



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Nobel House
17 Smith Square
London SW1P 3JR

T 03459 335577
helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/defra

Richard Burden MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Your ref: W\JN\140515\SUTH01001
Our ref: MC375939

15 June 2015

From Rory Stewart MP

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Environment and Rural Affairs

18 JUN 2015

Dear Richard

Thank you for your letter of 20 May to the Secretary of State, on behalf of a number of your constituents, about the repeal of the Hunting Act 2004. I am replying as the Minister responsible for this policy area.

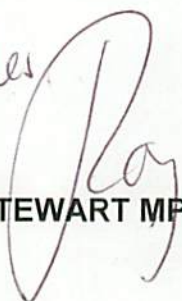
Your constituents might be interested in the Burns' report of 2000, which published the findings of the inquiry into hunting with dogs. The report found no evidence of cruelty and can be accessed online at:

<http://www.huntinginquiry.gov.uk/mainsections/huntingframe.htm>

In addition, your constituents might also be interested in the Hansard records of the debates where MPs made sophisticated arguments on both sides of the topic and explored the issues thoroughly. For example, the second and third readings on 15 September 2004 can be found at:

http://hansard.millbanksystems.com/commons/2004/sep/15/hunting-bill#column_1326

MPs will have the opportunity to make up their minds in due course. The Government has committed to giving Parliament the opportunity to repeal the Hunting Act on a free vote, with a Government bill in Government time.

BA under

RORY STEWART MP

