

T: 0300-244 337
E: grant.campbell@gov.scot

Mr John Robins
john@jfrobins.force9.co.uk

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Dear Mr Robins,

Thank-you for your correspondence of 22 March, to the Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform. As a member of the Animal Welfare Team I have been asked to reply on Ms Cunningham's behalf.

As you are aware on the 6 September 2016, the First Minister announced that a Bill to ban the use of wild animals in travelling circuses in Scotland would be included in the Scottish Government's Programme for Government for 2016/17. The Bill is currently at the final stages of being drafted and remains on schedule.

Once the Bill has been introduced to the Scottish Parliament, your organisations members can keep updated on its progress through the parliamentary process on the Scottish Parliament website at: <http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/576.aspx>

Please be assured that the Scottish Government takes the welfare of all animals, including circus animals, very seriously and I would like to thank you again for your interest on this important issue.

Yours sincerely,

Grant

GRANT CAMPBELL
Animal Health & Welfare Division