



**Chris Heaton-Harris**  
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*Dear Constituent,*

Thank you for contacting me about the fur trade.

My ministerial colleagues and I are united in the Government's commitment to upholding our world leading standards in animal welfare. The Government's Action Plan for Animal Welfare sets out the Government's vision to introduce a range of world-leading reforms to improve the welfare and conservation of animals at home and abroad.

Fur farming has been banned in the UK for 20 years. As well as this, there are already restrictions on some skin and fur products which may never be legally imported into the UK. The UK has established controls on fur from endangered species protected by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) and does not allow imports of fur from wild animals caught using methods which are non-compliant with international humane trapping standards.

For the record, I was heavily involved (and led the negotiations for a time) in the banning of cat and dog fur into the European Union, when I was a Member of the European Parliament.

Thus, I very much appreciate that there is considerable support for banning all imports of fur products. However, while there are existing import restrictions, it is still possible to import other fur from abroad. I therefore welcome the Government's decision to seek views on animal welfare through a recent call for evidence. This will be published soon and will be used to inform any future decisions on the fur trade.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

**CHRIS HEATON-HARRIS MP**  
**MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR DAVENTRY**