

PETER GIBSON MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

July 2022

Dear Constituent,

Thank you for your email about trophy hunting.

I appreciate the strength of feeling around this issue. The Government is committed to doing all it can to support wildlife and the environment, both in the UK and internationally. Ministers are committed to delivering one of the toughest bans in the world on the import of hunting trophies from nearly seven thousand endangered and threatened species, including lions, rhinos, elephants, and polar bears.

Climate change and global biodiversity decline are interlinked threats for wildlife and people. Biodiversity is declining at a dangerous and unprecedented speed, and species extinction rates are accelerating, with up to a million species threatened. Overexploitation is one of the drivers of species extinction and additional pressures on vulnerable species can result from unsustainable or inappropriately managed activity.

In the 25 Year Environment Plan, the Government committed to providing international leadership in protecting biodiversity and endangered species and ensuring that the UK's domestic policy does not threaten the conservation of species abroad. The proposed ban on imports of hunting trophies goes beyond the manifesto commitment and, with no exemptions, means that the UK will be leading the way in protecting endangered animals and to strengthening and supporting long-term conservation.

I am aware that the Hunting Trophies (Import Prohibition) Bill has now been introduced to Parliament and I look forward to supporting this Bill as it continues to progress through Parliament. Further, Ministers are also looking at further measures to protect animals abroad, including banning the import and export of detached fins, and acting against low welfare animal experiences.

Once again, thank you for taking 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.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Peter Gibson".

PETER GIBSON MP

*Member of Parliament for Darlington*

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