

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

18th June 2018

Dear Constance,

RE: WILD ANIMALS IN CIRCUSES.

Thank you for contacting me recently about wild animals in circuses; I read your comments with great interest.

I know that the Government remains committed to introducing a ban on wild animals in circuses.

Currently, a ban would impact on two travelling circuses in England that continue to operate. Conditions of the remaining wild animals at both circuses are closely monitored under the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs' interim *Welfare of Wild Animals in Travelling Circuses (England) Regulations 2012*, through regular announced and unannounced welfare inspections.

These regulations expire on the 19th January 2020. The Government does not plan to renew them because it intends to ensure that a legislative ban is introduced by then. The Regulations will then be allowed to expire.

The draft Bill states that an offence would be committed under the law if an animal 'performs or is exhibited' as part of a travelling circus, a term whose definition is well understood. There is no exemption for businesses claiming that the exhibition is 'for educational purposes' or similar. In any case of doubt, the Bill also allows for the appointment of inspectors who could make a determination.

Once again, thank you for having taken the time to contact me and if I can ever be of any further assistance to you then please do not hesitate to contact me again.

With best wishes,

Tom

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE