

**National Assembly for Wales**  
Finance Committee

## Control of Horses (Wales) Bill

October 2013



Cynulliad  
Cenedlaethol  
Cymru

National  
Assembly for  
Wales

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A list of witnesses and oral and written evidence of relevance to this report is available at:  
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## **Background**

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The Control of Horses (Wales) Bill was introduced by Alun Davies, Minister for Natural Resources and Food on 14 October 2013. The Business Committee has remitted the Bill to Environment and Sustainability Committee and agreed that Stage 1 proceedings could be by-passed.

The Minister for Natural Resources and Food attended Finance Committee on 17 October 2013 to enable Members of the Committee to question him on the financial aspects of the Bill.

### **Our View**

The Committee welcomes the intention contained in the Bill to enable all local authorities in Wales to deliver a consistent approach to removing the impacts that fly-grazing and the abandonment of horses and ponies have on landowners and communities across Wales. As a Committee, we also hope the Bill brings about a behavioural change from unscrupulous horse owners in Wales and ultimately improves the welfare of abandoned horses. To that effect, we were pleased to hear that veterinary costs are included in Part 4 (1) of the Bill – Costs of seizures etc.

The Committee retains its reservations that if the Bill had undertaken a Stage 1 process, that it could have been strengthened by taking into account evidence from the police, animal charities, vets and the general public.

As a Committee, we could have looked at wider costings and benefits the Bill may bring and stand by our comments in Committee that hasty legislation is not good practice.

### **Recommendation**

**We recommend that the Welsh Government clarifies the number of horses expected to be destroyed in the first year and subsequent years.**

## **Witnesses**

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The following witnesses provided oral evidence to the Committee on the date noted below. Transcripts of all oral evidence sessions can be viewed in full at [www.senedd.assemblywales.org/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?Id=1243](http://www.senedd.assemblywales.org/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?Id=1243)

*17 October 2013*

Alun Davies AM	Minister for Natural Resources and Food
Julia Hill	Welsh Government
Fiona Leadbitter	Welsh Government