

The Prohibition of Greyhound Racing (Wales) Bill

Equality Impact Assessment

Introduction

The Equality Act 2010 places a General Equality Duty on Welsh Ministers to have ‘due regard’ to a range of requirements which relate to removing or minimising disadvantages for people with or who share protected characteristics and to remove barriers to participation.

This equality impact assessment (EqIA) considers how the introduction of the Prohibition of Greyhound Racing (Wales) Bill will impact on those with protected characteristics. This EqIA has considered the potential direct and indirect impacts of the Bill on people with the following protected characteristics: age, disability, sex, pregnancy and maternity, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, race, marriage and civil partnership, and religion and belief.

Consultation and engagement

We want to ensure greyhounds, their owners, and those involved in the industry, can wind down from this activity in a planned and reasonable way. This includes safeguarding the welfare of greyhounds currently within the industry, while ensuring there is minimal impact to the local community and economy.

Our consultation on the licensing of animal welfare establishments, activities and exhibits, which ran between 8 December 2023 and 1 March 2024, included two questions relating to greyhound racing. There were 1180 responses to the consultation. This included 344 via email and 836 via the online response form. Of the 1180 total responses, 291 were identical email responses received from the public as part of a campaign by the League Against Cruel Sports and concentrated on greyhounds.

The consultation responses did not identify any concerns or impacts particularly associated with individuals with protected characteristics. We will monitor the delivery of the proposals to ensure we remain alert to new evidence. Should there be any suggestion of any negative impacts, discrimination or other prohibited conduct could or does occur, we will take appropriate action to rectify the situation.

An [Implementation Group](#) was announced on 11 July 2025 which includes representation from the racing industry and local authority. It will provide advice and practical guidance, as part of the transition away from greyhound racing. This Group will be instrumental in identifying practical solutions to issues arising from any ban, advising and helping to manage impacts. Their ongoing engagement will help to ensure that the process is open, fair, and based on clear evidence and good practice.

It is intended that the ban will come into force between April 2027 and April 2030. This flexibility will help us to choose an appropriate date in consultation with those affected and is intended to allow a fair transition away from racing, support the rehousing of greyhounds and allow owners and businesses time to adjust to the ban.

How will the proposal promote equality?

Our assessment has identified that the provisions in the Bill are expected to impact equally on all people. There will be no exceptions. Any impact on the wider community will not be specific to any one person or group of people with protected characteristics, but to society more broadly.

Record of impacts by protected characteristic

Below is a table documenting any potential impacts on the protected characteristics and possible routes for mitigation, where appropriate. Where we have recorded “no impact”, we have considered the characteristic to assess any links with the proposal. No evidence of any impact on these protected characteristics was found.

Protected characteristic or group	What are the positive or negative impacts of the proposal?	How will you mitigate impacts?
Age: Older people	No impact: whilst considered a traditional past-time enjoyed by older people, the consultation raised no concerns of this nature and this appears to be more a generalisation of attendees than evidence-based.	N/A
Age: Children and young people up to the age of 18	Positive: banning greyhound racing is expected to have a positive impact on the attitudes of children and young people towards animals.	See the Children’s Rights Impact Assessment.
Disability	No impact	N/A
Gender Reassignment	No impact	N/A
Pregnancy and maternity	No impact	N/A
Race	No impact	N/A
Religion, belief and non-belief	No impact	N/A
Sex / Gender	No impact	N/A
Sexual orientation	No impact	N/A

Marriage and civil partnership	No impact	N/A
Low-income households	Negative: We understand that whole families are involved in greyhound racing, and benefit from the income it brings.	We will engage with those affected, throughout the implementation of the ban. See the Children’s Rights and the Socio-Economic impact assessments.

Human Rights and UN Conventions

Throughout the full Bill process officials act in a way that is consistent with United Nation Treaties and the Human Rights Conventions as appropriate. Our approach embraces the values of fairness, respect, equality, diversity and autonomy.

The main source of human rights law in the UK is the Human Rights Act 1998 (HRA) which incorporated most of the rights that are contained in the European Convention on Human Rights into UK law.

The HRA sets out the fundamental rights and freedoms that people in the UK have access to. They include:

Article 1 (introductory and is not incorporated into the Human Rights Act)

Article 2: The right to life

Article 3: Freedom from torture or de-grading treatment

Article 4: Prohibition of slavery and forced labour

Article 5: The right to liberty and security

Article 6: The right to a fair trial

Article 7: No punishment without lawful authority

Article 8: The right to respect for private and family life and correspondence

Article 9: Freedom of thought, belief and religion

Article 10: Freedom of expression

Article 11: Freedom of assembly and association

Article 12: The right to marry and found a family

Article 13: The right to an effective remedy

Article 14: Prohibition of Discrimination in respect of these rights and freedoms

Protocol 1, Article 1: The right to peaceful enjoyment of possessions.

Protocol 1, Article 2: The right to education

Protocol 1, Article 3: Right to free elections

Protocol 13, Article 1: Abolition of the death penalty

More information about human rights can be found on the British Institute for Human Rights website: <http://www.bihhr.org.uk/>.

The Welsh Government formally adopted the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) in 2004 and our work is based on delivering the core aims of the UNCRC. The UNCRC has been considered in the Children’s Rights Impact Assessment.

Human Rights	What are the positive or negative impacts of the proposal?	Reasons for your decision (including evidence)	How will you mitigate negative Impacts?
Article 1 Protocol 1: The right to peaceful enjoyment of possessions	There may be a negative impact to the owners of Valley Greyhounds, in that they may be deprived of using their property as they wish.	These proposals need to be balanced against the prevention of animals suffering for sport.	Working with stakeholders, including the Valley Greyhound Stadium and local authority, we aim to educate and inform as part of implementation. We are also proposing a significant lead-in time ahead of a ban coming into force, which will limit the negative impact.

EU/EEA and Swiss Citizens’ Rights

There are no identified impacts as the proposed legislation will not treat EU/EEA/Swiss Citizens differently from UK residents.

Conclusion

The greyhound racing ban will directly affect individuals and/or businesses that receive an income from racing greyhounds. It is also likely to affect those charities that seek to re-home greyhounds at the end of their racing lives. However, we have been unable to find evidence to suggest that these people particularly fall into any of the protected characteristics groups.

The proposed flexibility around the lead-in time of a ban coming into force, together with advice and support through transition from the Greyhound Bill’s Implementation Group, will help to limit the impact on those affected.