



Louise McLornan
Committee Services Officer
Legal and Civic Services Department
Belfast City Council
City Hall
Belfast
BT1 5GS
mclornanl@belfastcity.gov.uk

DAERA Private Office
First Floor, Clare House
303 Airport Road West
Sydenham Intake
Belfast, BT3 9ED
Telephone: 028 9052 4140
Email: private.office@daera-ni.gov.uk

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Dear Louise

LM/03.11.2025 – GREYHOUND RACING

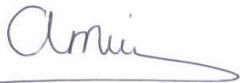
Thank you for your letter of 17 November 2025 advising that Belfast City Council has passed a motion to call on the Northern Ireland Executive and my Department to improve regulation of greyhound racing, noting the developments in other jurisdictions, and to support rehoming efforts and welfare organisations working to protect retired greyhounds.

I am aware of recent developments in other jurisdictions with officials engaging with relevant stakeholders. However, due to a constrained Assembly mandate I unfortunately have to prioritise interventions possible during the limited Assembly term. As a result my efforts are currently focused on delivering the priorities established in my Animal Welfare Pathway. These priorities were determined following extensive stakeholder consultation, including animal welfare organisations and councils, to identify areas in most need of reform while taking into account the limited time remaining in the current mandate.

Greyhound racing was not identified as a concern during these discussions and, as a result, was not included as a specific focus within the Pathway. However, reforms such as bringing forward the necessary legislation to prohibit third-party sales of puppies, strengthening microchipping requirements, regulation of rescue and rehoming organisations and a review of dog breeding regulations will apply to all dogs, including greyhounds.

While greyhounds are afforded the same protections as other dogs under the Welfare of Animals Act (Northern Ireland) 2011, I believe that exploring the exploring the issue fully and progressing any relevant intervention in greyhound racing is a matter that would warrant thorough consideration in the next full five-year Assembly mandate.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Andrew Muir".

ANDREW MUIR MLA
Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs