



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Greyhound Racing Ireland
Greenpark
Dock Road
Limerick
V94 Y17X

Rural Affairs and Islands Committee
c/o Clerk to the Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

rural.committee@parliament.scot

By email only

14 July 2023

Dear Sir/Madam,

The welfare of greyhounds bred in Ireland for racing in Great Britain

I write in relation to a [public petition to ban greyhound racing in Scotland](#) currently being considered by the Scottish Parliament's Rural Affairs and Islands Committee.

The Committee held a number of evidence sessions recently which examined the welfare and lifecycle of greyhounds used for racing in Scotland. The Committee has taken evidence from a range of stakeholders including the Scottish Animal Welfare Commission, the Greyhound Board of Great Britain (GBGB), the owner of Scotland's sole track (which is not registered with GBGB), and several animal welfare organisations.

One issue considered in these sessions was the welfare of greyhounds that are bred and/or reared in Ireland before being transported to, and used for racing in, Great Britain. Stakeholders informed the Committee that, while the majority of greyhounds used for racing in GB originate from Ireland, limited information is available about the breeding and welfare of greyhounds in Ireland.

The Committee therefore agreed to write to Greyhound Racing Ireland (GRI) to seek further information with regard to—

- the statistics for how many greyhounds are born in Ireland annually, the number reared and kept for racing in Ireland, and the number that are exported to owners in GB;
- the regulations under which greyhound breeding takes place and evidence available on the welfare conditions that greyhounds experience before export to GB;

- GRI's understanding of the extent to which 'wastage' occurs in the industry with dogs going unaccounted for in early life (a concern expressed to the Committee by some stakeholders), including GRI's position on the 2017 report produced by Preferred Results Ltd or if more recent figures are available;
- what regulations apply to the exporting of greyhounds from Ireland to GB, including any provisions in place for the registration and traceability of greyhounds sold to GB-based owners; and
- whether any changes are anticipated to the regulations regarding the breeding, registration, export and welfare of greyhounds in Ireland.

It would aid the Committee in its consideration of the petition to receive your response by **15 September 2023**.

I am grateful for your assistance with the Committee's inquiry.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Finlay Carson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Finlay Carson MSP
Convener
Rural Affairs and Islands Committee