



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

03 JAN 2019

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**Dr Thérèse Coffey MP**  
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Jo Swinson MP  
House of Commons  
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Your ref: JS5020  
Our ref: MC2018/26380

19th December 2018

*Dear Jo,*

Thank you for your email of 5 December to the Secretary of State on behalf of your constituents about trophy hunting. I am replying as the Minister responsible for this policy area.

I can assure you that the Government takes the conservation of endangered species seriously. The UK is party to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). The approach of CITES, which we support, is to make sure that when wildlife trade takes place, it is done so legally and sustainably. CITES only allows the import and export of animal parts of listed species killed through hunting in their country of origin if the exporting country is satisfied that the hunt was legal and sustainable. In 2016, the UK led on strengthening global rules on trophy hunting at the 17<sup>th</sup> CITES Conference of the Parties.

Imports of hunting trophies into the UK are subject to strict controls and the UK has import suspensions in place for countries where hunting of the species concerned is not considered sustainable. All applications for permits to import trophies into the UK are assessed to make sure that the import does not have a detrimental impact on wild populations of endangered species. We are currently looking carefully at the issue of trophy hunting and associated imports to make sure that trophy imports to the UK do not impact on the sustainability of endangered species.

The UK does recognise that in certain limited and rigorously controlled cases, scientific evidence shows that trophy hunting can be an effective conservation tool, supporting local livelihoods and attracting revenues for other conservation activities. This is a view shared by some conservation non-governmental organisations.

Yours sincerely,

*Thérèse*

**DR THERESE COFFEY MP**