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Dear Sir George,

Thank you for your email of 9 October to the Secretary of State on behalf of your constituents, about banning the live export of horses, donkeys, and ponies, for slaughter and fattening. I am replying as the Minister responsible for this policy area.

The Government recognises the long-standing public concern with equines and livestock being exported for slaughter and fattening. We are determined to deliver our manifesto commitment to end this trade. There have been no live exports for fattening or slaughter since 2020 and we want to make this permanent.

We announced on 25 May 2023 that the measures in the Animal Welfare (Kept Animals) Bill, such as the live exports ban, will now be pursued individually. We will be taking this forward as soon as Parliamentary time allows. We believe this to be the quickest and most effective way of achieving this aim.

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

Yours sincerely,

**Rt Hon Mark Spencer MP**