

Received answer

2. Title

Ms

3. Surname

Allen

4. Forename

Elisa

5. Postal Address

31 Arlesford Road, London

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SW9 9JS

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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, name and address all available

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

Many of the wild animals used in circuses are animals who in nature roam hundreds of miles. In a circus environment they animals are kept in small cages where they are deprived of everything that comes naturally to them such as choosing a mate, choosing when to eat or hunt, and rearing their young. One can not promote respect for animals while causing such great psychological torment.

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

Young people learn nothing about animals by seeing them outside of their natural environments, forced to perform demeaning and unnatural tricks. Tigers do not naturally jump through burning hoops just as bears do not normally ride bicycles. The animals learn to perform these stunts through physical punishment. Exposing children to the circus industry teaches them that it's acceptable to dominate and abuse animals for mere entertainment. This is clearly not a lesson we want to pass onto our young people.

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

Animals do not exist for our entertainment.

Our understanding of the complex needs of amazing animals such as elephants, zebras and lions has come a long way. We know that bears, monkeys and tigers do not voluntarily ride bicycles, stand on their heads or jump through rings of fire. To perform these meaningless and often physically uncomfortable tricks, trainers use whips, muzzles, bullhooks and electric prods. The more we learn about these animals the clearer it is that we can no longer continue to deprive them of their natural instincts and force them to do tricks for human entertainment.

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

A circus environment could never mimic the natural environment that wild animals belong in. This is true for all wild animals - from elephants to zebras.

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

As noted above, wild animals have unique needs and instincts. It is simply not possible for a circus to meet the complex needs of all these animals.

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 only way to resolve the animals welfare concerns inherent in circuses would be to animals from circuses.

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

Our society does not benefit from the abuse of animals. Confining animals and forcing them to perform meaningless tricks only instills an idea that it is acceptable to dominate another being - clearly this is not a notion that our community should wish to espouse.

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 wild animals circuses - not for humans and certainly not for animals.

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

Two

37. Number in last 12 months

None

39. Comments

Just because wild animal circuses are not currently touring Scotland does not mean that they will not do so in the future. The only way to prevent such activities is to ban wild animals from circuses entirely.

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

A ban on the use of wild animals would simply mean that those circuses who are currently using animals would need to adapt and focus more on the human acts.

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

There is no reason to believe that these circuses could not create an amazing show using human acts such as clowns and trapeze artists. If these shows are dazzling then the public will undoubtedly attend.

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

As noted above, there are very few animals circus acts currently in Scotland so a ban would made very little difference to other 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?

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

- Positive impact

TV - drama

- Positive impact

TV - documentary

- Positive impact

TV - childrens

- Positive impact

Advertising - TV

- Positive impact

Advertising - 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

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

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

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 species deserve protection from the circus industry.

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

A complete and total ban on wild animals in circuses would be the only way to prevent the suffering of animals in the circus industry.

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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