



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

Mr Douglas-Miller  
Minister for Biosecurity, Animal Health and Welfare

Seacole Building  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF

T: +44 (0) 3459 335577  
E: [correspondence.section@defra.gov.uk](mailto:correspondence.section@defra.gov.uk)  
W: [gov.uk/defra](http://gov.uk/defra)

Cat Smith MP  
Chair of the Petitions  
Committee House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

Our ref: MC2023/23132/AD

14 December 2023

Dear Cat,

Thank you for your letter of 21 November to the Secretary of State asking for an update on the Government's position in relation to legislation on pet abduction. I am replying as the Minister responsible for this policy area.

The UK is a world leader on animal welfare, and we are fully committed to maintaining and enhancing our strong track record through the delivery of our manifesto commitments and other welfare measures.

You will be aware that on 6 December Anna Firth MP introduced a Pet Abduction Bill to "create offences of dog abduction and cat abduction and to confer a power to make corresponding provision relating to the abduction of other animals commonly kept as pets". We welcome this legislation and look forward to the full text being published. In accordance with Parliamentary convention the Government will set out its formal position on this Bill when it receives its Second Reading.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you need further information.

Yours sincerely,

**ROBBIE DOUGLAS-MILLER**