



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

The Rt Hon Lord Benyon
Minister for Biosecurity, Marine and Rural Affairs

2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Catherine McKinnell MP
Chair of the Petitions Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

14 April 2023

Dear Catherine,

Thank you for your letters of 21 March on behalf of the Petitions Committee, about Defra's late response to e-petitions [630751](#), entitled "Retain bans on cat, dog, seal fur imports, and extend to ban all fur imports" and [622806](#), entitled "Give Animal Rescue Centres a grant to offset this winters increased heating cost". I am replying as the Minister responsible for these policy areas.

Responses to both e-petitions were sent to the hon. Member and Petitions Committee on 27 March 2023. I apologise for the delay in responding to the hon. Member.

In recent months, Defra has been responding to a large volume of e-petitions, as well as a backlog of correspondence. The Department continues to review its processes and endeavours to provide on-time responses to e-petitions in the future.

Yours sincerely,

THE RT HON LORD BENYON