

WAC 560

1 [REDACTED]

2014.03.20 21:02:40

Received answer

2. Title

Mrs

3. Surname

Barber

4. Forename

Elizabeth

5. Postal Address

6. [REDACTED]

7. [REDACTED]

8. [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

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

Don't know

20. Comments

It would be so easy to answer yes to this question, but not sure. As a child I used to go to circuses featuring wild animals, and I don't feel it had a negative impact on my attitudes - possibly the reverse because I remember seeing how the lions were caged after the circus and thinking how awful it was. Nowadays however, as adults have developed greater awareness of the total undesirability of having wild animals in travelling circuses, I would expect adults to explain to their children why they would not condone this.

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

As noted above, now there is much greater awareness and understanding of the lives of wild animals in travelling circuses, adults need to support this ban, and to encourage their children to do so.

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

To name a few off the top of my head - totally inadequate living space - wild animals roam outdoors, often over many miles. Inappropriate temperatures / seasonal factors. Lack of opportunity for natural social behaviour, however that translates for an individual species. Much as I dislike the thought of any animal being hurt / killed, opportunities for natural hunting. "Tricks" they are expected to perform and training practices used to "persuade" the animal to perform - none of these are natural, even if not directly cruel. Just as domestic animals show signs of depression if their environment does not fulfil their needs, wild animals will also suffer.

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 travelling circus stops at a location for a short time, does a handful of performances, then moves on. Whilst being moved, the animals have to be in cramped conditions, and I don't suppose they find the driving motion. Being confined will be frightening to animals, who are used to coping with fear by fight or flight but unable to do so in this situation. Then they arrive at the next location. Is their confinement reduced - probably not, unless when they are in the circus ring rehearsing or performing counts - jokes! Where can the animals be kept in order to maintain the safety of the public? A wildlife park, where the animals could have some element of freedom and opportunities for some natural behaviour cannot be towed behind a lorry, and set up next to the circus 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

All explained above.

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

Benefits to who? Certainly not the animals. The only people who may feel they benefit are the circus people who may believe that the animals are necessary to persuade the public to buy tickets. I would have thought in this day and age of enlightenment, animals were more likely to put people off going to the circus. I certainly would not go to a circus with wild animals, and I know several people who would share my views. In contrast to travelling circuses featuring wild animals, look at the success of Cirque du soleil - the prices they can charge and the sell-out audiences they play to.

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

I find it difficult to see that there are any actual benefits, even those I might not like.

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

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

Answered in previous section. People visit entertainment venues - cinemas, theatres for dance, drama, comedy, music - and pay high prices, without an animal in sight. They do not feel the need to boycott a venue as many would boycott a travelling circus with wild animal performers

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?

Don't know

43. Comments

Obviously they would have to rethink some of their acts, but that is not impossible. Businesses develop and grow - again I cite the success of Cirque du Soleil.

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

People who already visit circuses without animals would continue to do so - I can't see why there might be a reduction in this. In addition there may be an increase in people visiting these circuses because they would no longer have to worry about checking whether wild animals were involved before booking tickets. Finally, it is also possible that people who used to attend animal circuses might still want to attend circuses of some kind and be willing to give the new style a try.

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?

Don't know

47. Comments

I wouldn't have thought there were that many travelling circuses with animals to adversely affect the revenue of circus venues, given that travelling circuses would be likely to adapt and return to venues with a different type of performance.

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?

49. Comments

Not sure but probably no significant impact. Any, even if there was, wild animals in travelling circuses should still be banned. Slavery would never have been abolished if only financial implications had been considered.

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

It should be banned everywhere. Scotland is a start.

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

As 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

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

59. Comments

As many as possible.

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?

Don't know

65. Comments

I suppose it is a matter of availability of time. I could have spent much longer on each question, but whilst I think it is valuably spent, it is time taken away from other tasks, so I had to curtail my answers on later questions.

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

No

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