



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

11th July 2023

Jean Comblanc

RE: FUR TRADE

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of your concerns about the fur trade. I have read your comments with interest.

First, thank you for your kind invitations to attend the Westminster Hall debate on the import and sale of fur, and the launch of Humane Society International/UK's report on Tuesday 27th June 2023. Unfortunately, owing to prior, longstanding diary commitments, I was unable to attend these events, although please rest assured that I will continue to follow the issues raised closely.

My ministerial colleagues and I are committed to upholding our high standards in animal welfare. The Government's 'Action Plan for Animal Welfare' sets out Ministers' vision to introduce a range of world-leading reforms to improve the welfare and conservation of animals at home and abroad.

I appreciate that there is considerable support for banning all imports of fur products. Fur farming has been banned in the UK for twenty years and legislation prohibits the keeping and breeding of animals solely, or primarily, for slaughter, for the value of their fur. There are also strict restrictions on some skin and fur products that may never be legally imported into the UK. Those include fur and fur products from cats and dogs, whose import, export, and placing on the market, is prohibited.


While fur cannot be farmed in the UK, it is still possible to import and sell other types of fur from abroad. In 2021, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) published a call for evidence on the fur trade in Great Britain, which asked for views on animal welfare and on the social and economic impacts associated with the trade. Around 30,000 responses were received from businesses, representative bodies and individuals, demonstrating the strong public interest in this area.

I know that officials from DEFRA have been analysing the responses received and have also engaged directly with stakeholders. A summary of responses to the call for evidence, setting out the results and the next steps in this policy space, will be published soon. I look forward to reading this in due course.

Finally, the Animal Welfare Committee will consider the issue of responsible sourcing in the fur industry, including the animal welfare standards and safeguards that apply to fur imported into this country. I will continue to follow this issue closely.



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**