

**TOM PURSGLOVE MP**  
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



**HOUSE OF COMMONS**  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

11<sup>th</sup> July 2023

*Jean Contrevent*

**RE: WILDLIFE CRIME**

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of your concerns regarding wildlife crime. I have read your comments with interest.

I would like to assure you that the Government takes all cases of wildlife crime very seriously, and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) works closely with the Home Office on all matters relating to rural crime in England.

The *Police, Crime, Sentencing & Courts Act* empowers and equips the police and the courts with the powers they need to combat hare coursing. Regarding badgers, the *Protection of Badgers Act 1992* restricts the killing, injuring, or taking of badgers, or interference with their setts. The *Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981* provides protection against certain methods of killing. If you believe that someone has broken the law in relation to hares, badgers, or indeed any other animal, I would urge you to report the matter to the police who can investigate further.

I am also aware that the Government is providing more funding for the National Wildlife Crime Unit (NWCU). In 2022, DEFRA more than doubled its funding of the NWCU from a total of £495,000 over the three previous years to £1.2 million for the three-year period of 2022-25.

I hope this letter has reassured you that the Government is committed to tackling wildlife crime.

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**