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The Rt Hon Owen Paterson MP
From the Secretary of State

Thank you for your letter of 27 February about a petition received by the National Assembly for Wales in support of the creation of an Animal Offenders Register.

The Government has no proposals to introduce a database of animal abusers, which I consider would raise civil rights and data protection issues. I am also unsure how such a system would be enforceable, given how easy it is for animals to change hands.

The police already have access to a national database of offenders. The courts have the power to ban anyone who has been convicted of causing unnecessary suffering to an animal from keeping animals for as long as they consider is appropriate. Anyone who is found to be in breach of an order prohibiting them from keeping animals would be committing an offence.

THE RT HON OWEN PATERSON MP



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