



ORNAMENTAL AQUATIC TRADE ASSOCIATION LTD

"The voice of the ornamental fish industry"

Wessex House, 40 Station Road, Westbury, Wiltshire, BA13 3JN, UK

Telephone:01373 301353 Fax:01373 301236

info@ornamentalfish.org www.ornamentalfish.org www.aquaticsworldwide.org

23 June 2017

Dear Mr Rowlands

Petition P-05-743: End the Exotic Pet Trade in Wales

I am writing in response to the above petition which I understand is being considered by the Petitions Committee of the Welsh Assembly.

I represent more than 850 UK businesses involved in the aquatic trade which supply the tropical fishkeeping hobby. All tropical fish are not native to our shores, so are exotic pets. They are also the most populous pet kept in the UK so I am naturally concerned about the contents of this petition. This petitioner is essentially calling for a ban on keeping goldfish, among many other popular tropical fish, and if taken to its conclusion would result in the Welsh Assembly preventing people from having a fish tank in their home.

I have read with interest the documentation accompanying this petition. I hope you will allow me to put forward some information which I believe you will find useful in future deliberations on this matter.

OATA has a number of Welsh businesses which are members and I am sure we could find one which would be more than happy for you to visit and show you what's actually involved in running an aquatics business. I think you will be impressed by the standards of animal welfare and their knowledge of the species they keep.

I would be happy to discuss any of the issues raised with you in person if you would find that helpful.

Thank you for your consideration of our information.

Yours sincerely

Dominic Whitmee
Chief Executive