

**Supplementary
Submission
No 52a**

**INQUIRY INTO GREYHOUND WELFARE AND
INTEGRITY COMMISSION**

Name: Mr Alexander Verhagen

Date Received: 14 July 2021

Mr Robert BORSAK,

I would like to discuss the Effectiveness of GWIC in stopping our great sport progressing..

Over the last couple of years teenagers between 14 and 16 years of age have been able to apply for an associate handlers licence. This enabled them to handle dogs at the track, kennel and catch dogs on race day. This did not allow for boxing on race days. These teenagers were monitored by the Chief Steward and with his endorsement were allowed to box dogs on race day. He made it clear to other Stewards that they were permitted to do so. You could see the increase in the number of teenagers getting the handlers licence. These teenagers were the future of our industry.. NOW we have a new Chief Steward, Mr Wade BIRCH.. He has enforced the rule about under 16's not being allowed to box dogs. Mr BIRCH has no background involvement within the Greyhound industry. The former chief steward with almost 40 years stewarding show great common sense in allowing these teenagers to box greyhounds under the guidance of their mentor. Mr BIRCH has experience in the harness racing industry.

In the harness racing industry PIN FIRING an injury upon a horse is not allowed. In greyhounds Pin Firing is Ok by the RSPCA and GWIC provided it is carried out by a registered vet. Mr BIRCH has stewards standing greyhounds down from racing until further investigation is completed. Some Dogs have been stood down for several weeks

These are just further examples of GWIC staff not having the required work experience and making wrong decisions forcing more and more people out of our great sport with over regulation.

Yours in Sport

Alex Verhagen