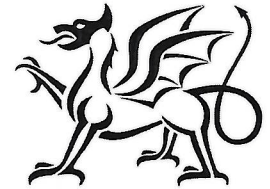


Lesley Griffiths AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Ynni, Cynllunio a Materion
Gwledig
Cabinet Secretary for Energy, Planning and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref PO2017/11464/MP
Ein cyf/Our ref IM/LG/00396/18

Lord Gardiner of Kimble
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
Rural Affairs and Biosecurity
Department of Environment, Food & Rural Affairs
Nobel House
17 Smith Square
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SW1P 3JR

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March 2018

Dear John

Thank you for your letter dated 8 February 2018 regarding the protection of livestock from dogs.

As you rightly pointed out in your letter, our police forces are currently unable to effectively take action under the existing legislation we have in place and there is also the potential for considerable economic damage to be incurred in our rural communities.

Dog attacks on livestock have received significant media coverage of late and I am supportive of the campaigns undertaken by the farming industry, the third sector and rural crime units within Wales. Their emphasis is that the owner of the dog is responsible and must ensure they are in control of their animals at all times.

This being said, there is clearly a need to review the current legislation to enable the police to prosecute offenders and take effective action.

The promotion of responsible ownership is a key priority for the Welsh Government. We will consider the findings of the Livestock Worrying Police Working Group's report and, where appropriate, work with counterparts in England to ensure any possible changes in legislation are relevant to the devolved powers of Wales.

Thank you for kind offer to meet and discuss this issue, my office will contact yours shortly.

Regards
Lesley

Lesley Griffiths AC/AM

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Ynni, Cynllunio a Materion Gwledig
Cabinet Secretary for Energy, Planning and Rural Affairs