



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

The Rt Hon George Eustice MP
Secretary of State for Environment,
Food and Rural Affairs

Seacole Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

T 03459 335577
defra.helpline@defra.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/defra

Rt Hon Sir George Howarth MP

Our ref: MC2022/06786/MD

george.howarth.mp@parliament.uk

01 April 2022

Dear Sir George,

Thank you for your email of 23 March on behalf of your constituents about the import of fur into the United Kingdom.

The Government shares the British public's high regard for animal welfare. Our ambition is to promote the highest standards both within the UK and globally.

Fur farming has been banned in England and Wales since 2000, and since 2002 in Scotland and Northern Ireland. There are restrictions on some skin and fur products which may never be legally imported into the UK. These include fur and products from cats and dogs, and a ban on commercially importing and marketing all seal products and any related products with limited exemptions. We have established controls on fur from endangered species protected by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species and we do not allow imports of fur from wild animals caught using methods which are non-compliant with international humane trapping standards.

However, now we have left the EU, the Government is able to explore potential action in relation to animal fur. The recent call for evidence published by Defra on the fur trade in Great Britain was a key step in helping us to meet the commitment set out in the Action Plan for Animal Welfare to better understand the fur sector in Great Britain and gather evidence from those with an interest in it. We received around 30,000 responses from businesses, representative bodies and individuals, demonstrating the strong public interest in this area. We are reviewing the evidence gathered both from our call for evidence and wider engagement with the fur trade and stakeholders, and a summary of responses setting out the results and key findings will be published soon.

RT HON GEORGE EUSTICE MP