

Huw Irranca-Davies MS
Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for
Climate Change and Rural Affairs

22 October 2025

Dear Huw

Prohibition of Greyhound Racing (Wales) Bill

Thank you for appearing before Committee on 20 October 2025 to discuss the Prohibition of Greyhound Racing (Wales) Bill ("the Bill").

There were a number of matters that we did not have time to raise with you fully during the session. As such, I would be grateful if you would consider and respond to the questions in the Annex by 5 November 2025.

Yours sincerely,



Mike Hedges
Chair

ANNEX

Question 1: A version of the Bill was published shortly before introduction. What changes were made to this version of the Bill before its introduction?

Question 2: The Regulatory Impact assessment states that the “Welsh Government submitted a Justice System Impact Identification Form to the Ministry of Justice and engagement is ongoing.” Can you provide an update?

Question 3: The Integrated Impact Assessment published on the Welsh Government website states that “[t]he policy objective is to introduce primary legislation to prohibit greyhound racing. If approved, the legislation will be subject to a review no later than five years after it has come into force.” The Bill does not provide for such a review, so how will you ensure that this review takes place?

Question 4: Why does the equality, diversity, inclusion and human rights impact assessment not include any information in relation to the interference with Article 8 rights?

Question 5: The equality, diversity, inclusion and human rights impact assessment, in relation to Article 1 of the First Protocol to the European Convention on Human Rights, states that “[t]here may be a negative impact to the owners of Valley Greyhounds, in that they may be deprived of using their property as they wish.” Do you consider this Bill to amount to a deprivation of property in relation to Valley Stadium?

Question 6: Do you consider restricting how Valley Stadium will be able to use its property is “in the general interest”, for the purpose of Article 1 of the First Protocol? If so, please explain how.

Question 7: Do you consider the prohibition to be proportionate, and does it strike a fair balance between the general interest and the private interests of Valley Stadium? If so, please explain how.

Supplementary: Did you consider any alternatives that would have had a less invasive impact on Valley Stadium?

Question 8: In relation to the negative impacts of the proposals, the reason for the decision given in the impact assessment is “[t]hese proposals need to be balanced against the prevention of animals suffering for sport.” Considering the negative consequences of the prohibition on Valley Stadium, are you satisfied this assessment is sufficiently detailed for the purposes of justifying the interference with Valley Stadium’s right to peaceful enjoyment of their possessions?

Question 9: What assessments have been made of the contracts currently in place at Valley Stadium and are there any contracts that would be in place beyond the earliest date a ban could come into force?

Supplementary: Why has this information not been included in the equality, diversity, inclusion and human rights impact assessment?

Question 10: Are you of the view that the rights of owners and keepers of greyhounds that currently race in Wales are impacted by the provisions of this Bill? Have any assessments been carried out?

Supplementary, if the previous answer is that the rights of owners/keepers are impacted: Why has this information not been included in the equality, diversity, inclusion and human rights impact assessment?

Question 11: If there are questions surrounding a dog's breed, who will determine the breed for the purposes of enforcing the offences in the Bill?

Question 12: The Explanatory Notes to the Bill state that the offence under section 1(1)(b) of organising greyhound racing in Wales could include organising such a race on "open land". Is the Bill clear enough in what could be captured by this offence?

