



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

29th April 2023

Dear Anthony,

RE: HUNTING WITH DOGS

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of hunting and Channel 4 News' recent report. I have read your comments with interest.

The *Hunting Act 2004* makes it an offence to hunt a wild mammal with dogs, except where it is carried out in accordance with the exemptions in the Act. Those found guilty under the Act are subject to the full force of the law. While I appreciate your strength of feeling about this issue, I am not aware of any plans for the *Hunting Act 2004* to be amended.

I am aware that many hunts have turned to trail hunting since the introduction of the *Hunting Act*. This involves a pack of hounds following an artificially laid, animal-based scent. As this does not involve a hunt for a live fox, it is not banned under the Act. For an offence to be committed, it is necessary to prove that a wild animal is being hunted intentionally. If proven, this can lead to a prosecution and an unlimited fine.

Enforcement of the *Hunting Act* is an operational matter for police. This is in line with their duties to keep the peace, protect communities and prevent the commission of offences, working within the provisions of the legal framework set by Parliament. It is for individual Chief Constables to determine how their resources are deployed and it is for locally elected Police and Crime Commissioners to hold their forces to account. This includes consideration of how the police tackle the crimes that matter most to residents and businesses in rural and urban areas alike.

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