



HOUSE OF COMMONS

4th March 2020

Dear local residents,

Thank you to those who have contacted me about trophy hunting.

I understand local residents' concerns about this. As sentient beings who can experience fear and pain, all animals should be treated with thought and care. Trophy hunting involves pursuing another animal in conditions which causes stress, fear and pain, with hunters killing as a form of entertainment, not for food, to control pests or to protect other species.

I understand there are arguments for conservation hunting. Some individuals and organisations make the case for conservation hunting as a way of bringing income into countries with rich wildlife populations, but poor economies. They also argue that commercial hunting provides a strong incentive to manage and safeguard wildlife populations and protect other valuable natural resources from exploitation. I also recognise that occasionally there is a need to cull some species to keep nature in balance and the control of predators to protect other species.

However, I cannot see how those justifications can be used to defend hunters who kill an animal which has been bred in captivity for the specific purpose of being hunted for entertainment. Action is needed to stop this sort of exploitation and to establish how defensible the arguments for conservation hunting are. I am, therefore, pleased that the Government decided to consult on options to restrict the imports and exports of hunting trophies to the UK - including a potential ban.

This consultation, alongside a call for evidence, will allow Ministers to understand the public's views on all sides of the debate and gather expert evidence to inform any next steps. The consultation closed in February and the Government will publish its response in due course. You can read the consultation here:

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-management/trophy-hunting-consultation>

I hope that this information is reassuring. If you have any further concerns about this, or any other issues, please do get back in touch.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jane'.

Jane Hunt MP