



Chris Heaton-Harris
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March 2022

Dear Constituent,

Thank you for contacting me about the production of pâté de foie gras.

Obviously, the production of foie gras from ducks or geese using force feeding raises serious welfare concerns. This method of production has been banned in the UK for over 15 years following the introduction of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 which brought forward a legal requirement to provide for an animal's welfare needs, such as supplying a suitable diet and protecting the animal from injury and disease. Under this legislation, it is a criminal offence to cause any unnecessary suffering to an animal. I would like to assure you that Ministers are united in their commitment to upholding our world-leading standards in animal welfare.

Regarding the import and sale of foie gras, I welcome that 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. Through this Action Plan, my Ministerial colleagues have committed to building a clear evidence base to inform decisions on the import or sale of foie gras. This will be needed, as it is quite possible the European Commission would be pushed by France to take action against the UK, as any ban could potentially be seen by some as going against the terms of the Trade and Co-operation Agreement between us.

Indeed, it is worth pointing out, that had we not left the European Union, we almost certainly would not have had the powers to do anything in this area independently.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

CHRIS HEATON-HARRIS MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR DAVENTRY