



Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee

Committee Office, House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

Tel 020 7219 3263/6194 Email efracom@parliament.uk Website www.parliament.uk

Tracey Crouch MP

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Sport and Civil Society

Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport

100 Parliament Street

London

SW1A 2BQ

14 March 2018

I am writing as Chair of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee. I am sure you will join the Committee in welcoming the publication of data on re-homing, injury and euthanasia by the Greyhound Board of Great Britain. The Committee called for this move towards transparency in its report *Greyhound Welfare*, published in February 2016.

A key issue during our inquiry was the lack of data on retired greyhounds who are not rehomed, with concerns raised that there was no way of tracking the number of euthanised healthy greyhounds no longer required for racing. While we accept euthanasia is a possible fate for any animal under human control, we believe this must be the last option and have called on GBGB today to work to reduce this number.

I am also writing to press the Government to introduce a statutory levy. We were disappointed that your attempts last year, as set out in your letter of January 2017, had not resulted in any uplift in contributions to the British Greyhound Racing Fund. High welfare standards require financing and it is worrying that online and overseas betting operations do not make a voluntary contribution. Bookmakers profiting from greyhound racing have a responsibility to support greyhound welfare whether they trade from the High Street or trade online.

As a voluntary agreement has not been struck, it is vital that the government introduce a statutory levy of 1% of gross turnover. This will ensure that the welfare of greyhounds is adequately funded in the future.

I look forward to your response.

Neil Parish MP

Chairman of the Committee

cc. The Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP, Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport