



PE1400/K

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

24 January 2013

Dear Chris

PE1400 – Ban on wild animals in circuses

Thank you for informing me that the Public Petitions Committee will consider the OneKind petition PE1400 on Tuesday 5 February. We are very grateful to the Committee for questioning the Scottish Government about its commitment to a ban on the use of wild animals in circuses coming to Scotland.

We note that in its response the Scottish Government acknowledges the concern that new licensing regulations for England might push circuses currently based in England over the border into Scotland. That is indeed one of our concerns.

We were interested to learn from the Scottish Government's response to the Committee that:

"(...) the Parliamentary Under Secretary for DEFRA recently wrote to the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment. The letter outlined DEFRA's plans to introduce primary legislation to ban the use of wild animals in travelling circuses and offered to extend the scope of that legislation to Scotland."

OneKind sees value in legislation being made on a UK-wide basis and hopes that the Scottish Government will agree to the proposal. We believe that similar offers have been made to the administrations in Wales and Northern Ireland.

As the Committee is aware, there are currently no travelling circuses with animals based in Scotland. However, animal circuses have threatened to move to Scotland in the past and it now



HumanKind. AnimalKind. OneKind.

OneKind is a Registered Trade Mark
Registered charity no SC041299
Company limited by guarantee no 158471

10 Queensferry Street
Edinburgh EH2 4PG
Telephone +44 (0)131 225 6039
Fax +44 (0)131 220 6377
www.onekind.org

appears that progress in Scotland is even more closely linked to developments in other parts of the UK.

We believe that the interest taken by the Public Petitions Committee in this issue has helped to ensure due consideration by the Scottish Government, but there is some way to go before legal issues and the consultation process are resolved. There are still risks connected with further delays. We would therefore be most grateful if the Petition could remain on the Committee's agenda while further developments are awaited.

Yours sincerely

Libby Anderson

Policy Director