

# Hon Grant Robertson

MP for Wellington Central

Deputy Prime Minister

Minister of Finance

Minister for Infrastructure

Minister for Sport and Recreation

Minister for Racing



Sir Bruce Robertson  
Chair  
Racing Integrity Board

CC: Mike Clement, CE Racing Integrity Board

Dear Sir Bruce,

Thank you again for your report of your independent Review into Greyhound Racing in New Zealand (the Report). I appreciate your efforts in producing this thorough Report and for providing the Government with a strong base of information on which to go forward in this area.

Now, in your capacity as the Chair of the Racing Integrity Board (RIB), you have been tasked with the ongoing independent oversight of the racing industry and as such the issues raised in the Report as areas for concern. In this respect, this letter also responds to the RIB's Statement of Intent that was recently delivered to my office.

I have now discussed the Report with Cabinet colleagues. Cabinet agreed with the recommendations and issues identified in the Report. While a number of issues have been identified, we do not see them as being insurmountable. However, as the Report shows, the social license of the greyhound racing industry is clearly being challenged.

I note the Report's recommendation that the RIB assess whether the greyhound racing industry has materially improved on the areas identified as being of concern, with a report being provided at the start of 2023. However, I am asking the RIB to undertake this work over the next 12 to 15 months with a report returned to me by the end of 2022. While this is a shorter period than what was recommended in the Report, I believe the urgency of the matters raised in the Report justifies this.

Furthermore, I am suggesting that the RIB identifies a specific set of indicators addressing data recording, transparency of all activities, and animal welfare generally. The Report identified these as major areas of concern, and I am particularly interested in how the RIB considers Greyhound Racing New Zealand will have progressed in addressing these issues.

In view of the concerns of industry participants that arose during the review, I would also like to suggest that the RIB consider the establishment of a confidential complaints system. The New South Wales Greyhound Welfare Integrity Commission already maintains such a system that could be adapted to the New Zealand environment. Such a system would ensure that non-compliance within the industry can be reported directly to the RIB and would allow those wishing to speak out a safe and secure means of doing so.

I would welcome the opportunity to meet in your capacity as the Chair of the RIB to discuss the roadmap for greyhound racing in the near future.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Grant Robertson', written in a cursive style.

Hon Grant Robertson  
**Minister for Racing**