



Animal &  
Plant Health  
Agency

Animal and Plant Health Agency  
Access to Information Team  
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Woodham Lane  
New Haw  
Addlestone  
Surrey  
KT15 3NB

F 01932 357608

[www.gov.uk/apha](http://www.gov.uk/apha)

[REDACTED]  
{By Email}

Our Ref: ATIC1143

7 September 2017

Dear [REDACTED]

## **PROVISION OF REQUESTED INFORMATION**

Thank you for your request for information about Moffat Sheep Races which we received on 16 August 2017. Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

The information you requested and our response is detailed below:

“Copies of all communications both internal and external, including letters, e-mails, memos, meeting minutes and notes plus (should they exist) any transcripts or recordings of telephone calls, referring to the Moffat Sheep Races from 1st July to the 13th August 2017.”

Please see attached at Appendices 1 to 11 all communications both internal and external, including letters, e-mails, memos, meeting minutes and notes, referring to the Moffat Sheep Races from 1st July to the 13 August 2017.

APHA do not record telephone calls, therefore this information is not held.

Information in the attached Appendices have been redacted under Section 40(2), read in conjunction with 40(3)(a)(i) of the Freedom of Information Act (2000).

### **Section 40**

Some of the information contained within the requested documents have been withheld under section 40(2), read in conjunction with 40(3)(a)(i) (third party personal data), of the FOIA as the information constitutes personal data relating to a third party. Section 40(2), read in conjunction with 40(3)(a)(i), of the FOIA provides that personal data relating to third parties is exempt information if disclosure would breach the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA).

APHA consider that disclosure of this information is likely to breach the first data protection principle in Schedule 1 of the DPA, which relates to the fair and lawful processing of personal data, in two ways. First, disclosure would not constitute 'fair' processing of the personal data, second, disclosure would not satisfy any of the conditions for data processing set out in Schedule 2 to the DPA. Therefore, we have concluded that this information is exempt from disclosure under section 40 of the FOIA.

Information disclosed in response to this FOI request is releasable to the public. In keeping with the spirit and effect of the FOIA and the government's Transparency Agenda, this letter and the information disclosed to you may be placed on GOV.UK, together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context. No information identifying you will be placed on the GOV.UK website.

I attach an Annex which explains the copyright that applies to the information being released to you and contact details should you be unhappy with the service you have received.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact the Access to Information Team at the email address below or postal address at the top of this letter.

Yours sincerely

**ACCESS TO INFORMATION TEAM**

Email: [enquiries@apha.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@apha.gsi.gov.uk)

## **Annex**

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### **Complaints**

If you are unhappy with the result of your request for information you may request an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this letter.

If you wish to request an internal review, please contact: The Access to Information Team at [enquiries@apha.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@apha.gsi.gov.uk) or at the postal address at the top of this letter, who will arrange for an internal review of your case.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Please note that generally the Information Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have first exhausted APHA's own complaints procedure. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

██████████ (APHA)

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**From:** ██████████ (APHA)  
**Sent:** 06 July 2017 11:34  
**To:** APHA Scotland - Shows (APHA)  
**Cc:** ██████████ (APHA)  
**Subject:** RE: Moffat Sheep Races and current publicity

██████████  
Please don't process the approval at this point.

Thanks

██████████

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**From:** APHA Scotland - Shows (APHA)  
**Sent:** 06 July 2017 10:53  
**To:** ██████████ (APHA)  
**Subject:** FW: Moffat Sheep Races and current publicity

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**From:** APHA Scotland - Shows (APHA)  
**Sent:** 06 July 2017 10:36  
**To:** ██████████ (APHA)  
**Subject:** FW: Moffat Sheep Races and current publicity

Hi ██████████,

This came into the shows box this morning marked for your attention

Thanks

**From:** moffat promotions [<mailto:moffatpromotions@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** 06 July 2017 10:16  
**To:** APHA Scotland - Shows (APHA)  
**Cc:** ██████████  
**Subject:** Moffat Sheep Races and current publicity

For the attention of ██████████ Duty Vet South

Dear ██████████

I am writing to confirm that I spoke to you earlier this morning, asking for some advice about our event and recent adverse publicity. Thank you for taking the time to discuss this with me.

You explained that you had received a question yesterday about the event from ██████████, Trading Standards Dumfries and Galloway Council, and that the matter has been escalated as urgent by your department. You also advised that there should be no reference to our conversation when dealing with any further media enquiries, and that you expected to be able to give our committee further advice by next Tuesday.

I'm attaching a FAQ that I prepared in 2012, which has been updated every year since then.

██████████ as above is Moffat Promotions Group's Media Officer, and I would be grateful if you could reply to us both with any further advice or queries.



Chairperson

Moffat Promotions Group  
Town Hall  
High Street  
MOFFAT  
DG10 9HF

[REDACTED] (APHA)

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**From:** APHA Scotland (APHA)  
**Sent:** 09 August 2017 10:46  
**To:** APHA Scotland - Shows (APHA)  
**Subject:** FW: MOFFAT SHEEP RACES

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**From:** [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** 08 August 2017 20:22  
**To:** [REDACTED] MSP; [REDACTED] MSP  
**Cc:** APHA Scotland (APHA); SSPCA General Enquiries; SSPCA [REDACTED]; SSPCA [REDACTED] CEO; SSPCA [REDACTED]; [REDACTED].gov.uk; [REDACTED].gov.uk; [REDACTED].gov.uk  
**Subject:** MOFFAT SHEEP RACES

E-MAIL FROM: [REDACTED], Secretary, Animal Concern Advice Line (ACAL), c/o Animal Concern, Post Office Box 5178, Dumbarton G82 5YJ. Tel 01389-841111. Mobile: [REDACTED] Animal Concern Advice Line (ACAL) is a recognised Scottish charity: No. SC030982. Animal Concern Advice Line was established in 2001 to take on the charitable work of Animal Concern which was founded as the Scottish Anti-Vivisection Society in 1876.

E-MAIL: [REDACTED] Website: <http://www.adviceaboutanimals.info>

[REDACTED] MSP,  
Minister for Animal Welfare,  
The Scottish Government.

Dear Cabinet Secretary,

After four weeks of fruitless correspondence with other agencies I write to you concerning the Moffat Sheep Races which are due to take place this coming Sunday, August 13<sup>th</sup>.

When first contacted about this I was inclined to dismiss it as just a bit of fun with a few sheep running around in a field. On investigation I discovered it involves numerous races of 6 sheep being chased by children along the tarmacked main road in Moffat while being noisily cheered on by upwards of 5,000 spectators and the occasional barking dog. If you want to see the sheep races from the last couple of years please go to YouTube and search for "Moffat Sheep Race".

These races blatantly contravene the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act of 2006. Section 24 of the Act requires that an animal is kept in a suitable environment, is able to exhibit normal behaviour patterns and is protected from suffering (including mental suffering such as fear and stress), injury and disease. The main road through a town is not a suitable environment for sheep. Having stuffed jockeys strapped to their backs and being forced to race each other while being chased by wee boys is not a normal ovine behaviour pattern.

Thankfully the 2006 Act allows enforcing agencies to take action to stop an event which is likely to cause suffering, including stress and fear, before that suffering is caused.

I thought it would be a simple matter of asking the enforcing authorities (in this instance Dumfries & Galloway [D&G] Council) to use the Act to advise the organisers, Moffat Promotions, not to proceed with the event.

Instead of taking the obvious action D&G decided to consult with the Scottish SPCA and APHA Scotland. The Council are now passing the buck saying it is up to the Scottish SPCA and/or APHA Scotland to take action. This is despite the fact that after I raised the matter of permissions with the Council they started the process of granting Moffat Promotions a Performing Animals Act License to permit the event to go ahead.

As the animal welfare buck stops with you I ask you please to intervene and put a stop to this unnecessary cruelty. I also suggest that such events be specifically banned under your long awaited new legislation to restrict performing animal acts in circuses.

Yours sincerely,

,

ACAL

PS I have copied this e-mail to the agencies involved and to all MSPs as many are likely to be contacted by their constituents over this matter.



This email has been checked for viruses by AVG antivirus software.

[www.avg.com](http://www.avg.com)

[REDACTED] (APHA)

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**From:** [REDACTED] (APHA)  
**Sent:** 10 July 2017 15:52  
**To:** [REDACTED] (APHA)  
**Subject:** FW: Moffat Sheep Race

[REDACTED]

For your information.

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED] (APHA)  
**Sent:** 10 July 2017 09:08  
**To:** APHA Scotland - Shows (APHA)  
**Subject:** FW: Moffat Sheep Race

Just to confirm that we should go ahead and issue the approval for the Moffat Sheep Race.

Can you also add the email below into SAM?

Thanks

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED] (APHA) [[mailto:\[REDACTED\]@apha.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@apha.gsi.gov.uk)]  
**Sent:** 07 July 2017 09:19  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Moffat Sheep Race

[REDACTED]

My thanks to both of you for your advice yesterday.

Following on from our conversations I was going to take the following line today at the telecom with the show operators:

- This event is not illegal.
- The SSPCA, LA and APHA do not however support or condone this event in any way.
- If anything does go wrong from an animal welfare perspective e.g. a sheep breaks a leg during the race, the show organisers could potentially face proceedings under animal welfare legislation.
- Although APHA has to date approved this event as an animal gathering that does not imply any approval of this event from an animal welfare perspective.
- The show organisers may wish to alter how this event is organised in order to try and accommodate any adverse complaints/publicity. For example by moving this event to a suitable field, giving the sheep at least 2m between them and spectators and considering whether this event could be organised without the jockeys and more as an exhibition as to how a flock of sheep can be gathered and moved by a man and a dog.
- We will check that there is still a vet in attendance or nearby should any welfare issues arise.
- Ensure that the local police are aware of the potential for trouble around this event.

Obviously I will make these points in writing to the organisers.



I think this is a reasonable way forward – we are neither banning or supporting the event, and leaving it to the show organisers as to whether they want to go ahead with this as organised to try to take account of some of the views of the animal welfare lobby (albeit unless this event is stopped I suspect they will not be happy). It also does not create some form of precedent whereby the ‘authorities’ have intervened to stop what many might view as a relatively harmless event.

Hopefully you will be happy with this, but if not we can discuss further.

I have let the SG know about this given the potential for adverse publicity.

Regards



Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA)

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Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Scottish SPCA)

Tel: 03000 999 999

[www.scottishspca.org/join](http://www.scottishspca.org/join)

[www.scottishspca.org/rehoming](http://www.scottishspca.org/rehoming)

Scottish Charity No. SC 006467

This message is confidential. If you are not the intended recipient, please inform us and then delete it. If the content of this message does not relate to the business of the Scottish SPCA then it is neither from nor sanctioned by the Society.

If you wish to report an incident involving an injured or distressed animal you must telephone our Animal Helpline on 03000 999 999. Please do not email the incident details as our Animal Helpline staff will have key questions to ask you.

██████████ (APHA)

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**From:** ██████████ (APHA)  
**Sent:** 10 August 2017 15:51  
**To:** ██████████ (APHA)  
**Subject:** RE: Moffat sheep race. Sheep being used as "Performing Animals"

He asked me to phone ██████████ ...

Yes, this is the problem with these things.

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**From:** ██████████ (APHA)  
**Sent:** 10 August 2017 15:50  
**To:** ██████████ (APHA)  
**Subject:** RE: Moffat sheep race. Sheep being used as "Performing Animals"

I think ██████████ was maybe just making us aware of the query we asked about!  
These things have a tendency to go in circles

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**From:** ██████████ (APHA)  
**Sent:** 10 August 2017 15:49  
**To:** ██████████ (APHA); ██████████ (APHA)  
**Subject:** RE: Moffat sheep race. Sheep being used as "Performing Animals"

Sensible,

██████████, to be honest I did not understand why this came back to us. I think we are trying to not get involved. I just did not want to be seen as refusing the request from SGRPID.

Many thanks.

---

**From:** ██████████ (APHA)  
**Sent:** 10 August 2017 15:39  
**To:** ██████████ (APHA)  
**Subject:** RE: Moffat sheep race. Sheep being used as "Performing Animals"

I am not contacting the Moffat Sheep Races as I think the lesser the people from APHA that make contact the better. The query came from one of the Moffat Sheep Races members who I have dealing with in the past regarding sheepdog trials. ██████████ from SGRPID is to make the call.

---

**From:** ██████████ (APHA)  
**Sent:** 10 August 2017 15:25  
**To:** ██████████ @gov.scot; ██████████ (APHA); ██████████ (APHA)  
**Cc:** ██████████ (SEERAD); ██████████ (APHA); ██████████ (APHA)  
**Subject:** Moffat sheep race. Sheep being used as "Performing Animals"

Good afternoon ██████████,

I am extending a bit the CC list as this applies to the Moffat sheep race which has been subject to a number of emails previously relating to the welfare side/ animal rights activists and welfare concerns.

This is a bit different to the situation we discussed previously as APHA has approved this as a proper Show rather than a move to a non-registered premises ( where we would have treated it as a Show too, so it is a technicality).

█, I am happy for your to contact █ back regarding the move to a Show, but please speak with either myself or █ before you do so. We should limit our advice to the movement to a show in general terms.

Full guidance as per the Scottish Government Website is below, I have to admit that I do not have very clear if these sheep "performing" at this show are exhibition animals, or not:

7. Animals moving to shows for exhibition for the first time will not have to be kept separate prior to moving to the show irrespective of whether any other livestock have been moved onto those premises in the 13 day period immediately before moving. If attending only one show within any one 13 day period the animal will not require to be held separate on return from the show nor will the return home trigger a 13 day standstill for any other animal on the home farm. Also animals may move from show to show or may return to their usual premise of residence without triggering a 13 day standstill provided they are kept in separate facilities under an authorised separation agreement with SGRD. In all cases the standstill period for pigs is 20 days.

8. Animals which are neither exhibition class nor taking part in sheep dog trials but which are moving to a show to take part in, for example, sheep shearing events, should be subject to a 13 day standstill on their holding of origin before and after the event. This need not impose a full standstill on the home farm if the animals are held in authorised separation facilities. These animals should also be correctly identified and movements notified to SAMU.

Best Regards,

---

**From:** █@gov.scot [mailto:█@gov.scot]  
**Sent:** 10 August 2017 15:07  
**To:** █@gov.scot; LDT\_Mailbox@gov.scot  
**Cc:** █@gov.scot; █@gov.scot; █ (APHA)  
**Subject:** RE: Sheep being used as "Performing Animals"

Afternoon █

It so happens we have been in discussions recently with █ regarding these types of events and the correct procedure for dealing with them.

The use of the █ show number to register the location of the show is correct and this number will allow the farmers putting sheep in to notify their movements to and from the event.

Regarding the Cross Compliance implications, as long as the farmer is notifying the movements to and from the show timeously and accurately, with the movement information entered into his holding register then he should be fine.

Farmer will have to be aware of the 13 day standstill rules –

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/farmingrural/Agriculture/animal-welfare/Diseases/MovementRestrictions/ShowsExhibitions>

My reading of this would be that paragraph 8 might be applicable and a 13 day standstill before and after would apply.

8. Animals which are neither exhibition class nor taking part in sheep dog trials but which are moving to a show to take part in, for example, sheep shearing events, should be subject to a 13 day standstill on their holding of origin before and after the event. This need not impose a full standstill on the home farm if the animals are held in authorised separation facilities. These animals should also be correctly identified and movements notified to SAMU.

Further to our discussions recently re shows / exhibitions, can you take this forward with [REDACTED]?

You will probably have the details regarding the [REDACTED] already as the sheep races have been going for the last few years.

If you need anything eg contact details for [REDACTED] etc, get back to either myself or [REDACTED].

Regards

[REDACTED]

**Agriculture, Food and Rural Communities Directorate**

Agriculture and Rural Delivery Division  
Scottish Government, Directorate for Agriculture, Food and Rural Communities  
Room Q1, Saughton House, Broomhouse Drive, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD

tel. [REDACTED]  
mob. [REDACTED]  
e mail. [REDACTED]@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 10 August 2017 13:58  
**To:** AIT Mailbox  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Sheep being used as "Performing Animals"

Mailbox

[REDACTED] from APHA has had a query from [REDACTED] [REDACTED] regarding sheep [REDACTED] is proposing to send to the "Moffat Sheep Races", an annual event in the area.

It is being lobbied apparently by animal rights activists and is coming under a lot of legislative scrutiny. Apparently the event has its own "show" [REDACTED] number and the animals are covered by an old piece of legislation from the 1920s whereby the sheep are regarded as performing animals. They will be moved on and off the [REDACTED] code on the day.

[REDACTED] and [REDACTED] are questioning whether this is acceptable and whether [REDACTED] BPS claim is safe from penalty after doing this. If you are unsure of the nature of this case, is there somebody in policy I can speak to in regard to it? [REDACTED] is keen to get this ASAP as the Show is on Sunday.

My gut feeling is that as long as the sheep are transported and reported correctly there is no issue but can I please have you confirm?

Thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Agricultural Officer

Rural Payments and Inspections Directorate (RPID)  
161 Brooms Road  
Dumfries  
DG1 3ES

Tel: [REDACTED]  
Fax: 01387 274 440  
Email: [REDACTED]@gov.scot

\*\*\*\*\*

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Tha am post-d seo (agus faidhle neo ceanglan còmhla ris) dhan neach neo luchd-ainmichte a-mhàin. Chan eil e ceadaichte a chleachdadh ann an dòigh sam bith, a' toirt a-steach còraichean, foillseachadh neo sgaoileadh, gun chead. Ma 's e is gun d'fhuair sibh seo le gun fhiosd', bu choir cur às dhan phost-d agus lethbhreac sam bith air an t-siostam agaibh, leig fios chun neach a sgaoil am post-d gun dàil.

Dh'fhaodadh gum bi teachdaireachd sam bith bho Riaghaltas na h-Alba air a chlàradh neo air a sgrùdadh airson dearbhadh gu bheil an siostam ag obair gu h-èifeachdach neo airson adhbhar laghail eile. Dh'fhaodadh nach eil beachdan anns a' phost-d seo co-ionann ri beachdan Riaghaltas na h-Alba.

\*\*\*\*\*

[REDACTED] (APHA)

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**From:** [REDACTED]@gov.scot  
**Sent:** 10 August 2017 16:04  
**To:** [REDACTED] (APHA); [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED] (APHA); [REDACTED] (APHA)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] (APHA); [REDACTED] (APHA)  
**Subject:** RE: Moffat sheep race. Sheep being used as "Performing Animals"

[REDACTED]

For information, I was contacted by the local authority and agreed that the organiser should be required to register under the Performing Animals Act 1925 as the sheep will be made to “perform” races for public entertainment. This does not however preclude the need for the movement of the sheep to be recorded and for the appropriate standstill to be observed in the same way it would for another event – and a sheep shearing event sounds the nearest comparable example to me.

I am not entirely clear if it is only [REDACTED] who is supplying sheep and if they are all coming from and returning to the same holding.

Regards

[REDACTED] BVM&S MRCVS  
Scottish Government Veterinary Adviser / Spur P / Saughton House / Broomhouse Drive / Edinburgh / EH11 3XD /  
Tel: [REDACTED] / [REDACTED]@gov.scot

[REDACTED] (APHA)

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**From:** [REDACTED]@gov.scot  
**Sent:** 10 August 2017 12:28  
**To:** [REDACTED] (APHA); [REDACTED] (APHA)  
**Cc:** APHA Scotland - Shows (APHA); [REDACTED] (APHA)  
**Subject:** RE: MOFFAT SHEEP RACES

[REDACTED]  
Thanks – as you can imagine we have received several e-mails with similar wording on this subject that we will be replying to today, as well as a press query.

Regards  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED] (APHA) [mailto:[REDACTED]@apha.gsi.gov.uk]  
**Sent:** 10 August 2017 10:13  
**To:** [REDACTED] (APHA); [REDACTED] (APHA)  
**Cc:** APHA Scotland - Shows (APHA); [REDACTED] (APHA)  
**Subject:** RE: MOFFAT SHEEP RACES

[REDACTED]  
For your awareness. We will obviously not be taking any action with this beyond forwarding this to you, but it is best that you are aware that there may be further questioning about this.

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**From:** APHA Scotland - Shows (APHA)  
**Sent:** 10 August 2017 09:58  
**To:** [REDACTED] (APHA); [REDACTED] (APHA)  
**Subject:** FW: MOFFAT SHEEP RACES

Hi both,

Can you please review and advise on any action required. This show was approved on 04/08/17.

Cheers,  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] (APHA)

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**From:** [REDACTED] (APHA)  
**Sent:** 11 August 2017 12:24  
**To:** [REDACTED] (APHA)  
**Cc:** APHA Scotland - Shows (APHA); [REDACTED] (APHA); [REDACTED] (APHA); [REDACTED] (APHA); [REDACTED] (APHA); APHA Scotland (APHA); [REDACTED] (APHA)  
**Subject:** RE: Welfare monitoring at the Moffat Sheep Races

[REDACTED] and others

It has just been announced that the race has been cancelled this year. The local authority had informed the organiser that they should be registered under the Performing Animals Act 1925 as the sheep will be made to “perform” races for public entertainment. This line was taken in conjunction with [REDACTED]

Apparently the organisers intend to run the event again next year however – it is only problems of registering at short notice this year that have put the organisers off.

I will speak to [REDACTED] about this. I do not propose that we comply with any request to blood sample sheep to assess their stress levels – unless the SG request this. Clearly for most of us any results would be meaningless anyway.

I have no objection to us attending in future years to monitor this race if it takes place again – the only slight danger with this is if this sets a precedent and [REDACTED] and ACAL start to target other events that involve animals.

---

**From:** [REDACTED] (APHA)  
**Sent:** 11 August 2017 09:45  
**To:** [REDACTED] (APHA); [REDACTED] (APHA)  
**Cc:** APHA Scotland - Shows (APHA); [REDACTED] (APHA); [REDACTED] (APHA); [REDACTED] (APHA); [REDACTED] (APHA); APHA Scotland (APHA)  
**Subject:** RE: Welfare monitoring at the Moffat Sheep Races

[REDACTED]

This will need an official response and tracked by the enquiries team, as also sent to our mailbox. I suggest you run the response by SG ([REDACTED]) as I am aware that they have informed Cab Sec and also liaise with TS and SSPCA. As said a few weeks ago, I am wondering if we may consider having an SVI or AHO present on the day to support LA activity and be seen that we do monitor welfare (regardless of the position on whether this falls under welfare or any other area of work) – in addition to the vet employed by the event organisers. Please discuss with [REDACTED] and let me/[REDACTED]/[REDACTED] know the outcome of that discussion in case we do have to field somebody (Duty Vet South?). [REDACTED] may wish to consider who may go (without fully committing). If we send somebody, overtime can be paid (depending too on individual’s work arrangements)

[REDACTED]

Head of Field Delivery  
APHA Scotland

**Animal and Plant Health Agency**



Telephone: [REDACTED] | Mobile: [REDACTED] | Email: [REDACTED]@apha.gsi.gov.uk  
Website: [www.gov.uk/apha](http://www.gov.uk/apha) | Twitter: @APHAgovuk | Facebook: [aphagov](https://www.facebook.com/aphagov)  
Address: APHA Scotland, Longman House, Longman Road, Inverness, IV1 1SF

[www.defra.gov.uk/ahvla](http://www.defra.gov.uk/ahvla)

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**From:** APHA Scotland (APHA)  
**Sent:** 11 August 2017 09:22  
**To:** [REDACTED] (APHA) <[REDACTED]@apha.gsi.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] (APHA) <[REDACTED]@apha.gsi.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] (APHA) <[REDACTED]@apha.gsi.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** APHA Scotland - Shows (APHA) <[APHAScotlandShows@apha.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:APHAScotlandShows@apha.gsi.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** Welfare monitoring at the Moffat Sheep Races

Please see below for info/action.

Can you also distribute further if required.

Cheers,

[REDACTED]  
Administrative Officer

**APHA Inverness Field Services Office**

**Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA)**

Telephone: 01463 728800 | Fax: 01463 711495 | Email: [REDACTED]@apha.gsi.gov.uk  
Website: [www.gov.uk/apha](http://www.gov.uk/apha) | Twitter: @APHAgovuk | Facebook: [APHAgov](https://www.facebook.com/APHAgov)  
Address: Longman House, 28 Longman Road, Inverness IV1 1SF

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 11 August 2017 08:19  
**To:** [REDACTED].gov.uk; [contact@dumgal.gov.uk](mailto:contact@dumgal.gov.uk); [tradingstandards@dumgal.gov.uk](mailto:tradingstandards@dumgal.gov.uk); APHA Scotland (APHA)  
**Subject:** FW: Welfare monitoring at the Moffat Sheep Races

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 11 August 2017 07:39  
**To:** [REDACTED].gov.uk'; [REDACTED].gov.uk'; 'EnvironmentalStandards@dumgal.gov.uk'; SSPCA General Enquiries ([enquiries@scottishspca.org](mailto:enquiries@scottishspca.org)); SSPCA [REDACTED]@scottishspca.org); SSPCA [REDACTED] CEO ([REDACTED]@scottishspca.org); SSPCA [REDACTED]@scottishspca.org); 'APHAScotland@apha.gsi.gov.uk'  
**Subject:** Welfare monitoring at the Moffat Sheep Races

E-MAIL FROM: [REDACTED], Secretary, Animal Concern Advice Line (ACAL), c/o Animal Concern, Post Office Box 5178, Dumfries G82 5YJ. Tel 01389-841111. Mobile: [REDACTED]. Animal Concern Advice Line (ACAL) is a recognised Scottish charity: No. SC030982. Animal Concern Advice Line was established in 2001 to take on the charitable work of Animal Concern which was founded as the Scottish Anti-Vivisection Society in 1876.  
E-MAIL: [REDACTED] Website: <http://www.adviceaboutanimals.info>

To APHA Scotland,  
Dumfries & Galloway Council,  
Scottish SPCA

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am still convinced that strapping knitted dolls to the back of sheep and then encouraging children to chase them along a tarmacked main street, while being cheered on by over 5,000 people and a few barking dogs, breaches the Animal Health & Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 by denying the animals their natural behaviour patterns and causing them unnecessary fear and stress.

However I also realise with regret that no-one with the power to do so is willing to tell Moffat Promotions that if they do not cancel the sheep races on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> August the owners of the sheep used may be charged under the 2006 Act.

I understand a vet will be present and the races are going to be monitored to ensure the welfare of the sheep used is not compromised. Although you all have the powers to police animal welfare at this event I don't know which of your organisations is going to do so. I am assuming that having issued the Performing Animal Act Licence to Moffat Promotions it will be Dumfries and Galloway Council which monitors the welfare of the sheep.

I request that special attention be paid to properly evaluating the stress levels in the sheep used in the races. I ask that blood samples be taken before and immediately after the event to ascertain hormone levels and that heart and respiratory rates be recorded before and immediately after the races. If the results of these tests prove that the animals have indeed been caused unnecessary suffering I ask that the owners be prosecuted and the promoters advised not to organise any similar events in the future.

Yours faithfully,

[Redacted Signature]

For ACAL



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[www.avg.com](http://www.avg.com)



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██████████  
Chairperson  
Moffat Promotions Group  
Town Hall  
High Street  
MOFFAT  
DG10 9HF

7 July 2017

██████████  
**Moffat Sheep Race 2017**

Following on from our conversation this afternoon.

The SSPCA, Local Authority and Animal Plant Health Agency discussed the following with you:

- In our opinion this event is not illegal.
- The SSPCA, LA and APHA do not however support or condone this event in any way.
- If anything does go wrong from an animal welfare perspective e.g. a sheep breaks a leg during the race, the show organisers could potentially face proceedings under animal welfare legislation.
- Although APHA has previously approved this event as an animal gathering that does not imply any approval of this event from an animal welfare perspective.
- We will approve this as an animal gathering again this year – I am aware you have applied for this. If you change any of the conditions or the locality please let our staff in Inverness know.
- You may wish to alter how this event is organised in order to try and accommodate any adverse complaints/publicity. For example by moving this event to a suitable field, giving the sheep at least 2m between them and spectators by the use of double fencing and/or considering how this event could be organised more as an exhibition as to how a flock of sheep can be gathered and moved by a man and a dog. If you continue to use the road you may wish to use wood shavings or sawdust to make the ground less slippery.
- You are also going to get different coats for the sheep that should considerably reduce the chances of sheep being injured by getting caught in them.
- You informed us that you will arrange to have a vet in attendance at the show – that certainly sounds like a very good mitigation against bad publicity or in case something does go wrong on the day. At the very least you will have a vet available on call who knows this event is taking place.
- Given the potential for protest against this event you are going to liaise with the local police to ensure they are fully briefed and can give you any advice they may wish to. (██████████ of APHA has also spoken with police in Dumfries and Galloway to ensure they are aware that there has been adverse publicity around this event from an animal welfare organisation).

Regards

██████████, MRCVS  
Veterinary Lead South West Scotland  
APHA Scotland



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Dear [REDACTED],

3 August 2017

I am writing to you due to your recent enquiry regarding sheep welfare during Moffat sheep race. After consideration it was concluded that:

1. This event is not illegal.
2. The SSPCA, LA and APHA do not however support or condone this event in any way.
3. If anything does go wrong from an animal welfare perspective e.g. a sheep breaks a leg during the race, the show organisers could potentially face proceedings under animal welfare legislation.
4. Although APHA has to date approved this event as an animal gathering that does not imply any approval of this event from an animal welfare perspective.
5. The show organisers may wish to alter how this event is organised. For example by putting sawdust down on the road, giving the sheep at least 2m between them and spectators, and considering whether this event could be used to highlight how a flock of sheep can be gathered and moved by a man and a dog.
6. There will be a vet in attendance or nearby should any welfare issues arise.

Should you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED] MSc, PhD, MRCVS  
Senior Veterinary Inspector APHA.



**Animal &  
Plant Health  
Agency**

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[www.gov.uk/apha](http://www.gov.uk/apha)

Moffat Sheep Races (██████████)

██████████  
Town Hall,  
High Street,  
Moffat,  
DG10 9HF

4<sup>th</sup> August 2017

Dear Show Secretary,

**The Disease Control (Interim Measures) (Scotland) Order 2002 (As Amended), Article 7**

Thank you for completing the Agricultural Shows Notification Form.

This information is important to the Animal and Plant Health Agency in the control and prevention of Animal Disease and aids the show committee in accessing the appropriate level of biosecurity and provision for the retention of livestock should suspicion of disease or national livestock movement ban occur during your show.

Approval is hereby granted to hold the above show in accordance with the conditions laid down under the above Order.

We have provided a generic contingency plan to assist you in preparing for your event.

If you have any further queries regarding your event please speak to the Show contacts in your local APHA Field Services office.

I hope that your forthcoming event will be a great success.

Yours sincerely

**APHA (Scotland) Show Admin Team**

AHDO APHA Inverness

Navigation icons: Home, Print, Refresh, Checkmark, and a vertical scroll bar.

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- Incidents
- Inspections/Assessments
- Contact/Notes
- Other Work

Navigation History	Category	Animal Gatherings
<a href="#">C1132973</a>	Subject	SHEEP GATHERING 2017
<a href="#">2908091</a>	Content	Discussed with [REDACTED], VL. Please progress application.
Created By	[REDACTED]	Updated By [REDACTED]
Created Timestamp	27/07/2017 15:11	Updated Timestamp 27/07/2017 15:11