

WAC 429

Received answer

1. Organisation name
[REDACTED]
2. Title
Doctor
3. Surname
Byrne
4. Forename
Sandie
5. Postal Address
[REDACTED]
6. Postcode
[REDACTED]
7. Phone Number
[REDACTED]
8. E-mail
[REDACTED]
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
Because circuses inflict pain and suffering on animals, they take animals away from the proper environments, they force animals to perform actions not natural to them, they treat animals as entertainment commodities. All of these suggest a lack of respect for animals.
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
The exhibition and use of animals in circuses suggest to young people and children that it is acceptable to use animals for profit and entertainment, and may suggest that animals willingly participate or do not suffer in being used in circuses, thus generating a less than respectful or responsible attitude towards animals.
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
Merely bringing in better regulation or better-enforced regulation would not prevent animals from being taken away from proper habitats, nor the suffering inflicted during training and performance.
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
The travelling circus environment involves caging or otherwise constraining animals. Natural behaviour such as hunting, mating, ranging, and sometimes simply exercising or stretching is compromised. Often, pack and social animals are made solitary and different species are forced to be in inappropriately close proximity. Transportation of animals involves frightening and disorientating environments.
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
No wild animal has a natural behaviour of being loaded onto a lorry or into a container or cage. No wild animal has a natural behaviour of performing learned tasks in front of a crowd within a tent.
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 environment created by a travelling circus is so different from the natural environment of wild animals, and likely to lead to injury and suffering during travel, during training, and in performance. Mitigating the suffering by legislation for better conditions might improve things but would be difficult to enforce and would not result in an environment which resembled the natural habitats. Since animals do not perform 'naturally', i.e. spontaneously, without punishment, nothing short of a ban would be satisfactory.
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
I see no benefits.
32. Comments
No I do not believe that there are sufficient benefits to justify the potential compromise to the well-being of wild animals kept in travelling circuses. Conservation and study can better be carried out in other ways.
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
As I do not believe that there are any benefits, then there is no conflict between compromising the well-being of animals and benefits.
36. Number in last 5 years
2
37. Number in last 12 months
0
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?
No change
41. Comments
If an audience plans to visit a circus they will attend for acts other than the animals. People concerned with the ethical issues of circuses will currently boycott circuses but may return to performances if circuses are shown to be taking measures to behave in more responsible ways.
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

Some circuses may choose to visit countries which have no restraints on the transportation, treatment, and training of animals, but others which do cease to use animals, or which currently do not, will visit. Performance companies such as Cirque de Soleil will perform.

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?

Increase

45. Comments

It is likely that people who currently avoid circuses for ethical reasons will be more willing to attend, and unlikely that many people will cease to attend because no animal acts are included. If, however, this questions includes static circuses which use wild animals, then that revenue is not likely to rise, and may diminish as the exclusion of animals from travelling circuses may highlight the unethical nature of other circuses which use animals.

47. Comments

As the answer above.

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

- No impact

Advertising - other

- No impact

Other

- No impact

Other

- No impact

Other

- No 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

For all the reasons set out in earlier answers and to demonstrate the commitment to ethical behaviour specially about animal welfare but also generally, of Scotland.

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

Exhibition entails transport and confinement as well as an unnatural environment and exposure to noise and distress, even if not enforced performance.

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

Because all animals suffer from inappropriate environments, confinement, travel, and training.

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

58. Consultation Question 20: Do you consider that there are key species that should be covered by a ban in the event that a blanket ban could not be achieved? If so, which species and why?

No

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?

No

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?

Yes

67. Comments

I am pleased to have this opportunity for consultation.

Reply to this respondent

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