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Re: New Health & Animal Welfare Bill

Dear.....,

I am writing to you with regard to the **new Animal Health & Welfare Bill** which is still waiting to be published and brought before the Houses of the Oireachtas. I was deeply concerned to learn through the I.H.W.T. "**A Voice for Ireland's Horses**" campaign that it has taken almost 2 years for this bill to reach the final draft stages. Yet there is still no time frame for when this bill may be passed into legislation.

As this has been one of the worst years for cases of equine neglect in Ireland, the lack of proper legislation to combat these abuse cases is of great concern to me. Current legislation dates from 1911. Without proper legislation Ireland's horses are left with no voice.

The new Animal Health and Welfare Bill will update existing legislation to ensure that the welfare of all animals is properly protected and that the penalties for offenders are increased significantly. The Bill will also provide for the consolidation of responsibility for the welfare of all animals.

It is clear to me that the finalisation of the new Animal Health & Welfare bill is long-overdue and it is essential that government ensures its implementation.

I am appealing that you lobby for delivery of these basic animal welfare requirements.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

Your name and signature