

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

18th March 2021

Jean Confortant,

RE: THE PIG HUSBANDRY (FARROWING) BILL.

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of your concerns around the *Pig Husbandry (Farrowing) Bill*. I have read your comments on this with great interest.

I would like to start by assuring you that I care very much about the welfare of all animals. I am assured that my ministerial colleagues are examining the evidence around the use of cages for farm animals and are considering the options around this. They have also committed to continuing to focus on maintaining world-leading farm animal welfare standards through both regulatory requirements and statutory codes.

While I listened with interest to what my colleague, Sir David Amess MP, had to say on this subject when he brought forward his recent 10 Minute Rule Bill, Ministers have been clear that it is their ambition for farrowing crates to no longer be used for sows. Indeed, the new pig welfare code clearly states that "*the aim is for farrowing crates to no longer be necessary and for any new system to protect the welfare of the sow, as well as her piglets.*"

It is important that we make progress towards a system that both works commercially and safeguards the welfare of the sow and her piglets, and that we do so as quickly as possible. I am pleased to confirm the UK is already ahead of most pig producing countries in terms of non-confinement farrowing, with around 40 percent of our pigs housed outside and not farrowed with crates.

I know that this Government has set itself a challenging agenda on animal welfare issues that it will tackle and Ministers are taking action on many fronts to improve the health and wellbeing of farm animals. A major example is the commitment to ending excessively long journeys for live animals going for slaughter and for fattening.

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,

With best wishes,
A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tom'.

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE