

PETER GIBSON MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

June 2020

Dear Constituent

Thank you for your email about animal welfare issues.

Like the Prime Minister, I firmly believe that all animals should be subject to the highest possible welfare standards and I am keen to set ambitious animal welfare goals.

I am proud that this Government has made bold steps to enshrine animal welfare in law. There must be no place in this country for animal cruelty, and we must ensure that those who abuse animals are met with the full force of the law. I am therefore pleased that the Government remains committed to introducing legislation which will increase maximum sentences for animal cruelty from six months to five years' imprisonment. I am also pleased to report that a new law passed earlier this year will ban the use of wild animals in travelling circuses.

The Government will also be running consultations on proposals to ban long journeys of live animals being transported for slaughter, and restrictions on trade in hunting trophies from endangered animals.

Leaving the EU creates a once in a generation opportunity to cement our position as a world leader in animal welfare with new legislation. The UK already some of the highest animal welfare standards in the world and we should continue to raise the bar. The Government has also been clear it will not compromise the high quality of British food or agricultural standards in any free trading relationship.

Once again, thank you for taking the time to contact me and if I can ever be any further assistance to you then please do not hesitate to contact me again.

Yours sincerely,

PETER GIBSON MP

Member of Parliament for Darlington

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