



Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Dublin 2.

Oifig an Aire Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara, Baile Átha Cliath 2.

22 March 2013

Mr. William Powell AM
Chair of the Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
petition@wales.gov.ie

Our Ref: 2013/46509P
Your Ref: P-04-398

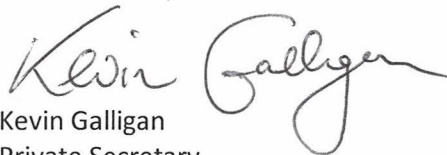
Dear Mr Powell

Thank you for your letter in connection with the possible establishment of an animal abuser's register.

I am grateful for this cross border consultation. However, based on relevant enquiries I would remain to be fully convinced that an animal abuser's register represents the singular appropriate solution. An automatic disqualification in all instances may not represent an appropriately balanced response.

The new Animal Health & Welfare Bill which is currently before the Irish Parliament provides that, where a case of animal abuse is found to be serious by the courts, the offender can be disqualified from animal keeping under Section 59. Furthermore Section 61 provides that where a person shows an incapacity for animal keeping the courts may prevent, or limit, them from keeping animals.

Yours sincerely


Kevin Galligan
Private Secretary