

30th May 2024

Dear Sir, Madam,

**Greyhound Racing in Scotland
RAI Committee**

I am writing following the RAI Committee meeting on the future of greyhound racing in Scotland held on 22nd May 2024, in which the Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity and Veterinary Head of Animal Welfare provided evidence on behalf of the Scottish Government.

I was pleased to hear the Scottish Government is continuing to strongly consider the licensing of greyhound racing in Scotland. We wholeheartedly agree that a ban of the sport is not a proportionate step to take and would only serve to dismantle the social fabric of those communities involved in the sport. Moreover, it would only jeopardise welfare standards, leaving greyhounds' lives at risk.

Over the past months, we have continued to engage with the Scottish Government and the Committee on this area of your work. We fully supported the Scottish Government's consultation on the licensing of animal activities, submitting our own response in September 2023. Likewise, Greyhound Board of Great Britain (GBGB) representatives – myself included – and several GBGB-licensed trainers have appeared before the Committee to provide evidence. I do hope you found our contributions helpful.

As you know, welfare sits at the heart of everything we do at GBGB. We have put in place extensive systems and initiatives as part of our long-term welfare strategy, 'A Good Life for Every Greyhound', to ensure the highest standards of welfare and integrity are being met across the sport. We want to make sure greyhounds can continue to take part in a pursuit they so avidly enjoy and, once their career on the track ends, can spend their retirement in a responsible and loving forever home.

As you continue to consider the future of the sport in Scotland, please do let me know if there is any further information that would be of use or interest. Whilst we don't currently regulate any tracks in Scotland, we are committed to supporting high welfare standards across the regions and are keen to continue our engagement with you to achieve this.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Bird
Chief Executive
Greyhound Board of Great Britain