



**Chris Heaton-Harris**  
Member of Parliament for Daventry  
House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA  
Tel: 020 7219 7048

November 2023

*Dear Constituent,*

Thank you for contacting me about live animal exports.

The UK has long led the way on animal welfare. In 2021, the Government's Action Plan for Animal Welfare, set out reforms for this Parliament and beyond. Since then, the Government has passed the Animal Welfare (Sentience) Act, recognising the sentience of vertebrate animals and some invertebrate animals. In addition, the Animal Welfare (Sentencing) Act introduced tougher sentences for cruelty, increasing maximum sentences.

I would like to assure you that the Government recognises the long-standing public concern about animals being exported for slaughter and fattening, including livestock and horses, and Ministers are determined to end this trade. The Kept Animals Bill was designed to implement several ambitions for animal welfare, including banning live exports of animals. However, the Bill's multi-issue nature meant that there was considerable scope creep, and the Bill risked going beyond the original commitments in the manifesto on which I was elected and those set out in the action plan. Therefore, the Government announced in May that it would take forward measures in the Kept Animals Bill individually during the remainder of the Parliament.

I am assured by my ministerial colleagues that they remain committed to ending the export of live animals for fattening and slaughter. While there have not been any live exports for fattening or slaughter since 2020, the Government wants to make this permanent. I will continue to follow this issue closely.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

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