



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Government response to Animal Sentience Committee: Animals (Low Welfare Activities Abroad) Act report

October 2024

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**Presented to Parliament pursuant to Section 3 of the Animal
Welfare (Sentience) Act 2022**

We are the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. We're responsible for improving and protecting the environment, growing the green economy, sustaining thriving rural communities and supporting our world-class food, farming and fishing industries.

We work closely with our 33 agencies and arm's length bodies on our ambition to make our air purer, our water cleaner, our land greener and our food more sustainable. Our mission is to restore and enhance the environment for the next generation, and to leave the environment in a better state than we found it.



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This is the Government's formal response to the Animal Sentience Committee's Animals (Low Welfare Activities Abroad) Act report published on 19 February 2024. We express our thanks to the committee for their engagement and assessment.

The Animals (Low Welfare Activities Abroad) Act 2023 received Royal Assent and passed into law in September 2023. The 2023 Act provides a framework for the introduction of a future bans on the advertising and offering for sale, in England and Northern Ireland, of low-welfare animal activities abroad. It is an important step in protecting animals from considerable suffering and unacceptable practices.

We are pleased to note that the committee is satisfied that there are no significant negative implications or animal welfare impacts in respect of the proposed legislation. We welcome their view, that the intentions of this Act should have a beneficial outcome on animal welfare.

Future decisions on which specific animal activities will fall in scope of the advertising ban will be evidence-based and subject to Parliamentary scrutiny. Sufficient, compelling evidence will be required to demonstrate why any specific advertising ban is needed. Relevant stakeholder engagement will be undertaken when developing future bans.

We are considering the most effective ways to deliver these commitments and will be setting out next steps in due course.

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