



The Rt. Hon. Michael Gove MP
Secretary of State
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
3 Whitehall Place
London, SW1A 2HP

Cc: Lesley Griffiths AM, Cabinet Secretary for Energy, Planning and Rural Affairs

8th July 2019

Dear Secretary of State,

Sheep Worrying

We are writing to you as Plaid Cymru's Spokespeople on Rural Affairs in the House of Commons and the National Assembly for Wales to request a meeting with you both discuss the pertinent issue of sheep worrying, at the upcoming Royal Welsh Agricultural Show.

As you are aware, dog attacks on livestock in Wales are a growing problem. Recent figures from North Wales Police showed 89 per cent of dog attacks occurred when pets strayed from home, with 449 cases of livestock worrying recorded in the area between 2013 and 2017.

Plaid Cymru has recently called for Wales to be given the powers to tackle dock attacks on livestock, particularly following the introduction of a Private Members Bill introduced in the Scottish Parliament by SNP MSP Emma Harper. This Bill would increase the penalties dog owners found guilty of livestock worrying and give the police greater powers to investigate and enforce the offence. It is therefore imperative that the UK Government devolves the necessary powers for Wales to be able to legislate in the same way.

This is supported by the Farmers Union of Wales, who believe the four man pieces of law that currently cover livestock attacks are all antiquated and do not fit with current agricultural practices or the seriousness of the offence. A change in the legislation is necessary to ensure the seriousness of this offence is understood, and that Welsh police forces have the powers to properly deal with offenders.

We would welcome a meeting with you both to discuss this further at the upcoming Royal Welsh Agricultural Show, which we will all be attending. To arrange this meeting, please contact Cai Elis (cai.elis@parliament.uk).

Yours sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Llyr Gruffydd AM in black ink.

Llyr Gruffydd AM
Member of the Welsh Assembly for North Wales

Handwritten signature of Ben Lake MP in black ink.

Ben Lake MP
Member of Parliament for Ceredigion