

**TOM PURSGLOVE MP**  
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

13<sup>th</sup> August 2021

*Jean Combrivent,*

**RE: FUR TRADE - EDM 193**

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of the fur trade, with specific reference to Early Day Motion (EDM) 193. I have read your comments on this with interest and concern.

With regard to the EDM, 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. With that in mind, I would like to assure you I have relayed your concerns to my ministerial colleagues.

We have a proud history in this country on animal welfare, but my ministerial colleagues and I know there is more that can be done. I am encouraged that as an independent nation, we are now able to re-examine some of our animal welfare laws, including the import of fur for use in fashion products.

Fur farming has been banned in England and Wales since 2000, and since 2002 in Scotland and Northern Ireland. As well as this, there are already restrictions on some skin and fur products which may never be legally imported into the UK. These include fur and products from cats and dogs, and seal skins and products from commercial hunts. The UK has established controls on fur from endangered species protected by the *Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species* (CITES) and this country does not allow imports of fur from wild animals caught using methods which are non-compliant with international humane trapping standards.

I appreciate that there is considerable support for banning all imports of fur products. We have some of the highest welfare standards anywhere in the world, and that is both a source of pride and a clear reflection of UK attitudes towards animals. While there are the existing import restrictions listed above, it is still possible to import other fur from abroad. I am therefore pleased that a 'call for evidence' has now been carried out, alongside the Scottish and Welsh governments, to seek views from the public and businesses surrounding animal welfare, as well as the social and economic impacts associated with the fur trade, both at home and abroad. I understand that the views, data and case studies received will be vital to helping to inform future policy in this area, including by better understanding the trade both at home and abroad, and I look forward to reading the results in due course.

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, appearing to read 'Tom Pursglove', with a diagonal line underneath.

**TOM PURSGLOVE MP**  
**MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT**  
**CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**