



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

15th December 2023

Jean Contreant,

RE: LIVE EXPORTS

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of your concerns about live animal exports. I have read your comments with interest.

The UK has some of the highest animal welfare standards in the world, which the Government continues to strengthen further.

My ministerial colleagues and I recognise that long journey times for slaughter and fattening pose welfare risks, including stress, exhaustion and injury. I understand that the shortest direct to slaughter export journey from Great Britain to continental Europe in 2018 was a journey time of 18 hours. Most domestic journeys to slaughter in the UK are significantly shorter. In 2020, the Government carried out a consultation on ending live animal exports, and 87 percent of respondents agreed that livestock and horses should not be exported for slaughter and fattening.

Now that the UK is no longer in the European Union, the Government can end live animal exports, further strengthening animal welfare protections. The *Animal Welfare (Livestock Exports) Bill* delivers the Government's manifesto commitment by banning the live export of cattle, sheep, goats, pigs and horses for slaughter and fattening. It will prevent unnecessary long export journeys, instead using shorter and less stressful domestic journeys. The Bill will ensure that animals are slaughtered domestically, in high welfare UK slaughterhouses, and preventing the export to unknown and likely lower welfare slaughterhouse conditions. These new rules will still allow live animal exports in other circumstances, for example for breeding and competitions, provided they are transported in line with legal requirements aimed at protecting their welfare.

While no animals have been exported for slaughter from Great Britain since the Government announced its intention to bring forward a ban in 2021, I know that this Bill makes this permanent. I am assured that this legislation reinforces the UK's position as a world leader on animal welfare, boosting the value of British meat and helping to grow the economy.

I understand that the Bill is scheduled to have its Second Reading in the House of Commons on Monday 18 December and I look forward to fully supporting this Bill as it progresses through Parliament.



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**