

2014.03.19 16:58:21

## Received answer

## 2. Title

Doctor

## 3. Surname

Brown

## 4. Forename

David

## 5. Postal Address

NAC 248

## 9. Permissions - I am responding as

Individual

## 10. Do you agree to your response being made available to the public (in Scottish Government library and/or on the Scottish Government web site)?

Yes

## 12. Please tick ONE of the following boxes

Yes, make my response and name available but not my address

## 14. We will share your responses internally with other Scottish Government policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for the Scottish Government to contact you again in relation to this consultation exercise?

Yes

## 15. It would be helpful for our analysis if you could indicate which of the sectors you most align yourself/your organisation with the purpose of this consultation (please tick one)

Member of the general public

## 17. Consultation Question 1: Do you believe that the exhibitions and performances required of wild animals in travelling circuses compromise respect for the animals concerned? Why?

Yes

## 18. Comments

Yes I do. Wild animals in circuses often suffer from poor care, chronic health problems and abusive treatment. They often exhibit psychological disorders and aberrant behaviour, including aggression and regularly die prematurely. Essentially they are deprived of everything that is natural and important to them, are kept in cages or pens, have their spirits broken and are isolated, shackled, lonely, degraded and bored.

## 19. Consultation Question 2: Do you believe that the exhibitions and performances required of wild animals in travelling circuses have an adverse impact on the development of respectful and responsible attitudes towards animals in children and young people? Why?

Yes

## 20. Comments

Exposing children and young people to the abuse of animals in the circus industry teaches them that it's acceptable to dominate, whip, chain and beat other living, feeling beings who experience the pain of the whips and the stress of confinement to the same extent that we would. Obviously, these things are not acceptable, and such lessons in insensitivity are not what most parents would knowingly want to teach their children. Furthermore, experts in early childhood development have recommended against taking children to circuses that force animals to perform after finding that such acts inhibit a child's ability to develop empathy towards both humans and animals alike by teaching them that other living beings are merely objects to be manipulated for their own enjoyment.

## 21. Consultation Question 3: Do you consider that concerns relating to respect for animals could be resolved without banning the use of wild animals in travelling circuses. If so how?

No

## 22. Comments

There is simply no humane way to use animals in circuses. In addition to being subjected to premature maternal separation, the constant threat of physical punishment and prolonged and unnatural confinement, these animals are deprived of the opportunity to satisfy virtually all their species-specific needs and instincts. The use of wild animals in circuses must be banned because the welfare problems experienced by animals in travelling circuses are inherent and cannot be corrected by any change in practice.

## 23. Consultation Question 4: Do you believe that the ability of none, some, or all wild animals to undertake natural behaviours are compromised within the travelling circus environment? Which species? Which needs? Why?

All

## 24. Comments

Circuses cannot adequately provide for the unique physical, social and psychological needs of any species of wild animals or provide an environment that is well suited to their natural behaviour. Elephants are highly intelligent, possess exceptional memory, are self-aware and express emotions such as joy, anger, grief, sympathy and playfulness. Tigers are apex predators with home ranges of hundreds of square miles in the wild, yet circuses force them to live most of their lives in transport cages that are barely bigger than their own bodies. In the wild, grazing animals such as zebras and camels spend a large part of their day eating. Circuses cannot provide permanent outdoor paddocks for grazing, so these animals spend much of their time confined to indoor stalls or tied to transport vehicles. In addition, in travelling circuses, social species, such as elephants, are often kept in isolation, while animals who are naturally solitary, such as tigers, are commonly kept in groups.

## 25. Consultation Question 5: Do you consider that it is possible to facilitate the natural behaviour of none, some, or all wild animals within the travelling circus environment? Which species? How?

None

## 26. Comments

The comments made at paragraph 4 above apply

## 27. Consultation Question 6: Do you consider that the concerns raised surrounding the travelling environment could be resolved without banning the use of wild animals in travelling circuses? How?

No

## 28. Comments

The welfare problems experienced by animals in travelling circuses are inherent in their use and cannot be corrected by any change in practice. Extreme confinement and physical stress during transport combined with the use of psychologically and possibly physically abusive training methods - inevitably compromise the welfare of these animals.

## 29. Consultation Question 7: Do you consider that there are any benefits to be gained from having wild animals in travelling circuses? What are they?

No

## 30. Comments

It is well-established that suffering is inherent in the use of wild animals in circuses, which is why this archaic form of entertainment has no place in a civilised society. There is nothing to be gained from forcing animals to perform in an unnatural environment. In 2010, 94.5 per cent of respondents to a Defra consultation voted in favour of an outright ban on all wild animals in travelling circuses. A multitude of countries have banned the use of cruel training tools, such as bull hooks, whips and electric prods in circuses or have banned the exhibition of exotic animals altogether.

## 31. Consultation Question 8: Do you believe that there are sufficient benefits to justify the potential compromise to the wider well-being of wild animals kept in the travelling circus? Why?

No

## 32. Comments

There are no benefits to keeping animals incarcerated for human amusement. No animal will voluntarily perform the physically gruelling and grossly exaggerated manoeuvres featured in a typical circus act.

## 33. Consultation Question 9: Do you consider that the potential conflict between compromising the well-being of wild animals and obtaining any benefit could be resolved without banning the use of wild animals in travelling circuses. If so how?

No

## 34. Comments

See my comments above

36. Number in last 5 years

Two

37. Number in last 12 months

None

38. Don't Know

Don't know

40. Consultation Question 11: What effect do you think a ban on the use and exhibition of wild animals would have on the revenue of such circuses? Why?

Increase

41. Comments

It would increase them. With growing public awareness of the cruelty inherent in animal circuses, interest is declining in circuses that continue to use animals. Circuses that do not use wild animals remain profitable.

42. Consultation Question 12: If a ban on the use and exhibition of wild animals was imposed, do you think that such circuses would still visit Scotland without the wild animals? Why?

Yes

43. Comments

All such circuses need to evolve with changing public opinion. In order to comply with an existing ban in the US, the Cole Bros Circus was forced to present an animal-free version of its show and celebrated the resultant production as "just as dazzling and just as amazing" as the version that uses animals.

44. Consultation Question 13: What effect do you think a ban on the use and exhibition of wild animals in travelling circuses would have on the revenue of other types of circuses (e.g. static or those travelling without wild animals)? Why?

No Change

45. Comments

Banning the use of wild animals in circuses would bring Scotland and the circus companies more in line with public sentiment, meaning that the circus industry's reputation would be improved.

46. Consultation Question 14: What effect do you think a ban on the use and exhibition of wild animals in travelling circuses would have on the revenue of circus venues? Why?

Increase

47. Comments

People paying for entertainment will pay the same amount regardless of the particular acts involved

48. Consultation Question 15: Do you consider that a ban on wild animals in travelling circuses could have an impact on other industries? If so, which industries, what would be the effect and why?

Film

- Positive impact

TV - drama

- Positive impact

TV - documentary

- Positive impact

TV - childrens

- Positive impact

Advertising - TV

- Positive impact

Advertising - other

- Positive impact

Other

- Positive impact

Other

- Positive impact

Other

- Positive impact

50. Consultation Question 16: Do you agree that the use of wild animals for performance in travelling circuses should be banned in Scotland? Why?

Yes

51. Comments

Wild animals in circuses, whether for the purpose of performance or exhibition, endure poor care, chronic health problems and abusive treatment. They also experience psychological disorders and aberrant behaviour, including aggression, and die prematurely. Many countries - including Austria, Bolivia, Finland, India and Singapore - have now recognised that travelling circuses are unable to address the welfare needs of wild animals adequately and have implemented bans or prohibitions on the use of wild-animal acts, and Sweden

52. Consultation Question 17: Do you agree that the use of wild animals for exhibition in travelling circuses should be banned in Scotland? Why?

Yes

53. Comments

See 16 above

54. Consultation Question 18: Do you consider that any ban should be a blanket ban on all wild animals in travelling circuses? Why?

Yes

55. Comments

The use of wild animals in circuses must be banned because the welfare problems that the animals experience are inherent in their use and cannot be corrected by any change in practice. Extreme confinement and physical stress during transport - in combination with the use of psychologically and possibly physically abusive training methods - inevitably compromise the welfare of the animals. Similarly, a ban on the use of wild animals in circuses should apply to all species. Circuses cannot adequately provide

56. Consultation Question 19: Do you consider that any specific species of animal not commonly domesticated in the British Islands should be permitted to be used in travelling circuses in Scotland? If so, which species and why?

No

57. Comments

Circuses cannot adequately provide for the unique physical, social and psychological needs of any wild animal. Many countries - including Austria, Bolivia, Finland, India and Singapore - have now recognised this fact and have implemented bans or prohibitions on the use of wild-animal acts, and England will follow suit in 2015.

59. Comments

All species of animals experience pain, terror, neglect and abuse. Only a blanket ban on the use of wild animals in circuses can prevent such exploitation from taking place.

60. Consultation Question 21: Do you have any other comments on whether/how the use of wild animals in travelling circuses should be banned from Scotland?

Yes

61. Comments

Please see my response to Question 20. A complete ban on wild animals in circuses is the only way to prevent abuse.

62. Consultation Question 22: Do you consider that the consultation paper explained the key issues sufficiently for you to properly consider your responses?

Yes

64. Consultation Question 23: Do you consider that you had sufficient time to respond to the consultation?

Yes

66. Consultation Question 24: Do you have any other comments on the way this consultation has been conducted?

No

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