



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

5th March 2021

Dear Constitute,

RE: TROPHY HUNTING (EDM 50)

Thank you for your recent correspondence about trophy hunting, specifically about Early Day Motion (EDM) 50; your comments upon which I have read with great interest.

There is a great strength of feeling around this issue, and I understand why. Notwithstanding the fact that as a Government Minister I am unable to sign EDMs, in any event, I have general concerns about the effectiveness and expense of the EDM system, and I think it is much more effective to raise concerns directly with Ministers, both verbally, and in writing, rather than signing EDMs, and I have duly done so.

I know that the Government is committed to doing all it can to support wildlife and the environment, both in the UK and internationally, and I am pleased Ministers will be delivering on the manifesto commitment, on which I was proud to stand, to ban the import of hunting trophies from endangered species.

The consultation on controls on the import and export of hunting trophies, which closed in February 2020, was the first step in fulfilling this commitment and provided an opportunity for respondents to provide views on which species they considered needed further restrictions. I understand that the COVID-19 pandemic has delayed the publication of the Government response to the recent consultation and call for evidence on controls on the import and export of hunting trophies. However, Ministers are continuing to work on this important area and will publish a response as soon as they are able to do so.

Climate change and global biodiversity decline are interlinked threats for wildlife and people. I know that biodiversity is declining at a dangerous and unprecedented speed, and species extinction rates are accelerating, with up to 1 million species threatened. Overexploitation is one of the drivers of species extinction and additional pressures on vulnerable species can result from unsustainable or inappropriately managed activity. I believe that transformative changes are needed to restore and protect nature.

In the *25 Year Environment Plan*, the UK Government committed to providing international leadership in protecting and improving international biodiversity and undertaking international action to protect endangered species. This international leadership is underpinned by a strong commitment to ensuring that the UK's domestic policy does not threaten the conservation of species abroad. While I recognise that some conservationists believe trophy hunting can be an effective conservation tool, supporting local livelihoods and attracting revenues for other



conservation activities, it is also important to acknowledge concerns around the practice of trophy hunting. I therefore look forward to seeing the results of the consultation and the proposed action required by the Government to address these concerns.

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**