



PE1400/I

Chris Hynd
Committee Assistant
Public Petitions Committee
Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

26 November 2012

Dear Chris

Public Petition PE01400 – ban on wild animals in travelling circuses

OneKind would like to thank the Committee for its continued consideration of the above Petition.

As noted in the Clerk's briefing, the Scottish Government advised in June that due to other higher priority work, its current estimate of when firm plans for a consultation on the use of wild animals in travelling circuses might be in place was winter 2012. There is as yet no sign of any consultation on this matter.

We appreciate that this is not the highest animal welfare priority for the Scottish Government. Since the re-homing of Anne the elephant and Monty the camel from Bobby Roberts Super Circus, there are now no travelling circuses using wild animals that visit Scotland or that have their headquarters in Scotland (although this could easily change). However in other respects it would be appropriate for the Scottish Government and Parliament to make their views plain on the issue at this time. The recent passage in the UK Parliament of strict licensing regulations for England, and the prospect of a full ban in due course, might otherwise encourage circuses currently based in England to consider moving to Scotland.

We note that one of the options for the Committee is to write to the relevant Minister expressing disappointment that there has been no progress on this as yet and asking when it expects to have firm plans in place for a consultation.

We would respectfully suggest that it would also be helpful to ask the Scottish Government whether it would at least make a statement of its commitment to a ban, subject of course to the



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due consultation process when time allows. Hopefully that would deter travelling circuses who might be contemplating a move north of the border.

Yours sincerely

Libby Anderson
Policy Director