



Mr Finlay Carson
Convener,
Rural Affairs and Islands Committee
c/o rural.committee@Parliament.Scot

c/o Scottish Animal Welfare Commission Secretariat

5 November 2025

Dear Mr Carson

Thank you for your letter of 21 October, sent in your role as Convener of the Rural Affairs and Islands Committee, relating to the Greyhound Racing (Offences) (Scotland) Bill.

SAWC produced a [report on the welfare of greyhounds used for racing in Scotland](#) published in March 2023. The majority of the contents of the report remain current, with the following updates.

- According to media reports Thornton Stadium in Fife, Scotland's last remaining Greyhound racing track closed in March 2025 and has yet to reopen.
- Latest data from The Greyhound Board of Great Britain's (GBGB) figures show that in 2024 there **was an increase in the number of track fatalities** of Greyhounds which now stands at 123 (0.03% fatality rate per run). Note this number does not include data from Scotland's racetrack which is not licenced by GBGB.
- There was **a decrease in the total number of injuries** sustained at the racetrack which now stands at 3,809 (1.07% injury rate per run). Note this number does not include data from Scotland's racetrack which is not licenced by GBGB.
- The number of retired GBGB registered Greyhounds designated as 'unsuitable for rehoming' and therefore euthanised increased to 51 in 2024. This figure was 49 in 2023 and 20 in 2022. These figures pertain to the whole of the UK and are not Scotland specific
- The number of retired GBGB registered Greyhounds euthanised on veterinary advice not at the racetrack decreased to 88 in 2024. This figure was 101 in 2023 and 43 in 2022. These figures pertain to the whole of the UK and are not Scotland specific.

In October 2025 as part of the scrutiny of the Prohibition of Greyhound Racing (Wales) Bill, SAWC contributed to an evidence session with the Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee of the Welsh Parliament. The evidence presented by SAWC was based on the 2023 report. Written evidence from stakeholders as well as transcripts and recordings of the evidence sessions are available on the Welsh Parliament website.

Yours sincerely

Professor Cathy Dwyer
Chair
Scottish Animal Welfare Commission