



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

17 April 2018

Dear ,

ATISN 12190

Thank you for your request which we received on 20 March about the Animal Welfare (Electronic Collars) (Wales) Regulations 2010.

You asked for:

- Correspondence relating to Welsh Government's consideration of Dr Ruth Lysons' Report
- Any other materials considered by the Welsh Government in relation to the purported review of the Regulations
- Copies of any and all documents or correspondence in existence which examine or otherwise make reference to the practical operation of the Regulations

The information we hold is below. Please note we have decided to extract the information as the meeting minutes and briefing referred to contain information that falls outside the scope of your request.

The following has been extracted from the Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework Project Board meeting minutes.

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Meeting held on 1st December 2015:

The review has been completed and is now being considered by Les. The AHWF Group have been sent the report and asked to agree a view on the findings. The report will be discussed at the December meeting of the Group.

Meeting held on 5th January 2016:

The report was discussed at the December meeting of the Group. The report has now been submitted to Ministers.

The below information is extracted from a briefing to the Deputy Minister for Farming and Food Rebecca Evans AM on the 3 March 2016. The briefing asked the Deputy Minister to agree that the policy position has not altered, the Animal Welfare (Electronic Collars) (Wales) Regulations 2010 remain in place and no further action is required at this time.

Welsh Government Veterinary Advisers Opinion - This review has weighed up the evidence regarding the use of electronic collars in dogs and cats and has concluded that the use in all 3 situations has on balance a negative welfare value for animals. This conclusion is in line with previous veterinary views in OCVO. However it rightly points out that in the case of these collars used as part of boundary containment systems for cats the evidence about the effectiveness of collars is not a large amount of material. The report does not dismiss the concerns about the risk to cats from road traffic accidents but reiterates the welfare concerns about the fundamental application of the devices to cats.

The Review has been seen by the Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework Group and they recommend that it has been a thorough review and that the findings at this time should be accepted.

It is therefore advised that the policy intention behind the legislation is still relevant and that no further action is required at this time in relation to the Animal Welfare (Electronic Collars) (Wales) Regulations 2010.

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Government's handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Welsh Government's Freedom of Information Officer at:

Information Rights Unit
Welsh Government
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ

or Email: FreedomOfInformationOfficer@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely