

SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT

WRITTEN ANSWER

30 January 2019

Index Heading: Economy

Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government whether it plans to follow the example of the Welsh and UK governments by legislating on flygrazing so that the public and landowners can act quickly to deal with horse welfare and, if so, when.

S5W-20805

Mairi Gougeon: Fly-grazing is rarely reported in Scotland, unlike the situation on England and Wales; and we have not been alerted of a problem by either our stakeholders or local authorities. We are, however, aware of an isolated case in the Argyll and Bute Council area.

The Council has identified the owner of the horses and is seeking removal through the courts, and the Scottish SPCA is reported as having visited on a number of occasions to ensure the horses' welfare.

The Scottish Government takes the welfare of all animals extremely seriously and that welfare is provided for under the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006. The Scottish Government encourages those with concerns for the welfare of an animal, whether by reason of neglect or abandonment, to raise these concerns with the relevant local authority or the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.