



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

Lord 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  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

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9 February 2024

Dear Cat,

Thank you for your letters of November and December on behalf of the Petitions Committee about late e-petition responses from Defra. I am replying as the Minister responsible for departmental performance, and I apologise for the delay in doing so.

Responses have now been issued to the four e-petitions you referred to in your letters.

In recent months, Defra has been responding to large volumes of e-petitions and correspondence. The Department continues to review its internal processes and endeavours to provide timely responses to e-petitions in the future.

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

Yours sincerely,

**LORD DOUGLAS-MILLER**