

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

10th March 2024

Dear Anthony,

RE: TROPHY HUNTING

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of your concerns about trophy hunting. I have read your comments with interest.

I appreciate the strength of feeling around this issue. Around a million animal and plant species are threatened with extinction and the abundance, diversity and connectivity of species is declining faster than at any time in human history. Ministers take the welfare of all animals extremely seriously and are committed to strengthening and supporting long-term conservation of animals both internationally and at home.

In 2019, the Government held a consultation on the scale and impact of the import and export of hunting trophies. Over 44,000 responses to the call for evidence and consultation were received and 85 percent of responses were in favour of further action. The Government's response to the consultation set out plans to ban imports of hunting trophies from thousands of endangered and threatened species.

Finally, the *Hunting Trophies (Import Prohibition) Bill* was introduced to Parliament in June 2022, the last parliamentary session, as a Private Member's Bill by Henry Smith MP, to ban the import of hunting trophies from around 6,000 species, including lions, elephants, rhinos, and polar bears. My ministerial colleagues and I were disappointed that despite the overwhelming support of MPs and the wider public, this Bill failed to progress through its Committee Stage in the House of Lords. I understand that accepting the amendments proposed by Peers would have undermined the Government's important commitment in this area.

Finally, I am aware that the *Hunting Trophies (Import Prohibition) Bill* was re-tabled by the Rt. Hon John Spellar MP, and is having its Second Reading on the 22nd March. I am supportive of the ambitions of the Bill and will follow any developments relating to it 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,
A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Tom Pursglove'.

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE