

Submission
No 14

**INQUIRY INTO 2023 INQUIRY INTO THE OPERATION
OF THE APPROVED CHARITABLE ORGANISATIONS
UNDER THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS
ACT 1979**

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 20 February 2024

Partially
Confidential

I would like to raise a serious concern about the lack of independent scrutiny between WIRES and the RSPCA. WIRES refers alleged animal welfare issues to the RSPCA. There have been instances where WIRES (the complainant) accompany the RSPCA on house inspections/raids. WIRES has previously informed the member that this is just a routine inspection. Animals are seized and subsequently euthanised which is extremely stressful for WIRES volunteers. In many cases the member has been seeking veterinary treatment for their animals in care and are therefore shocked that the RSPCA have been involved when the member has not been advised by the RSPCA of the alleged severity of any situation or given any warning. As the animals are typically euthanised by the RSPCA there is no opportunity for the member to get an independent necropsy done, even when other vets have declared the wildlife are showing progress.

This is unethical and immoral behaviour by WIRES and the RSPCA. An example; the police would never allow a complainant to accompany them on a house raid so why are WIRES allowed to do this?

WIRES has no interest in the member or the case after the 'inspection' and the wires members have no support from within WIRES who they have served tirelessly for years. When members have asked for support they are advised that this is now an RSPCA matter and it is nothing to do with them.

In addition, WIRES continues to hire ex RSPCA and Police into the WIRES animal welfare department who are continually monitoring members, not with a view to offering them support but with only one task in mind, and that is inflicting punitive retribution on a member who may have differing views to WIRES.

There needs to be an inquiry into the relationship between WIRES and the RSPCA and the independence of the RSPCA when making animal welfare assessments. In addition there needs to be financial support given to members who find themselves in this predicament. These cases destroy members; financially, mentally and reputationally.