countries with lower welfare standards.

**44.** A few see a potential positive impact on gambling addiction.

**45.** Very few mention loss of tradition or community, and most dismiss the idea that greyhound racing is a significant cultural issue in Wales.

## Perspectives against prohibition

**46.** 46% of respondents answered 'No' to the question 'Do you think the Welsh Government should ban greyhound racing in Wales?'

### Your experience with greyhound racing

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**47.** The first group of survey questions established respondents' familiarity or engagement with greyhound racing.

**48.** Of the respondents who oppose prohibition, 91.5% have attended races in person, 88% have watched remotely, and 83% have placed bets. This indicates direct, repeated involvement with greyhound racing.

**49.** The numbers who would attend (98%), watch (89%), or bet (85%) in the future are even higher, showing ongoing enthusiasm and a strong likelihood to continue participating.

### Animal welfare

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**50.** The second group of questions explored respondents' attitudes towards the proposed legislative change.

#### **To what extent are you concerned for the welfare of racing greyhounds?**

**51.** Of those who are opposed to a ban on greyhound racing, 57% answered that they were 'Not at all concerned' about the welfare of racing greyhounds, with 17.5% answering 'Not very concerned.' 1.5% did not know.

**52.** A notable number of respondents answered that they were 'Somewhat concerned' (9%) or 'Very concerned' (15%) about the welfare of racing greyhounds. However, their open-text responses clarified that this concern reflected a general commitment to animal welfare, while also expressing satisfaction with the current standards of care provided to racing greyhounds.

*"I am concerned for their welfare as a caring animal lover and I am also satisfied with the way owners and trainers care for their dogs."*

**53.** A number of themes emerged in the open text box that followed this question:

General concern for animal welfare

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**54.** Many respondents, including those involved in the racing industry, emphasised that animal welfare should always be a priority.

**55.** They described current welfare standards for racing greyhounds as high, citing regular veterinary checks, attentive care, and robust governance. Several noted that organizations such as the Greyhound Board of Great Britain (GBGB) enforce strict rules and oversight, contributing to improved welfare in recent years.

*"The welfare of the greyhounds is at the forefront of all concerned. There is governance in place to ensure this. There are vets at the tracks and all the dogs are well loved and cared for."*

### Greyhounds' experience and enjoyment

**56.** A common perspective is that greyhounds are well cared for and treated like athletes, with good food, exercise, and dedicated trainers or owners.

*"Greyhounds are kept in top condition medically and fitness wise to participate in racing. This is the natural instinct of the dog."*

**57.** Many believe that greyhounds enjoy racing and that it is in their nature to run and chase, arguing that dogs would not participate if they did not want to.

*"The dogs are well cared for and live to run."*

*"These dogs are bred for the purpose of chasing something they do of their own according. They are not forced to do it (you can't make a dog do something they do not want to do) they get pleasure and enjoyment from doing it."*

### Comparisons with other sports

**58.** Respondents often compared greyhound racing favourably to other animal sports, such as horse racing, and suggested that pet dogs may sometimes experience worse welfare. Injuries, they argued, can occur in any sport or daily life.

*"Greyhounds are exactly the same as racehorses they are looked after and cared for better than most people are."*

*"The facilities available to all dogs and trainers at venues get better treatment than is available to NHS patients."*

*"Very safe, safer than horse racing."*

## Personal experience

**59.** Many shared positive personal experiences as owners, trainers, or visitors to tracks and kennels, reporting that retired greyhounds were healthy, well-socialised, and made excellent pets.

*"I have adopted retired greyhounds and they were healthy, well-socialised, and made wonderful pets."*

## Views on regulation and improvement

**60.** While most respondents expressed satisfaction with current welfare standards, many supported ongoing review and continuous improvement.

**61.** Suggestions included better rehoming support for retired greyhounds, enhanced safety measures at tracks, and increased transparency.

*"The industry has improved greatly and can continue to improve. They have track vets, the best food, are highly regulated and the dogs are happy."*

*"GBGB greyhound kennels are heavily regulated and dogs are all traced and tracked with spot kennel inspections, veterinary inspections."*

**62.** Some were sceptical about the need for further government regulation, believing the existing framework is sufficient, while others welcomed additional oversight if it led to genuine welfare improvements.

## Economic and social value

**63.** Some responses highlighted the social and economic benefits of greyhound racing, such as job creation, community engagement, and tradition, suggesting these factors should be considered alongside welfare concerns.

## Regulation and welfare standards

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**64.** Those who opposed prohibition were invited to answer further questions about their satisfaction with current welfare standards and whether they would like to see any improvements.

***If you do not support a ban on greyhound racing, are you content with the current level of regulations for the welfare of racing greyhounds?***

**65.** 85% of respondents answered that they are content with current regulations. A notable number (11.5%) answered that they were 'Not sure' and a small number (3.5%) that they were not content.

***Would you like to see an improvement in welfare standards for racing greyhounds?***

**66.** Of those who were content with current regulations, 56% answered 'No' to this question, with the following responses given when asked to expand on this answer:

Satisfaction with current welfare standards

**67.** Many responses expressed that the welfare standards for racing greyhounds are already high, adequate, or even exemplary.

**68.** Respondents frequently mention that the dogs are well cared for, with regular veterinary oversight and loving staff.

*"The dogs are well cared for with care 24 hours a day by loving staff."*

*"Welfare standards for racing greyhounds are at present at high standard and are monitored by the greyhound racing board."*

*"The current racing standards are already brilliant for the greyhounds involved in the sport."*

Regulation and oversight

**69.** There is a strong emphasis on the sport being well regulated, particularly by the GBGB. Respondents highlight that existing rules and regulations are robust and sufficient.

*"There is no need as the Valleys already is under GBGB rules and regulations. No need to reinvent the wheel."*

*“The track at Ystrad Mynach has undergone significant upgrades in recent times to fully meet the required standards.”*

*“People who work on the tracks are trained and that continues through GBGB courses to ensure the utmost safety of the dogs and vets on site for immediate treatment.”*

## Opposition to further regulation or government intervention

**70.** A recurring theme is resistance to additional regulation or government involvement, with some respondents viewing it as unnecessary or politically motivated.

*“A Welsh government leader licensing would just be another stealth tax.”*

*“No evidence to suggest this is needed – government overreach.”*

## Comparison to other animal sports and pet ownership

**71.** Several responses compare greyhound racing welfare standards favourably to other sports (like horse racing) or to pet ownership.

*“If it were then the Welsh Government would be banning horse racing which has worse death rate in Wales than racing greyhounds.”*

*“Greyhound racing is already heavily regulated. If you compare the welfare of greyhounds to say the average pet dogs, then you might conclude that pet ownership should be regulated.”*

## Continuous improvement and self-regulation

**72.** While most respondents feel standards are high, some acknowledge that improvements are always possible and that the industry is committed to ongoing enhancement.

*“Improvements will always happen as owners don't want their dogs hurt, so standards will improve with knowledge and research that is continually happening.”*

*“The greyhound industry is constantly looking for ways to improve the safety and welfare of greyhounds.”*

*“The level of welfare has risen over the last several years and is now at a practical level. Risk cannot be eliminated totally.”*

### Care for retired greyhounds

**73.** There is mention of the care and rehoming of greyhounds after their racing careers, suggesting a holistic approach to welfare:

*“The care for greyhounds, even after they retire from racing, is well catered for and even after they go on from the sport every effort is made to make sure they have a full and rewarding life in their futures outside the sport.”*

*“Greyhounds are earmarked and microchipped at 12 weeks old. This follows them throughout their career. Once retired they are placed on a rehoming list and validation checks are done on suitable homes during the rehoming process.”*

### Scepticism toward criticism

**74.** Some responses question the motives or accuracy of those advocating for change, suggesting that criticisms are unfounded or based on misinformation.

*“Welfare standards are more than adequate if only people would go and witness this for themselves and not listen to people who spread untruths about the dogs and the sport.”*

*“It’s obvious these dogs get better care than the vast majority of people. Let’s start regulating the ‘rescue’ groups who spread misinformation.”*

**75.** 31% of respondents answered that they would like to see improvements in the regulations, along with those who answered *Not sure* (13%), with the following themes arising from both of these groups of respondents:

### Continuous improvement

**76.** The phrase “*there is always room for improvement*” appears repeatedly, reflecting a strong consensus that greyhound racing, like any sport, should continually strive to enhance standards, especially regarding welfare and safety.

### Animal welfare and safety

**77.** Many responses emphasise the importance of welfare checks, safety measures (e.g., providing nets at the finish line, creating wider bends), and regular reviews of regulations to ensure the welfare of greyhounds is paramount.

*“Guidelines to welfare of animals should always be reviewed on a regular basis.”*

*“We can always do more for all animals.”*

**78.** There’s a call for better enforcing current rules and licensing schemes to maintain high welfare standards and accountability.

### Regulation and oversight

**79.** Respondents frequently mention the role of the GBGB in regulating the sport and ensuring safety.

*“The GBGB are always striving for more regulation.”*

*“Licensed racing under GBGB rules.”*

**80.** Some suggest that independent oversight by welfare experts is preferable to an outright ban, and that regulation should be ongoing and responsive to new challenges.

*“Well-regulated with independent oversight by welfare experts is preferable to an outright ban.”*

*“There could always be more regulations to help make it even more safe.”*

### Track and facility improvements

**81.** Suggestions include improving track design (e.g. wider or more elongated bends, limiting the number of dogs per race on tight tracks), upgrading facilities, and ensuring that venues are well maintained and staffed.

*"I would like to see improvements to the tracks if possible."*

*"They could make the bends wider or more elongated to help with reducing injury."*

## Accountability and transparency

**82.** There are calls from some respondents for greater transparency and accountability for charities who are accused of developing conspiracy theories and bad trainers, who are accused of not caring for dogs properly.

*"Identify deficiency and make improvements, don't just ban something because you don't like the idea of it."*

*"Take action on the trainers that do not look after dogs properly."*

## Retirement and rehoming

**83.** Several responses highlight the need for responsible rehoming of greyhounds after their racing careers, with suggestions for more responsibility on owners and support for rehoming efforts.

*"I think that more responsibility should be on the owner regarding rehoming."*

## Funding and investment

**84.** Some respondents advocate for increased funding, such as a statutory levy on bookmakers, to support welfare improvements, facility upgrades, and rehoming initiatives.

*"Welsh Government should implement a compulsory levy on bookmakers to help pay for increased rehoming efforts via GBGB approved centres."*

*"More investment means better facilities for the dogs and people working in the sport."*

## Welsh Government's role

**85.** There are mixed views on the Welsh Government's involvement, with some calling for more funding and legislative support, while others question the effectiveness or necessity of separate Welsh schemes.

*"But as it is already regulated by the GBGB there would be no need for a separate Welsh scheme."*

*"A licensing scheme is a better option. Given there is only 1 track in Wales a ban is just posturing and will make zero difference to welfare."*

## Your views on banning greyhound racing

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### ***Do you think banning greyhound racing could have any unintended consequences?***

**86.** Respondents who oppose prohibition expressed a number of perspectives. The main themes were:

#### Job losses and economic impact

**87.** Many responses highlight concerns about significant job losses for trainers, kennel staff, track workers, and those in related industries (e.g. suppliers, hospitality, veterinary services).

**88.** There is a strong sense that the ban would negatively affect local economies, especially in communities where greyhound racing is a major employer or social hub.

*"Yes, a loss of jobs that are vital in a small town and the community and damage the culture of the whole of the UK by preventing people from enjoying a well-established tradition."*

#### Welfare and fate of greyhounds

**89.** A recurring theme is anxiety over the welfare of the dogs themselves. Respondents fear that, without racing, many greyhounds would be abandoned, euthanised, or struggle to find suitable homes.

*"I do worry that the trainers won't be able to afford to keep them, meaning a lot more end up needing rehoming. I don't think there are enough people out there willing to rehome these beautiful animals."*

**90.** There are concerns that rehoming centres would be overwhelmed and unable to cope with a sudden influx of retired racing dogs.

### Threat to the greyhound breed

**91.** Many believe that banning racing could lead to the decline or even extinction of the greyhound breed, as there would be less incentive to breed and maintain them.

**92.** Some responses argue that greyhounds are "bred to run" and that removing this outlet would be detrimental to their well-being and the breed's future.

### Loss of social and community value

**93.** Responses frequently reference the loss of a valued social activity and community tradition. Greyhound racing is described as a source of social interaction, recreation, and community cohesion.

**94.** Some respondents mention the impact on mental health and well-being, especially for those whose lives revolve around the sport.

### Risk of unregulated or underground racing

**95.** Several responses warn that banning the sport could drive it underground, leading to unregulated, potentially more dangerous and less humane forms of racing.

**96.** There is concern that welfare standards would deteriorate without oversight, increasing risks for the dogs.

*"Yes, it would go 'underground' and the protection the dogs have now due to the transparency of public tracks would be missing."*

*"Yes. This is where things go underground and animals will not be treated properly."*

*"A ban may force it 'underground', and therefore avoid any regulation at all."*

## Banning other activities

**97.** Some contributors fear that banning greyhound racing could set a precedent for prohibiting other animal-related sports (e.g., horse racing, fishing, shooting, working dogs).

*“You open the floodgates to banning every sport or activity involving animals.”*

**98.** This theme is often linked to broader anxieties about government overreach and loss of personal freedoms.

## Scepticism toward the ban’s rationale

**99.** A number of responses express scepticism about the motivations behind the ban, suggesting it is politically driven or based on misinformation.

**100.** Some feel that the government has not adequately consulted with those involved in the sport or considered the full consequences.

## Impact on animal welfare and regulation

**101.** There is a belief that current regulation provides important welfare protections for greyhounds, and that a ban would remove these safeguards.

**102.** Some argue that improving standards within the sport would be preferable to an outright ban.

## Unsure about prohibition

**103.** A very small number of respondents (1%) were unsure on their stance on prohibition, stating uncertainty about whether existing guidelines are adequate or properly enforced.

**104.** Their responses in the open-ended questions follow the same themes as those raised in favour or against the ban so have not been detailed separately.

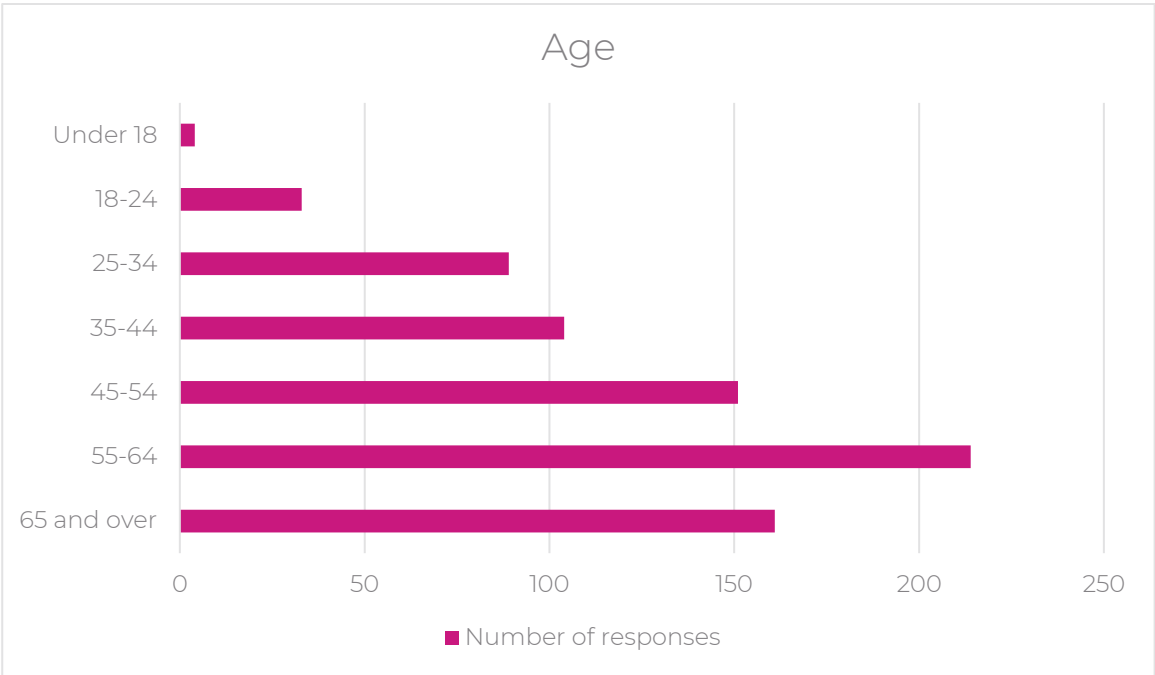
### 3. Annex 1: Participants' Demographic

Below is a list of all diagnoses presented by participants:

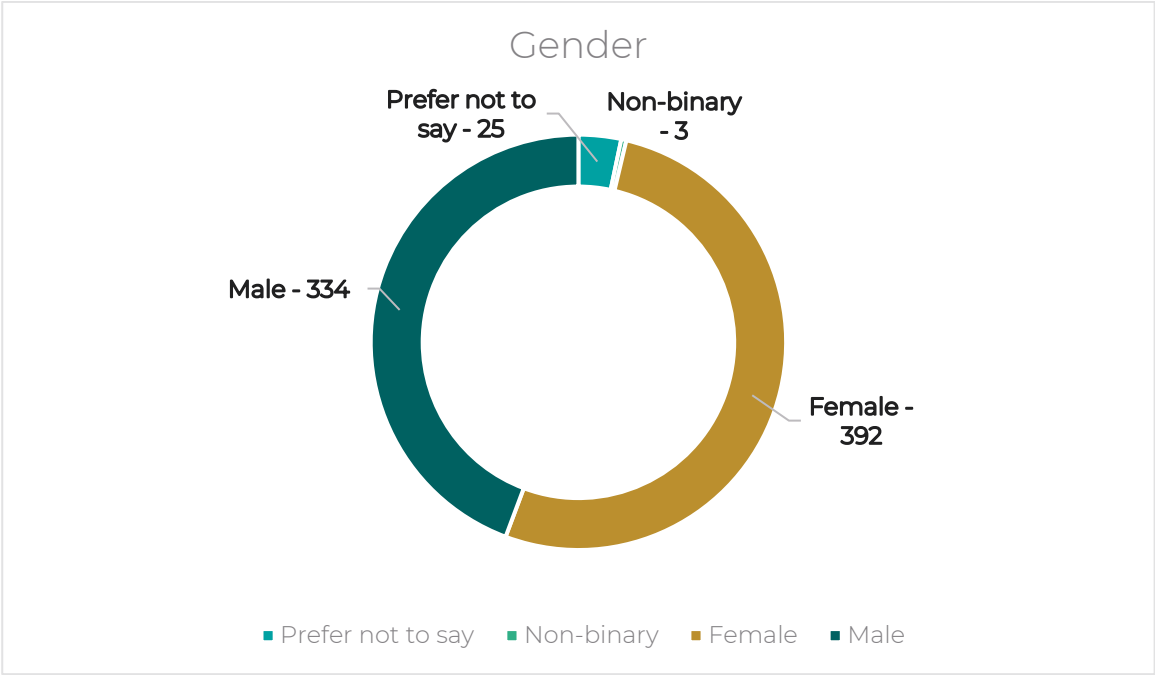
#### 105. In which local authority do you live?



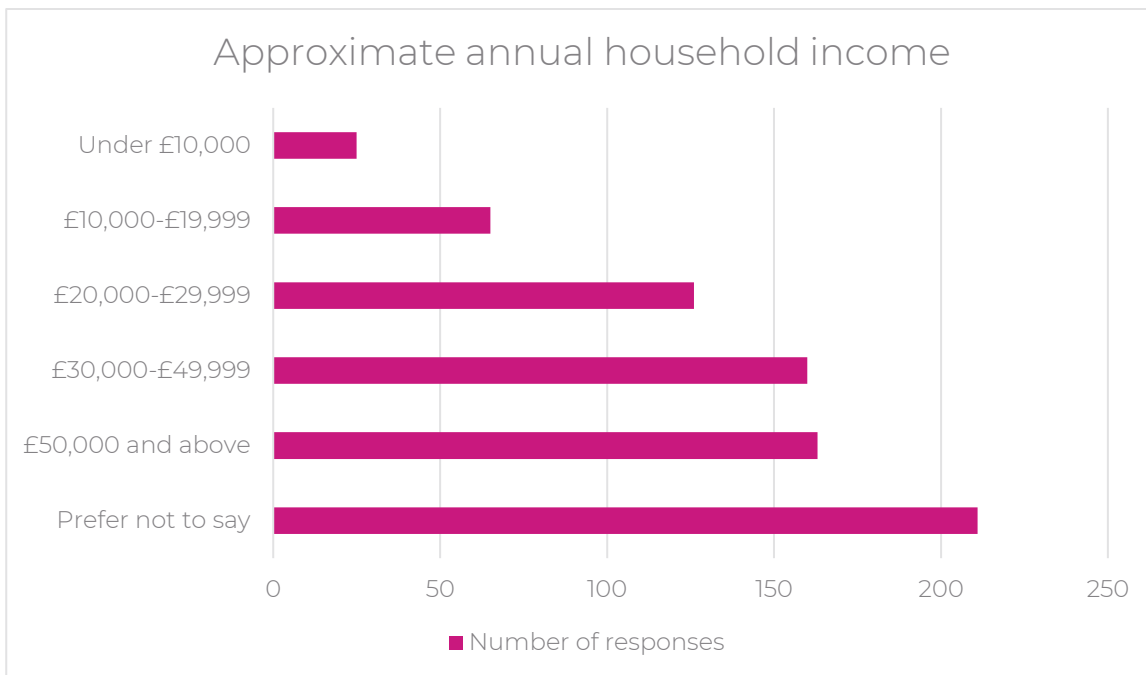
**106.** What is your age group?



**107.** What is your gender?



**108.** What is your approximate annual household income?



**109.** How did you hear about this survey

