

Rt Hon George Eustice MP  
&  
Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

Date: Wednesday 7th July 2021

Dear George Eustice MP and Lord Goldsmith,

**Following our letter dated 26th March 2021<sup>1</sup>, we continue to await receipt of a) a roadmap and b) a proposed timeline confirming when a ban on the importation of foie gras produced by force-feeding will be implemented (covering all sales of foie gras in the UK).**

**We, the undersigned, therefore propose an urgent remote meeting with you, in advance of the House of Commons' summer recess, to explore plans for implementation and ensure that our questions are answered as soon as possible.**

Our latest request follows a recent vote, whereby the European Parliament called on the European Commission to present proposals to *'prohibit the cruel and unnecessary force-feeding of ducks and geese for the production of foie gras'*. We call on the UK to make the most of this unique opportunity to lead the way; we urge you to put in place this landmark legislation for animals and, in turn, encourage the rest of the world to follow suit.

While we are pleased to see that Defra's Action Plan for Animal Welfare states that you are *'exploring a ban on the sale of foie gras'*<sup>2</sup>, we have received little information as to your next steps on this matter and when a ban would likely be written into law.

Meanwhile, the Animal Sentience Bill has now been introduced to Parliament - a move we collectively and warmly welcome. However, for this Bill to hold significant meaning and weight in reality, the UK cannot continue to support torturous practices such as force-feeding ducks and geese to produce foie gras - practices known to induce undeniable anguish and pain for the sentient animals involved.

There is, and always has been, strong public momentum behind this issue, with over 200,000 people backing a petition - led by animal protection organisation, Animal Equality UK - to abolish this cruel product from our shores.<sup>3</sup>

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<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/mar/28/mps-unite-to-call-for-total-ban-on-wicked-foie-gras-in-the-uk>

2

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-to-lead-the-way-on-animal-welfare-through-flagship-new-action-plan>

3

<https://animalequality.org.uk/act/ban-force-feeding>

**The public is growing impatient, as are we, for you to take action on this critical issue. The longer we wait, the more animals will continue to suffer.**

We await your availability for a meeting over the coming weeks.

Yours sincerely,

**Hilary Benn**, Labour MP for Leeds Central

**Dr Lisa Cameron**, Scottish National Party MP for East Kilbride - Strathaven - Lesmahagow

**Wera Hobhouse**, Liberal Democrat MP for Bath

**Ben Lake**, Plaid Cymru MP for Ceredigion

**Caroline Lucas**, Green Party MP for Brighton, Pavilion

**Jim Shannon**, Democratic Unionist Party MP for Strangford

**Henry Smith**, Conservative and Unionist Party MP for Crawley

**This letter is also supported by:**

**Sir David Amess**, Conservative MP for Southend West and Patron of the Conservative Animal Welfare Foundation, of which The Rt Hon Lord Goldsmith is a Founder

**Rt Hon Sir Mike Penning**, Conservative MP for Hemel Hempstead and primary supporter for the Early Day Motion on Import and Production of Foie Gras<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> <https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/57547/import-and-production-of-foie-gras>