

Rural Affairs and Islands Committee

9th Meeting, 2024 (Session 6), Wednesday, 20 March

Petition PE1758: End greyhound racing in Scotland

Introduction

1. Petition [PE1758: End greyhound racing in Scotland](#), submitted by Gill Docherty on behalf of Scotland Against Greyhound Exploitation, calls on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to put an end to greyhound racing in Scotland.
2. This paper supports the Committee's evidence session with greyhound owners, trainers and breeders who are registered with the Greyhound Board of Great Britain (GBGB).
3. All correspondence and written submissions received in relation to the petition are [available on the petition webpage](#).

Background

4. The Committee began its consideration of the petition with [an evidence session with the petitioner on 20 April 2022](#). Following the meeting, the Committee wrote to the Scottish Animal Welfare Commission, among other key stakeholders, seeking their views on the welfare of greyhounds used for racing in Scotland.
5. On 28 February 2023, the Committee received the [SAWC's report on the welfare of greyhounds used for racing in Scotland](#). The report included several recommendations for the future of greyhound racing in Scotland including the attendance of a vet at races held at the unregulated track at Thornton, Fife, and a prohibition on the opening of any new greyhound tracks in Scotland.
6. Following its consideration of the SAWC's report and recommendations, the Committee agreed to undertake an inquiry into the welfare of greyhounds used for racing in Scotland.
7. The Committee [opened a call for views](#) on the welfare of racing greyhounds, the petition, and the recommendations of the SAWC report. The call for views ran between 17 March and 7 April 2023. Responses are published on the Parliament website.

8. The Committee then took evidence from the SAWC on its report, GBGB and the owners of Thornton Greyhounds and animal welfare organisations to discuss the welfare of greyhounds, the petition, and the SAWC's recommendations.
9. The Committee agreed in June 2023 to two further evidence sessions; this session with Scottish greyhound owners, trainers and breeders who are registered with the GBGB and a session with the Scottish Government. The Committee will review all the evidence it has taken, and its next steps, following the session with the Scottish Government, scheduled for 27 March.
10. This evidence session continues the Committee's inquiry into the welfare of greyhounds used for racing in Scotland—

Committee meeting date	Evidence session
29 March 2023	Official Report for evidence session with Scottish Animal Welfare Commission
26 April 2023	Official report for evidence session with GBGB and Thornton Greyhounds
3 May 2023	Official report for evidence session with Dogs Trust, RSPCA, and SSPCA
20 March 2024	Evidence session with GBGB-registered greyhound owners, trainers, and breeders
27 March 2024	Evidence session with the Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity

Rural Affairs and Islands Committee clerks
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