

WELSH LANGUAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The public consultation we have undertaken suggests there would be little impact, positively or negatively, on the Welsh language if the use of wild animals in travelling circuses is banned.

The policy objective is to introduce primary legislation to ban the use of wild animals in travelling circuses in Wales, based on ethical grounds. The Bill will not affect the use of domesticated animals in circuses. Travelling circuses have toured the United Kingdom for over two hundred years and will continue to be welcome in Wales, provided they do not use wild animals.

There are no travelling circuses with wild animals based in Wales, but they do visit. The number of travelling circuses using wild animals and the number of wild animals in those travelling circuses has greatly declined in recent years. There are now just two travelling circuses touring with wild animals; Circus Mondao and Peter Jolly's Circus. Both are based in England and licenced under the Welfare of Wild Animals in Travelling Circuses (England) Regulations 2012. According to tour itineraries provided to the licensing authority, the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA), Circus Mondao has visited Wales every year since the Regulations came into force in January 2013. From 2013 to 2018 (inclusive), Circus Mondao visited between eight and 14 sites a year in Wales, across 16 unitary authority areas (see table 8.9 in the Regulatory Impact Assessment), usually staying at each site for around a week, occasionally longer. Peter Jolly's Circus visited in 2014 (three sites), 2016 (nine sites) and 2018 (five sites), across six unitary authority areas (see table 8.11 in the Regulatory Impact Assessment), usually staying at each site between one and two weeks.

According to a Defra 2012 Impact Assessment, figures provided to Defra in 2007 estimated that approximately 320,000 people attended the four travelling circuses using wild animals in that year.¹ For 2010, attendances for the three remaining travelling circuses using wild animals was estimated to be 121,000 and for 2011, 153,000 (across England and Wales). In their response to the consultation on the Wild Animals in Travelling Circuses (Wales) Bill², Circus Mondao claimed 16,000 and 20,000 people attended their circus when it visited Wales in 2017 and 2018 respectively.

The eight week public consultation on the draft Wild Animals in Travelling Circuses (Wales) Bill was published on 1 October 2018. Respondents were asked to consider fourteen questions, two of which related specifically to the Welsh language:

Question 12: *We would like to know your views on the effects the Wild Animals in Travelling Circuses (Wales) Bill would have on the Welsh language, specifically on*

¹ Defra, Ending the use of wild animals in travelling circuses, Impact Assessment (2012) <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukia/2012/41/pdfs/ukia_20120041_en.pdf>

² Welsh Government Consultations, Wild Animals in Travelling Circuses (Wales) Bill <<https://beta.gov.wales/wild-animals-travelling-circuses-wales-bill>>

opportunities for people to use Welsh and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than English. What effects do you think there would be? How could positive effects be increased, or negative effects be mitigated?

Question 13: *Please also explain how you believe the proposed Wild Animals in Travelling Circuses (Wales) Bill could be formulated or changed so as to have positive effects or increased positive effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language, and no adverse effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.*

A summary of the responses to the consultation was published in January 2019.³

Six thousand, five-hundred and forty-six people responded to the consultation with 777 answering question 12 and 593 answering question 13 respectively. Almost all of those who answered were of the view that there would be neither a positive or negative effect on the Welsh language, without providing evidence for their response. This included Circus Mondao, one of the two travelling circuses touring with wild animals, which stated there would be “no affect” on the Welsh language if they were prohibited from using wild animals. Peter Jolly's Circus did not respond. With human acts potentially replacing wild animals acts, some respondents felt there may be more opportunity for the Welsh language to be used, particularly if travelling circuses incorporate local acts when visiting Wales.

There were no recommendations for changes to the Wild Animals in Travelling Circuses (Wales) Bill to increase opportunities for people to use the Welsh language or for it to be treated no less favourably than the English language. No adverse effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language or on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language were identified.

³ Welsh Government Consultations, Wild Animals in Travelling Circuses (Wales) Bill, Summary of Responses <<https://beta.gov.wales/wild-animals-travelling-circuses-wales-bill>>