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# Hunting Trophies (Import Prohibition) Bill

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## Summary

The [Hunting Trophies \(Import Prohibition\) Bill](#) is a Private Member's bill introduced by Henry Smith MP. The Bill has Government support and would ban the import of hunting trophies from species of conservation concern.<sup>1</sup>

The provisions in the Bill would ban the import of hunting trophies into Great Britain from species listed by the Government in regulations, including those already listed in existing Wildlife Trade Regulations, except if they are excluded by the Government. The ban would apply to any animals hunted after the time the legislation comes into force, which would be set out in regulations by the Secretary of State.

The Government has previously [proposed introducing a ban on the import of hunting trophies](#) in December 2021, following consultation. This was expected as part of an Animals Abroad Bill which has not been presented to Parliament to date.

[Second Reading of the Bill](#) took place in the House of Commons on 25 November 2022. During the debate there was support for the legislation from across the House. The Government also made clear it supported the Bill.

[Committee Stage of the Bill](#) took place on 25 January 2023. There were no amendments tabled and the Bill was agreed to unamended, without any divisions.

[Remaining stages of the Bill](#) in the House of Common are due to take place on 17 March 2023.

A number of non-Government amendments have been tabled for Report stage covering a range of topics. The [list of amendments \(PDF\)](#) includes several that would limit the scope of the legislation, such as excluding from an import ban any trophy that could be shown to contribute to the conservation of one or more species of flora or fauna, or one or more natural habitats.

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<sup>1</sup> Hunting Trophies (Import Prohibition) Bill, [Explanatory Notes](#), 23 November 2022

## 1

## Background

There has been long running debate about trophy hunting, its contribution to wildlife conservation and links to wildlife trafficking. The [International Fund for Animal Welfare \(IFAW\)](#) defines trophy hunting as:

The activity of chasing and killing wild animals or game, especially for food or sport. “Trophy hunting”, specifically, is a form of hunting in which the hunter’s explicit goal is to obtain the hunted animal’s carcass or body part, such as the head or hide, as a trophy that represents the success of the hunt.<sup>2</sup>

Trophy hunting is legal if it complies with a country’s existing hunting legislation including ensuring all proper permits have been obtained (which may include permission to hunt endangered species). It is not the same as poaching, which is the illegal hunting or capture of wild animals.

The [Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna \(CITES\)](#) is the international agreement between governments to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival. In October 2016, [CITES Parties adopted a resolution](#) (PDF) on the trade in hunting trophies of species listed in the convention. It stated that “well managed and sustainable trophy hunting [...] provides both livelihood opportunities for rural communities and incentives for habitat conservation”.<sup>3</sup>

The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) published an [assessment report on the sustainable use of wild species in July 2022](#). This found that 1.4 million km<sup>2</sup> of Africa is managed for recreational hunting.<sup>4</sup> In its report it concluded that revenues from activities such as hunting “provide an important and substantial income stream for conservation agencies and local communities in some countries”.<sup>5</sup> However, it also concluded that:

There is considerable variation in the way recreational hunting is governed and administered in different regions, which makes any generalization about its sustainability or unsustainability difficult.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> IFAW, [Killing for Trophies: an analysis of the global trophy hunting trade](#), 14 June 2016

<sup>3</sup> CITES, Conf 17.9, October 2016

<sup>4</sup> IPBES Media Release, [IPBES Sustainable Use Assessment - 50,000 Wild Species Meet Needs of Billions Worldwide](#), 8 July 2022

<sup>5</sup> IPBES, [Assessment report on the sustainable use of wild species: Summary for policymakers](#), July 2022

<sup>6</sup> IPBES, [Assessment report on the sustainable use of wild species: Summary for policymakers](#), July 2022

It also found that “selective hunting particular species, individuals or populations which have particular attributes (eg, large-sized or large horns) can impact ecosystem structure and processes”.<sup>7</sup>

The [International Union for the Conservation of Nature](#) (IUCN) is of the view that “with effective governance and management trophy hunting can and does have positive impacts”.<sup>8</sup>

Campaigners have called for a ban on imports of hunting trophies into the UK. [Born Free](#) rejects the notion that trophy hunting helps conservation and says that instead it supports “non-consumptive opportunities to generate income from wildlife”.<sup>9</sup> The [Ban of Trophy Hunting Campaign](#) disagrees with trophy hunting, believing that “there's no justification for killing animals for fun - it's cruel, wasteful, and serves no purpose”.

In June 2022 the All Party Parliamentary Group on Trophy Hunting published a report [Trophy Hunting & Britain: The Case for a Ban](#).<sup>10</sup> This report set out in detail its case for a ban, including details of the trophy hunting industry and the APPG's concerns about organisations outside the UK lobbying against a ban. This included

In July 2022, a [joint position statement from 166 civil society groups](#) across the world called for a ban on trophy hunting imports. It set out its reasons with supporting evidence for calling for a ban, which include:

- Trophy hunting threatens the survival of species
- Trophy hunting undermines wildlife conservation
- Trophy hunting fails to deliver meaningful economic benefits to communities
- Trophy hunting raises considerable ethical concerns
- Trophy hunting disregards animal welfare
- Trophy hunting is opposed by the public.<sup>11</sup>

This is an area of ongoing debate as the following range of articles from The Conversation, an academic journalist site, shows:

- [Trophy hunting – can it really be justified by ‘conservation benefits’?](#)  
10 October 2019

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<sup>7</sup> IPBES, [Assessment report on the sustainable use of wild species: Summary for policymakers](#), July 2022

<sup>8</sup> IUCN, [Informing decisions on trophy hunting](#), published April 2016

<sup>9</sup> The Born Free Foundation, [Shooting animals for ‘sport’](#) (accessed 13 May 2019)

<sup>10</sup> APPG on Trophy Hunting, [Trophy Hunting & Britain: The Case for a Ban](#), 29 June 2022

<sup>11</sup> Born Free, [Global NGOs call for a ban on hunting trophy imports](#), 7 July 2022

- [Trophy hunting will not save Africa's lions – so the UK ban on imports is a positive step for wildlife conservation](#) 29 June 2022
- [Trophy hunting: why a UK import ban threatens wildlife conservation](#) 10 August 2022

Further background on Trophy hunting can be found in the [Commons Briefing Paper on Trophy Hunting](#) published in September 2019.

## 2 Regulation of the international trade in hunting trophies

The [Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna \(CITES\)](#) works by subjecting international trade in specimens of selected species to certain controls. All import, export, re-export and introduction of the species covered by the Convention must be authorised through a licensing system.<sup>12</sup> This includes trophies from hunting.

CITES is implemented in the UK through [EU regulations which have been retained after Brexit](#). These regulations are stricter than those for CITES, extending the requirement for permits to a wider range of species, and completely banning the trade of some species that are not banned under CITES. For example, [stricter controls for species such as elephants, lions and polar bears](#) were introduced at EU level in 2015. The full list of protected species under the regulations is set out in the [2019 EU Regulation 2019/2117](#).

Further detailed explanation of the legislation covering imports of hunting trophies can be found in the [Commons Briefing Paper on Trophy Hunting](#) published in September 2019 and in the [Explanatory Notes for the Hunting Trophies \(Import Prohibition\) Bill](#).

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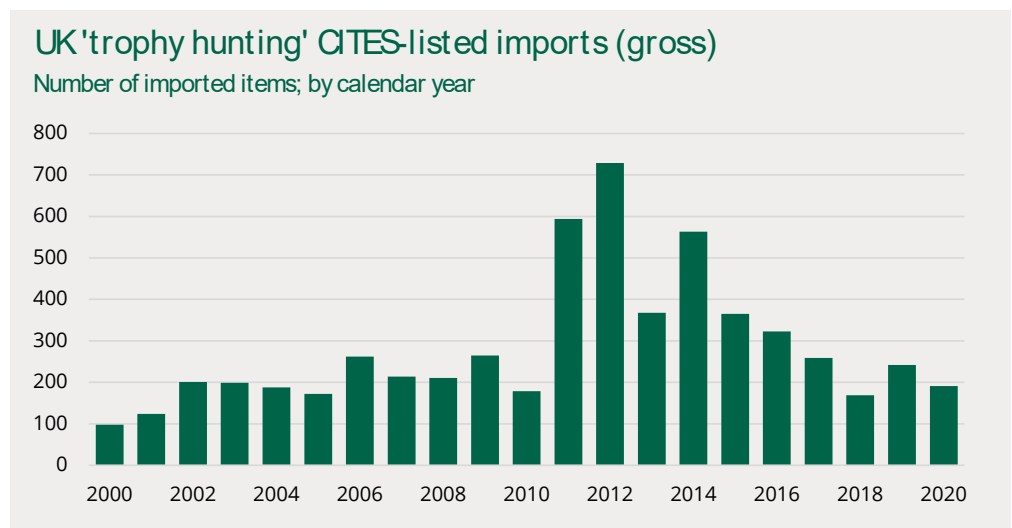
<sup>12</sup> CITES, [“How CITES works”](#) [accessed on 24 November 2022]

## 3

## Trophy hunting import and export statistics

Statistics on imports and exports of CITES-listed animal-derived products are [published by the United Nations Environment Programme](#) on behalf of the CITES Secretariat.

Because of the time it takes countries to quality-check and submit their data, the latest complete year of data is 2020. The chart below shows gross imports to the UK in each year between 2000 and 2020.<sup>13</sup> Imports peaked at 729 items in 2012, before falling gradually in the years following.



Notes: These figures are gross and are a tally of trades, rather than individual items; the same item may be counted more than once. Some imports may appear in the wrong year as import permits can be issued ahead of transaction completion.

Source: CITES, [CITES Trade Database \(version 2022.1\)](#) (accessed 21 November 2022)

South Africa is the largest exporter of trophy hunting goods to the UK, accounting for 34% of items imported to the UK between 2000 and 2020. Zimbabwe was another large exporter to the UK, contributing over a quarter (27%) of all trophy hunting items imported by the UK during this period.

37% of trophy hunting imports to the UK were derived from elephants (Elephantidae). The next largest categories after this were items from big cats (Felidae) and bears (Ursidae).

<sup>13</sup> There is often a difference in what an importing country and an exporting country report in terms of the quantity of items traded between them. Gross imports takes the larger figure reported, where this differs between the two countries involved in a transaction. For more information, see page 10 of [A guide to using the CITES Trade Database Version 9 \(PDF\)](#) (September 2022)

A summary of these figures is provided in the table below.

**UK gross 'trophy hunting' imports, 2000 to 2020**  
By country of export and type of animal

Exporter	Imports	% of total	Family	Imports	% of total
South Africa	2,006	34%	Elephants	2,194	37%
Zimbabwe	1,605	27%	Big cats	747	13%
Canada	610	10%	Bears	649	11%
Namibia	379	6%	Hippopotamuses	608	10%
Tanzania	278	5%	Primates	515	9%
Botswana	257	4%	Cattle, bison, buffalo, a	483	8%
Zambia	249	4%	Horses	296	5%
Mozambique	137	2%	Crocodyles	161	3%
USA	100	2%	Wolves, foxes, etc.	124	2%
Russia	91	2%	Giraffes	32	1%
Others	203	3%	Others	106	2%
Total	5,915		Total	5,915	

Notes: These figures are gross and are a tally of trades, rather than individual items; the same item may be counted more than once.

Source: CITES, [CITES Trade Database \(version 2022.1\)](#) (accessed 21 November 2022)

Globally, the UK is not one of the largest importers of CITES-listed trophy hunting products. Considering all gross imports between 2000 and 2020, the UK was the 24<sup>th</sup> largest importer. The largest were the United States of America, South Africa, and China. This is in terms of gross imports, so it also captures imports of goods which are subsequently exported onwards. In 2012, when UK imports were at their peak, the UK ranked 16<sup>th</sup> highest in the world.

As of 2020, the largest exporters of trophy hunting products were South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Mozambique. However, over the longer period of 2000 to 2020, Canada was by far the largest exporter, accounting for 40% of all exports. Around a third (34%) of global gross exports of trophy hunting products during this time were from bears (Ursidae), with around 15% from elephants (Elephantidae) and 9% from crocodiles (Crocodylidae).



## 4 The Bill

The [Hunting Trophies \(Import Prohibition\) Bill](#) is a Private Member's bill introduced by Henry Smith, which will have its second reading on 25 November 2022. The Bill has Government support as set out in the Explanatory Notes and will ban the import of hunting trophies from species of conservation concern.<sup>14</sup>

### 4.1 Background on the Bill

Until 2018, the Government's position on banning the imports of hunting trophies was that it supported the existing regime, which allowed "trophies to be imported, provided that there is no impact on the sustainability of species".<sup>15</sup> However, a response to written question on banning the imports of lion trophies on 15 July 2019 stated the Government was reviewing the evidence:

Lord Selkirk of Douglas: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will consider banning the importation of lion trophies to the UK, following the decision by Australia, France, and the Netherlands to ban such imports.

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: In May 2019 the Government hosted a stakeholder roundtable to hear views from all sides of the debate. We are reviewing existing evidence surrounding trophy hunting and its impact on conservation.<sup>16</sup>

A [call for evidence on hunting trophies was issued](#) in November 2019, as was a consultation on [controlling imports to and exports from the UK](#). In addition, the [2019 Conservative manifesto](#) included a commitment to "ban imports from trophy hunting of endangered animals".

Following this, [the summary of responses and the Government response](#) were published in December 2021. This set out the response to a proposed ban, which was overwhelmingly in support:

The responses to the consultation indicated a clear preference (86% of responses) for the government to put in place additional restrictions beyond current controls. The majority of those who provided a response to the consultation (84%) indicated that their first preference would be for a ban on imports and exports of hunting trophies from all species to and from the UK.

However, around three quarters of the detailed responses submitted to the call for evidence did not support a ban on imports and exports of

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<sup>14</sup> [Hunting Trophies \(Import Prohibition\) Bill, Explanatory Notes](#), 23 November 2022

<sup>15</sup> [HC Deb 650 c401 29 Nov 2018](#)

<sup>16</sup> [Lions: Hunting: Written question - HL16885](#) 15 July 2019

hunting trophies from all species. We note the evidence which suggests that in some cases, trophy hunting can support species and habitat conservation, as well as local livelihoods, and that there may not always be readily available or feasible alternatives which deliver the same benefits. We also note evidence of damaging impacts of unsustainable and unchecked trophy hunting in some cases, and examples of where local populations do not benefit from the activity.<sup>17</sup>

The Government also set out its proposed policy approach. This would be to ban imports of trophies of endangered species including those listed in the existing regulations on wildlife trade, with some additions. The Government would also include trophies from animals that are captive bred:

We will do this by introducing legislation to ban the import of hunting trophies from species of global conservation concern. Species in scope of the ban will be those listed on Annex A and B of the UK Wildlife Trade Regulations and any other species not covered by these regulations but subject to hunting and of particular conservation concern (namely those assessed by the [International Union for Conservation of Nature](#) as Near Threatened, Vulnerable, Endangered, Critically Endangered or Extinct in the Wild). We will keep this under review as new evidence emerges around species' conservation status and threat. For all species in scope, the import of hunting trophies from both wild and captive-bred animals will be banned.<sup>18</sup>

Rules on exports of hunting trophies would remain the same. There would be no ban on “the practice of trophy hunting itself or ownership of hunting trophies”, as these had not been consulted on.<sup>19</sup>

According to [the Government press release](#) on 10 December 2021 the ban will cover 7000 threatened species and a further 1000 which are “near threatened or worse”.

The legislation for the ban was originally expected to be part of the Animals Abroad Bill, as set out in the Government's [Action Plan for Animal Welfare](#) published in May 2021. The Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee launched an inquiry on the Bill, including [written submissions and an evidence session](#). However, [that Bill has not been brought forward](#) by the Government.

## 4.2

## The Bill

[Hunting Trophies \(Import Prohibition\) Bill](#) has four clauses. The Bill provides for a ban on the import of hunting trophies into Great Britain, with the full details of which animals will be covered to be set out in

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<sup>17</sup> Defra, [Hunting trophies: call for evidence](#), 2 November 2019

<sup>18</sup> Defra, [Hunting trophies: call for evidence](#), 2 November 2019

<sup>19</sup> Defra, [Hunting trophies: call for evidence](#), 2 November 2019

regulations. The ban will only apply to animals hunted after the Act comes into force.

Clause 1 of the Bill prohibits the import of hunting trophies into Great Britain as part of the process of taking them from where the specified animals were hunted to where the hunter resides. Trophy hunting is defined as whole animals, parts of animals or derivatives processed in any way.

The explanatory notes of the Bill set out in detail the existing legislation, including EU Regulations and how they interact to control imports of animal trophies. [Council Regulation \(EC\) No. 338/97 on the protection of species of wild fauna and flora by regulating trade therein](#) are referred to as “the Principal Wildlife Trade Regulation”. As the [explanatory notes](#) set out, any existing legislation will not prevent the ban on imports covering specific animals as “the Wildlife Trade Regulations will not apply to the movement of hunting trophies where that movement is prohibited”.<sup>20</sup> The current rules on exporting hunting trophies will be unchanged and will continue to apply.

Clause 2 sets out the animals the import ban will be applied to, which will include species listed in Annex A and B of the Wildlife Trade Regulations, (unless excluded through the regulations); and any other species included in the regulations. Regulations will be introduced in Parliament using the affirmative procedure. Any amendment will be made using the negative procedure.

Clause 3 sets out the territorial extent of the Bill and how it applies to imports and exports between Great Britain and Northern Ireland, to take account of the Northern Ireland Protocol. The Bill will prohibit the import of hunting trophies into Great Britain, including via Northern Ireland.

However, there will be an exception for [qualifying Northern Ireland goods](#) under the EU Withdrawal Act 2018, which will be allowed to be imported into Great Britain. These [are defined as](#) goods that are “lawfully present in Northern Ireland and are not subject to customs control” other than for export; or goods that are “Northern Ireland processed”.<sup>21</sup>

Clause 4 sets out the territorial extent as England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland as international trade is a reserved matter. The Bill will come into force when set out in regulations by the Secretary of State.

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<sup>20</sup> Hunting Trophies (Import Prohibition) Bill, [Explanatory Notes](#), 23 November 2022

<sup>21</sup> The Definition of Qualifying Northern Ireland Goods (EU Exit) Regulations 2020, [Explanatory Notes](#)

## 5 Second Reading and Committee Stage

[Second Reading of the Bill](#) took place in the House of Commons on 25 November 2022. During the debate there was support for the legislation from across the House. The Government also made clear it supported the Bill.

[Committee Stage of the Bill](#) took place on 25 January 2023. There were no amendments tabled and the Bill was agreed to unamended, without any divisions.

### 5.1 Second Reading

[Second Reading of the Bill](#) took place in the House of Commons on 25 November 2022. Henry Smith introduced the Bill, setting out the detail in the clauses and explaining the overall purpose as follows:

The Bill aims to ban the importation of endangered species body parts into Great Britain—to be more precise, those listed on the convention on international trade in endangered species, or CITES, in annexes A and B, whether from species in the northern hemisphere, such as polar bears, or species in the southern hemisphere, such as elephants. The territorial extent of this Bill is Great Britain, so let us be clear: this legislation, obviously, does not tell other countries what to do.<sup>22</sup>

He went on to outline some of the arguments for legislation, highlighting that British trophy hunters “are among the world’s most active killers of endangered species”.<sup>23</sup> He also referred to the negative views on trophy hunting in the UK and in countries such as South Africa.<sup>24</sup> He referred to the evidence that “photo safaris generate many more jobs for African people in rural communities, and generate significantly greater revenues for conservation”.<sup>25</sup> He concluded by emphasising that the Bill was about policy in the UK:

The Bill is about UK import policy. It is about what we, as a sovereign nation, choose to allow through our borders. It is a Bill about Britain making a concrete contribution to tackling the global conservation crisis. British ban on imports of hunting trophies would help to save thousands of animals that are threatened with extinction. It would make a strong

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<sup>22</sup> [HC Deb 25 November 2023 c570](#)

<sup>23</sup> [HC Deb 25 November 2023 c570](#)

<sup>24</sup> [HC Deb 25 November 2023 c573](#)

<sup>25</sup> [HC Deb 25 November 2023 c573](#)

statement to the international community that we must act decisively to conserve our living planet<sup>26</sup>

Margaret Ferrier spoke in support of the Bill, highlighting the [reversal in Botswana](#) in 2019 of the elephant hunting ban introduced in 2014.<sup>27</sup> She also referred to the concerns about ongoing lobbying on the Bill and where it originated from.<sup>28</sup>

Nick Aiken spoke to welcome the progress of the Bill and how it “helped to raise awareness of trophy hunting”. He also referred to potential impact on local communities:

The case I am trying to make is that we must persuade people that trophy hunting is not a sport. At the same time, we must remember that local communities rely on this business—I use that term very lightly. Through smart conservation, we have to support people living on this in places like South Africa.

Again, by marrying animal conservation to the prosperity of local communities, we can make a lasting, positive change. I doubt many in this place would argue against the importance of smart conservation to mitigating any lost income for local communities that so dearly need the income they currently receive from hunting. When we discuss these issues, we must realise that the people most affected by this trade are the local people.<sup>29</sup>

Ruth Jones, Shadow Minister for Agri-Innovation and Climate Adaptation, set out the cross-party support for Bill stating it was “not a party-political issue”.<sup>30</sup> Speaking in the debate Rebecca Pow, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs set out that the Government supported the Bill:

I am pleased to confirm that the Government are supporting the Bill and that we are determined to fulfil our manifesto commitment to ban the imports of trophies from endangered animals. We have committed to working internationally on endangered species in our 25-year plan to protect and improve international biodiversity, and this Bill demonstrates that we mean business.<sup>31</sup>

## 5.2 Committee Stage

The [Committee Stage for the Bill](#) took place in the House of Commons on Wednesday 25 January. There was one session of the Public Bill

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<sup>26</sup> [HC Deb 25 November 2023 c573](#)

<sup>27</sup> [HC Deb 25 November 2023 c574](#)

<sup>28</sup> [HC Deb 25 November 2023 c576](#)

<sup>29</sup> [HC Deb 25 November 2023 c587](#)

<sup>30</sup> [HC Deb 25 November 2023 c583](#)

<sup>31</sup> [HC Deb 25 November 2023c 584](#)

Committee, chaired by Sir Mark Hendrick. There were no amendments tabled to the Bill, which was agreed to unamended and without division.

Introducing the Bill, Henry Spencer highlighted similar legislation that existed in other countries:

I am pleased to say that we are not alone. The Australians, the French and even some American states have all brought in varying degrees of trophy hunting bans. The Dutch have introduced sweeping prohibitions, the Belgian Parliament has voted unanimously to implement identical restrictions, and, in the last few weeks, the Government of Finland have announced plans for a ban on hunting trophies from outside the European Union.<sup>32</sup>

During the debate a number of members referred to the level of lobbying that they had received on the Bill. Kerry McCarthy, Shadow Minister for Climate Change, called for reassurances from the Government:

As has been mentioned, we have had quite a bit of lobbying by people who are involved in talking to the Government about this issue. At one point, basically, they said that the majority of what was said by Members on Second Reading was factually incorrect. Will the Minister confirm that she, with her officials, has carefully considered the evidence, that she has looked at whether their arguments are valid and that she has come to the conclusion, as we all have, that the Bill is the right thing to do?<sup>33</sup>

Trudy Harrison, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, responded that officials “had done a diligent and highly professional job of assessing all the evidence” and that the Government was taking “decisive action to respond to the British public’s concerns about trophy hunting abroad”.<sup>34</sup>

Sir Greg Knight asked the Minister about the regulations bringing the legislation into force, calling for assurance that there would be no undue delay from the Government in introducing them. The Minister did not directly address this in her response but did provide assurance that she would work with her “counterparts in the Lords and with the Whips Offices to ensure that we do everything we can to get the Bill through all stages in both Houses and to secure Royal Assent.”.<sup>35</sup>

Sammy Wilson spoke in support of the Bill, while raising concerns that there was a danger that Northern Ireland could be used as a “back door” to import hunting trophies into the rest of the United Kingdom, as a result of the provisions of the [Northern Ireland Protocol](#).<sup>36</sup>

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<sup>32</sup> [PBC 25 January 2023 c8](#)

<sup>33</sup> [PBC 25 January 2023 c12](#)

<sup>34</sup> [PBC 25 January 2023 c13](#)

<sup>35</sup> [PBC 25 January 2023 c16](#)

<sup>36</sup> [PBC 25 January 2023 c11](#)

## 6 Remaining stages

Report and Third Reading of the Bill in the House of Common are due to take place on 17 March 2023. A number of non-Government amendments have been tabled for Report stage of the Bill covering a range of topics. The [list of amendments \(PDF\)](#) include:

- New Clause 1 would introduce a five-year sunset for the Bill, after which the legislation would cease to apply.
- Amendment 4 would require regulations to be introduced that would exclude from an import ban any trophy that could be shown to have been obtained in a way that contributes “to the conservation of one or more species of flora or fauna” or “one or more natural habitats”.
- Amendment 12 would allow for imports of hunting trophies from Botswana, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe
- Amendment 19 would delete Clause 3 which covers how the Bill applies to imports and exports between Great Britain and Northern Ireland. New Clause 3 would require an assessment of the impact of the Bill on Northern Ireland, including any changes to the number of imports and exports to and from Northern Ireland.
- Amendment 27 would require regulations to be introduced that would exclude from a ban any export, or ‘import and export’, of a trophy that was granted a permit under the requirements of the existing [Control of Trade in Endangered Species Regulations 2018](#), unless the result of an animal being hunted “in an enclosure it can’t escape”.<sup>37</sup>

Unlike Government bills, Private Members Bills are not timetabled. So, although this bill has Government support, if the debate for Report has not finished at the moment of interruption, the Member in charge of the Bill will be asked to name another day on which to continue the debate. However, if all the amendments are dealt with during report stage, the Bill will then be debated at third reading.

The [Conservative Animal Welfare Foundation](#), which supports the ban, issued a statement on 23 February 2023 highlighting “overwhelming support for the policy of banning trophy hunting imports”. The [DUP has welcomed the legislation](#) but following scrutiny of the Bill in Committee expressed concerns “that Northern Ireland could become the avenue

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<sup>37</sup> [PBC Notices of Amendments as at 16 March 2023](#)

through which trophy hunters could smuggle their trophies in to the rest of the United Kingdom”.



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