



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Lord Douglas-Miller
Minister for Biosecurity, Animal Health and Welfare

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Rt Hon Sir George Howarth MP
House of Commons
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27 February 2024

Dear Sir George,

Thank you for your email of 13 February to the Secretary of State on behalf of your constituents about cat smuggling. I am replying as the Minister responsible for this policy area.

The Government takes the illegal importation of pets seriously. It is an abhorrent trade which causes suffering to animals.

The Government remains committed to delivering its manifesto commitment on pet smuggling.

We are aware that Selaine Saxby MP has introduced a Private Members' Bill in the House of Commons on restricting the importation and non-commercial movement of pets.

The Government welcomes the Member's interest in improving animal welfare. In accordance with Parliamentary convention, the Government will set out its formal position on this Bill when it receives its second reading.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you need further information.

Yours sincerely,

LORD DOUGLAS-MILLER