



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Rt Hon George Eustice MP
Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Seacole Building, 2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

27 August 2021

Dear Secretary of State

We are writing to you as a cross-party group of over one hundred MPs and Peers to seek your support for the introduction of a UK ban on the import and sale of animal fur. We strongly believe the fur trade is a cruel and outdated practice, which has no place in the UK.

Despite banning fur farming in 2000, the UK currently allows imports of tens of millions of pounds of animal fur each year. By continuing to allow the sale of fur, we are exercising a double standard, and effectively outsourcing animal cruelty. Humane Society International/UK, which leads the Fur Free Britain campaign, has documented the terrible conditions under which animals such as this are kept. It is clear that there is no such thing as humane fur farming.

The Government has previously said that a sales ban would be incompatible with our membership of the European Union and, as such, no action could be taken at that time. The UK has now left the EU, and the Government has an opportunity - following the call for evidence on the fur trade held earlier this year - to act as a global leader in moral standards and extend existing fur trade bans (for cat, dog and seal fur) to all animals, thus eliminating illogical protections for some species above others.

As well as cementing the UK's role as a world leader in animal welfare, we believe a fur ban would enjoy widespread public support. A poll by Yonder published this May and a 2020 YouGov poll both found that 72% of the general public supports a ban on the import and sale of all animal fur. With the vast majority of UK high street stores now fur-free, a ban would have limited impact on businesses, and a proper and reasonable phase-out period would ensure that the few businesses still centred on fur could transition to alternative materials. In 2019, the state of California signed into law a ban on the sale of fur, and several other US cities and States have bills forthcoming. In June this year, Israel became the first country in the world to ban the sale of fur.

Given the very strong public and business sentiment against fur, we would urge you to legislate for a ban at the earliest opportunity. This letter demonstrates the strength of cross-party support in Parliament for a Fur Free Britain and we look forward to your response.

Thank you for your attention.

Yours sincerely



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