

WAC 774

Received answer

2. Title

Miss

3. Surname

Brown

4. Forename

Elidh

5. Postal Address

6.

7.

8.

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

By definition they are wild, they are being exploited and made to act in a way that changes and distorts public perceptions of what and who they really are, living creatures who belong to wild spaces, not circuses or cooped up and on the road. Being made into a performing spectacle damages their well-being, and isolates them from their true nature, family and community groupings and natural habitat.

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

They are perceived by viewers as toys or puppets, it supports the view that people can basically do what they like with animals for their own pleasure and delight without enough regard shown to the animal, particularly wild animals that have not entered into a domestic/cultivated relationship with people in a gradual evolutionary sense. They are used by circuses as 'exotica', in the same way that people have been exploited for being different or freakish in the past (and perhaps still in some examples).

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

Its not simply a question of basic welfare like food and shelter, it is to do with respect, dignity and recognising these animals as living creatures, who often have complex relationships, feelings, instincts and the ability to be independent of people. To put them into the world of people rather than celebrate them in the environment and animal culture in which they have developed. Yes I do believe wild animals have their own cultures, and ways of being that we have much to learn from. Circuses do not provide any sort of environment for learning and understanding their wild natures, or the places they come from and way they would interact with the species and habitat around them.

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

Yes, as I have said previously, this is not the environment in which they have evolved nor where they can feasibly live the kind of life that they would do in the wild. Quite simply they can and do feel distress and suffer from both physical and mental health problems when taken from the environment that is both made for and by them, and it in fact highlights that people are losing their own well being when they lose the ability to perceive this distress.

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

This could only happen in such a compromised way, how could a tiger used to a vast territory and complex relationship with many of its own kind, and of other animals possibly find that replicated, let alone replicating a wild environment within the enclosed confines of a travelling circus. Even a safari park or rescue centre is a very compromised alternative though in many cases sadly necessary, but a circus is not necessary, and by its nature means confinement and isolation.

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

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

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

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

36. Number in last 5 years

I don't know

37. Number in last 12 months

I don't know

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?

Don't know

41. Comments

I don't know, but I feel that it would be up to the circus as an innov ative business to come up with other spectacles and attractions that would be enjoyed by the public, like any other sector of the entertainment industry. It is no longer legal to display people with disabilities as circus 'freaks', but I have seen some amazing circus acts, like trapeze artists, who I would gladly pay money to see again. This comes down to an industry that must be forced to change with more enlightened times if it has not managed to do so currently, and whilst I couldn't put figures on it, I'm certainly aware of having seen such circuses advertised (though I could not have told you if it was legal or not, but their inclusion of wild animals within their show would therefor put me off attending).

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

I would hope they would use the opportunity to innovate with fresh ideas and acts to fill scottish audiences with wonder, and to use the fact that they are cruelty free as a positive method of advertising, as I very much enjoy seeing skilled live performers, and surely I am not alone in this.

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

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

- No impact

TV - drama

- No impact

TV - documentary

- No impact

TV - childrens

- No impact

Advertising - TV

- No impact

Advertising - 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

It would make a clear statement that Scotland recognises the rights of wild animals to be treated with respect and dignity and celebrated within their natural environment rather. Thus people in Scotland could be proud to show themselves as more caring, kind and culturally and environmentally aware as a nation, the right kind of development indicator.

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, this is not their natural environment, this is dammaging, both the travel, and being exploited in a voyeristic display, treated as 'exotica'. They are living beings, not to be objectified for our pleasure.

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

This will prevent further cruelty to wild animals without making it complicated and therefore easy to thwart or justify.

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?

Don't know

59. Comments

I believe all wild animals should be treated with respect and dignity. Maybe it is worth highlighting particularly endangered species in the ban, but for me, I simply do not wish to support a culture in people th\t enjoys viewing animals exploited in this setting, whether they are particularly rare or not.

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?

Don't know

63. Comments

Perhaps yes, but I am not an expert on this issue, though I feel passionate about my views. There may be issues the paper overlooks and I hope those who do have the relevant expertise can point that out.

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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