

Bil Anifeiliaid Gwyllt a Sycrasau (Cymru) | Wild Animals and Circuses (Wales) Bill  
WA 15

**Ymateb gan :** Unigolyn

**Evidence from :** Individual

With regards to the 'Wild animals in circuses' bill, I wish to object to the continued pursuit of the proposed ban. As a worker within and supporter of the animal industry I have many concerns regarding the precedent set by the use of ethics to effect a ban, when factual welfare grounds could not be found. If it is now acceptable for the passing of legislation to be based purely on ethical grounds with total disregard to hard factual evidence, as this bill is, it can only be concluded that this action sets a precedent by which all previous legislation passed, on factual evidence, can now be disregarded.

Circus heritage within the British Isles can be traced back to 1768, with many current circus families tracing their roots back to these beginnings. Circus has its own core cultural traditions, making the people working and living within this industry a cultural minority within the British Isles. The proposed ban on wild animals within circuses, but excluding all other uses of the same animal species within the public entertainment industry amounts to blatant discrimination with regards to cultural minorities. This action alone is contrary to the rulings under the UK Charter of human rights, The Equality Act 2010, The Treaty of the Functioning of the European Union and the E.U. Charter of Human Rights.

I also object to the disproportionate amount of time and money spent on an issue which only relates to a total population of 19 animals within the British Isles.

Please do not follow the example set by the English legislation which undermines the integrity of English law and leaves them wide open to the risk of embarrassing legal challenges from within the minorities affected and the wider international community.