

Response ID ANON-26SK-P2HD-M

Submitted to **Animals and Wildlife (Scotland) Bill**

Submitted on **2019-11-12 04:08:45**

About you

Please read the privacy notice below and tick the box below to show that you understand how the data you provide will be used as set out in the policy.

I have read and understood how the personal data I provide will be used.

What is your name?

Name:

John F. Robins

What is your email address?

Email:

animals@jfrobins.force9.co.uk

Are you responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?

Organisation

Organisation:

Animal Concern

How would you like your response to be published?

I would like my response to be published in its entirety

Penalties

Are the proposed maximum penalties for animal welfare offences set at the right level to act as a deterrent?

Please enter your views in the box below::

So long as they are used I think the proposed new maximum penalties are adequate.

Are the proposed maximum penalties for wildlife offences set at the right level to act as a deterrent?

Please enter your views in the box below::

If the courts use them the new penalties will be adequate. I am assuming that the power to confiscate all equipment (including vehicles and any money which might have been used to wager on the outcome of a fight or baiting session) used when committing the crime will remain.

Can you give specific examples where existing maximum penalties have been insufficient?

Please provide any examples in the box below::

One thing greatly concerns me. In 2017 a woman was jailed after being found guilty of severe neglect of dogs in her care. She was also banned from keeping animals for several years. However when released from prison she immediately moved back in with her partner and several of her dogs. As the ownership of the dogs had been transferred to her partner she was not in breach of her sentence. I would like to see the animal ban conditions changed so that people can be banned from associating with animals, working with animals or living in a property with animals. Like child abusers, animal abusers target victims which cannot speak out or properly defend themselves. Just as child abusers can be ordered to have no contact with children, animal abusers should be ordered to have no contact with animals.

Do the proposals on wildlife penalties fully address the recommendations of the Poustie review on penalties?

Please give your views in the box below::

Are the proposals for treatment of service animals necessary and appropriate?

Please give your views in the box below::

Added protection for working animals is welcome.

Will the proposals have implications for how evidence is gathered and treated?

Please enter your views in the box below::

New powers for enforcement agencies without a Court Order

Are the proposals to allow enforcement agencies to intervene without a need for a court order necessary and appropriate?

Please give your views in the box below::

Yes

What impact will the proposals have on: local authorities; animal welfare agencies, sanctuaries and rehoming centres; commercial businesses, individuals and; the welfare of different types of animal?

Please provide your views in the box below::

Hopefully a positive impact.

Compensation & Fixed Penalty Notices

Are the proposals to pay compensation to an owner necessary and appropriate?

Please give your views in the box below::

Only if animals are removed and rehomed or destroyed and then the owner found not guilty. Those found guilty should be forced to pay any costs involved in dealing with their victims.

Will Fixed Penalty Notices act as a deterrent and how should they be used to maximise their positive impact on animal welfare?

Please give your views in the box below::

If used appropriately yes.

Any further issues or views

Do you have any further issues or views about the Bill, and the adequacy of other legislation to deal with wildlife crime, that have not been covered in previous questions.

Please provide any further issues or views you wish to raise in the box below::

Where wildlife crime is committed with the knowledge of or on the instructions of a third party (land owner, land manager, farmer, etc) then that third party should also be prosecuted and punished.

Evaluation

Was this Call for Views submission tool easy to use?

Neither easy or difficult to use

Why did you feel it was, or was not, easy to use?:

It very much leads and influences the answers and opinions left.

Were the questions easy to understand?

Difficult to understand

Why do you feel the questions were, or were not, easy to understand?:

Some of the further information links seemed to go nowhere relevant.

Do you think this Call for Views submission tool provides a good way for you to get involved in the work of Parliament?

No

Please explain the reasons for your answer?:

It is too leading. I prefer to be given clear information on the proposals and an e-mail address on which to make written submission.

Would you use this Call for Views submission tool again in future to engage with the Scottish Parliament if there was a topic you were interested in?

Yes

Please explain the reasons for your answer?:

It seems to be compulsory.