

Consultation on Should the Use of wild animals in travelling circuses be banned in Scotland

Report by Director, Resources

1 Purpose of Report

To review the questionnaire attached to Government consultation about an impending review of the banning of the use of wild animals in travelling circuses in Scotland.

2 Background

In terms of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982, the Council Licences Places of Public Entertainment, including Circuses with Wild Animals. In Midlothian, any such public entertainment licences are granted subject to a full veterinary inspection of all animals, the cost of which is borne by the licence – holder. A blanket ban was not possible. All applications have to be considered on their merits.

The current policy of the Council, as landowner ie in relation to Parks and Open Spaces, is that any requests from the proprietors of travelling circuses with wild animals will be refused.

On the basis of these policies ie with an emphasis on protection of animal welfare, a draft response to the Questionnaire has been prepared and is attached as an Appendix hereto. Members are invited to consider it when deliberating on the subject.

(In England, the Westminster Parliament has passed legislation to ban wild animals in circuses from early 2015.)

3 Resource Implications

There are no resource or other implications arising directly from this report.

4 Recommendation

The Committee is invited to consider the attached draft and remit submission of a response to the Director, in consultation with the Chair taking into account the views of Members.

23 March 2014

Contact Person:	R G Atack	Tel No: 0131 271 3161
Background Papers:	Draft Questionnaire attached	

Draft Response to Questionnaire

Wild Animals in Circuses - Respect for Animals

Consultation Question 1 Do you believe that the exhibitions and performances required of wild animals in travelling circuses compromise respect for the animals concerned? Why?

Yes ~~No~~ ~~Don't know~~

Comments –

Consultation question 2 Do you believe that the exhibitions and performances required of wild animals in travelling circuses have an adverse impact on the development of respectful and responsible attitudes towards animals in children and young people? Why?

Yes ~~No~~ ~~Don't know~~

Comments

Consultation Question 3 Do you consider that concerns relating to respect for animals could be resolved without banning the use of wild animals in travelling circuses. If so, how?

~~Yes~~ ~~No~~ ~~Don't know~~

Comments

Travelling environment

Consultation Question 4 Do you believe that the ability of none, some, or all wild animals to undertake natural behaviours are compromised within the travelling circus environment? Which species? Which needs? Why?

~~None~~ ~~Some~~ ~~All~~ ~~Don't know~~

Comments

Consultation Question 5 Do you consider that it is possible to facilitate the natural behaviour of none, some or all wild animals within the travelling circus environment? Which species? How?

~~None~~ ~~Some~~ ~~All~~ ~~Don't know~~

Comments

Consultation 6 Do you consider that the concerns raised surrounding the travelling environment could be resolved without banning the use of wild animals in travelling circuses? How?

~~Yes~~ ~~No~~ ~~Don't know~~

Comments

Ethical costs and benefits

Consultation Question 7 Do you consider that there are any benefits to be gained from having wild animals in travelling circuses? What are they?

~~Yes~~ No ~~Don't know~~

Comments

Consultation Question 8 Do you believe that there are sufficient benefits to justify the potential compromise to the wider well-being of wild animals kept in a travelling circus ? Why?

~~Yes~~ No ~~Don't know~~

Comments

Consultation Question 9 Do you consider that the potential conflict between compromising the well-being of wild animals and obtaining any benefit could be resolved without banning the use of wild animals in travelling circuses. If so, how?

~~Yes~~ No ~~Don't know~~

Comments

Financial impacts of a ban

Consultation Question 10 As far as you are aware, how often have travelling circuses that use wild animals in performances or for exhibition visited Scotland in the last 5 years and in the last 12 months?

No. in last 5 yrs.	Number	No. in last 12 mths	Number	Don't know	
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Comments None have visited Midlothian during this time

Consultation question 11 What effect do you think a ban on the use and exhibition of wild animals would have on the revenue of such circuses? Why?

~~Increase~~ Decrease ~~No change~~ ~~Don't know~~

Comments

Consultation Question 12 If a ban on the use and exhibition of wild animals was imposed, do you think that such circuses would still visit Scotland without the wild animals? Why?

Yes ~~No~~ ~~Don't know~~

Comments

Consultation question 13 What effect do you think a ban on the use and exhibition of wild animals in travelling circuses would have on the revenue of other types of circus (e.g. static or those travelling without wild animals)? Why?

~~Increase~~ ~~Decrease~~ No change ~~Don't know~~

Comments

Consultation question 14 What effect do you think a ban on the use and exhibition of wild animals in travelling circuses would have on the revenue of circus venues? Why?

~~Increase~~ ~~Decrease~~ ~~No change~~ ~~Don't know~~

Comments

Wider film and television industry

Consultation Question 15 Do you consider that a ban on wild animals in travelling circuses could have an impact on other industries? If so, which industries, what would be the effect and why?

	Positive impact	Negative impact	No impact	Don't know
Film	x			
TV - drama	x			
TV - documentary	x			
TV - childrens	x			
Advertising – TV	x			
Advertising - other	x			
Other				
Other				
Other				

Comments

Should Scotland ban the use of wild animals in travelling circuses?

Consultation Question 16 Do you agree that the use of wild animals for performance in travelling circuses should be banned in Scotland? Why?

Yes ~~No~~ ~~Don't know~~

Comments

Consultation Question 17 Do you agree that the use of wild animals for exhibition in travelling circuses should be banned in Scotland? Why?

Yes ~~No~~ ~~Don't know~~

Comments

Consultation Question 18 Do you consider that any ban should be a blanket ban on all wild animals in travelling circuses? Why?

Yes ~~No~~ ~~Don't know~~

Comments

Consultation Question 19 Do you consider that any specific species of animal not commonly domesticated in the British Islands should be permitted to be used in travelling circuses in Scotland? If so, which species and why?

~~Yes~~ No ~~Don't know~~

Comments

Consultation Question 20 Do you consider that there are key species that should be covered by a ban in the event that a blanket ban could not be achieved? If so, which species and why?

~~Yes~~ No ~~Don't know~~

Comments

Any other Comments

Consultation Question 21. Do you have any other comments on whether/how the use of wild animals in travelling circuses should be banned in Scotland?

Yes ~~No~~

Comments

Consultation Question 22. Do you consider that the consultation paper explained the key issues sufficiently for you to properly consider your responses?

Yes ~~No~~ ~~Don't know~~

Comments

Consultation Question 23. Do you consider that you had sufficient time to respond to the consultation?

Yes ~~No~~ ~~Don't know~~

Comments

Consultation Question 24. Do you have any other comments on the way this consultation has been conducted?

Yes ~~No~~

Comments
