



01 September 2026

The Rt Hon Lord Hanson of Flint
Minister of State
Home Office
By Email

Dear David,

I am writing to forward a request for information from the Beagle Rehoming Working Group. Please see their letter below:

Re: Statutory Operation of Section 17A ASPA 1986 — Operational Status and Rehoming Framework for Breeding Stock at MBR Acres

I am writing on behalf of the Beagle Rehoming Working Group — a pragmatic, non-confrontational coalition comprising policy representatives, animal welfare advocates, and accredited UK dog rescue organisations. Our primary focus is establishing a viable, fully supported rehoming pipeline for dogs bred at designated establishments who fall outside research protocols.

Under Section 17A of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 (ASPA), the Home Secretary holds the statutory authority to permit the rehoming of protected animals, provided that health, public safety, socialisation, and post-release safeguards are satisfied.

While we recognise that ASPA permits licensed research, our Working Group is specifically focused on animals within designated breeding establishments—such as MBR Acres—who are:

- ***Surplus*** to scientific requirements;
- ***Unsuited*** for research protocols; or
- ***Retired breeding and stud stock*** no longer required for production.

To assist Parliament, regulatory bodies, and public stakeholders in ensuring that Section 17A of ASPA is functioning in both letter and spirit, we respectfully ask your department to investigate the following key operational details with the Animals in Science Regulation Unit (ASRU):

Direct Statutory Inquiries Requested via ASRU

1. ***Existing Section 17A Authorisation:*** *What specific standing or ad-hoc arrangements currently exist under Section 17A of ASPA for dogs no longer required for breeding or procedures at MBR Acres?*

2. **Identification of Rehoming Barriers:** *Have recent ASRU inspections, licence reviews, or Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body (AWERB) audits identified any administrative, health, socialisation, or operational barriers preventing the rehoming of surplus dogs from MBR Acres?*
3. **Rehoming vs. Euthanasia Rates:** *What are the official ASRU-recorded figures for the total number of dogs rehomed versus euthanised (or killed under Schedule 1) as surplus at MBR Acres over the most recent reporting period?*

Pre-emptive Considerations Regarding Regulatory Responses

To ensure this inquiry leads to transparent information rather than routine administrative deferrals, we wish to clarify three key regulatory points in advance:

- **Scope of Request:** *We are not requesting proprietary commercial data, confidential customer lists, or trade secrets. The existence, scope, and operational compliance of an ASRU-approved Section 17A framework are matters of regulatory compliance and public policy within parliamentary oversight.*
- **Regulatory Responsibility:** *While ASPA establishes that rehoming requires licensee initiation, Home Office Advice Note guidance explicitly states that ASRU and establishment AWERBs are expected to encourage and support rehoming schemes wherever criteria are met. Deferring entirely to facility discretion without regulatory oversight undermines the intent of Section 17A.*
- **Operational Capability:** *Should socialisation, transport, or placement logistics be cited as a barrier, our Working Group confirms that accredited dog rescue charities have concrete, fully funded operational frameworks ready to take full legal ownership. The Beagle Rehoming Working Group will absorb 100% of pre-release veterinary checks (per statutory guidelines), spaying/neutering, transport, home-checks, and lifetime post-adoption care—at zero cost to the facility, ASRU, or the taxpayer.*

Given that rehoming from MBR Acres has proven legally and practically achievable in past instances, we believe a standardised, transparent Section 17A pipeline for surplus breeding stock is an achievable and constructive goal.

Thank you for your attention to this statutory oversight matter. We look forward to your response and the information provided by ASRU.

I appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Siân Berry', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Siân Berry MP

Green Party, Brighton Pavilion

