

Section 1. What action is the Welsh Government considering and why?

Greyhound racing in Wales has become a subject of increasing public concern, with evidence highlighting the risks of injury, fatality and poor post-racing outcomes for greyhounds. These concerns have prompted strong calls for action, including a petition¹ signed by over 35,000 people and a Senedd Committee report² recommending a phased ban.

In response to this, two targeted questions were included in the *Licensing of animal welfare establishments, activities, and exhibits*³, launched on 08 December 2023. The Summary of Responses⁴ was published in December 2024. In February 2025, the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs, Huw Irranca-Davies, announced that it was the right time to ban greyhound racing in Wales⁵. The Welsh Government's formal response to the consultation was set out in a written statement in June 2025⁶.

The welfare concerns raised by respondents and the evidence provided suggest that concerns exist, with many expressing the view that existing safeguards were inadequate and that stronger, more decisive action was needed to protect greyhound welfare.

Several options were considered to address the issue. One proposal, informed by the consultation outcomes, was to introduce a licensing scheme for greyhound owners and trainers to provide regulatory oversight. However, this option was ultimately deemed insufficient, as it failed to tackle core welfare concerns, particularly the harm caused by racing on oval tracks, which is linked to high injury and fatality rates, as well as ongoing challenges in rehoming retired greyhounds.

The preferred course of action is to introduce primary legislation to prohibit greyhound racing in Wales, providing a clear, enforceable solution that aligns with public sentiment and the Welsh Government's commitment to animal welfare.

Animal Welfare is a Welsh Government priority. Our ambition is for all animals in Wales to have a good life. The Animal Welfare Plan for Wales 2021-2026 (AWPW)⁷ sets out how we will implement these commitments. The proposals in the Prohibition of Greyhound Racing (Wales) Bill⁸ reflect this commitment.

¹ [Ban greyhound racing in Wales - Petitions](#)

² [The Final Bend?](#)

³ [Licensing of animal welfare establishments, activities and exhibits | GOV.WALES/consultation](#)

⁴ [Licensing of animal welfare establishments, activities and exhibits | GOV.WALES/summary of responses](#)

⁵ [Wales moves to ban greyhound racing | GOV.WALES](#)

⁶ [Written Statement: The Welsh Government response to the consultation on the 'Licensing of animal welfare establishments, activities and exhibits, including greyhound racing' and our next steps \(24 June 2025\) | GOV.WALES](#)

⁷ [animal-welfare-plan-wales-2021-26.pdf](#)

⁸ [The Prohibition of Greyhound Racing \(Wales\) Bill | GOV.WALES](#)

To support the transition, an Implementation Group was announced on 11 July 2025⁹. It includes representatives from the racing industry, animal welfare and the local authority, and will advise Welsh Ministers as the move away from greyhound racing progresses. The Group will prioritise greyhound welfare and consider social and economic impacts, ensuring the process is transparent, evidence-based, and fair.

Impacts

Valley Greyhound Stadium¹⁰, located in Ystrad Mynach, is the only remaining greyhound racing track in Wales. Opened in 1976, it operated unlicensed until August 2023, when it became licensed by the Greyhound Board of Great Britain¹¹ (GBGB), with its first GBGB-licensed race held in November 2023. Despite reported improvements to the track and facilities following licensing, significant concerns remained.

The Prohibition of Greyhound Racing (Wales) Bill will have direct impacts on Valley Greyhound Stadium and those whose livelihoods depend on it, including trainers and support staff. While the loss of income and employment is acknowledged, the overall economic impact is expected to be limited given the small scale of the industry in Wales.

For public bodies, the Bill is not expected to create significant administrative burdens as enforcement will be managed by existing local authority officers. In fact, the legislation may reduce administrative workload through fewer public complaints and correspondence related to greyhound racing.

Benefits

The Prohibition of Greyhound Racing (Wales) Bill is expected to deliver long-term benefits, particularly in improving animal welfare by ending the risks of injury, fatality, and poor post-racing outcomes for greyhounds. It reflects growing public concern about the ethical treatment of animals and aligns with the Welsh Government's commitment to ensuring all animals lead safe and healthy lives.

The ban also supports a cultural shift away from animal-based entertainment and may enhance Wales's reputation as a nation that prioritises high welfare standards. Over time, it could reduce pressure on rehoming charities and allow the stadium site to offer alternative community, economic or environmental uses.

⁹ <https://www.gov.wales/written-statement-implementation-group-guide-transition-towards-ban-greyhound-racing-wales>

¹⁰ [Greyhounds | Valley Greyhounds | Wales](#)

¹¹ [Greyhound Board of Great Britain | GBGB](#)

Sustainable development principle

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act¹² requires us to show that we have applied the sustainable development principle to our work. The effect this legislation will have in relation to the five ways of working is set out here.

- **Long-term**

The legislation takes a proactive approach by preventing new greyhound racing tracks and addressing welfare issues such as injury and fatality. An Implementation Group supports a planned transition for greyhounds and industry stakeholders, ensuring animal welfare and community resilience for future generations.

- **Prevention**

By banning greyhound racing, the Welsh Government is directly preventing the exploitation of greyhounds and the associated welfare issues. This action also sets a precedent for a healthier societal attitude towards the use of animals for entertainment. It signals a shift in values, prioritising animal welfare and encourages more ethical standards across other industries where animals are involved.

- **Integration**

The decision supports multiple well-being goals: a healthier Wales through improved animal welfare, a more equal Wales by challenging the commodification of animals, and a resilient Wales by promoting ethical standards. The strength of public feeling, reflected in consultation responses, petitions, and Senedd Member involvement, demonstrates that racing is increasingly seen as incompatible with modern values and standards for animal welfare.

- **Collaboration**

The Welsh Government is working with stakeholders including welfare organisations, veterinary experts, the industry and local communities to manage the transition. The Implementation Group will play a key role in identifying practical solutions and mitigating impacts, ensuring that the welfare of greyhounds currently in the industry is protected while supporting those affected by the change.

- **Involvement**

Over 1,000 responses to the Welsh Government's consultation and a related petition demonstrated strong public support. These views directly shaped the decision to pursue a ban. The Implementation Group will continue to ensure meaningful engagement throughout the transition ensuring representation for all affected.

¹² [Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015: the essentials \[HTML\] | GOV.WALES](#)

How we will take forward this action

The Welsh Government will take forward this action by introducing primary legislation to prohibit greyhound racing in Wales. An implementation period will support the transition, giving the industry and affected individuals time to prepare.

The Implementation Group will play a key role in identifying practical solutions and advising on how to manage impacts.

Throughout the transition and monitoring phases, we will regularly review progress to ensure the legislation aligns with the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act. Applying the five ways of working will guide decisions and help us deliver lasting, positive outcomes for animals, communities, and future generations.

Impact and cost

The Explanatory Memorandum and Regulatory Impact Assessment accompanying the Bill sets out estimated costs and benefits. Three options have been considered to achieve the Welsh Government's objective of prohibiting greyhound racing in Wales. Chapter 7 and Chapter 8 examine each option, along with any associated costs, impacts, and benefits.