



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

25th January 2023

Dear Catherine,

RE: RETAINED EU LAW (REVOCATION AND REFORM) BILL – ANIMAL PROTECTION REGULATIONS

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of your concerns surrounding the *Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Bill*, and its impacts on animal protection regulations. I have read your comments with interest.

In January 2022, the Government announced plans to bring forward a Bill to create a more innovative regulatory regime, that would not have been possible were the UK still a member of the European Union. The Bill will abolish this special status and will enable the Government, via Parliament, to amend more easily, repeal and replace, retained EU law. The Bill will also include a sunset date by which all remaining retained EU law will either be repealed or assimilated into UK domestic law.

Whilst I note your comments about the *Retained EU Law Bill*, I understand that the Government has said that there has been no change to, and there is no plan to change, any of the legislation related to regulatory testing using animals in the UK. This includes, and is not limited to, the *Cosmetic Products Enforcement Act 2013*, UK REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals), and the *Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act*. I am assured that animal testing may be legally performed, as a last resort, where no alternatives exist, where information is required under UK REACH to protect human or animal health and/or the environment. This could include ingredients for which, at the time of testing, the sole anticipated use is in cosmetic products.

I would like to assure you further that the Government is committed to upholding our world-leading animal welfare standards and to delivering a series of ambitious reforms, as outlined in the 'Action Plan for Animal Welfare'. More information about the Government's commitment to upholding only the highest standards can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/action-plan-for-animal-welfare/action-plan-for-animal-welfare>.

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 PURSGLOVE MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE