

Lesley Griffiths AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Amgylchedd a Materion Gwledig
Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: DC/LG/01014/17

The Rt Hon Amber Rudd MP
Secretary of State for the Home Department

privateoffice.external@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

27 June 2017

Dear Amber,

I recently met with the North Wales Police Rural Crime Team, a small unit doing excellent work in the region. I am told other Police Services in Wales and across the United Kingdom, look to the team for advice and learn from their best practice.

During my discussions with the team, I was concerned to hear they believe the legislative framework does not always provide the tools they need to do their work most effectively. One piece of legislation in particular, The Dogs (Protection of Livestock) Act 1953, was mentioned to me as having certain limitations. Specifically, the officers I spoke to felt constrained by:

- persons convicted under this Act cannot be the subject of a disqualification order for custody of a dog;
- a dog can only be considered "at large" when in a field containing sheep, therefore, sheep have more protection than other livestock that might be similarly worried by a dog;
- the Act has no sentencing powers written into it and has to "borrow" powers from the Dogs Act 1871;
- a Court will only issue a warrant to enter a property to identify a dog, not to seize it
- Local Authorities have no authority to prosecute under the Act.

In addition to these drawbacks, I was concerned to hear the Home Office does not require Police Services to formally record livestock attacks. As a result of this, we do not know the extent of the problem or the resulting economic loss suffered by our rural communities.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400
Gohebiaeth.Lesley.Griffiths@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Lesley.Griffiths@gov.wales

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.

I should be grateful if you would look in to this matter as I believe the issues faced by the Police team in North Wales are similarly faced by their colleagues across the UK..

I am copying my letter to Rob Taylor, Head of the North Wales Police Rural Crime Team and to The Rt. Hon. Alun Cairns MP, Secretary of State for Wales.

Regards
Lesley Griffiths

Lesley Griffiths AC/AM

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Amgylchedd a Materion Gwledig
Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs