



Oct 3rd

2012

Dear Sir,

I congratulate you on a well run meeting considering the diverse number of interests involved.

If I could make a few points with regards the exemption from this bill.

Hounds and hunt club kennels are unique and therefore require practices which are substantially different to those of other dogs. This position was acknowledged in the "Outcome of Consultation" document circulated by DARD on 24th July 2012.

The hunts are already registered with their local Councils, the hounds are micro chipped and subject to scrutiny by the dog warden.

All packs are also members of the recognised Master of Hounds Association and obliged to conform to the welfare & kennel management standards.

No commercial selling of hounds is permitted under any condition. We do agree that puppy farms should be registered in order to stop the deplorable business of selling puppies from unregistered breeders.

As is apparent from this letter, I see no good reason why the annual block licence should not be issued to hunts.

Yours

Sincerely,

(N.I. Master of Hounds)