

Sir Robert Goodwill
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

December 1st, 2023

robert.goodwill.mp@parliament.uk

Dear Sir Robert,

We wanted to write and thank you for your service on the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Commons Select Committee. We understand from media reports that you will be stepping down as MP for Scarborough and Whitby and from the Chairmanship of the EFRA Committee at the next election and we wanted to wish you well for the future.

We especially wanted to thank you for the work of the Committee on its recommendations contained in Protecting Marine Mammals in the UK and Abroad (HC 697), of the 28 June 2023, and your reaction to the Government's response to the report as published on the 31 October 2023.

We strongly welcome your statement that, *'...our committee urged new legislation, increased funding and faster action to mitigate the pressing challenges on these valuable species and we are disappointed to note that in rejecting our recommendations the Government does not appear to be demonstrating an awareness of the necessary urgency and scale of the problems'*.

Whilst we were also very disappointed at the Government's response to the original report, we remain committed to supporting the conclusions of the report and will continue to encourage the Government and Parliamentarians to take up its recommendations in the coming months and years.

Indeed, a letter from a number of ocean conservation groups to the new Secretary of State, The Rt Hon Steve Barclay MP, sent on 28th November, has highlighted the report as an example of cross-party agreement on taking urgent action for the marine environment. We will also be writing separately to the Secretary of State on this matter.

We understand that it is customary for the EFRA Committee to meet with the new Secretary of State, and we would urge the Committee to recommend that he, on behalf of the Government, take the opportunity to relook at the report's recommendations with a view to their adoption.

If you believe that there is anything else we can do to continue to support the report and its conclusions please do not hesitate to contact us. Furthermore, we would welcome the opportunity to meet with you and discuss this if you think that would be helpful.



Again, thank you for your 18 years of public service and all your efforts to support the marine environment and the amazing marine mammals that play such a crucial role in maintaining the health of the ocean.

With very best wishes



Chris Butler-Stroud - Chief Executive **WDC**

Lucy Babey - Head of Science and Conservation, **Orca**, and Chair of WCL Marine Mammal working group

Mark Simmonds - Director of Science, **OceanCare**

WHALE AND
DOLPHIN
CONSERVATION



A world where every whale and dolphin is safe and free