

Rural Affairs and Islands Committee  
Wednesday 22 May 2024  
14th Meeting, 2024 (Session 6)

## 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 on 23 October 2019, calls on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to end greyhound racing in Scotland.
2. This paper supports the Committee's evidence session with the Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity and Scottish Government officials.

### Background

3. The petition was initially considered by the session 5 Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee.
4. This 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 (SAWC), 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 independent tracks 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, the Greyhound Board of Great Britain, the owners of the sole independent track in Scotland, 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; a 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 this session with the Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity.

10. This evidence session continues the Committee's evidence gathering on the welfare of greyhounds used for racing in Scotland:

20 April 2022	<a href="#"><u>Official Report for evidence session with the petitioner.</u></a>
29 March 2023	<a href="#"><u>Official Report for evidence session with the SAWC.</u></a>
26 April 2023	<a href="#"><u>Official Report for evidence session with the GBGB and Thornton Greyhounds.</u></a>
3 May 2023	<a href="#"><u>Official Report for evidence session with Dogs Trust, RSPCA and SSPCA.</u></a>
20 March 2024	<a href="#"><u>Official Report for evidence session with GBGB-registered greyhound owners, trainers, and breeders.</u></a>
22 May 2024	Evidence session with the Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity.

11. All correspondence and written submissions received in relation to the petition are available on the [PE1758: End greyhound racing In Scotland petition webpage.](#)

**Clerks to the Committee  
May 2024**