

John Griffiths AC / AM  
Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd a Datblygu Cynaliadwy  
Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-339  
Ein cyf/Our ref JG/06772/11

William Powell AM  
Chair Petition's Committee  
Ty Hywel  
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15 November 2011

*Dear William,*

Thank you for your letter in which you seek my views on the issues raised in the petition.

I announced on the 28<sup>th</sup> June this year that raising standards of animal welfare continues to be important for Government and dealing with unscrupulous dog breeders is regarded as a high priority. This is consistent with the objectives of the Animal Health and Welfare Strategy.

The Animal Welfare Act 2006 introduced the concept of the duty of care for pet animals – which has long been applied to farm animals and the introduction of the concept of the “five needs” - a suitable environment to live in; a healthy diet; ability to behave normally; appropriate company; and protection from pain, suffering injury and disease.

Included in the draft Regulations, on which we will be consulting shortly, is Ministerial Guidance to local authorities that clearly sets out the responsibilities they will be expected to follow in both licensing and enforcement. This will ensure a more consistent approach by local authorities to the licensing and enforcement of dog breeding premises.

Consequently I see no reason, at this stage, for an independent inquiry into the enforcement of animal welfare standards in the dog breeding industry.

*Best wishes*

**John Griffiths AC / AM**  
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Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development

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*Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)*

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