



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

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Catherine McKinnell MP
Chair of the Petitions Committee
House of Commons
London
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Our ref: 200903

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Dear Catherine,

Thank you for your letter of 3 September about the e-petition 300025 (vets to scan microchips prior to euthanasia) and the e-petition 300010 (vets to scan microchips to reunite stolen pets with their owners).

I appreciate you taking the time to provide me with an opportunity to explain when the Post Implementation Review (PIR) of The Microchipping of Dogs (England) Regulations 2015 is likely to finish and when we are likely to consult on the microchipping of cats, as per our manifesto commitment. Such information will better inform any debate on the two petitions.

As you know, Defra carried out a call for evidence on cat microchipping which closed on 4 January 2020. Plans to publish the summary of responses from this (including next steps for the proposals on compulsory cat microchipping) and carrying out a PIR on the 2015 Regulations were delayed due to Covid-19. Our revised timelines include planning for a consultation on cat microchipping within the next 3 months. Exact timings will be subject to securing Cabinet write-round approval, but we hope that this will be before mid-November. We are aiming to complete the PIR before the end of the year (by mid-December). Results from these parallel exercises will be used to inform any potential reforms to the microchipping regulations, and the requirement for vets to scan pets will be considered as part of this.

I hope you find this information helpful and could I suggest, if you have not considered it already, that these two petitions are debated at the same time given that they are calling for similar requirements and will therefore involve similar discussions.

RT HON GEORGE EUSTICE MP