



Dr Emily Blackwell
Chair
Greyhound Racing Ban Implementation Group

Emily.Blackwell@bristol.ac.uk

2 September 2026

Dear Dr Blackwell,

I would like to thank the members of the Greyhound Racing Ban Implementation Group for their first report, which highlights the significant progress made to date. Its findings and recommendations will help inform the Welsh Government, enforcement bodies, third sector partners and the racing industry as we implement the ban on greyhound racing in Wales.

I have responded to those recommendations directed to the Welsh Government (recommendations 1, 2, 4, 6 and 8). I have noted the other recommendations.

Recommendation 1

That the Welsh Government implements a wind down/phase out of racing over a twelve-month period, to facilitate rehoming of the greyhounds currently racing at the Valley track.

Response: I agree to this in principle. There should be a responsible and well-managed transition.

The Prohibition of Greyhound Racing (Wales) Act 2026 ("the Act") provides a commencement window of April 2027 to April 2030, allowing the ban to be brought into force at an appropriate point during this window.

This enables time to be given to the industry to bring its activities to a close, strengthens rehoming arrangements, ensures enforcement bodies are fully prepared, and allows us to provide the right support to local communities as the changes take effect.

The Act does not stipulate a winding down or phased reduction in racing and the Welsh Government cannot mandate this but looks to the industry to manage this in a responsible manner. I note that the Implementation Group intend to work together to reach consensus and recommend a reasonable date for concluding racing at Valley Greyhound Stadium.

Recommendation 2

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Gohebiaeth.Llyr.Gruffydd@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Llyr.Gruffydd@gov.wales

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn yr iaith honno ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

The Implementation Group would like the support of the Welsh Government in securing the Greyhound Board of Great Britain (GBGB) retirement bond for every greyhound being retired by an eligible rehoming organisation, not limited to those approved under the GBGB retirement scheme.

Response: I recognise the importance of ensuring appropriate welfare and rehoming support for greyhounds affected by the prohibition of greyhound racing in Wales. The Implementation Group was established to support this transition and help mitigate the impacts of the prohibition, with greyhound welfare as a clear priority.

The GBGB retirement bond arrangements sit outside the direct control of Welsh Ministers. Responsibility for safeguarding the welfare of racing greyhounds, including their retirement and post-racing outcomes, rests with the industry and its regulator. I therefore expect GBGB to take all reasonable steps to ensure appropriate financial and practical support is available for greyhounds retired as a result of the prohibition.

I remain committed to engaging constructively with stakeholders on this issue. I encourage GBGB to review eligibility requirements for its Greyhound Retirement Scheme and associated retirement bond, including whether restrictions on certain rehoming organisations could be reconsidered to enable broader support for retired greyhounds.

Recommendation 4

Welfare compatible standards are specified and adopted by any organisations rehoming greyhounds with independent monitoring implemented. The development of Terms of Reference and a Memorandum of Understanding to facilitate information sharing, ensure alignment on welfare standards, and support formal sign-up by participating organisations. It is recommended that Animal Licensing Wales (ALW) is asked to monitor the welfare standards, with the rehoming organisations reporting back to the Group monthly.

Response: The Welsh Government notes this recommendation. ALW, which is funded by the Welsh Government, has an established role in supporting local authorities in the licensing of activities involving animals.

We will engage with ALW to explore the proposed welfare monitoring arrangements. Any expansion of ALW's role would need to be carefully considered alongside existing priorities.

Recommendation 6

That the Group is part of any post-implementation review of the legislation undertaken by the Welsh Government to assess the effectiveness and impact of the legislation, including the cross-border impact of ending greyhound racing in Wales.

Response: The Act includes provision for a post legislative review. As set out in Section 5 of the Act, Welsh Ministers are required to review the operation and effect of, and compliance with, the Act within three years of the commencement of the prohibition, and to publish a report of that review in such manner as they consider appropriate.

While the detailed scope of the review is yet to be determined, I would expect it to consider how the legislation has operated in practice, including implementation, compliance, enforcement, as well as outcomes for racing greyhounds and cross-border implications.

I recognise the value of the Implementation Group's expertise and appreciate its offer to support such a review. We will consider how to engage its members, alongside other stakeholders, which may require reconvening the Group or extending its term.

Recommendation 8

The Welsh Government should support those individuals affected by the prohibition of greyhound racing through enabling access to employability support programmes. This should include signposting to relevant services, guidance on eligibility, and support to navigate available provision. The Group will assist this recommendation by helping to identify those affected by the ban through their own links with the industry. Such measures would help affected workers transition into alternative employment, minimise the socioeconomic impacts of the ban, and support labour market adjustment while ensuring that the policy objectives of the ban are achieved.

Response: I recognise the importance of supporting individuals who may be affected by employment changes resulting from the implementation of a ban. I am committed to ensuring that appropriate and proportionate support is in place to help individuals transition to alternative employment and training opportunities.

Existing Welsh Government employability and skills programmes provide a strong foundation for this support. We will work with our partners, including Careers Wales and Working Wales, and directly with Valley Greyhound Stadium to ensure affected individuals are clearly signposted to available support and assisted in accessing it.

I welcome the Report's **Next Steps** and how the Group are considering an appropriate timeline for the prohibition to come into force, alongside practical steps for implementation. I look forward to this in your autumn report. The Implementation Group's advice, expertise and guidance will be invaluable in ensuring a smooth, well-managed and responsible transition.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Llyr Gruffydd', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

Llyr Gruffydd AS/MS

Gweinidog Cabinet dros Wydnwch Gwledig a Chynaliadwyedd
Cabinet Minister for Rural Resilience and Sustainability