

Rural Affairs and Islands Committee

13th Meeting, 2023 (Session 6), Wednesday, 3 May

Petition PE1758: End greyhound racing in Scotland

Introduction

1. Petition [PE1758: End greyhound racing in Scotland](#), submitted by Gill Docherty on behalf of Scotland Against Greyhound Exploitation, calls on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to put an end to greyhound racing in Scotland.
2. This paper supports the Committee's evidence session with animal welfare organisations.
3. All correspondence and written submissions received in relation to the petition are [available on the petition webpage](#).

Consideration by the RAI Committee

4. The Committee began its consideration of the petition with [an evidence session with the petitioner on 20 April 2022](#). Following the meeting, the Committee wrote to the Scottish Animal Welfare Commission, among other key stakeholders, seeking their views on the welfare of greyhounds used for racing in Scotland.
5. On 28 February 2023, the Committee received the [SAWC's report on the welfare of greyhounds used for racing in Scotland](#). The report included several recommendations for the future of greyhound racing in Scotland including the attendance of a vet at races held at the unregulated track at Thornton, Fife, and a prohibition on the opening of any new greyhound tracks in Scotland.
6. Following its consideration of the SAWC's report and recommendations, the Committee agreed to undertake an inquiry into the welfare of greyhounds used for racing in Scotland.
7. The Committee [opened a call for views](#) on 17 March 2023, seeking submissions on the welfare of racing greyhounds, the petition, and the recommendations of the SAWC report. The call for views closed on 7 April 2023. The responses to the call for views are published on the Parliament's website.

8. A summary of the responses to the call for views was produced for the Committee's meeting of 26 April 2023, available under item 3 as [PE1758 CfV summary](#).
9. The Committee agreed to hold an evidence session with animal welfare organisations to discuss the welfare of greyhounds, the petition, and the SAWC's recommendations.
10. This evidence session continues the Committee's inquiry into the welfare of greyhounds used for racing in Scotland—

Committee meeting date	Evidence session
29 March 2023	Official Report for evidence session with Scottish Animal Welfare Commission, 29 March 2023
26 April 2023	Evidence session with greyhound racing organisations, 26 April 2023

11. The Committee will consider its next steps for this inquiry at its meeting on 10 May.

**Rural Affairs and Islands Committee clerks
April 2023**