

SUPPLEMENTARY LEGISLATIVE CONSENT MEMORANDUM (MEMORANDUM NO.2)

Animal Welfare (Import of Dogs, Cats and Ferrets) Bill

1. This Legislative Consent Memorandum is laid under Standing Order (“SO”) 29.2. SO 29 prescribes that a Legislative Consent Memorandum (LCM) must be laid, and a legislative consent motion may be tabled, before Senedd Cymru if a UK Parliamentary Bill makes provision in relation to Wales that has regard to devolved matters.
2. The Animal Welfare (Import of Dogs, Cats and Ferrets) Bill (“the Bill”) was introduced by Dr Danny Chambers MP in the House of Commons on 16 October 2024. The Bill can be found at: [Animal Welfare \(Import of Dogs, Cats and Ferrets\) Bill - Parliamentary Bills - UK Parliament](#)

Policy Objective(s)

3. Provisions to restrict the commercial importation and non-commercial movement of dogs, cats and ferrets into the United Kingdom on animal welfare grounds were first included in the Animal Welfare (Kept Animals) Bill, a UK Government Bill, sponsored by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (“Defra”), which fell in May 2023.
4. The Bill makes provision to restrict the commercial importation and non-commercial movement of dogs, cats and ferrets into the United Kingdom from third countries, on animal welfare grounds. In particular, the Bill aims to address issues of illegal puppy smuggling and increasing levels of low-welfare pet animal movements. These issues raise significant animal health and welfare concerns around the ways in which animals are sourced, kept, treated and transported. The Bill aims to address low-welfare imports of dogs, cats and ferrets through the introduction of an enabling power. This power must be used to prohibit the bringing into Great Britain of puppies and kittens under six months and dogs and cats that are mutilated or heavily pregnant. The Bill also seeks to address the prevalent issue of commercial imports being disguised as non-commercial movements, through amending the rules that govern the non-commercial movement of dogs, cats and ferrets into Great Britain from third countries.

Summary of the Bill

5. The Bill is sponsored by Defra.
6. The Bill makes provision for:
 - Reducing the number of animals (dogs, cats and ferrets) that can travel under the non-commercial rules from five per person to five per vehicle, or three per foot or air passenger.

- Ensuring that when a non-commercial movement of a dog, cat or ferret is carried out by an authorised person, it may only take place within five days of the movement of the owner.
- Introducing prohibitions which restrict the commercial import and non-commercial movement into Great Britain of:
 - Puppies and kittens under six months;
 - Dogs and cats with non-exempted mutilations (e.g. cropped ears, docked tails and declawed cats); and
 - Heavily pregnant dogs and cats (more than 42 days pregnant).

Update on the position since the publication of the first LCM

7. An [LCM](#) (“the first LCM”) was laid before the Senedd on 21 May 2025.
8. The Bill has since completed its passage through the House of Commons on 4 July 2025 and received its First Reading in the House of Lords on 7 July 2025.
9. The first LCM I laid was considered by the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee (“the Committee”) which agreed its [report](#) on 7 July 2025. That report contained 2 conclusions and 4 recommendations. Conclusion 1 states that the Committee agrees with Welsh Government’s assessment, as set out in the first LCM, of the provisions within the Bill which require the consent of the Senedd in accordance with SO 29; but this is subject to views set out in Conclusion 2. Conclusion 2 states the Committee believes clause 8(3) of the Bill contains provision which also requires the Consent of the Senedd in accordance with SO 29.

Provisions in the Bill for which consent is required

10. Within the first LCM, I recommended consent was required in relation to clauses 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8, of the Bill (paragraphs 7 to 32 of that LCM). In so far as clause 8 is concerned, I recommended consent for subsection (5) only (paragraphs 31 to 32 of that LCM).

Clause 8(3): commencement of sections 1 to 7

11. Subsection (3) of clause 8 makes provision about commencement of the other provisions in the Bill. It provides the Secretary of State with a power to bring into force sections 1 to 7 by the making of regulations.
12. As consent is required for clauses 1 to 7 of the Bill, and this provision makes provision for commencement of those, it is my view that consent is also required for this clause, in so far as it makes provision with regard to devolved matters (notably animal welfare), and insofar as it applies to Wales.

UK Government view on the need for consent

13. The Bill extends and applies to England and Wales. The UK Government is of the view that the Bill provisions are within the competence of Senedd Cymru and agrees that the consent of the Senedd is required.
14. It is my view that the consent of the Senedd is required for the above provision of the Bill because it makes provision with regard to devolved matters in so far as they apply to Wales, namely, animal welfare.

Reasons for making these provisions for Wales in the Animal Welfare (Import of Dogs, Cats and Ferrets) Bill

15. Animal welfare is a priority of the Welsh Government, and it is the view of the Welsh Government that it is considered appropriate to deal with the provisions in this Bill for reasons of timing and coherence which is of particular importance in relation to enforcement on cross borders and border controls.
16. The provisions of the Bill align with the Welsh Government policy objectives regarding the promotion of animal welfare and will ensure closer alignment of policy and implementation, especially in relation to cross border issues relating to enforcement. Taking them forward in this UK Bill will provide Wales with the same provisions as England and Scotland, at the same time, to strengthen animal welfare protections for companion animals. The Welsh Government is supportive of the Bill as drafted.

Financial implications

38. It is not considered the Bill has financial implications for Welsh Government beyond staff costs.

Conclusion

39. It remains my view that it is appropriate to deal with these provisions in this UK Bill to progress important and high-profile animal welfare issues. Therefore, I recommend that the Senedd supports the proposals and gives its consent.

Huw Irranca Davies MS

Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change & Rural Affairs

August 2025