



Oifig an Ard-Rúnaí

An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Iascaigh agus Bia, Baile Átha Cliath 2.

Office of the Secretary General

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Dublin 2.

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19th February 2024

Catherine Smyth,
Committee Secretariat
Committee of Public Accounts
Leinster House
Dublin 2
D02XR20

Email: pac@oireachtas.ie

Re: The role of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine in relation to animal welfare at Dublin Zoo

Your Ref: S1558 PAC33

Dear Ms Smyth,

Please find below a note on the above topic.

In relation to zoos, the National Parks and Wildlife Service (Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage) is responsible for zoo inspections under the EC (Licensing and Inspection of Zoos) Regulation, 2003.

In relation to Dublin Zoo, routine licensing inspections are carried out by the National Park and Wildlife Service which has responsibility for regulation of zoos in Ireland.

Veterinary personnel from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine attend at Dublin zoo, as required, to issue official health certification for animals being exported from Dublin zoo to other countries. The Department has a regulatory role in the trade of zoo animals moving to approved zoos (confined establishments). This role is principally related to the animal health risks posed by such trade.

Concerns in relation to animal welfare in any location in Ireland may be reported to the Animal Welfare Hotline operated by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. Contact details for this helpline are as follows: Telephone: 01 6072379; email: animalwelfare@agriculture.gov.ie

Yours sincerely

Brendan Gleeson,
Secretary General,

Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.