

Rebecca Evans AC / AM
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Ffermio a Bwyd
Deputy Minister for Farming and Food



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref PE1555
Ein cyf/Our ref RE/00490/15

Ned Sharratt
Assistant Clerk
The Scottish Parliament Public Petitions Committee
Public Petitions Clerks
Room T3.40
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

Petitions@scottish.parliament.uk

5 August 2015

Dear Ned,

Thank you for your letter about Petition PE1555 (Electric shock and vibration collars for animals) asking for an update and possible timelines on the Welsh Government's review of the policy intent behind the Animal Welfare (Electronic Collars) (Wales) Regulations 2010.

Such a review is part of good practice to ensure the policy intent is still valid and that the legislation is still fit for purpose and based on the latest available evidence. These Regulations were made in 2010 and because there has been research published since the making of those Regulations it is timely to begin this review work.

I stated in Plenary on the 18 June 2015 that I had met with the Chair of the Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework Group and discussed this specific issue with him. The Framework Group have now considered the policy and agreed that further work should be undertaken through a literature review by an appropriate University Department or independent researcher. My officials are currently arranging this.

Officials have also met with two interested parties who have made their concerns known about these Regulations. Also you may be aware that a collective view of support for these Welsh Regulations was also made earlier this year via an alliance of the RSPCA, Blue Cross, Kennel Club, Battersea Dogs and Cats Home. My officials have offered to meet with the alliance should they wish to do so.

At this point in time I am unable to provide you with a timeline for the review but am willing to advise further when progress has been made on this subject.

I am also content to share the final outcomes of that review with the Committee in due course.

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