

**Here are some more articles and replies. In order to simplify, our comments are written in Times New Roman and in block while the letters are in Arial.**

## **M4 relief road: Land ownership influence denied**

Claims of a flawed process when choosing the new route for the £1bn M4 relief road around Newport have been rejected by the economy minister.

BBC Wales has learned the **Welsh government owns more than £12m worth of property** along the so-called **black route**. Edwina Hart denied it influenced her decision in favour of that option.

Public Accounts Committee chair Darren Millar has asked whether taxpayers have had value for money from land purchase.

The BBC's Week In Week Out programme found that as well as owning £12m worth of property, land and farms along the black route, the Welsh government had spent more than £20m in professional fees to consultants since 1998.

Mrs Hart's denial of any undue influence came in response to questions from AMs in the Senedd on Tuesday.

Liberal Democrat AM Eluned Parrott asked what the value was of a public consultation or the forthcoming public inquiry "if behind the scenes the Welsh government was buying the land to make one specific route possible".

Tory AM Nick Ramsay said there were "major holes in this whole process" and that the public and AMs were "losing confidence".

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-29987871>

**This 'black route' goes through 5 SSSIs. and the Welsh Government owns £12m in property along this route from which it stands to make a fortune.**

**Over just the past couple of years this government has revealed an ever increasing disregard for life and heritage in its policy making. The refusal to place the Greenland White-fronted Goose on the protected list, the railroading through of a racing track somewhere in the middle of the moors, the knocking down of old buildings for no good reason and now they want to push a three-lane relief road through no fewer than 5 SSSIs.**

## Please write to: Thank you.

CorrespondenceMail.AD@Wales.GSI.Gov.UK; Carwyn.jones@wales.gsi.gov.uk;  
Correspondence.Alun.Davies@Wales.gsi.gov.uk; Correspondence.Carl.Sargeant@Wales.gsi.gov.uk;  
Correspondence.Edwina.Hart@Wales.gsi.gov.uk; Correspondence.Huw.Lewis@Wales.gsi.gov.uk;  
Correspondence.Jane.Hutt@Wales.gsi.gov.uk; Correspondence.John.Griffiths@Wales.gsi.gov.uk;  
Correspondence.Lesley.Griffiths@Wales.gsi.gov.uk; Correspondence.Jeff.Cuthbert@Wales.gsi.gov.uk;  
Correspondence.Mark.Drakeford@Wales.gsi.gov.uk; Chris.Worker@Wales.GSI.Gov.UK;  
Correspondence.Gwenda.Thomas@Wales.gsi.gov.uk; Maureen.Pritchard@Wales.GSI.Gov.UK;  
Correspondence.Vaughan.Gething@wales.gsi.gov.uk; Leasa.Fielding@Wales.GSI.Gov.UK;  
Correspondence.Ken.Skates@wales.gsi.gov.uk;

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## Packham Slams Bushtucker Trials

Chris Packham described the show's bushtucker trials as "barbaric" and "silly"

TV presenter Chris Packham has penned an open letter to Ant and Dec - calling for the pair to step in and end the "abuse of animals" on I'm A Celebrity... Get Me Out Of Here!.

The ITV jungle show returns on Sunday with a new line-up of celebrities, including Allo Allo! actress Vicki Michelle and former motorcycle world champion Carl Fogarty, facing spiders, snakes and cockroaches in the bushtucker trials.

Packham told the duo: "But then, let's face it, as we all know, you couldn't let that happen anyway. It's a sham."

He wrote: "The problem is that animals such as snakes, spiders, crocodiles, rats and many invertebrates are already misunderstood and thus unfortunately vilified, despite the incredibly important roles they play in the world's ecosystems and our lives.

**"By orchestrating a fear of them among your contestants, I'm afraid you're reinforcing and exaggerating a terrible ignorance and intolerance of these remarkable animals."**

He wrote: "What particularly frustrates me is that this counters and undoes all the education that I and my colleagues strive to achieve in our natural history programmes.

"Lads, it's not all about the cute and the cuddly; every species plays a role and until we can all see the importance of this, we won't make the urgent progress we need to in conservation."

He said of the ITV show's large audience: "Just imagine getting them all to respect these creatures rather than continue to be unnecessarily revolted by them. Surely that is something you could be genuinely proud of?"

Packham dismissed I'm A Celebrity's use of consultants to advise on animal welfare, saying: "I can guarantee that some animals are harmed during production, because they are fragile or easily stressed. Or simply killed, as they are in your Bushtucker trials."

He criticised the "mockery" of insects being eaten on I'm A Celebrity... when in some parts of the world "invertebrates are routinely eaten without repulsion - normally because there is no choice".

The presenter accused the show of teaching "younger viewers ... that killing things for plain exploitative 'entertainment' is acceptable."

Packham added: "I'm sorry, but that is a shame that I imagine neither of you will want to take to your graves, because I assure you that your grandchildren will not thank you for it.

<http://www.eveningexpress.co.uk/news/showbiz/packham-slams-bushtucker-trials-1.676478>

From: viewerservices@itv.com  
To: george.ashleycooper@aol.co.uk  
Sent: Sat, Nov 15, 2014 3:01 pm  
Subject: 15/11/2014 I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here (AF)

Dear George,

Thank you for your email regarding I'm a Celebrity...Get Me Out of Here!

As a production we comply with regional and national laws concerning the use of insects, animals and reptiles and we inform the RSPCA NSW of all our activities on the show and they have an open invitation to attend the site. We also employ external consultants who work with us and monitor our activities to ensure that we don't have an adverse impact on the local ecosystem.

The production team for I'm A Celebrity...Get Me Out Of Here! go to great lengths to plan and design the Bushtucker Trials and rely upon detailed expert advice which enables them to take appropriate steps to protect the welfare of reptiles and animals. At each of the Bushtucker Trials we have qualified and experienced insect and animal wranglers on site and every trial has been carefully tested and developed.

In addition, the celebrities always receive a full briefing from the production team, health and safety advisors and the animal or insect wrangler/experts concerned before they begin the trials.

I hope the above information outlining the procedures that ITV take before each trial begins demonstrates the importance ITV attaches to this issue and complying to regional and national laws.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for taking the time to contact us here at ITV.

If you have any additional comments, please do not hesitate to contact us again.

Kind regards,

Ann,

ITV Viewer Services Officer

**It is obvious that mockery of whatever anyone kills or eats adds only insult to the injury, if you're going to kill something at least let there be respect. Given the programme deliberately sets out to ridicule and exploit, I can only agree with what's said. A televised broadcast of torment, with welfare to comply with any scantily existing laws, goes against everything these creatures need. They need all the PR. they can get and certainly don't need organised humiliation.**

**'Taking appropriate steps to protect the welfare of reptiles and animals' usually in my books means the setting up of nature reserves or the bringing in of protection laws.**

**Please write to:**

viewerservices@itv.com; itv.comsupport@itv.com; itvihelp@itv.com; viewerservices@itv.com; sharjeel.suleman@itv.com; clara.melia@itv.com; sophie.marshman@itv.com; itvpresscentre@itv.com; mike.large@itv.com; caroline.cook@itv.com; john.manthorpe@itv.com; responsibility@itv.com; groupsecretariat@itv.com; itvcommercial@itv.com; richard.cowles@itv.com; becca.walker@itv.com; sarah.tyekiff@itv.com; sarah.cox@itv.com;

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From: save.the.eagles2@gmail.com  
To: cates1980@hotmail.co.uk  
Date: Fri, 14 Nov 2014 09:49:51 +0100  
Subject: Birds and windfarms

The RSPB set to lose credibility. The cover-up continues in the UK, but the truth is starting to emerge.

<http://www.principia-scientific.org/birds-and-wind-farms.html>

<http://canadafreepress.com/index.php/article/67440>

<http://raptorpolitics.org.uk/2014/11/10/birds-and-windfarms/>

[https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/news/scotland/388269/environmentalists-and-anti-wind-farm-campaigners-suspect-cover-up-over-bird-deaths/?piano\\_t=1](https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/news/scotland/388269/environmentalists-and-anti-wind-farm-campaigners-suspect-cover-up-over-bird-deaths/?piano_t=1)

<https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/news/scotland/388269/environmentalists-and-anti-wind-farm-campaigners-suspect-cover-up-over-bird-deaths/>

**Here is a brief clip of an article we'll be looking at in greater detail next time.**

**Germany has installed over 24,000 wind turbines** and 1.4 million solar panels, and renewables generate 31 percent of the country's electricity on average - and as much as 74 percent on particularly windy or sunny days. According to the German government, 371,400 jobs have been created by renewable energy.

**'Germany has installed over 24,000 wind turbines.' My God; and we all thought the war was over. The bird-deaths in that country must be horrendous.**

**Below are the contact details of die Deutsche Bundestag, the German Federal Parliament.**

sigmar.gabriel@bundestag.de; sigmar.gabriel@bmf.bund.de; pressestelle@bmwi.bund.de; sigmar.gabriel@wk.bundestag.de; sigmar.gabriel.wk@bundestag.de; frank-walter.steinmeier@bundestag.de; poststelle@auswaertiges-amt.de; frank-walter.steinmeier@wk.bundestag.de; frank-walter.steinmeier.wk@bundestag.de; thomas.demaiziere@wk.bundestag.de; thomas.demaiziere.ma04@bundestag.de; thomas.demaiziere@bundestag.de; pressestelle@spd-saar.de; heiko.maas@bmf.bund.de; wolfgang.schaeuble@bundestag.de; brinkkoetter@wolfgang-schaeuble.de; lungershausen@wolfgang-schaeuble.de; buergerreferat@bmf.bund.de; wolfgang.schaeuble.ma02@bundestag.de; wolfgang.schaeuble@wk.bundestag.de; andrea.nahles@bundestag.de; andrea.nahles.wk@bundestag.de; christian.schmidt@wk.bundestag.de; hermann.groehe@bundestag.de; info@cdu.de; alexander.dobrindt@bundestag.de; alexander.dobrindt@wk.bundestag.de; barbara.hendricks@bundestag.de; barbara.hendricks@wk.bundestag.de; barbara.hendricks.wk@bundestag.de; cvd@bpa.bund.de; hotline@cvd.bundesregierung.de; internetpost@bundesregierung.de; saarlouis@kreisverband.cdu-saar.de; [peter.altmaier@bundestag.de](mailto:peter.altmaier@bundestag.de); datenschutzbeauftragte@bpa.bund.de; jan.vanaken@bundestag.de; peiler@stephan-albani.de; makolla@stephan-albani.de; griesbach@stephan-albani.de; braeutigam@stephan-albani.de; luther@stephan-albani.de; neumann@stephan-albani.de; katrin.albsteiger@bundestag.de; agnes.alpers@wk.bundestag.de; mail@bundestag.de; kerstin.andreae.ma04@bundestag.de; luise.amtsberg@bundestag.de; luise.amtsberg.ma01@bundestag.de; luise.amtsberg.ma02@bundestag.de; luise.amtsberg.wk@bundestag.de; luise.amtsberg.wk01@bundestag.de; niels.annen@bundestag.de; ingrid.arndt-brauer@bundestag.de; pressereferat@bundestag.de; artur.auernhammer@bundestag.de; Arnold.Rainer@bundestag.de; heike.baehrens@bundestag.de; annalena.baerbock@bundestag.de; annalena.baerbock.ma10@bundestag.de; frankfurt@annalena-baerbock.de;

**Please send these links over to them.**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8NAAzBArYdw>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1RcTjdY1aN4>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QRSaVD8VAbl>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RtgBWNkWBkE>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6x1hT5SONUg>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CEersoJLtRw>

<http://www.iberica2000.org/Es/Articulo.asp?Id=2968>

<http://www.epaw.org/multimedia.php?article=b2>

<http://www.epaw.org/multimedia.php?lang=es&article=b6>

<http://travel.aol.co.uk/2014/11/06/starling-display-photos-murmuration-britain/?ncid=wsc-uk-travel-headline>

**How current are these images? The RSPB. has never been busier covering its back and it would be easy enough to slip a bit of old footage in here and there in order to artificially boost the perception of how many birds there are left.**

<http://travel.aol.co.uk/2014/11/07/berwick-swans-finally-arrive-latest-start-winter-1969/?ncid=wsc-uk-travel-image>

**Two swans and two cygnets arrived in Britain this morning two weeks later than usual - heralding the latest start of winter since 1969. Again it's all about the late winters, possibly global warming, and nothing about the slaughter that might have occurred on their way over here.**

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From: defenders@mail.defenders.org  
To: cates1980@hotmail.co.uk  
Date: Thu, 13 Nov 2014 16:44:15 -0600  
Subject: Breaking: Killing Competition APPROVED



We just received news of yet another sickening development in the war on wolves in Idaho.

**The Federal Bureau of Land Management** (BLM) has just approved a wolf and predator-killing derby that would take place every year for the next five years. Using our federal lands for a commercial killing competition is shocking and wrong – so we're going to court to stop it.

Put on by a "hunters' rights" organization, this 19th century killfest will be held on federally owned wildlands and will target wolves and a wide range of other wildlife. Please help us fight this despicable killing competition with an urgent donation to Defenders of Wildlife!

This recently approved killfest would take place during winter, when wolves and other wildlife are at their most vulnerable - out foraging for food in the snow and extreme cold. These are the kinds of barbaric extermination-era tactics that drove wolves to the brink of extinction in the Lower 48 in the first place! When we go to court for wolves, we win. Help us continue to fight on the ground and in the courtroom.

There's no denying that Idaho has declared war on wolves. A commercial wolf and predator-killing derby has no place in today's society. The federal government spent decades and millions of dollars to recover wolves in the Northern Rockies and now they're enabling and contributing to their decline!

Please make an emergency donation to help us fight for wolves and other wildlife in Idaho! Thank you for all you do.

Jamie Rappaport Clark, President, Defenders of Wildlife

**Please see the second attachment which lists the contact details of the Federal Bureau of Land Management. These wolves cannot fight for themselves but we can fight for them. Please do everything you can to help. Thank you.**

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**Regarding the wind-direction theory, see last report, I thought I'd see what data the Met Office might have on the matter and this was the reply received.**

From: enquiries@metoffice.gov.uk  
To: cates1980@hotmail.co.uk  
Sent: Mon, 17 Nov 2014 14:32:52 +0000  
Subject: re[2]: polar winds

Dear Robert,

Many thanks for your enquiry. Measurements of wind and ice extent in Antarctica are extremely difficult due to the remoteness and harshness of the region. Data records exist but are extremely sparse and insufficient to give a full insight into changes over the whole continent. The introduction of satellites have allowed the Antarctic to be observed in more detail, and recent studies of Antarctic sea-ice motion have greatly advanced our understanding of it's large scale dynamics. There remain issues though, such as the data records being so short along with different sensors being installed on individual satellites which makes it difficult to compare data.

A study has been recently carried out aimed at overcoming these issues, and used consistent data from the period 1992-2010. It was published in the scientific journal 'nature' and the reference is: Holland P. R and Kwok R. (2012), Wind-driven trends in Antarctic sea-ice drift, nature, Vol 5, pp872-875.

<http://www.nature.com/ngeo/journal/v5/n12/full/ngeo1627.html>

If you do not subscribe to this journal then you may be charged to access it, though it will be freely available at your local library. It goes into great detail and covers the processes at work which have resulted in an increase in Antarctic sea-ice. **It concludes that observed ice motion and winds are highly correlated which implies that ice-motion trends are largely caused by wind trends.** It quantifies dynamic and thermodynamic processes in the internal ice pack and shows that wind-driven changes in ice advection are the dominant driver of ice-concentration trends around West Antarctica, whereas wind-driven thermodynamic changes dominate elsewhere.

I'm not sure if you are aware, but the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Assessment Report 5 (AR5) was released last year and is freely available. It provides a summary of the current science, with Working Group 1 (WGI) of the report focussing on the physical science, with chapter 4 on the Cryosphere and has a section on Antarctica which has further information. It can be accessed at the following link;

<http://www.climatechange2013.org/report/full-report/>

I hope that this information is helpful and answers your question.

Best regards,

Nick Hopkins,

Climate Science Enquiries Coordinator, Met Office

**Just what's causing these directional shifts remains unknown. But we ourselves in the UK. know only too well the difference between a Caribbean wind and a north-easterly. We know just how mild or cold they can be.**

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From: whaling@tinganes.fo  
To: george.ashleycooper@aol.co.uk  
Sent: Mon, 10 Nov 2014 11:13  
Subject: SV: pilot whales.

Dear George,

Thank you for your interest and concern.

**We are aware that some reports about whaling in the Faroe Islands can be very disturbing** when presented out of context. We are therefore grateful for this opportunity to provide you with a factual explanation of the role and organisation of the whale drive in Faroese society today and the measures in place to regulate it.

Pilot whales and other small whales are utilised for food in the Faroe Islands and represent one of very few local sources of meat that does not have to be imported from afar. Both the meat and blubber of pilot whales have for centuries been a staple part of the national diet.



The total number of pilot whales taken in the Faroe Islands can fluctuate from one year to the next. The long-term average catch of around 800 whales a year is not considered to have a significant impact on the abundance of pilot whales in the Northeast Atlantic, which are estimated to number around 128,000. Faroese whaling is therefore widely recognised as a sustainable catch.

Whale drives in the Faroe Islands can happen several times year in all seasons, although most commonly in the summer months. The driving, beaching, killing and distribution of pilot whales are fully regulated by law and regulations. Catches are shared on a community basis among the participants in a whale drive and residents of the local district where the whales are beached.

We would also recommend that you consult [www.whaling.fo](http://www.whaling.fo) for further information.

**'We are aware that some reports about whaling in the Faroe Islands can be very disturbing.' They certainly can! If you've not already done so please write to the contacts below. Thank you.**

logting@logting.fo; jogvanl@logting.fo; susannad@logting.fo; alfredo@logting.fo; johnj@logting.fo;  
faroeislands@tinganes.fo; fisk@fisk.fo; hmr@hmr.fo; karstenh@logting.fo; whaling@tinganes.fo; info@tinganes.fo;  
annikao@logting.fo; jorgenn@logting.fo; bjornk@logting.fo; whaling@mfa.fo;

<http://rt.com/shows/documentary/197908-faroe-islands-whales-killing/>

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**Leading academics say fracking companies should be allowed to cause greater earth tremors when drilling if the government wants the shale gas industry to succeed. In an RT. interview Robert Westaway said, 'small earthquakes from fracking are not as bad as they might seem.' Well, there you have it, I guess we can all breathe a sigh of relief.**

robert.westaway@glasgow.ac.uk; paul.younger@glasgow.ac.uk; engineering@glasgow.ac.uk

<http://rt.com/uk/204751-fracking-overhyped-uk-research/>

**In the meantime there are reports coming in concerning fracking in Botswana. The effects this would have with the contamination of wildlife watering-holes can only be imagined.**

<http://articles.latimes.com/2013/dec/03/world/la-fg-wn-botswana-fracking-20131202>

<http://www.fin24.com/Economy/No-fracking-in-Botswanas-wildlife-park-20131120>

I just found out innocents dogs in Thailand are being skinned, boiled alive and butchered for their meat.

Have you heard about this? It's happening because of the illegal dog meat trade in Thailand – but there's something we can do to help stop it.

I just signed Soi Dog's petition calling on Thai leaders to crack down on this brutal trade.

Will you SIGN THE PETITION too?

Together, we can let Thailand's new government know the world is watching – and we want them to do everything they can to save these poor, innocent dogs.

The information below is from Soi Dog, a Thai charity that works with global authorities to flush out traders and look after rescued dogs.

Please act immediately to stop thousands of dogs from being tortured and butchered for their meat. Every aspect of the dog meat trade in Southeast Asia is horrifically cruel.

The trade's terrified victims, many of them family pets, are crushed into cages and suffer horribly on the prolonged journey to slaughter.

They are transported to primitive abattoirs that should be called torture chambers. There, these poor animals are not just killed. Instead, they are often systematically and brutally beaten, skinned alive or boiled alive.

These horrors are inflicted because of the barbaric belief that when they are in pain, their bodies release adrenaline that softens their meat. Terror, torture, then a painful death. This is quite possibly the worst form of cruelty humans could inflict on innocent animals.

You can put a stop to this. SIGN THE PETITION.

In Thailand, this hideous industry is illegal. Most Thai people don't even know it is going on in their country – because dog meat traders are increasingly secretive. Soi Dog is a charity that works with authorities on the ground in Thailand and other countries to flush out traders and care for rescued dogs.

The more social and political pressure we can put on dog meat traders, the more dogs will be spared. That's why we want the support of the highest levels of leadership, and why your name on the petition will really help.

Soi Dog and our partners have already managed to intercept trucks carrying the dogs to slaughter. The condition of the animals was heartbreaking.

There were terrified dogs crammed into each cage - packed on top of each other. Some had suffocated under the weight of the bodies above them. Others had horrible injuries – broken bones and ruptured internal organs. Some had open wounds or their paws ripped off. We know that trucks like these often travel for days, in sweltering heat, and that the dogs receive no water or food.

There's so much more to this story and so much you can do to help.

Please start by SIGNING THE PETITION and sending it to as many people as possible.

<http://ow.ly/BERvo>

From: amelia.cross@btinternet.com  
To: cates.1980@aol.co.uk  
Sent: Sun, Nov 9, 2014 9:20 pm  
Subject: Dogs

I sent you this email because I know that together we can help save these dogs from an agonising death.

Thanks so much,

Amelia :o)

**Please, if you've not already done, click onto the link above and sign the petition. Thank you.**

**Concluding: We print any letters here from all sides of both arguments. So long as it's relevant to subject matters, and provided it's not obscene, we will print it. If you disagree with anything that's said, please write in. This is a public arena so please feel free to have your say.**