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Jeremy Balfour MSP
Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

23 November 2018

Dear Jeremy,

On 24 October 2018 you lodged a final proposal for a Pet Shop (Licensing) (Scotland) Bill.

Parliament's Standing Orders (Rule 9.14.13) provides a mechanism whereby the Scottish Government can indicate that it will initiate legislation and take responsibility, within the same parliamentary session, for giving effect to a Member's final proposal.

I hereby indicate that the Scottish Government will initiate legislation, within the current session of the Parliament, to improve animal welfare by enhancing local authority pet shop licensing powers and update the licensing system currently set out in the Pet Animals Act 1951, including in relation to licence conditions, fees and inspections.

Accordingly this legislation will give full effect to your final proposal for a Pet Shop (Licensing) (Scotland) Bill.

This letter is also copied to Tracey White, Head of the Chamber Desk and Andrew Mylne in the Non-Government Bills Unit.

ROSEANNA CUNNINGHAM

Cc: Tracey White, Head of the Chamber Desk
Andrew Mylne, Non-Governmental Bills Unit

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