

**PE1400/L**

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



23 April 2013

Dear Chris

**PE 1400**

Thank you for notifying OneKind that the Public Petitions Committee will consider petition PE1400 on the use of wild animals in circuses at its meeting on Tuesday 30 April.

In case Members are not already aware, I wanted to let the Committee know that the draft Wild Animals in Circuses Bill was introduced in the Westminster Parliament on Tuesday 16 April. Under the proposals all travelling circuses in England must stop using wild animal acts by December 2015.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/protecting-animal-welfare/supporting-pages/wild-animals-in-travelling-circuses>

As has been stated before in the Committee, the advent of new legislation in England could well encourage wild animal circuses to move north of the border.

The UK government has, however, offered to include the devolved administrations within the scope of its proposed legislation. The most recent statement from the Scottish Government was that it was still considering the matter, and clarifying the legal position, and that a consultation would be held before a final decision is taken.

OneKind is concerned about the continued delay over this issue and believes that allowing Westminster to extend its Bill to cover Scotland would be an efficient approach to dealing with this matter. Continued pressure in England, and the expectation of a ban, has led to the number of wild animals in UK circuses reducing and we want to see that trend continue.

There are other pressing animal welfare issues awaiting legislation in Scotland, and in a congested legislative timetable it seems sensible to resolve the circus issue and so that parliamentary attention can be turned to some of these. We would be very grateful if the Committee could ask the Scottish Government for an estimated date for its proposed consultation.

Yours sincerely

Libby Anderson

Policy Director

OneKind

[www.onekind.org](http://www.onekind.org)