



Mr Henry Downey  
Democratic Services Section  
Legal and Civic Services Department  
Belfast City Council  
City Hall  
BT1 5GS  
By email: [democraticservices@belfastcity.gov.uk](mailto:democraticservices@belfastcity.gov.uk)

Room 438  
Dundonald House  
Upper Newtownards Road  
Ballymiscaw  
Belfast  
BT4 3SB

Telephone: 028 9052 4140  
Email: [private.office@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:private.office@daera-ni.gov.uk)

Your reference: HD/MOH  
Our reference: CORR/1022/2020  
Date: 31 January 2020

Dear Mr Downey

### **Lucy's Law**

Thank you for your letter of 16<sup>th</sup> January 2020, where you have set out Belfast City Council's support for Lucy's Law. The Council has made a request that preparatory work be undertaken to allow for Lucy's Law to be legislated for in Northern Ireland.

My Department is monitoring changes in legislation in England in relation to amendments to the Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018, as a result of the campaign for Lucy's Law. These new rules are due to come into effect in April 2020 and will mean that, in England, puppies and kittens can no longer be sold by a third party seller, such as a pet shop or commercial dealer, unless they have bred the animal themselves. Instead, anyone looking to buy or adopt a puppy or kitten under six months must either deal directly with the breeder or an animal rehoming centre.

I intend to take cognisance of what is happening in England with a view to considering a way forward for Northern Ireland. I remain committed to ensuring that Northern Ireland has high welfare standards and the well-being of pets remains protected.

Yours sincerely

**EDWIN POOTS MLA**  
**Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs**

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