

SCOTTISH GAMEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Date and Time of Engagement	4 TH March 2016 10am
Where	Inverness Caledonian Thistle Club, Stadium Road, Inverness, IV1 1FF
Key Message	[REDACTED]
Who	[REDACTED], Chairman, SGA
Why	Invitation to speak at AGM
Official Support Required	[REDACTED]
Media Handling/social media	[REDACTED]
Dress code	
Greeting Party and specific meeting point on arrival (if event is at a non SE Building)	[REDACTED], PR and Communications Officer [REDACTED]
Specific entrance for Ministerial car/parking arrangements	

TAIL DOCKING

Lines to take:

- **Tail docking has been illegal in Scotland since 30 April 2007.**
- **At the time the Scottish Government stated that if in the future the ban compromised the overall welfare of working dogs then it would review the position.**
- **A public consultation launched on 10 February 2016 to seek views on the permitting limited tail docking. SGA was notified of the consultation and the Scottish Government encourages responses from all interested persons.**

What is tail docking?

- Tail docking involves the removal of part of a puppy's tail, generally without anaesthetic. (It is not to be confused with medical treatment of an injured tail.)
- It is a very divisive topic. The Scottish Gamekeepers Association is in favour of

Is it legal in Scotland?

- No. It has been banned since 30 April 2007 under section 20 of the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 ("the 2006 Act").
- Persons convicted of tail docking face maximum penalties of 6 months imprisonment and or a fine of up to £5,000.
- Scottish Ministers have powers in the 2006 Act to vary the current ban, having first consulted.

Why is the Scottish Government consulting on this issue?

- Scottish Government committed to reviewing the position if, in the future, the ban compromised the welfare of working dogs.
- The Scottish Government commissioned, in 2011, research from the University of Glasgow on the incidence of tail injuries to working dogs.
- One of the research projects calculated that in one shooting season 57% of undocked spaniels and 39% of hunt point retrievers experience a tail injury of some sort; and that docking their tails by one third could significantly reduce the risk of injury.

What Does the Consultation Ask?

- Consultation seeks views on the proposal to:
 - Permit the docking, by up to a third in length, the tails of working Spaniels and Hunt Point Retrievers before they are more than 5 days old; and
 - Whether tail docking should be carried out by veterinary surgeons only; and only where the vet is satisfied that the dogs will be used for working purposes and the pain of docking is outweighed by possible avoidance of later more serious injury.

Doc 02

Burns PD (Phil)

From: [redacted] on behalf of Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform
Sent: 02 June 2016 08:48
To: Williams B (Beverley); Burns PD (Phil)
Cc: Voas AP (Andrew); Voas S (Sheila); Pryce JM (Jonathan); [redacted] Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform; Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Connectivity
Subject: Working dogs consultation

Morning Beverley,

[redacted], I understand an SG consultation on working dogs ended in early May. Could you let us know when analysis of that is expected? Could you also advise what "working dogs" covers and whether further legislation is needed in this area? If so, when is it likely that a Bill will be published?

Many thanks,

[redacted]

[redacted] PS to Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Land Reform and Climate Change | 2N.08 | St Andrews House | Edinburgh | EH3 1DG | T: [redacted]

[redacted]

Burns PD (Phil)

From: Burns PD (Phil)
Sent: 02 June 2016 12:38
To: Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Connectivity; [REDACTED]
Cc: Voas AP (Andrew); Voas S (Sheila); Pryce JM (Jonathan); Higgins K (Kate); Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform; [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Tail docking - secondary legislation

Tracking:	Recipient	Delivery	Read
	Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Connectivity	Delivered: 02/06/2016 12:38	
	[REDACTED]	Delivered: 02/06/2016 12:38	Read: 02/06/2016 12:47
	Voas AP (Andrew)	Delivered: 02/06/2016 12:38	Read: 02/06/2016 13:23
	Voas S (Sheila)	Delivered: 02/06/2016 12:38	
	Pryce JM (Jonathan)	Delivered: 02/06/2016 12:38	
	[REDACTED]	Delivered: 02/06/2016 12:38	Read: 02/06/2016 12:39
	Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform	Delivered: 02/06/2016 12:38	Read: 02/06/2016 12:41
	[REDACTED]	Delivered: 02/06/2016 12:38	
	[REDACTED]		Read: 02/06/2016 12:39

[REDACTED]

This e-mail also replies to [REDACTED]'s e-mail of 2 June 2016 about the consultation of working dogs (proposal to permit tail docking of working Spaniels and Hunt Point Retrievers).

Remit of the Consultation

The consultation was limited to a possible exemption to allow the docking of up to one third of the tail of spaniels and hunt point retriever puppies intended to go on to work, generally in the shooting industry. The limitations to these specific types of dogs were placed as a result of the former Cabinet Secretary's discussions with the Rural Affairs and Climate Change Committee in late 2015.

Legislative Basis for any Change

An exemption to the current ban on tail docking may be made on animal welfare grounds by affirmative secondary legislation, under powers contained in s.20(5) of the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006. Any change is likely to be made to the Prohibited Procedures on Protected Animals (Exemptions)(Scotland) Regulations 2010.

Timing of Decision

The consultation elicited 914 responses and the decision was made, owing to the volume of replies, for an external analysis contract to be awarded. An invitation to tender was published through the Research Framework on 21 May 2016 but there were no bids for the contract.

The invitation to tender was reissued 31st May 2016 to a wider range of contractors and it is expected that the contract will be awarded on, or around, 11th July. The completed independent analysis report is expected to be available to the Cabinet Secretaries by 19th September; a decision and announcement would not be advisable until after this report has been considered.

I hope this is helpful.

Phil

Phil Burns
AFRC – Animal Health & Welfare
P Spur
Saughton House
Broomhouse Drive
Edinburgh
EH11 3XD

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Connectivity
Sent: 02 June 2016 10:19
To: Williams B (Beverley)
Cc: Voas AP (Andrew); Voas S (Sheila); Pryce JM (Jonathan); [REDACTED]; Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Connectivity; Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform; Burns PD (Phil)
Subject: Tail docking - secondary legislation

Hi Beverley and copied

Mr Ewing has asked for official advice as to whether a lifting of the tail docking ban (for specific species of dogs only) could be implemented by secondary legislation? If so, he would be keen for a decision to be taken soon and an announcement made over the summer. Are you able to advise, and if so, could we have a note up by early next week if possible please?

[REDACTED]

Thanks, [REDACTED]

Mar [REDACTED]
Ministerial Private Offices

Tel: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

BRITISH VETERINARY ASSOCIATION ANNUAL SCOTTISH DINNER

Date and Time of Engagement	7:00 pm, Tuesday 13 September 2016 - 2016 b,1 Jrn.5
Where	Scottish Parliament Members Restaurant
Key Message	<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>profession and the Scottish Government.</p> <p>Scotland has a strong and well-deserved reputation as a world [REDACTED]</p>
Who	<p>BVA President - [REDACTED]</p> <p>BVA Scottish Branch - Grace Webster</p> <p>Event Host - John Scott MSP..</p> <p>Event Organiser -- [REDACTED]</p> <p>Officers of the British Veterinary Association (BVA) in Scotland and UK, plus representatives from most livestock stakeholders.</p>
Why	<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>Main event each year for veterinary profession in Scotland; vets are important to us in delivering much of animal health and welfare policy</p>
Official Support Required	Sheila Voas, CVO Scotland [REDACTED] 7
Media Handling	[REDACTED]
Dress code	[REDACTED]
Greeting Party and specific meeting point on arrival (if at a non SE Building)	<p>[REDACTED], BVA Public Affairs Manager</p> <p>Arrive at Members' Restaurant Bar</p>
Specific entrance car/parking arrangements	N/A
Briefing contents	<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>Annex B – Summary Page</p> <p>Annex C – Additional briefing on key issues</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>

[1 page redacted exempt.]

Tail Docking

Top line

- The Scottish Government are considering the responses to the tail docking consultation along with other evidence and come to a decision over the next few months.

Background

- The issue of tail docking in working dogs is both controversial and difficult, with strong views being held by those on both sides of the debate. All parties profess to have the welfare of dogs in mind.
- SG has always agreed that if evidence came to light that suggested the ban compromised the welfare of working dogs then We would review the current position.
- Research commissioned from the University of Glasgow was published in April 2014 that provided data on the incidence of tail injuries in working dogs.
- This was followed up by a consultation in 2016 designed to seek the views of all interested parties, and any evidence they can furnish, on whether permitting to the docking of tails, of up to a third in length, will offer welfare benefits to working Spaniels and Hunt Point Retrievers.
- The consultation elicited 914 responses and the decision was made, owing to the volume of replies, for an external analysis contract to be awarded. The completed independent analysis report is expected to be available to the Cabinet Secretaries by 19th September; a decision and announcement would not be advisable until after this report has been considered.



[1 page redacted exempt.]

Doc 9/9

Bums PD (Phil)

From: Bums PD (Phil)
Sent: 28 April 2017 13:51
To: Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform
Cc: .Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Connectivity; DG Economy; Mitchell E (Elinor); Voas S (Sheila); [REDACTED] Voas AP (Andrew); [REDACTED]
Subject: Communications Rural Economy & Environment [REDACTED]
 Tail Shortening Regulations - The Prohibited Procedures on Protected Animals (Exemptions) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2017

Tracking:	Recipient	Delivery	Read
	cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Oimate Change and Land Reform	Delivered: 28/04/2017 13:51	Read: 28/04/2017 13:56
	cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Connectivity	Delivered: 28/04/2017 13:51	Read: 28/04/2017 13:53
	DGEconomy	Delivered: 28/04/2017 13:51	
	Mitchell E (Binor)	Delivered: 28/04/2017 13:51	
	Voas S (Sheila)	Delivered: 28/04/2017 13:51	
	[REDACTED]	Delivered: 28/04/2017 13:51	
	Vpas AP (Andrew)	Delivered: 28/04/2017 13:51	
	[REDACTED]	Delivered: 28/04/2017 13:51	
	[REDACTED]	Delivered: 28/04/2017 13:51	Read: 28/04/2017 14:09
	[REDACTED]	Delivered: 28/04/2017 13:51	
	[REDACTED]	Delivered: 28/04/2017 13:51	
	[REDACTED]	Delivered: 28/04/2017 13:51	
	Communications Rural Economy & Environment	Delivered: 28/04/2017 13:51	
	[REDACTED]	Delivered: 28/04/2017 13:51	
	[REDACTED]		Read: 28/04/2017 14:10

Please find attached submission seeking the Cabinet Secretary's approval to:

- the laying of the above regulations under affirmative procedure; and
- the presentation of the Polley Note (near final draft) and Business Regulatory Impact Assessment, attached at Annexes A and B respectively, with the draft regulations.

Separate attached is a copy of the Business Regulatory Impact Assessment for Cabinet Secretary's signature if agreed. I'd be grateful if the signed copy could be returned to me in PDF.

Thanks

Phil



Tail Docking
Submission to L..



BRIA for
Submission.doc

Phil Bums
AFRC -Animal Health & Welfare
PSpur
SaughtonHouse
Broomhouse Drive
Edinburgh
EH113XD



OFFICIAL - POLICY

From: Phil Bums
ARE: Animal Health & Welfare
28 April 2017

Cabinet, Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Reform

**THE PROHIBITED PROCEDURES ON PROTECTED ANIMALS (EXEMPTIONS)
(SCOTLAND) AMENDMENT REGULATIONS 2017**

Purpose

- To seek the Cabinet Secretary's approval to:
 - the laying of the above regulations under affirmative procedure; and
 - the presentation of the Policy Note (near final draft) and Business Regulatory Impact Assessment, attached at Annexes A and B respectively, with the draft regulations.

Priority

2. Urgent. The current date for laying the draft Regulations is 5 May 2017, although the issue to be decided by the Scottish Parliament before summer recess 2017. Laying might be delayed until 12 May 2017 to help manage the Cabinet Secretary's diary commitments regarding possible appearances at the ECCLR Committee, although attempts will be made to ensure parliamentary consideration before summer recess 2017.

Effect of the Regulations

3. The Regulations will relax the ban on non-medical tail docking by permitting the docking by up to one third in length of the tails of spaniel and hunt point retriever breeds likely to be used as working dogs. Docking may only be performed by a veterinary surgeon who certifies that he/she is satisfied with evidence showing that the dog is likely to be used in connection with the lawful shooting of animals and that the dog is five days old.

Background

4. The Cabinet Secretary announced, on 4 October 2016, that the Scottish Government would introduce legislation to permit the shortening of the tails of Spaniel and hunt Point retriever puppies where a vet believes they are likely to be for use as a working dog and risk serious tail injury in later life. The draft Regulations implement that commitment.

5. The decision to relax the ban on non-medical tail docking was taken following full public consultation between 10 February and 3 May 2016 which attracted 906 responses. The majority of the 873 responses from individuals, 1,145 from those involved in field sports and were supportive of docking. The organisational responses were

OFFICIAL - POLICY

ANNEX A

THE PROHIBITED PROCEDURES ON PROTECTED ANIMALS (EXEMPTIONS) REGULATIONS 2017 (SCOTLAND) AMENDMENT REGULATIONS 2017

POLICY NOTE

S.S.I. 2017/XXX

[4 pages redacted exempt.]

ANNEX B *(Note 21)*

**THE PROHIBITED PROCEDURES ON PROTECTED ANIMALS (EXEMPTIONS)
(SCOTLAND) AMENDMENT REGULATIONS 2017**

Business and Final
regulatory Impact Assessment

[1 page redacted exempt.]

Final Business and Regulatory Impact Assessment

Title of Proposal

The Prohibited Procedures on Protected Animals (Exemptions) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2017

[1 page redacted exempt.]

Dec 19

Burns PD (Phil)

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform
Sent: 02 May 2017 11:18
To: Burns PD (Phil); Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Connectivity; DG Economy; Mitchell E (Elinor); Voas S (Sheila); [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; Voas AP (Andrew); [REDACTED]
Subject: Communications Rural Economy & Environment; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]
RE: Tail Shortening Regulations - The Prohibited Procedures on Protected Animals (Exemptions) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2017

Thanks Phil.

Ms Cunningham has:

- Approved the laying of the regs
- Signed the BRIA (we will forward that on); and
- Agreed that the laying date should be delayed by a week so that the regulations are now laid on 12th May.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] PS to Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Land Reform and Climate Change | 2N.08 | St Andrews House | Edinburgh | EH3 1DG | [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: Burns PD (Phil)
Sent: 28 April 2017 13:51
To: Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Connectivity; DG Economy; Mitchell E (Elinor); Voas S (Sheila); [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; Voas AP (Andrew); [REDACTED]
Subject: Communications Rural Economy & Environment; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]
Tail Shortening Regulations - The Prohibited Procedures on Protected Animals (Exemptions) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2017

Please find attached submission seeking the Cabinet Secretary's approval to:

- the laying of the above regulations under affirmative procedure; and
- the presentation of the Policy Note (near final draft) and Business Regulatory Impact Assessment, attached at Annexes A and B respectively, with the draft regulations.

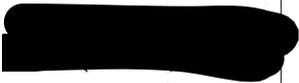
Separately attached is a copy of the Business Regulatory Impact Assessment for Cabinet Secretary's signature if agreed. I'd be grateful if the signed copy could be returned to me in PDF.

Thanks

Phil

<< File: Tail Docking Submission to Lay Regs April 2017.docx >> << File: BRIA for Submission.doc >>

Phil Burns
AFRC – Animal Health & Welfare
P Spur
Saughton House
Broomhouse Drive
Edinburgh
EH11 3XD



BRITISH VETERINARY ASSOCIATION ANNUAL SCOTTISH DINNER

Date and Time of Engagement	7:00 pm, Tuesday 16 May 2017
Where	Scottish Parliament Members Restaurant
Key Message	[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Who	BVA President – [REDACTED] BVA Scottish Branch President - [REDACTED] BVA Scottish Branch Junior President – [REDACTED] Event Host – John Scott MSP Event Organiser – [REDACTED] Officers of the British Veterinary Association (BVA) in Scotland and UK, plus representatives from most livestock stakeholders
Why	[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Official Support Required	Sheila Voas, CVO Scotland [REDACTED]
Media Handling	N/A
Dress code	[REDACTED]
Greeting Party and specific meeting point on arrival (if at a non SE Building)	[REDACTED] BVA Head of Media and Public Affairs [REDACTED], BVA Public Affairs Manager [REDACTED]
Specific entrance car/parking arrangements	N/A
Briefing contents	Annex A – [REDACTED] Annex B – [REDACTED] Annex C – <i>Additional briefing on key issues</i> Annex D – [REDACTED] Annex E – [REDACTED]

Briefing on key issues

Contents	Page
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Tail Docking	10
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

Tail Docking

Top line

- The Scottish Government announced on 4 October 2016 that there would be a relaxation on the shortening of the tails of working dogs. Affirmative secondary legislation presented to the Scottish Parliament on 12 May 2017 for consideration and approval. Non-medical docking remains illegal in Scotland until the Scottish Parliament approves a change.

Background

- The issue of tail docking in working dogs is both controversial and difficult, with strong views being held by those on both sides of the debate. All parties profess to have the welfare of dogs in mind.
- SG has always agreed that if evidence came to light that suggested the ban compromised the welfare of working dogs then we would review the current position. Research commissioned from the University of Glasgow was published in April 2014 that provided data on the incidence of tail injuries in working dogs.
- Consultation in 2016 elicited 914 responses. Replies were polarised with 77% contributed by those involved in field sports – 92% in favour of tail shortening.
- After external independent analysis of responses Scottish Ministers decided to permit the docking of tails, of up to a third in length, to offer welfare benefits to working Spaniels and Hunt Point Retrievers.
- Legislation will permit the shortening of the tails, by up to the end third of length, of working spaniels and hunt point retrievers. An additional safeguard will be that shortening will only be allowed where carried out by a veterinary surgeon that is of the professional opinion that a dog will be used for working and is likely to be at risk of serious tail injury in later life. Veterinary certification is to be provided within a format to be decided in discussion with RCVS.

Phil Burns



BVA Policy Priority – Responsible pet ownership

Tail docking

- The issue of tail docking in working dogs is both controversial and difficult, with strong views being held by those on both sides of the debate. All parties profess to have the welfare of dogs in mind.
- The Scottish Government announced on 4 October 2016 that there would be a relaxation on the shortening of the tails of working dogs. Affirmative secondary legislation presented to the Scottish Parliament on 12 May 2017 for consideration and approval. Non-medical docking remains illegal in Scotland until the Scottish Parliament approves a change.
- Legislation will permit tail shortening, by up to the end-third of length, of working spaniels and hunt point retrievers, only where carried out by a vet that is of the professional opinion that a dog will be used for lawful shooting purposes and is likely to be at risk of serious tail injury in later life .

[redacted exempt.]

Burns PD (Phil)

From: [redacted] on behalf of Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform
Sent: 22 June 2017 15:08
To: Burns PD (Phil); Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Connectivity; DG Economy; Mitchell E (Elinor); Voas S (Sheila); Voas AP (Andrew); [redacted]
Subject: RE: the Prohibited Procedures on Protected Animals (Exemptions) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2017

Hi Phil

Does 16:00 on Tuesday suit?

Thanks,

[redacted]
Deputy Private Secretary to Roseanna Cunningham MSP | Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change & Land Reform | Scottish Government | 2N:08, St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG | T [redacted]
[redacted]

From: Burns PD (Phil)
Sent: 22 June 2017 14:41
To: Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Connectivity; DG Economy; Mitchell E (Elinor); Voas S (Sheila); Voas AP (Andrew); [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: RE: the Prohibited Procedures on Protected Animals (Exemptions) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2017

[redacted]
I'll have the copy for signing before next Tuesday. Happy to accommodate any time that you schedule for the signature.

Best wishes

Phil

Phil Burns
AFRC – Animal Health & Welfare
P Spur
Saughton House
Broomhouse Drive
Edinburgh
EH11 3XD

[redacted]

From: [redacted] On Behalf Of Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform

Sent: 22 June 2017 12:15

To: Burns PD (Phil); Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Connectivity; DG Economy; Mitchell E (Elinor); Voas S (Sheila); Voas AP (Andrew); [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: the Prohibited Procedures on Protected Animals (Exemptions) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2017

Hi Phil

As discussed, Ms Cunningham is in parliament all of next week then afterwards it will be summer recess. We have slots available on Tues, Wed and Thurs where she could sign it.

Will the SSI be ready by then for signing? If so I can firm up a time in her diary for one of those days.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]
Deputy Private Secretary to Roseanna Cunningham MSP | Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change & Land Reform | Scottish Government | 2N:08, St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG | [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: Burns PD (Phil)

Sent: 22 June 2017 11:16

To: Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Connectivity; DG Economy; Mitchell E (Elinor); Voas S (Sheila); Voas AP (Andrew); [REDACTED]

Subject: the Prohibited Procedures on Protected Animals (Exemptions) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2017

PS/Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land reform

Purpose

To arrange a date for the making of the above-named SSI permitting the shortening of the tails of working spaniels and hunt point retrievers in circumstances specified by the regulations.

Background

The above-named regulations were laid under affirmative procedure on 12 May 2017; and approved by majority in the Scottish Parliament on 21 June 2017.

A copy of the regulations for the Cabinet Secretary's signature will be prepared and brought for signature. The regulations will come into force on the day after signature.

Next Steps

I would be grateful if you could arrange a slot in the Cabinet Secretary's diary to enable the regulations to be signed.

Phil Burns

AFRC – Animal Health & Welfare
P Spur
Saughton House
Broomhouse Drive

Edinburgh
EH11 3XD



BRIEFING NOTE FOR CABINET SECRETARY FOR RURAL ECONOMY AND CONNECTIVITY

Meeting with British Veterinary Association

Tuesday 14 June 2016

Key Message	[REDACTED] profession and the Scottish Government. Scotland has a strong and well-deserved reputation as a world [REDACTED]
Who	Grace Webster, BVA Scottish Branch President [REDACTED], BVA Junior Vice President
What	Stakeholder engagement
Why	[REDACTED]
Where	T3.25, Parliament
When	Tuesday 14 June at 11:30 to 12:00
Media	[REDACTED]
Supporting Official	Sheila Voas, CVO Scotland, [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Attached documents	Annex A: Briefing Pack

Tail Docking

Top line

- The Scottish Government are considering the responses to the tail docking consultation along with other evidence and come to a decision over the next few months.

Background

- The issue of tail docking in working dogs is both controversial and difficult, with strong views being held by those on both sides of the debate. All parties profess to have the welfare of dogs in mind.
- SG has always agreed that if evidence came to light that suggested the ban compromised the welfare of working dogs then we would review the current position.
- Research commissioned from the University of Glasgow was published in April 2014 that provided data on the incidence of tail injuries in working dogs.
- This was followed up by a consultation in 2016 designed to seek the views of all interested parties, and any evidence they can furnish, on whether permitting to the docking of tails, of up to a third in length, will offer welfare benefits to working Spaniels and Hunt Point Retrievers.

