

**PE1400/H**

**Environment and Forestry Directorate**

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Anne Peat  
Public Petitions Committee  
Scottish Parliament  
T3.40  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP

12 June 2012

Dear Ms Peat,

**CONSIDERATION OF PETITION PE1400**

I am writing to you to update you on where the Scottish Government is with regards to plans on wild animals in circuses.

Dr Williams wrote to you on the 15<sup>th</sup> March in response to your request for an update on progress, explaining that she was still awaiting clarification on the full impact of certain outstanding legal issues before firming up plans for a consultation on the matter. At that time she had hoped to be in a position to respond to you before the summer recess.

Unfortunately due to the combined impact of other, higher priority, work in relation to rural affairs matters, this particular piece of work has unfortunately had to be delayed. As a result, the current estimate of when firm plans might be put in place is winter 2012.

I apologise that I can't give you a more definitive answer at this point in time.

Yours sincerely

**Dave Thomson**

Directorate Business Manager