

Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and
Land Reform
Roseanna Cunningham MSP



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

T: [Redacted]
E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Ms Alison Johnstone MSP
The Scottish Parliament
EDINBURGH
EH99 1SP

Our ref: 2017/0024684

July 2017

Dear Alison,

Thank you for your e-mail of 3 July 2017 on behalf of your constituent [Redacted] about the introduction of the legislation relaxing the ban on tail shortening for working spaniels and hunt point retrievers.

Whilst aware that this is an emotive and divisive issue with welfare issues on both sides of the debate, the Scottish Ministers took an evidence-based decision in order to promote the welfare of those working dogs most at risk of tail injuries. The relaxation of the ban on tail shortening will affect only spaniels and hunt point retrievers and will permit the removal of up to one third of the end of the tail. An additional safeguard will be that shortening will only be allowed where carried out by a veterinary surgeon who 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.

I am sorry that your constituent feels that the legislative process might have been overshadowed by other political events. However, I hope that was not the case as the Scottish Parliament's consideration of the draft amending regulations attracted a fair amount of media interest; and also came after a full 12-week public consultation on the proposed amendments. The consultation launched on 10 February 2016 and received 906 responses. The independent analysis of the consultation and the published responses can be found at <https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/animal-welfare/proposal-to-permit-tail-docking/>

I hope this reply is helpful.

Yours

Roseanna

Roseanna Cunningham

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 13 July 2017 13:12:52
To: Public Engagement Unit
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform
Subject: FW: Tail Docking

HI,

One for MACCS please, MR

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Assistant Private Secretary
Roseanna Cunningham, MSP Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change
and Land Reform
2N.08 - St Andrews House - Regent Road - Edinburgh - EH1 3DG

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 13 July 2017 12:19
To: Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] MSP
Subject: Tail Docking

Dear Cabinet Secretary, and [REDACTED]

I am forwarding the below correspondence to you at the request of a constituent of Alison Johnstone's. Please forgive my delay in sending this.

We would be grateful if you are able to respond to [REDACTED] concerns directly.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Parliamentary Assistant, Alison Johnstone MSP & Patrick Harvie MSP

Telephone: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Address:

MG.18

The Scottish Parliament

Edinburgh

EH99 1SP

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 14 June 2017 16:39

Subject: Tail Docking

I was very upset to read in today's Metro that the Scottish Parliament has taken the decision to lift the total ban on the docking of dogs' tails.

You cannot be unaware of the arguments against the practice, given that the British Veterinary Association and their Scottish branch Presidents, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] have voiced their organisations' total condemnation of the procedure. They are unequivocal that the puppies experience extreme pain, and it is believed that the pain continues to some degree all of the dogs' lives.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

*

[REDACTED]

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Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and
Land Reform
Roseanna Cunningham MSP



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
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T: [REDACTED]
E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Mr Stephen Gethins MP
House Of Commons
LONDON
SW1A 0AA

Your ref: SG8393
Our ref: 2017/0024702

31 July 2017

Dear Stephen,

Thank you for your letter of 9 July 2017 on behalf of your constituent [REDACTED] about the introduction of the legislation relaxing the ban on tail shortening for working spaniels and hunt point retrievers.

The Scottish Ministers took an evidence-based decision in order to promote the welfare of those working dogs most at risk of tail injuries. The relaxation of the ban on tail shortening will affect only spaniels and hunt point retrievers and will permit the removal of up to one third of the end of the tail. An additional safeguard will be that shortening will only be allowed where carried out by a veterinary surgeon who 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.

You may be interested to know that the Scottish Parliament has approved the legislation relaxing the ban on tail shortening. The regulations came into force on 28 June 2017 and a copy can be found at <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2017/226/contents/made>

I hope this reply is helpful.

Yours
Roseanna

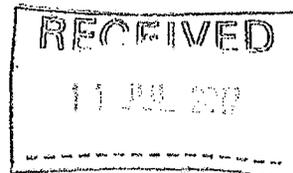
Roseanna Cunningham



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

From the office of Stephen Gethins MP



Roseanna Cunningham MSP
Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change & Land Reform
St. Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

9 July 2017

RECEIVED 11 JUL 2017

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Our Ref: SG8393

Dear Ms Cunningham

[REDACTED]

I am writing on behalf of a constituent, [REDACTED] who recently contacted me regarding the docking of working dogs tails.

I enclose an extract of his email for your perusal.

I would of course welcome any comments that you would care to make on this matter and in the meantime if I can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to get in contact.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Stephen Gethins MP
Member of Parliament for North-East Fife

On 14 Jun 2017, at 20:01, [REDACTED]

Dear Stephen

[REDACTED]

I now find myself in a difficult position. As a veterinary surgeon for nearly 40 years I was horrified to hear yesterday that the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee had voted to weaken the ban on tail-docking of dogs. This would be a major setback for animal welfare.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform
Roseanna Cunningham MSP



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

T: [Redacted]
E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

[Redacted]

Our ref: 2017/0023878
27 July 2017

[Redacted]

Thank you for your e-mail of 6 July 2017 about the introduction of the legislation relaxing the ban on tail shortening for working spaniels and hunt point retrievers.

Whilst aware that this is an emotive and divisive issue with welfare issues on both sides of the debate, the Scottish Ministers took an evidence-based decision in order to promote the welfare of those working dogs most at risk of tail injuries. The relaxation of the ban on tail shortening will affect only spaniels and hunt point retrievers and will permit the removal of up to one third of the end of the tail. An additional safeguard will be that shortening will only be allowed where carried out by a veterinary surgeon who 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.

You may be interested to know that the issue of protective tail sheaths was discussed at the meeting of the Scottish Parliament's Environment, Climate Change and Welfare Committee on 13 June 2017 to discuss the draft legislation. There is no detailed research on the effectiveness of such devices and reviews of them are also inconclusive. The Scottish Government does not consider them a practical solution in the Scottish environment.

I hope this reply is helpful.

Yours

Roseanna Cunningham

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 06 July 2017 15:14:31
To: Public Engagement Unit
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform
Subject: FW: Tail shortening

Hi,

I forwarded this original email this afternoon but the below is to be added to it.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]
Assistant Private Secretary
Roseanna Cunningham, MSP Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform
2N.08 - St Andrews House - Regent Road ? Edinburgh - EH1 3DG

[REDACTED]
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 06 July 2017 15:10
To: Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform
Subject: FW: Tail shortening

Dear R [REDACTED]

Here is the full message from [REDACTED], to add to your MACCS case.

Thanks, [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 06 July 2017 13:26
To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Re: Tail shortening

Thank you for your quick reply. My name is [REDACTED] and my address is [REDACTED]

Please do not write with an attempted justification of the policy. The mutilation of animals is, in my view, cruel and I have already read the arguments put forward by [REDACTED] without being convinced.

On 6 Jul 2017, at 13:19, Cleland SM (Sheena)

[REDACTED]
Dear Ms Stevenson,
Roseanna Cunningham MSP thanks you for your message. She has noted the points you make. Please let me know your full name and postal address so that Ms

Cunningham may send you a full response.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted]

Office Manager to Roseanna Cunningham MSP

[Redacted]

Room T3.07, The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh EH99 1SP

From [Redacted]

Date: 6 July 2017 at 12:41:58 BST

To: [Redacted]

Subject: Tail shortening
Dear Roseanna

I am emailing to express my great concern at the recent decision to allow the mutilation of dogs. I can see no justification for this when other options such as using sheaths are available. If these were people not dogs, would not the work be considered too dangerous?

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Your sincerely

[Redacted]

*

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

The information in this email may be confidential. If you think you have received this email in error please delete it and do not share its contents.

*

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The Scottish Parliament: Making a positive difference to the lives of the people of Scotland

[Redacted]

[Redacted]