{Name}

{Address}

{Date}

Dear Sir/Madam

I am one of your constituents and I am contacting you regarding an important issue for animal welfare in Scotland.

I am very concerned about the Scottish Government’s continued tolerance for the greyhound racing industry. While the number of tracks has reduced drastically over the years, dogs continue to be subjected to abuse on a weekly basis.

There were once between 20-30 greyhound racing tracks in Scotland, now only one ‘regulated’ track remains, at Shawfield in Glasgow, and one unregulated track at Thornton in Fife. This in itself evidences the changing public opinion toward greyhound racing in Scotland.

Both of these tracks closed in March 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak. Shawfield has thankfully remained closed thus far. Thornton track in Fife has reopened and is actively encouraging participants and spectators to return to the ‘sport’. The number of dogs racing at Thornton is sadly increasing each week.

The regulatory body for greyhound racing (the GBGB) began releasing their injury and death statistics in 2017. They have admitted to thousands of dogs being injured through racing and hundreds losing their lives each year. The latest statistics available are for the year 2020. This show that despite the pandemic resulting in a 22% reduction in racing across the UK, some 410 dogs died and an enormous 3,575 dogs were injured due to racing. The total number of dogs killed by racing in the past 4 years, according to the industry itself, is **3065.**

These numbers do not include ‘unregulated’ tracks like Thornton. There are no records for injuries and deaths at unregulated tracks.

The GBGB also released evidence around 30 dogs testing positively for drugs such as cocaine and methamphetamine at Shawfield in Glasgow. Only around 3% of dog runs are drug tested so we believe the real number of drugged dogs will be significantly higher.

I am ashamed that the Scottish Government continues to condone this animal cruelty while claiming that animal welfare is a priority.

As your constituent I would appreciate my views being represented at the upcoming RAINE Committee on 20th April 2022. Please don’t hesitate to contact me if you need any further information.

Kind regards,

{Sign}