

Received answer

1. Organisation name

NA

2. Title

Miss

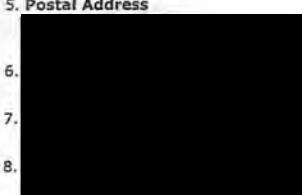
3. Surname

Cargill

4. Forename

Elizabeth

5. Postal Address



6.

7.

8.

WAC 1740

9. Permissions - I am responding as

Individual

10. Do you agree to your response being made available to the public (in Scottish Government library and/or on the Scottish Government web site)?

Yes

12. Please tick ONE of the following boxes

Yes, make my response and name available but not my address

14. We will share your responses internally with other Scottish Government policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for the Scottish Government to contact you again in relation to this consultation exercise?

No

15. It would be helpful for our analysis if you could indicate which of the sectors you most align yourself/your organisation with the purpose of this consultation (please tick one)

Other

16. If 'Other' please specify

Veterinary Nurse

17. 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

18. Comments

These animals are not given the appropriate care that is needed for a wild creature kept in captivity. They have no enrichment and are kept in an unnatural environment. Consequently they become withdrawn, depressed and bored, resulting in recurring health problems and abnormal behaviour such as pacing/repetitive motions, bar biting and even self mutilation. These animals are not given the respect that is needed.

19. 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

20. Comments

Exposing children and young people to the abuse of animals in the circus industry teaches them that it's acceptable to dominate, whip, chain and beat other living, feeling beings who experience the pain of the whips and the stress of confinement to the same extent that we would. Obviously, these things are not acceptable, and such lessons in insensitivity are not what most parents would knowingly want to teach their children. Furthermore, experts in early childhood development have recommended against taking children to circuses that force animals to perform after finding that such acts inhibit a child's ability to develop empathy towards both humans and animals alike by teaching them that other living beings are merely objects to be manipulated for their own enjoyment.

21. 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?

No

22. Comments

This is because WILD animals belong in the WILD and if they can not be released back into the wild, they need enclosures that are the closest thing to being in their natural habitat. There is no way that by having animals in circus that are trained by the worst possible methods. All of the natural instincts and needs of these animals are completely taken away from them as soon as they are separated (pre-maturely) from their mothers. It would be contradictory to still have these practices in force whilst promoting the respect for animals.

23. 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?

All

24. Comments

Circuses cannot adequately provide for the unique physical, social and psychological needs of any species of wild animals or provide an environment that is well suited to their natural behaviour. Just as a few examples- The Elephant; Incredibly intelligent creatures. They can express the same emotions as humans i.e happiness, grief, sympathy and playfulness. Their natural way of life is to live in large, tightly knit groups. They travel many distances, graze, forage and breed. This is all taken away from them when they are chained up in a cold, lonely environment.

Tiger; top of the food chain. They are predators with territories of hundreds of square miles in the wild, yet circuses force them to live most of their lives in transport cages that are barely bigger than their own bodies. Tigers are naturally solitary but are commonly kept in groups. The natural instincts of the tiger would be to kill and eat the other prey animals but being kept in a small cage takes away this natural behaviour.

In the wild, grazing animals such as zebras and camels spend a large part of their day eating. Circuses cannot provide permanent outdoor paddocks for grazing, so these animals spend much of their time confined to indoor stalls or tied to transport vehicle

25. 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

26. Comments

Please see the comments on Question 4.

27. Consultation Question 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?

No

28. Comments

The reason why they are called wild animals is because they belong in the WILD. Extreme confinement and physical stress during transport – in combination with the use of psychologically and possibly physically abusive training methods – inevitably compromise the welfare of these animals.

Abuse begins at an early age for elephants in travelling shows. In December 2009, PETA US released a declaration and photographs taken by a retired Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus employee, Sam Haddock, who was involved in training baby elephants for Ringling, the largest circus in the

US, which also travels to Europe. The dozens of photographs that Haddock gave to PETA US reveal the forcible and also physically and psychologically abusive training methods that Ringling uses on baby elephants. According to Haddock, these cruel methods are the only way that an elephant can be trained to perform in circuses.

In the UK, Animal Defenders International (ADI) released undercover video footage in August 2009 documenting that elephants in a circus exhibited a pattern of disturbed, abnormal behaviour, such as rocking, swaying and head-bobbing. Animal behaviourists believe that these movements are signs that an animal is suffering and unable to cope with his or her situation. ADI's investigations reinforce that the suffering uncovered by PETA US' Ringling probe is not specific to the US but endemic in the industry.

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

No

**30. Comments**

There is nothing to be gained from forcing animals to perform in an unnatural environment.

It is a well-established fact that suffering is inherent in the use of wild animals in circuses, which is why this obsolete form of entertainment has no place in a civilised society in the 21st century.

**31. 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 the travelling circus? Why?**

No

**32. Comments**

There are no benefits to keeping animals incarcerated for human amusement. No animal will voluntarily perform the physically gruelling and grossly exaggerated manoeuvres featured in a typical circus act. Without a complete ban on the use of all wild animals in travelling circuses, the animals' well-being, mental health and dignity will be completely compromised, which cannot be justified for any reason. As stated previously, there is no educational value in viewing exotic and endangered animals who have been forced to don costumes and perform unnatural tricks.

**33. 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?**

No

**34. Comments**

In addition to enduring abusive training, animals in circuses are subjected to prolonged confinement, which is inherent in travelling shows. For example, elephants with Ringling in the US spend up to 100 hours at a time chained inside poorly ventilated boxcars as the circus travels from one city to the next. The only way to resolve this conflict and thereby protect the well-being of animals is to implement a total ban on their use in circuses, as the welfare problems experienced by animals in travelling circuses are inherent in their use and cannot be corrected by any change in practice. A ban is the only solution.

**36. Number in last 5 years**

Two

**37. Number in last 12 months**

None

**39. Comments**

The frequency with which animals are abused, neglected and forced to perform in unnatural ways for human entertainment is irrelevant.

The frequency with which animals are abused, neglected and forced to perform in unnatural ways for human entertainment is of no consequence. Abuse should be prevented before it occurs, which can be done only by implementing a complete ban on the use of wild animals in circuses.

Nonetheless, as no circus using wild animals has come to Scotland in the last 12 months – and only a small number have done so in the past five years – it is clear that the necessary ban on wild animals in circuses would actually have very little impact on businesses operating in Scotland, although it would have a very meaningful and positive effect on animal welfare in the country.

**40. 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

**41. Comments**

As has been demonstrated by the hugely popular Cirque du Soleil, a complete ban on wild animals in circuses would likely benefit circuses that use archaic animal acts, as they would have an impetus to reinvent themselves.

With growing public awareness of the cruelty inherent in animal circuses, interest is declining in circuses that continue to use animals. Circuses that do not use wild animals remain profitable, indicating, at the very least, that the use of wild animals is not essential to circuses.

People know that animals are able to be trained in the harshest of ways to do whatever people want them to do and really is no 'trick' at all. As for humans, to be able to do acrobatics and death defying stunts really shows the amazing abilities of what people are actually capable of and are impressive. No animals need to be involved.

**42. 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

**43. Comments**

As any modern business knows, an enterprise needs to evolve with changing public opinion. In order to comply with an existing ban in the US, the Cole Bros Circus was forced to present an animal-free version of its show and celebrated the resultant production as "just as dazzling and just as amazing" as the version that uses animals.

**44. 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 circuses (e.g. static or those travelling without wild animals)? Why?**

No Change

**45. Comments**

Banning the use of wild animals in circuses would bring Scotland and the circus companies more in line with public sentiment, meaning that the circus industry's reputation would be improved. In addition, as mentioned in our response to Question 10, as no wild animals have been used in circuses in Scotland in the past 12 months and very few have been used in the past five years, implementing a total ban would have no negative effect on either travelling or static circuses. Instead, the ban would cement Scotland's commitment to improving and supporting animal welfare.

**46. 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

**47. Comments**

A 2006 study in Massachusetts by Harvard-educated economist Jennifer Fearing found that where travelling circuses are not an available entertainment option – which need not be the case here, as many circuses are successful without wild animals – there is, if anything, a positive impact on the economy because consumers spend the same amount on entertainment, regardless of their options.

As of the publication of Fearing's study, 28 municipalities in Massachusetts had enacted bans on the use of exotic animals in circuses, and none of those municipalities reported any economic losses as a result.

**48. 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?**

Film

- Positive Impact

TV - drama

- Positive Impact

TV - documentary

- Positive Impact

TV - childrens

- Positive Impact

Advertising - TV

- Positive Impact

Advertising - other

- Positive Impact

Other

- Positive Impact

Other

- Positive impact

Other

- Positive impact

**49. Comments**

No Industry which profits from severely compromising the welfare of wild animals can be justified ethically, and any potential negative effects on such industries must be considered in that context.

Any similar industry will be sent a strong message that the public and government will no longer tolerate the abuse of wild animals and that the public considers the physical, psychological and social needs of captive wildlife a priority.

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

Yes

**51. Comments**

Wild animals in circuses, whether for the purpose of performance or exhibition, endure poor care, chronic health problems and abusive treatment, as mentioned in the comments for Question 1.

They also experience psychological disorders and aberrant behaviour, including aggression, and die prematurely. Many countries – Including Austria, Bolivia, Finland, India and Singapore – have now recognised that travelling circuses are unable to address the welfare needs of wild animals adequately and have implemented bans or prohibitions on the use of wild-animal acts, and Sweden prohibits the use of bears, big cats, monkeys, hippos, giraffes and rhinos in circus acts.

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

Yes

**53. Comments**

Please see comments for Q.16.

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

Yes

**55. Comments**

The use of wild animals in circuses must be banned because the welfare problems that the animals experience are inherent in their use and cannot be corrected by any change in practice.

Extreme confinement and physical stress during transport – in combination with the use of psychologically and possibly physically abusive training methods – Inevitably compromise the welfare of the animals.

Similarly, a ban on the use of wild animals in circuses should apply to all species. Circuses cannot adequately provide for the unique physical, social and psychological needs of any wild animals.

**56. 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?**

No

**57. Comments**

Circuses cannot adequately provide for the unique physical, social and psychological needs of any wild animal. Many countries – including Austria, Bolivia, Finland, India and Singapore – have now recognised this fact and have implemented bans or prohibitions on the use of wild-animal acts, and England will follow suit in 2015.

**58. 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?**

No

**59. Comments**

All animals endure the same abuse no matter what species they are. Only a blanket ban on the use of wild animals in circuses can prevent such exploitation from taking place.

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

Yes

**61. Comments**

A complete ban on wild animals in circuses is the ONLY way to prevent abuse.

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

Yes

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

Yes

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

No

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