

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

(√ March 2016

Dear Ned,

I write further to our correspondence about Petition PE1555 (Electric shock and vibration collars for animals). I committed to providing you with an update once the Welsh Government's review of the policy intent behind the Animal Welfare (Electronic Collars) (Wales) Regulations 2010 had concluded.

I tasked Dr Ruth Lysons, MA MSc VetMB MRCVS, with carrying out this review together with Dr Nick Coulson, MA MBA PhD VetMB MRCVS who reviewed Dr Lysons assessment. Both are independent consultants. The review has also been scrutinised by the members of the Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework Group who have accepted its findings.

The review considered all recent scientific evidence in relation to the welfare implications for cats and dogs arising from the use of electronic collars and taking into account evidence from the Electronic Collars Manufacturers Association (ECMA), the third sector and other individuals who submitted evidence. This was to set out the potential benefits and efficacy of electronic collars against the animal welfare concerns, in order to reach conclusions about whether their benefits outweighed the animal welfare costs.

Dr. Lysons concluded that that the animal welfare cost is likely to exceed the benefits from the use of electronic collars as training devices, since they may cause pain, that effective alternatives exist, and the scope for misuse or abuse is too great. The full report is attached to this letter for your information.

Based on this advice I am content to retain the existing policy in Wales and advise that the Welsh Government will not be considering amending the existing legislation at this time.

Rebecca Evans AC / AM

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