

**Pwyllgor Diwylliant, Cyfathrebu, y Gymraeg,
Chwaraeon, a Chysylltiadau Rhyngwladol**

**Culture, Communications, Welsh Language,
Sport, and International Relations
Committee**

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

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Approach to consideration of the Greyhound (Wales) Bill

Dear Huw,

I understand the Welsh Government is aiming to introduce the Greyhound (Wales) Bill to the Senedd on 29 September 2025. The Business Committee has decided to refer the Bill to the Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee for scrutiny.

I note that the proposed timetable allows only eight sitting weeks for Stage 1 committee consideration. This will significantly limit the time available both to the Committee and external stakeholders to undertake thorough scrutiny of the Bill. I am sure you can appreciate that we will want to make the most of this limited time and will want to start our evidence gathering as soon as possible.

To enable this, I am writing to request that the Welsh Government commits to publishing the Bill and associated materials, such as the Explanatory Memorandum, in draft on 1 September, or as soon as practically possible, in advance of the Bill's introduction. This would give key stakeholders the opportunity to consider, at an early stage, the proposals in the draft Bill. We intend to launch a call for written evidence and hold oral evidence sessions with external stakeholders as soon as possible after the introduction of the Bill. Without early access to the draft Bill, stakeholders will have very limited time to prepare their contributions.

I understand that an implementation group to guide the transition towards a ban on greyhound racing in Wales has been set up by the Welsh Government. I would be grateful if you could provide

the Committee with a list of stakeholders in this group. Given the limited time available for scrutiny, this would help to ensure that we engage with as many interested stakeholders as possible.

I also understand that the Welsh Government's decision to ban greyhound racing in Wales has been the subject of a judicial review application. I would be grateful if you could please share your view as to whether the proposed challenge affects your plans to introduce the Bill. The decision to lodge a judicial review also highlights the importance of publishing the Bill early in draft to ensure that we can engage as widely as possible on its proposals.

Finally, I would request that the Welsh Government makes officials available to provide the Committee with a private technical briefing on the Bill prior to its introduction. This would greatly assist our preparatory work.

Despite the eight-week Stage 1 being far from ideal, the Committee is committed to scrutinising the Bill to the fullest extent possible in the time available. I therefore hope that you will appreciate that we are in a difficult position and that these are exceptional circumstances which require a change to the usual approach to Bill scrutiny.

I would ask that you please consider our proposed approach at the earliest opportunity.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Business Committee.

Yours sincerely,



Delyth Jewell AS
Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.