Llyr Gruffydd AS/MS
Gweinidog Cabinet dros Wydnwch Gwledig a Chynaliadwyedd
Cabinet Minister for Rural Resilience and Sustainability

Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref PO/LG/16/2026

Vikky Howells MS
Pontypridd Cynon Merthyr

Vikki.Howells-MS@senedd.wales

05 October 2026

Dear Vikki,

You asked me a question about gamebird welfare during Senedd Plenary on 30 September, and I committed to writing to update you on our current position.

We are committed to delivering a new Animal Welfare Plan for Wales, as set out in our Programme for Government. We will work closely with stakeholders, delivery partners and the third sector to develop our approach. Building on Wales's strong reputation for animal welfare, we want to maintain and enhance the high standards already in place. We will focus on policies that deliver the greatest welfare benefits, targeting action where it can have the most significant and lasting impact. This includes proportionate and enforceable standards, which are essential to safeguarding animal welfare and addressing poor practice where it occurs.

The Code of Practice for the Welfare of Gamebirds Reared for Sporting Purposes is intended to encourage all those responsible for these animals to adopt the highest standards of husbandry. It explains what is required to meet the standards of care set out in law. Although the Code of Practice was last updated in 2011, the underlying legislative framework has remained unchanged, and the guidance continues to provide a sound basis for achieving good standards of gamebird welfare and husbandry.

Our Animal Welfare Plan will be informed by the latest scientific evidence and best practice. As part of this work, officials are considering the available evidence on the health and welfare of gamebirds reared for sporting purposes, including through engagement with counterparts in the other UK administrations and with enforcement bodies. Any future proposals arising from this work, including changes to welfare legislation or the Code of Practice, would be subject to appropriate consultation with stakeholders.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn yr iaith honno ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Thank you for raising this important matter. I hope this information is helpful and provides reassurance that animal welfare considerations will continue to inform our approach in this area.

Yours sincerely,



Llyr Gruffydd AS/MS
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