

HENRY SMITH MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP  
Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street  
London SW1A 2AA

26<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Dear Prime Minister

**Manifesto commitment to ban trophy hunting imports**

I was honoured to represent the Government's manifesto commitment to ban trophy hunting imports with the Hunting Trophies (Import Prohibition) Bill. Furthermore, on 30<sup>th</sup> March I was delighted to announce Baroness Fookes as the House of Lords sponsor.

I would firstly like to thank the outstanding support I have received from Government and parliamentary colleagues in both House of Commons and the House of Lords, and we express our gratitude to the civil servants from the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs.

Sadly, I am gravely concerned that the passage of the Bill was hindered in the House of Lords. This included approximately 48 days when the Lords sponsor, Baroness Fookes, was prevented from taking her role due to discourteous tactics of a minority of Peers. I thus also take this opportunity to publicly thank Baroness Fookes for her fortitude and resolve through a most difficult time.

The Bill had outstanding cross-party support from Conservative, Labour, Liberal Democrat, SNP, DUP, Plaid Cymru, SDLP, Independent and Green Party MPs and Peers. Parliament has been repeatedly assured that the Bill had Government support. Additionally I wish to thank Rt Hon John Spellar MP for his sponsorship of the Hunting Trophies (Import Prohibition) (No. 2) Bill, which was withdrawn on 17<sup>th</sup> March upon my Bill passing House of Commons third reading and moving to the House of Lords.

**We respectfully ask you to honour this manifesto commitment and bring forward a Government Bill to ban trophy hunting imports without further delay.**

On 14<sup>th</sup> October 2019, HM the Queen presented the Most Gracious Speech to both Houses of Parliament stating, *'Proposals will also be brought forward to promote and protect the welfare of animals, including banning imports from trophy hunting.'*

This commitment in the Queen's Speech to ban trophy hunting imports was widely welcomed and followed the contribution of our late colleague, Sir David Amess, in a parliamentary debate on banning trophy hunting imports only two weeks earlier.

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In that debate Sir David said, *'Trophy hunting is a wicked, evil practice, and anyone who indulges in it or encourages it should be absolutely ashamed of themselves. We should not mince words or be intimidated on this issue: trophy hunting is an absolutely disgusting practice.'*

We concur with the sentiment and views expressed by Sir David and note that every measure of public opinion that has been taken shows that the British people overwhelmingly want a ban on trophy hunting imports.

You have given a public commitment on banning trophy hunting imports. **We urge you to implement the ban as quickly as possible in memory of those who are no longer with us.**

Since the 2019 General Election manifesto commitment was made, there have been many representations to yourself from figures such as Dame Jane Goodall, Sir Ranulph Fiennes and most recently, Peter Egan, Ricky Gervais and Dame Joanna Lumley.

We support the view of the **Coalition Against Trophy and Canned Hunting (CATCH)** on the need to implement a ban on the importation of hunting trophies.

The CATCH coalition include animal charities organisations and individuals: Action for Primates, Animal Defenders International, Animal Interfaith Alliance, Born Free Foundation, Campaign to Ban Trophy Hunting, Catholic Concern for Animals, Conservative Animal Welfare Foundation, Four Paws, Humane Society International, International Wildlife Bond, Labour Animal Welfare Society, Lion Aid, OneKind, People for Nature and Peace, Protecting African Lions, Quaker Concern for Animals, RSPCA, Voice4Lions, Wildlife and Conservation Foundation, World Animal Protection, Zimbabwe Elephant Foundation, Dame Jane Goodall and Sir Ranulph Fiennes.

We hope you will agree that the Government should announce its intention to Parliament and the country so that the promise to the people can be fulfilled and we can end the importation of 'trophies' including lion paws and heads, and elephant feet, tusks and skin as soon as possible.

We would therefore ask you to make an announcement without further delay. We hope that you will uphold your previously stated desire to see an end to the importation of animal parts derived from trophy hunting into the UK.

We look forward to your urgent response.

Yours sincerely



**Henry Smith**  
**Member of Parliament**  
**Crawley Constituency**

**Baroness Fookes DBE**

**Simon Baynes, Member of Parliament for Clwyd South**

**Clive Betts, Member of Parliament for Sheffield South East**

**Richard Burgon, Member of Parliament for Leeds East**

**Rt Hon Alistair Carmichael, Member of Parliament for Orkney & Shetland**

**Sarah Champion, Member of Parliament for Rotherham**

**Rt Hon Jeremy Corbyn, Member of Parliament for Islington North**

**Tracey Crouch CBE, Member of Parliament for Chatham & Aylesford**

**Rt Hon Sir Jeffrey Donaldson, Member of Parliament for Lagan Valley**  
**Allan Dorans, Member of Parliament for Ayr, Carrick & Cumnock**  
**Peter Dowd, Member of Parliament for Bootle**  
**Rosie Duffield, Member of Parliament for Canterbury**  
**Rt Hon George Eustice, Member of Parliament for Camborne & Redruth**  
**Ben Everitt, Member of Parliament for Milton Keynes North**  
**Sir Michael Fabricant, Member of Parliament for Lichfield**  
**Dr Stephen Farry, Member of Parliament for North Down**  
**Kevin Foster, Member of Parliament for Torbay**  
**Yvonne Fovargue, Member of Parliament for Makerfield**  
**Rt Hon Mark Francois, Member of Parliament for Rayleigh & Wickford**  
**Patricia Gibson, Member of Parliament for North Ayrshire & Arran**  
**Paul Girvan, Member of Parliament for South Antrim**  
**Claire Hanna, Member of Parliament for Belfast South**  
**Wera Hobhouse, Member of Parliament for Bath**  
**Dame Andrea Jenkyns, Member of Parliament for Morley & Outwood**  
**Ben Lake, Member of Parliament for Ceredigion**  
**Pauline Latham OBE, Member of Parliament for Mid Derbyshire**  
**Tony Lloyd, Member of Parliament for Rochdale**  
**Caroline Lucas, Member of Parliament for Brighton, Pavilion**  
**Kenny MacAskill, Member of Parliament for East Lothian**  
**Steve McCabe, Member of Parliament for Birmingham, Selly Oak**  
**Jason McCartney, Member of Parliament for Colne Valley**  
**Stewart McDonald, Member of Parliament for Glasgow South**  
**Stephen Metcalfe, Member of Parliament for South Basildon & East Thurrock**  
**Grahame Morris, Member of Parliament for Easington**  
**Rt Hon Sir Mike Penning, Member of Parliament for Hemel Hempstead**  
**Dr Dan Poulter, Member of Parliament for Central Suffolk & North Ipswich**  
**Christina Rees, Member of Parliament for Neath**  
**Rob Roberts, Member of Parliament for Delyn**  
**Laurence Robertson, Member of Parliament for Tewkesbury**  
**Andrew Rosindell, Member of Parliament for Romford**  
**Rt Hon Liz Saville Roberts, Member of Parliament for Dwyfor Meirionnydd**  
**Selaine Saxby, Member of Parliament for North Devon**  
**Jim Shannon, Member of Parliament for Strangford**  
**Tommy Sheppard, Member of Parliament for Edinburgh East**  
**Alex Sobel, Member of Parliament for Leeds North West**  
**Rt Hon John Spellar, Member of Parliament for Warley**  
**Jane Stevenson, Member of Parliament for Wolverhampton North East**  
**Rt Hon Mark Tami, Member of Parliament for Alyn & Deeside**  
**Alison Thewliss, Member of Parliament for Glasgow Central**  
**Rt Hon Valerie Vaz, Member of Parliament for Walsall South**

**Martin Vickers, Member of Parliament for Cleethorpes**  
**Giles Watling, Member of Parliament for Clacton**  
**Dr Philippa Whitford, Member of Parliament for Central Ayrshire**  
**Hywel Williams, Member of Parliament for Arfon**  
**Mohammad Yasin, Member of Parliament for Bedford**  
**Baroness Bakewell of Hardington Mandeville**  
**Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle**  
**Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb**  
**Baroness Pinnock**  
**Lord Rennard MBE**  
**Baroness Sanderson of Welton**  
**Baroness Stedman-Scott OBE**  
**Lord Watson of Wyre Forest**  
**Lord Weir of Ballyholme**  
**Baroness Young of Old Scone**