

Received answer

2 Title

Mrs

3. Surname

Brown

4. Forename

Mel

WAC1504

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?

No

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

Wild animals in circuses endure poor care, chronic health problems, abusive treatment, exhibit psychological disorders. They die prematurely. They are deprived of everything that's natural and important to them, are kept in cages/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

This teaches them that it's acceptable to dominate, whip, chain and beat animals. Experts in early childhood development have recommended against taking children to circuses that force animals to perform as it inhibits a child's ability to develop empathy as it teaches them that the animals are objects to be manipulated for their 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's no humane way to use animals in circuses. They're subjected to maternal separation, have a constant threat of punishment, prolonged and unnatural confinement, deprived of the opportunity to satisfy all their needs and instincts. This must be banned because the welfare problems experienced by the animals are inherent and can't 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 can't provide for the needs of any wild animal or provide an environment that's suited to their natural behaviour. Elephants are intelligent, possess exceptional memory, are self-aware and express emotions. Tigers are predators with home ranges of hundreds of miles in the wild, yet circuses force them to live in cages.

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

In the wild, grazing animals (zebra, camels) spend a large part of their day eating. Circuses can't provide permanent outdoor paddocks, so these animals spend much of their time confined to indoor stalls/tied to vehicles. Social species (elephants) are often kept in isolation, while animals who are naturally solitary (tigers) are kept in groups.

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

It must be banned because the welfare problems experienced by the animals are inherent in their use and can't be corrected by any change in practice. Confinement and stress during transport plus the psychological and physical abusive training methods 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's a fact that suffering is inherent in these wild animals which is why this entertainment has no place in society. There's nothing to be gained from forcing animals to perform in an unnatural environment. In 2010, 94.5% of respondents to a DEFRA consultation voted in favour of an outright ban on all wild animals in travelling circuses.

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 exaggerated manoeuvres featured in a typical circus act. Without a complete ban the animals' wellbeing, mental health and dignity will be compromised, which can't be justified.

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

In addition to enduring abusive training, animals are subjected to confinement. Elephants with Ringling in the US spend up to 100hrs at a time chained inside poorly ventilated trucks whilst travelling. The only way to resolve this conflict and protect the well-being of animals is to implement a total ban on their use in circuses.

36. Number in last 5 years

2

37. Number in last 12 months

0

39. Comments

The frequency is of no consequence. Abuse should be prevented before it occurs, which can be done by implementing a complete ban on the use of wild animals in circuses. As no circus using wild animals has come to Scotland in the past year - and only a small number have done so in the past 5 yrs - it's clear that the necessary ban would have little impact on businesses, although it would have a meaningful and positive effect on animal welfare.

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

The circuses would have to reinvent themselves e.g Cirque de Soleil. With growing public awareness of the cruelty in circuses, interest is declining. Circuses that dont use animals remain profitable indicating that the use of animals isnt essential

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

The circuses would have to evolve with changing public opinion.

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 animals would bring Scotland and the circus companies in line with public sentiment, meaning the circus industrys reputation would improve. As mentioned in Q10, no animals have been used in circuses in Scotland in the past yr and very few in the past 5 yrs, implementing a ban would have no negative effect on circuses

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

A 2006 study in Massachusetts by Jennifer Fearing found that where travelling circuses arent an available entertainment option - which need not be the case here, as many circuses are succesful without animals - theres a positive impact on the economy because consumers spend the same amount on entertainment, regardless of options.

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

49. Comments

No industry which profits from compromising the welfare of animals can be ethical, and any negative effects must be considered. Any industry will be sent a message that the public and government wont tolerate abuse of animals and that the public consider the needs of captive wildlife a priority

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 endure poor care, chronic health problems and abusive treatment. They experience psychological disorders and die prematurely. Many countries now recognise that travelling circuses are unable to address the welfare needs of wild animals and have implemented bans/prohibitions on the use of wild animal acts.

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 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 welfare problems that the animals experience are inherent in their use and cant be corrected by any change in practice. Confinement and stress during transport plus abusive training methods compromise the welfare of the animals. A ban should apply to all species.

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 cant provide for the needs of any wild animal. Many countries have recognised this fact and have implemented bans

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

59. Comments

All animals experience pain, terror, neglect and abuse. A blanket ban on all animals can prevent such exploitation

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 previous answer. 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

63. Comments

Yes I only hope that they will be considered

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

Reply to this respondent

Your Response:

E-Mail Format Plain text HTML