

The Prohibition of Greyhound Racing (Wales) Bill

Equality, diversity, inclusion and human rights 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 impact assessment considers how the introduction of the Prohibition of Greyhound Racing (Wales) Bill will impact on those with protected characteristics. This assessment 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. Further information about stakeholder engagement including our consultation on the licensing of animal welfare establishments, activities and exhibits is set out in the Explanatory Memorandum and Regulatory Impact Assessment which accompanies the Bill.

The consultation responses did not identify any concerns or impacts particularly associated with individuals with protected characteristics.

An [Implementation Group](#) was announced on 11 July 2025 which includes representation from the veterinary and racing industry, the third sector and local authority. The Group is providing advice and practical guidance to the Welsh Government, as part of the transition away from greyhound racing. It has been engaging with those affected by the ban, including trainers and owners of racing greyhounds.

Since publication of the first edition of this impact assessment in October 2025, the Group has sought further data on attendance and online engagement to inform our understanding of social impacts. A survey of Valley-registered trainers is also underway to quantify post-ban intentions and rehoming needs. These measures reflect our commitment to ongoing monitoring and responsive mitigation.

Their work so far confirms our findings that protected characteristics groups will not be affected by the ban. The Implementation Group will continue their work and may offer practical solutions to issues arising from the ban.

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 through discussion with those affected, allowing a fair transition away from racing, supporting the rehoming of greyhounds and allowing 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. 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

The work carried out so far by the Implementation Group enhances this second edition of our assessment of the impacts.

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 proposal against the characteristic and concluded there is negligible impact or no impact.

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.	Stakeholder engagement is ongoing through the Implementation Group, with future use of the site being considered.
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	Potentially negative: We understand that whole families are involved in greyhound racing, and benefit from the income it brings.	As identified by the Implementation Group, the Welsh Government’s REACT+ and related employability programmes can help support employees and those involved in the industry to transition away from racing. The Implementation Group will remain in place going forward and will continue to have an advisory role as the ban on greyhound racing comes into force. This should help ensure that actions, such as REACT+ and other employability assistance, can be taken to help manage impacts as the ban takes effect.

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.

These are informed by the work of the Implementation Group. The evidence they have provided gives us additional detail on proportionate implementation, including lead-in time, structured engagement with the Valley track and local authority, development of a rehoming protocol and consideration of the future use of the site.

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 those associated with greyhound racing which takes place in Wales.	The legislation will make it an offence for an operator of a stadium or similar venue in Wales to use it or knowingly permit it to be used for greyhound racing and for a person to be involved in	Interested stakeholders, including representatives from the remaining stadium in Wales, the local authority and animal welfare groups, have been given equal

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		<p>greyhound racing that takes place in Wales or is intended to take place in Wales.</p> <p>In addition to the owners and operators of the remaining greyhound racing stadium in Wales, other businesses that depend on greyhound racing in Wales, including trainers, bookmakers, suppliers, and hospitality operations, may experience reduced commercial activity.</p> <p>Further assessment of the options, together with the benefits, disbenefits, and overall impact of the proposal, is outlined in the Explanatory Memorandum and Regulatory Impact Assessment (EMRIA).</p>	<p>opportunity to comment on the provisions of the Bill and how it might affect them.</p> <p>Stakeholder engagement is ongoing via the Implementation Group. The group will provide information and feedback with a view to mitigating impacts where possible during the implementation of the prohibition.</p> <p>Interested stakeholders, including representatives from the remaining stadium in Wales, the local authority and animal welfare groups, have been given equal opportunity to comment on the provisions of the Bill and how it might affect them.</p> <p>Stakeholder engagement is ongoing via the Implementation Group.</p> <p>The Group will provide information and feedback with a view to mitigating impacts where possible during</p>

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			<p>the implementation of the prohibition.</p> <p>The commencement window of April 2027 to April 2030 provides a responsible transition period, allowing the industry to wind down operations, strengthen rehoming arrangements, and help enforcement bodies and local authorities to prepare.</p>
<p>Article 8: The right to respect for private and family life and correspondence</p>	<p>The Bill provides powers of enforcement to ensure the effective enforcement of the prohibition of greyhound racing in Wales.</p>	<p>The Bill aims to protect the welfare of animals and to address ethical concerns on animals suffering for entertainment.</p> <p>The enforcement powers in Schedule 2 are not novel and mirror such powers in other legislation and the limit of the powers are detailed in the Schedule.</p>	<p>The enforcement provisions are set out in section 4 and Schedule 2 to the Bill. Schedule 2 includes various powers of entry, including powers to enter dwellings, and powers of inspection and seizure.</p> <p>Paragraph 2 of Schedule 2 gives inspectors a power to enter premises that are not dwellings, where there are grounds for suspecting that an offence has been or is about to be committed on the premises, or that evidence may be found that an offence</p>

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			<p>has been or is about to be committed.</p> <p>Paragraph 3 of Schedule 2 gives inspectors a power to enter dwellings if the occupiers or person in charge of the premises consents, or the inspector obtains a warrant from a Magistrate. Paragraph 4 of Schedule 2 provides that such a warrant authorises entry on one occasion only and must be used within 28 days beginning with the date it was issued.</p> <p>The legislation therefore includes safeguards to prevent unfair treatment.</p>

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 and may also result in the loss of local recreational opportunities, reduced community cohesion, and wider social impacts.

It may affect those investigated for an offence and required to comply with inspectors' powers of enforcement to enter premises or dwellings. 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.

As highlighted in the Regulatory Impact Assessment, the lack of reliable footfall data and limited evidence on income flowing into the local community make it difficult to accurately quantify both the economic consequences of the prohibition of greyhound racing and the broader social impacts. Because of this, it is also difficult to fully assess the extent to which those with protected characteristics may be impacted.

The Implementation Group will continue to provide advice on practical mitigation measures as its work progresses. This includes identifying tailored support for those individuals and businesses affected by the prohibition. This will sit alongside the Welsh Government's existing REACT+ and related employability programmes, which will help ensure that workers and others who currently rely on activity linked to the Valley Stadium receive appropriate assistance during the transition, that includes those people with protected characteristics.

The prohibition will come into force between 1 April 2027 and 1 April 2030. This lead-in time together with practical advice and support from the Greyhound Bill's Implementation Group, will help to limit the impact on those affected.