

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

31st January 2019

Dear Constituent,

RE: FOIE GRAS.

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of the production of pâté de foie gras; your comments upon which I read with great interest.

The UK has some of the highest animal welfare standards in the world and Ministers have been active on a domestic, European and international level in seeking to improve quality of life for farm animals.

Let me assure you that foie gras is not produced from the livers of force-fed ducks or geese in the UK, and the Government is opposed to this production method. The UK is, however, unable to implement a unilateral ban on the import or sale of foie gras because this would contravene our international obligations. However, once the UK leaves the European Union, it will be open to the Government to review the approach to foie gras imports and sales in the UK.

For now, it is up to consumers to decide whether or not to purchase foie gras. I am assured that there is work ongoing with European partners to drive up standards of animal welfare across the board and ensure that consumers, through honest labelling, are able to make informed choices about the food they eat.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tom".

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE