[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 07 January 2014 17:44
To: Helpline, Defra (GCU)
Subject: Forwarding - FOX HUNTING

Please find below a Treat Official e-mail recevied via the 10 Downing Street website for your department to respond to.

From: [redacted]
Address: [redacted]
Date Sent: 06 Jan 14 14:30
Subject: FOX HUNTING

I Cannot believe that you are considering a vote again on fox hunting. It is now 2014 and this is not a sport it is disgusting - most of the country are against it and yet you listen to the minority and rich once again. This country is supposed to be a nation of animal lovers - it is a joke! Please don't go back to these ways just to please a few!

To : [redacted]
CC :
Subject : Fox Hunting - DWOE333051

Dear [redacted],

Thank you for your email of 6 January to the Prime Minister about fox hunting. I have been asked to reply.

The Government recognises that hunting evokes strong views on both sides of the debate and that the issue is a matter of personal conscience. That is why it has been subject to a free vote in Parliament for very many years.

However, the Hunting Act 2004 was passed under the previous administration and remains highly controversial. Some people question its efficacy. The Government has said that it will bring a motion before the House of Commons on whether the Hunting Act should be repealed. We remain committed to this position but the situation is complicated by the current make up of the House of Commons. There is no point in seeking a repeal vote until it stands a reasonable chance of being carried.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

Customer Contact Unit
Defra

[redacted]

[redacted]

The Rt. Hon. Owen Paterson MP
House of Commons
Westminster
London
SW1A 0AA

22nd May 2013

Amendments to Exemptions under the Hunting Act 2004

Dear Secretary of State

Our Association is aware that amendments to Exemptions 1 and 8 of the Hunting Act 2004 are being proposed.

I write to lend support to the proposal to raise the number of dogs that may be used since it would self-evidently greatly increase the effectiveness of stalking and flushing out (Exemption 1) and, of particular interest to [redacted] greatly improve the finding and retrieval of sick and wounded wild animals (Exemption 8).

I hope you may find the opinion of [redacted] helpful in this matter and decide to support the proposed amendments.

Yours sincerely

[redacted]

DEFRA
RECEIVED
- 5 JUN 2013
CCU
POST ROOM

Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

CCU 7th Floor
Nobel House
Smith Square
London SW1P 3JR

T 08459 335577
helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/defra

[redacted]

Our ref: DWO312922

July 2013

[redacted]

Thank you for your letter of 22 May to the Secretary of State about the Hunting Act 2004 and the number of dogs that can be used for stalking or flushing out. I have been asked to reply and apologise for the delay in doing so.

The Government has said that it will bring forward a motion on whether the Hunting Act 2004 should be repealed. To date, no timescale has been set for this work.

The points you raise in your letter concerning the use of dogs to flush wild mammals from cover are both valid and interesting. It is precisely these types of weaknesses in the Hunting Act that should be discussed during the debate on the motion that we are going to table in due course.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]
Defra - Customer Contact Unit

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[redacted]

RECEIVED

13 JAN 2014

Nick Clegg MP
Liberal Democrat Leader
70 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2AS

DEFRA

January 2014

Dear Mr Clegg,

Re: Hunting

I have heard that the Coalition Government is considering holding a free vote in the House of Commons on the subject of repealing the ban on hunting. I would like to take this opportunity to write to you and urge you not to do this.

The Labour Government banned hunting with dogs in response to public opinion on this issue and an overwhelming amount of letters received in MPs' constituency postbags from constituents opposed to hunting. Many years later, in 2014, people still feel very strongly about this issue – a recent Ipsos Mori opinion poll carried out on behalf of the RSPCA, IFAW and League against Cruel Sports showed that:

- 80% people want fox hunting for sport to stay banned
- 85% want deer hunting to stay banned
- 87% want hare hunting to stay banned

Furthermore, the poll showed what many people had long been aware of – that opposition to hunting was not a "townie" prerogative – the same percentage of rural dwellers thought fox hunting should not be made legal again as did urban dwellers.

Hunting has no place in a modern, civilised society and has been rightly banned – please don't take the retrograde step of listening to the small number of people who want a return to this blood sport. I would urge you to leave hunting where it rightly belongs – in the annals of history.

Yours sincerely

[redacted]

DEFRA
RECEIVED
28 JAN 2014
CC
POST R

Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

CCU 7th Floor
Nobel House
Smith Square
London SW1P 3JR

T 08459 335577
helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/defra

[redacted]

Our ref: DWO335187/SF

February 2014

[redacted]

Hunting

Thank you for your letter of 24 January to the Deputy Prime Minister about hunting. This has been passed on to Defra as the department responsible for this policy area. I have been asked to reply.

The Government recognises that hunting evokes strong views on both sides of the debate and that the issue is a matter of personal conscience. That is why it has been subject to a free vote in Parliament for very many years.

However, the Hunting Act 2004 was passed under the previous administration and remains highly controversial. Some people question its efficacy. The Government has said that it will bring a motion before the House of Commons on whether the Hunting Act should be repealed. We remain committed to this position but the situation is complicated by the current make up of the House of Commons. There is no point in seeking a repeal vote until it stands a reasonable chance of being carried.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]
Defra - Customer Contact Unit

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[redacted]

[redacted]

MR Cameron Prime Minister. [redacted]

10, Downing Street, [redacted]

London S.W.1 26.12.12.

Dear Sir

Please, please lift the ban on fox hunting. I am now faced with another huge bill for new fencing - for the third time. Foxes are VERMIN and should be kept under control. We are overrun with foxes who are complete vandals, they tear every thing in sight and cause untold damage to our gardens. I am eighty years old and money I should be spending on food and heat is now being spent to renew fencing and replacing bulbs and shrubs torn to pieces by foxes. Boxing Day should be the one day at least when hunting should be allowed to catch these creatures who cause so much damage.

Yours sincerely

[redacted]

Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

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www.defra.gov.uk

[redacted]

Our ref: DWO297365

5 February 2013

Dear [redacted]

Thank you for your letter of 26 December to the Prime Minister about the Hunting Act 2004. Your letter was passed to Defra as the Government Department with responsibility for this issue and I have been asked to reply.

The Government recognises that hunting evokes strong views on both sides of the debate, and that the issue is a matter of personal conscience. It has been subject to a free vote in Parliament for very many years.

However, the Hunting Act was passed under the previous administration and remains highly controversial. Some people question its effectiveness. That is why the Government has said it will put forward a motion before the House of Commons on whether the Hunting Act should be repealed and, if the motion is carried, it will bring forward legislation in due course.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]
Defra - Customer Contact Unit

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[redacted]

To the Environment Secretary, Mr. Owen Paterson,

I hear that the spectre of hunting prey with dogs is rearing it's ugly head again. I would have thought that this coalition Government had more pressing things to worry about.
That said, I must register my concern that Tory M.P.s' might chase votes to placate their, presumably, rural constituents.

Polls show that 76% of the U.K.'s population back the ban ,so why waste government time opening this particular can of worms.

A free vote, then why can we not have had a free vote on other matters.

Democracy at work? I think not!

[redacted]

DEFRA
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12 FEB 2013
CCU
POST ROOM

Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

CCU 7th Floor
Nobel House
Smith Square
London SW1P 3JR

T 08459 335577
helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk
www.defra.gov.uk

[redacted]

Our ref: DWO300692/MS

February 2013

[redacted]

Thank you for your recent letter to the Secretary of State about the Hunting Act 2004. I have been asked to reply.

The Government recognises that hunting evokes strong views on both sides of the debate, and that the issue is a matter of personal conscience. It has been subject to a free vote in Parliament for very many years.

However, the Hunting Act was passed under the previous administration and remains highly controversial. Some people question its efficacy. That is why the Government has said it will put forward a motion before the House of Commons on whether the Hunting Act should be repealed and, if the motion is carried, it will bring forward legislation in due course.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]
Defra - Customer Contact Unit

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To: Owen Paterson
Environment Minister

[redacted]

Re: Amendments

22nd May 2013

Dear Mr. Paterson

Re: Amendments to the Hunting Act

After the success of their amendments by the Tory activists yesterday - well done! - it seemed to me that this method could also be used to sort out the anomalies of the Hunting Act. After all it is not the Hunting Ban, but the Hunting Act!

First of all, everyone agrees that the Act is not working. The amendment to allow the Master to have only two hounds to dispatch a fox is not sufficient, and inevitably the fox has to be shot. So the answer is to change the amendment to allow the Master to use the entire pack to dispose of nuisance foxes.

The Act should also be extended, in a second amendment, to allow the hunting of mink. As you may be aware, the mink were not native to this country and were let loose by extremely misguided people. As a result their fierce nature drives away otters from riverbanks, where they used to be such a delight.

Yours sincerely

[redacted]

Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

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[redacted]

Our ref: DWO312919

9 July 2013

[redacted]

Thank you for your letter of 22 May to the Secretary of State about the Hunting Act 2004 and the number of dogs that can be used for stalking or flushing out. I have been asked to reply and apologise for the delay in doing so.

You comments on this matter have been passed to the appropriate policy officials for their information.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]
Defra - Customer Contact Unit

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