



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

The Rt Hon George Eustice MP
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Rt Hon Sir George Howarth MP
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Dear Sir George,

Thank you for your email of 29 September on behalf of your constituents about animal sentience. Please accept my sincere apologies for the considerable delay in responding. Defra is currently dealing with high volumes of correspondence due to COVID-19. I would like to thank you for your patience and understanding during this challenging time.

The Government has committed to bringing in new laws on animal sentience and will introduce effective and credible proposals in due course. Any necessary changes required to domestic legislation will be made when Parliamentary time allows.

The UK's departure from the EU presents an opportunity to review current domestic arrangements for the provision of expert advice on animal welfare, including how best to support the delivery of the new sentience obligation. Our commitment to the protection of animal welfare is demonstrated by the Government's continued support for the Animal Welfare (Sentencing) Bill, sponsored by Chris Loder MP, which passed its second reading in the House of Commons on 23 October.

RT HON GEORGE EUSTICE MP