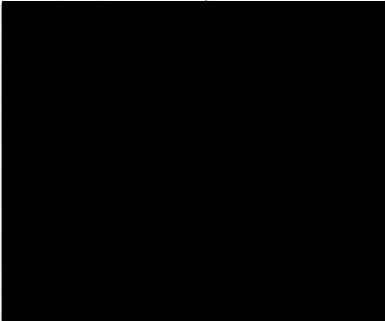


## Received answer

1. Organisation name

Animal Aid

2. Title



WIAAC 164

9. Permissions - I am responding as

Group/Organisation

13. The name and address of your organisation WILL BE made available to the public (in the Scottish Government library and/or on the Scottish Government web site). Are you content for your response to be made available

Yes

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)

Animal welfare organisation

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

The public is becoming increasingly uncomfortable watching wild animals forced to perform unnatural tasks. Until relatively recently, the use of animals in advertising was considered appropriate (e.g. the chimpanzees in the PG Tips ad) but now, those ads are deemed exploitative. Thankfully, the days of Victorian voyeurism are on the wane, and the general view of the public is that we should support wild animals in their natural environments. It is clear that travelling circuses are at odds with this, and do compromise respect for those individual animals, the species to which they belong and wild animals in general.

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

By dressing up animals and making them perform 'funny' tricks, children are encouraged to see animals as amusing 'things' - with no more sentience than a Furbie. Outside of the ring, children may see that the animals are chained or kept in tiny travelling cages. To send the message that it is OK to treat those more vulnerable than ourselves in this way, can only have an adverse impact.

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

For too long we have had voluntary codes and industry-led initiatives. Legislation may be a last resort but, in this case, it is long overdue. Wild animals must not be used in circuses.

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

It is obvious that wild animals cannot display their natural behaviours while transported around the country, unloaded at a new site every few days, over-wintered in barns, in 'training' and when performing. It is impossible to provide a natural environment for any wild animal under these circumstances. Their natural routines and rhythms - eating, sleeping etc - are also broken to fit in with the circus' schedule.

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

It is not possible for any circus to facilitate the natural behaviour of any wild animal while on the road, nor when 'over-wintered'.

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

For many years, voluntary codes and industry-led initiatives have failed to address the key problems. A ban on the use of wild animals in circuses is long overdue.

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

The only benefit is to the handful of circuses who have refused to modernise and, instead, stick rigidly to an outdated and unpopular 'tradition'. If they did modernise, however, and replaced their use of animals with human acts, they may find that visitor numbers increase. Society has, for the main part, moved on and now finds the use of wild animals in circuses grotesque.

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

Aside from preserving a tradition (that most people find offensive), there are no benefits.

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

Aside from preserving a tradition (that most people find offensive), there are no benefits.

38. Don't Know

Don't know

39. Comments

It is important to remember that keeping wild animals is expensive and, if a large section of society refuses to visit circuses because of those animals, circuses may well find that using only willing participants (i.e. people) in their performances lead to an increase in their profits.

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

For the reasons given.

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  
 This is their trade and they would be likely to find an increased audience if they stopped using animals completely (already many acts in each circus are people).
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  
 I wouldn't foresee any change at all. Circuses who provide interesting acts, in suitable locations and who manage their promotions appropriately will continue to do well.
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
47. Comments  
 Circuses will still tour, will still perform and will still require venues.
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
49. Comments  
 I would hope that the exploitative use of all animals would end. It is clear that circuses provide wild animals for screen 'work' too. As already mentioned, the public is increasingly seeing this as exploitative. With CGI, there is no need to subject wild animals to this kind of torment and - increasingly - television and film-makers do not use wild animals.
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
55. Comments  
 Travelling circuses cannot provide for the physical, emotional and psychological needs of wild animals. It is time they were banned.
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?  
 Yes
59. Comments  
 Animal Aid wants to see an end to the use of all animals in circuses. But, at the very least, all wild animals must be covered by a full ban. This includes camels, zebras, snakes and falcons, as well as elephants, monkeys, apes and big cats.
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?  
 No

Reply to this respondent

Your Response:

E-Mail Format  Plain text  HTML