



Cymdeithas Frenhinol Atal Creulondeb i Anifeiliaid Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

25 June 2015

*William Powell AM
Chair, Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA*

Dear William Powell AM,

Re: P-04-631: Save Our Service - Large Animal Rescue in North Wales

Many thanks for your letter, in relation to a petition currently being considered by the Petitions Committee, *P-04-631: Save Our Service - Large Animal Rescue in North Wales*.

As the Committee will be aware, as of April 2015, North Wales Fire and Rescue have ceased its large animal rescue service.

RSPCA Cymru is both saddened and concerned that this service is no longer available. We've been proud to work closely in partnership with North Wales Fire and Rescue in relation to the rescue of animals; and the on-going absence of the service is disappointing.

The ending of the service creates disparities in large animal rescue provision across Wales, with the Fire Services in both South Wales and Mid & West Wales continuing to offer rescue to animals in need. Additionally, the assistance of all three of Wales' Fire & Rescue Service in the rescue of smaller animals is often imperative, and we very much hope future support in this area is available.

Contrary to some speculation, the RSPCA is not able to solely take on large animal rescues. It should be noted that our Inspectorate are lone workers, who do not hold equipment to routinely undertake such rescues. We continue to look at each incident on an individual, case-by-case basis and seek to work in partnership with others wherever possible in the interests of the animal involved.

Further to the expiration of the service, discussions with North Wales Fire and Rescue have indicated that they have no plans to have any involvement with the rescue of large animals. Therefore, depending on the particular circumstances involved, assistance may be sought from landowners, a local farmer, other animal welfare organisations, etc.

We fully appreciate the difficult financial climate, and that Emergency Services, like other public bodies, are faced with a need to make challenging spending decisions. Equally, we appreciate this is a non-statutory service and, therefore, the Welsh

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A charity registered in England &
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Noddwr Ei Mawrhydi Y Frenhines
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Government is not in a position to intervene. However, we would urge North Wales Fire and Rescue to reinstate this important service, and feel the public reaction, exemplified by petition P-04-631, highlights the importance of this.

As ever, please don't hesitate to contact RSPCA Cymru should we be able to provide any further information on this, or other matters pertaining to the welfare of animals.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'C. O'Brien', written in a cursive style.

Chris O'Brien
Public Affairs Manager, RSPCA Cymru

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