

04 July 2023

Dear

ATISN 18591 – ban on the use of snares in Wales

Thank you for your request which we received on 13 June 2023. You asked for:

1. Details of all evidence* viewed by the Minister for Rural Affairs, North Wales and Trefnydd, and/ or her advisors in preparation for a decision to ban snares and any other cable restraining device in Wales under the Agriculture (Wales) 2022 Bill.

(*Evidence refers to correspondence, documents, reports from industry, scientific journal articles, or peer reviewed papers.)

2. Details and dates of any meetings or other conversations the Minister for Rural Affairs, North Wales and Trefnydd and/or her advisors have had with individuals, or organisation on the subject of snaring in her capacity as Minister for Rural Affairs, North Wales and Trefnydd.
3. A list of any documents, reports from industry, scientific journal articles, or peer reviewed papers the Minister for Rural Affairs, North Wales and Trefnydd, or her staff have passed to NRW personnel and/or board members for consideration prior to their vote to ban snares and any other cable restraining device in Wales.
4. Minutes and dates of any meetings the Minister for Rural Affairs, North Wales and Trefnydd or her advisors have had with NRW personnel and/or board members to discuss the banning of snares and any other cable restraining devices in Wales.

The ban on the use of snares in Wales was included in the 2021 Labour Party manifesto and subsequently transposed into a Programme for Government commitment. Therefore, we searched for all information covered by your request from the commencement of the sixth Senedd i.e. May 2021.

The answers to your request are as follows, in point order. We have interpreted your reference to advisors in questions 1 and 2 and 4 as the Minister's Special Advisor and officials.

1. No Information is held. The ban on the use of snares in Wales was included in the 2021 Labour Party manifesto. This manifesto pledge was subsequently transposed into a Programme for Government commitment and is being delivered through the Agriculture (Wales) Bill. A copy of the Explanatory Memorandum to this Bill can be viewed [here](#)
2. One meeting has taken place between the Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and Trefnydd and the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust (GWCT) in March 2023. Welsh Government officials have also met with GWCT in

September 2021 and March 2022, and with the British Association for Shooting and Conservation in June 2021 and April 2022.

3. No information is held.

4. No information is held.

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Government's handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Welsh Government's Freedom of Information Officer at: Information Rights Unit, Welsh Government, Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF10 3NQ or Email: Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

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

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely