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The Rt Hon George Eustice MP
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Lesley Griffiths AS/MS
Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and
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Welsh Government
Cardiff Bay
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Dear Lesley,

CALL FOR EVIDENCE: FUR TRADE

I am writing to you to seek your agreement to join a Call for Evidence on domestic fur sector activity, which I would like to launch the week commencing 24th May.

During the recent elections to the Senedd Cymru, my officials have continued to engage and work closely with their counterparts in the Welsh Government on the development of a Call for Evidence, which would help us to obtain more information about domestic fur sector activity, with a view to informing possible future policy reform proposals.

The proposed Call for Evidence seeks more information on the following areas; the scale and nature of domestic fur activity, including trading activity; the scale and nature of fur sector activity abroad which is linked to domestic activity; and individual attitudes towards fur sector activity.

The Call for Evidence will not set out policy proposals or commit us to any particular policy approach. It should help us broaden our understanding of the possible impacts of any future measures. I am attaching a copy of the draft Call for Evidence which has received input from, and has been reviewed by, your officials.

Given the current legislative timetable for the Animals Abroad Bill, which provides an opportunity to put in place measures relating to fur, should we wish to pursue any, the Call for Evidence needs to be launched quickly, ideally in the week commencing 24th May at the latest. This has been discussed with your officials.

I am copying this letter to the Secretary of State for Wales. I am also writing in similar terms to Mairi Gougeon MSP, Minister for Rural Affairs and Islands in Scotland, and Edwin Poots MLA, Minister for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs in Northern Ireland, for awareness.

I look forward continuing to hear from you and hopefully to working with you on this important matter, particularly as we develop future policy proposals, to demonstrate our on-going leadership in improving the welfare of animals.



George Eustice

RT HON GEORGE EUSTICE MP