

Section 8. Conclusion

How have people most likely to be affected by the proposal been involved in developing it?

Those likely to be affected by this proposal have been involved throughout its development. The Welsh Government invited views as part of a public consultation, which received over 1,100 responses. We have also engaged directly with those working in the greyhound racing industry, local authorities, and animal welfare charities. Their feedback and experiences have helped shape the proposal, ensuring that the potential impacts are understood and addressed. We have brought together an Implementation Group, which includes representatives from these groups, who will continue to play a key role through transition and making sure those most affected are heard and considered at every stage.

A public consultation on proposals to licence animal welfare establishments, activities and exhibits¹ was launched on 08 December 2023 and closed on 01 March 2024. It sought views on proposals to introduce licensing regulations to animal activities, establishments and exhibits. The consultation included questions on the owning, training and keeping of racing dogs and asked for views and evidence around the consideration of a phased ban.

These two targeted questions complemented a commitment in the Animal Welfare Plan for Wales to consider greyhound racing and a Petitions Committee report, *The Final Bend?*², which made recommendations to the Welsh Government to consider the licensing of greyhound racing and a phased ban.

The consultation also included a question on the impact of proposals on the Welsh language. During the consultation analysis, careful consideration was given to the views of people with protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010, including children and their representatives, Welsh speakers and Welsh language specialist groups, and other affected communities.

The list of organisations who responded to the consultation are set out in the Annex to the [summary of responses](#). We are unable to see from that whether any specific groups of people responded. However, many of the charities and umbrella organisations will have specific groups, such as children and young people, who they will represent.

What are the most significant impacts, positive and negative?

The ban is expected to deliver several positive benefits. It will prevent further harm to greyhounds by prohibiting the act of greyhound racing, reducing the risk of injuries and fatalities associated with racing. The ban also aligns with current standards for animal welfare and reflects our commitment to responsible and ethical practices. Over time, this change may create opportunities for new community activities and support local people in developing new skills through retraining and other initiatives. By setting clear expectations for

¹ [Licensing of animal welfare establishments, activities and exhibits | GOV.WALES](#)

² [The Final Bend?](#)

animal welfare, the ban contributes to a healthier and more ethical environment for both people and animals.

We have completed a series of impact assessments, a summary of which is outlined in Chapter 9 of the Explanatory Memorandum and Regulatory Impact Assessment accompanying the Bill. 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.

Our assessment of the impacts on those with protected characteristics has identified that the Bill is 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. Similarly, our assessment of the impact on the Welsh language suggests that there would be little or no impact, either positive or negative.

Our assessment of the impact on children suggests that there may be a positive impact on the long-term behaviours and attitudes that children and young people have towards animals. We recognise that the proposed ban will have an impact on the local community and economy where the racetrack is based, although the full extent is not yet known due to limited published information. To make sure we fully understand and respond to these impacts, we are working closely with the Implementation Group. This includes gathering information, listening to the industry and organisations, and taking practical steps to address any issues as they arise. The Implementation Group will provide ongoing advice and guidance, helping us to quickly identify challenges and tailor support to meet local needs as we learn more about the real impacts over time.

In light of the impacts identified, how will the proposal:

- **maximise contribution to our well-being objectives and the seven well-being goals; and/or,**
- **avoid, reduce or mitigate any negative impacts?**

In developing this proposal, the Welsh Government has listened to a wide range of voices, including those from the greyhound racing industry, local authorities, and welfare charities. Through public consultation and ongoing engagement with stakeholders, we have worked to understand the impact of these changes and to find the best ways to support everyone involved. The Implementation Group, which brings together people from across the sector, will play a key role in this process. Their work will focus on identifying practical support for those affected by the transition, such as retraining and employment support programmes for eligible staff and volunteers. By taking this approach, we are making sure that the needs of both people and animals are considered, and that the move away from greyhound racing is managed as fairly and compassionately as possible.

This proposal supports the well-being objectives and the seven well-being goals by putting into practice the five ways of working from the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. The proposed legislation takes a forward-looking approach by stopping new greyhound

racing tracks from opening and by directly preventing harm to greyhounds, tackling ongoing welfare concerns such as injuries and fatalities. By doing this, it helps create a healthier Wales through better animal welfare, a more equal Wales by challenging how animals are treated, and a more resilient Wales by encouraging ethical standards that match today's values.

Prevention is at the heart of the proposal. By banning greyhound racing, the Welsh Government is directly preventing the exploitation of greyhounds and the associated welfare issues that have been well documented. This decisive action also sets a precedent for a healthier societal attitude towards the use of animals for entertainment, signalling a shift in values that prioritises animal welfare and encourages more ethical standards. The Implementation Group is tasked with monitoring the transition and identifying any emerging risks, ensuring that preventative measures remain effective and responsive to changing circumstances.

Integration is achieved by ensuring that the proposal supports multiple well-being goals simultaneously. The decision to end greyhound racing is not taken in isolation; it is informed by strong public feeling, as reflected in consultation responses, petitions, and the involvement of Senedd Members. These responses demonstrate that greyhound racing is increasingly seen as incompatible with modern values and standards for animal welfare. The Implementation Group works to ensure that the transition is integrated with wider community development efforts, supporting employability, strengthening social networks, and contributing to more resilient local economies.

Collaboration is a defining feature of the proposal's development and implementation. The Welsh Government, through the Implementation Group, is working with welfare organisations, veterinary experts, industry representatives, and local communities to manage the transition. The Group's role is to identify practical solutions and to mitigate impacts, ensuring that the welfare of greyhounds currently in the industry is protected while also supporting those whose livelihoods are affected. This collaborative approach ensures that all voices are heard and that solutions are co-produced, increasing the likelihood of successful outcomes.

Over 1,100 responses to the Welsh Government's consultation and a related petition demonstrated strong public support for the proposal. These views have directly shaped the decision to pursue a ban, and the Implementation Group will continue to ensure meaningful engagement throughout the transition. This includes ongoing dialogue with stakeholders, regular updates, and opportunities for feedback, ensuring that the process remains transparent and inclusive.

The proposal has the potential to highlight a globally responsible Wales, through demonstrating how we address animal welfare issues through positive change where necessary.

The Explanatory Memorandum and Regulatory Impact Assessment accompanying the Bill provides further detail on the three options which have been considered to achieve the Welsh

Government's objective of prohibiting greyhound racing in Wales, along with any associated costs, benefits, impacts and mitigations.

We are working with the Implementation Group, via their stakeholders, to fully understand, and avoid, reduce or mitigate negative impacts. This includes flexibility around when the legislation comes into force, and support through targeted interventions, such as retraining programmes and inclusive community initiatives.

How will the impact of the proposal be monitored and evaluated as it progresses and when it concludes?

The policy objective is to prohibit greyhound racing in Wales. If approved, the legislation will be subject to a review no later than three years after it has come into force. Its impact will be considered, alongside feedback from enforcement authorities and stakeholders, including those represented by the Implementation Group. Chapter 10 of the Explanatory Memorandum goes into more detail on this.