

Introduction

Following the recent Ministerial Statement, the discussion held in the Siambr on 30th September and the Culture Committee hearing on 2nd October, we would like to provide a response to Members' contributions which demonstrated a lack of awareness of both the current regulatory environment and the realities of the licensed greyhound racing.

As regulator of the greyhound industry, the Greyhound Board of Great Britain believes that all those in a position to make a decision on the future of the sport in Wales must be fully aware of the facts of the matter, rather than relying on hearsay or outdated arguments.

We continue to ask Members to engage with all sides of the arguments; despite differing opinions we believe that the voices of the communities affected should be given a fair hearing and are grateful to those who have visited the Valley to see first-hand the positive impacts of regulation on greyhound welfare and the local economy. The Valley Stadium continues to extend an open invite to Senedd Members to visit the track as the legislation moves through the Senedd.

Misrepresentation of Public Opinion and Consultation Data

- **Claims that “35,000 people across Wales” called for an end to greyhound racing are misleading.**
 - The Petition Committee data confirms that only 53% of the 35,101 signatories were actually in Wales, and the petition itself predates the licensing of the Valley Stadium. It is therefore not a reflection of current standards or public sentiment regarding regulated greyhound racing in Wales.
 - A counter-petition supporting greyhound racing received over 10,000 signatures but was not considered until after the Minister had already proposed a ban, demonstrating a lack of balance in how public opinion has been presented.
- **The consultation cited as evidence of “strong public concern” cannot credibly be described as overwhelming support for a ban.**
 - This consultation involved just over 1,100 responses—less than 0.04% of the Welsh population, and at no point on the Welsh Government’s website page for the consultation, was it made clear that this was consulting on a ban ([see here](#)).
 - Notably, in the Welsh Government’s own analysis of the responses to the consultation they made clear that 40% of those supporting a ban (28.32% of all responses) were in fact duplicates of the same campaign response submitted by different people, yet these were still used to justify the policy shift.
 - Excluding these duplicate responses, 36% of respondents supported a phased ban and 35% opposed a ban or were undecided.
 - The voices of those directly involved in the sport, as well as the communities and businesses that rely on it, have been consistently sidelined in favour of campaign-led narratives.

Outdated and Unevidenced Welfare Claims

- **Assertions of “a lot of wastage” in the industry are based on outdated myths.**

- All British-bred greyhound litters are registered and tracked, and robust schemes are in place to ensure the welfare and retirement of every racing greyhound.
- **Injury statistics are frequently misrepresented.**
 - GBGB's data records the number of injuries, not the number of individual greyhounds injured.
 - Minor injuries (such as scrapes or split webs) are counted separately and most dogs return to racing within 28 days. Serious injuries are managed with veterinary oversight and supported by dedicated retirement schemes.
 - The injury rate reached a record low in 2024 of just 1.07% against total runs.
 - Contrary to claims made in the Senedd there is no evidence to suggest that an increase in racing correlates with an increase in the '*propensity*', for an injury to occur.

Failure to Recognise Regulatory Improvements

- **Welfare concerns highlighted in the Senedd stem from a time period before licensing**
 - GBGB agrees that standards in unlicensed greyhound racing are often far below acceptable which is why we have worked tirelessly to implement consistent and effective regulation.
 - Many of the welfare concerns cited by campaigners and referenced in Senedd debates relate to a period before the Valley Stadium was licensed and regulated by the GBGB.
 - Since licensing, there have been significant improvements in welfare standards, veterinary oversight, and transparency. The Valley Stadium now operates under a comprehensive regulatory regime, with regular independent inspections, strict veterinary oversight and ongoing investment in track safety and greyhound care.

Economic and Community Impact Overlooked

- **The economic and social value of the Valley Stadium as a community asset has been ignored in the rush to legislate.**
 - The track provides employment, supports local businesses and serves as a social hub in the area.
 - The Welsh Government made little effort to assess the important role the track plays, both socially and economically, before pursuing this legislation and the Minister has never visited the stadium. Despite the Valley submitting evidence on job numbers, the economic impact assessment for the Bill has ignored this and stated: "*The prohibition of greyhound racing would result in a direct financial loss to the Valley Stadium business, which currently profits from greyhound racing. The financial impact on the owners is not known, due to the lack of available data on its financial activities linked to greyhound racing.*"

Summary

The debates on the proposed Bill have so far been dominated by outdated perceptions, selective and often misinterpreted data, and a failure to engage with or acknowledge the realities of a now-regulated industry. Any decision on the future of greyhound racing in Wales must be based on *current* evidence, balanced consultation, and a genuine understanding of the improvements made since regulation. We urge all stakeholders to engage with the facts, visit the Valley Stadium, and ensure that the voices of those most affected are heard.