

## Debate Pack

10 July 2022

Number CDP-0135

By Elena Ares,  
Ilze Jozepa,  
Sasha Gorb,  
Matthew Ward

---

# Debate on an e-petition relating to the UK trade agreement with the Faroe Islands and whale and dolphin hunts

<b>1</b>	<b>Background</b>	<b>2</b>
1.1	Whaling in the Faroe Islands	2
	September 2021 dolphin hunt	3
1.2	UK Free Trade Agreement with Faroe Islands	5
1.3	UK and Faroes Government agreement on fisheries	6
1.4	Animal welfare and international trade	7
	UK Trade and Agriculture Commission recommendation	7
1.5	UK trade with Faroe Islands	8
<b>2</b>	<b>Press articles</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Parliamentary material</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Press releases, further reading</b>	<b>15</b>

## Summary

A debate will be held in Westminster Hall at 6pm on Monday 11 July 2022 on an e-petition relating to the Free Trade Agreement between the UK and the Faroe Islands and whale and dolphin hunting in that country. The debate will be opened by John Nicholson MP.

# 1

## Background

A debate on [e-petition 597171 Suspend trade agreement with Faroe Islands until all whale & dolphin hunts end](#) will take place in Westminster Hall on 11 July 2022. The petition closed on 21 March 2022 and received 104,664 signatures.

The petition calls for the UK to suspend its Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the Faroe Islands:

In 2019 UK Government finalised a free trade agreement (FTA) with Faroe Islands which allows for £100 million of exports of wild caught and farmed fish to Britain per annum (20% of the Faroe Islands global trade). This FTA should be suspended until all whale & dolphin hunts on Faroe Islands end. The Free Trade Agreement with the Faroe Islands gives the UK Government significant leverage when it comes to ending the mass slaughter of pilot whales and dolphins on the Faroe Islands which causes huge anger and revulsion around the world. If the UK is to be considered a world leader in the protection of marine mammals it must use this leverage now.<sup>1</sup>

[The Faroe Islands](#) is an autonomous nation within the Kingdom of Denmark, in the North Atlantic Ocean with a population of around 50,000. It determines its own policies in many areas including external trade policy and conservation. It is not part of the EU. [Pilot whale](#) and [white sided dolphin](#) hunts are activities that take place throughout the year in the Faroe Islands. The UK and the Faroe Islands signed a free trade agreement in 2019 which entered into force on 1 January 2021.

### 1.1

## Whaling in the Faroe Islands

The Faroe Islands Government published an information memorandum, [Community-based whaling in the Faroe Islands](#), in May 2017 which describes “the use of small whales for food”. It refers to the two species hunted as part of a tradition called “grindadrap” or “grind”:

Many different species of whales and dolphins occur in the waters around the Faroe Islands, most of which are protected by law. The commonly occurring pilot whales (*Globicephala melas*) are taken for their meat and blubber in whale drives which are organised on the community level and regulated by national legislation and regulations. This centuries-old form of food production in the Faroe Islands, known as “grind”, has successfully adapted to modern standards of resource management and animal welfare.

[...]

White-sided dolphins (*Lagenorhynchus acutus*) are also a commonly occurring and abundant species around the Faroe Islands. Individual animals occasionally occur together with schools of pilot whales, while separate schools are also sometimes driven and beached, and fully utilised for human

---

<sup>1</sup> [e-petition 597171 Suspend trade agreement with Faroe Islands until all whale & dolphin hunts end](#)

consumption. The driving and killing of dolphins in the Faroe Islands must be carried out according to the same regulations which apply to pilot whales.<sup>2</sup>

The [Visit the Faroe Island website](#) describes the annual pilot whale hunt as traditional activity, but does not mention dolphin catches:

Today, as in times past, the whale drive is a community activity open to all, while also well organised on a community level and regulated by national laws.

Records of all pilot whale hunts have been kept since 1584 and the practice is deemed sustainable, as there are an estimated 778,000 whales in the eastern North Atlantic region. Approximately 100,000 swim close to the Faroe Islands, and the Faroese hunt on average 800 pilot whales annually.<sup>3</sup>

The [Whaling.fo website](#) provides further details on pilot whale hunting in the Faroe Islands:

Whale drives are not an annual festival or ritual, as is often wrongly claimed. Whale drives in the Faroe Islands take place to provide food, and can happen at any time of the year. The driving, beaching, killing and distribution of pilot whales are fully regulated by law and regulations.<sup>4</sup>

## September 2021 dolphin hunt

The charity Whale and Dolphin Conservation (WDC) has raised [concerns about the whaling](#) in the Faroe Islands. They have raised particular concerns about a hunt that resulted in [over 1400 white sided dolphins being killed](#) in September 2021. This was [widely reported](#) internationally, including in the UK:

The practice of dolphin hunting in the Faroe Islands has come under scrutiny after more than 1,400 of the mammals were killed in what was believed to be a record catch.

The pod of white-sided dolphins was driven into the largest fjord in the North Atlantic territory on Sunday.

Boats herded them into shallow waters at Skalabotnur beach in Eysturoy, where they were killed with knives.

The carcasses were pulled ashore and distributed to locals for consumption.

Footage of the hunt shows dolphins thrashing around in waters turned red with blood as hundreds of people watch on from the beach.<sup>5</sup>

[WDC reports](#) the total number of dolphins killed as 1,428 and noted concerns in the local community following the hunt:

It is interesting to see that this time - with 1,428 dolphins killed and lost to the world forever - the local reaction on the Faroes was different. There is a lot of outrage. People are asking for the legislation to be reviewed and changed so that the Grindadráp only allows for pilot whales to be killed. There is no

---

<sup>2</sup> The Government of the Faroe Islands, [Community-based whaling in the Faroe Islands](#), May 2017

<sup>3</sup> Visit Faroes Islands, [Whaling in the Faroes Islands](#) [website visited 8 July 2022]

<sup>4</sup> Whaling.fo, [Questions & Answers](#), [website visited 8 July 2022]

<sup>5</sup> BBC News, [Faroe Islands: Anger over killing of 1,400 dolphins in one day](#), 14 September 2021

question about the extreme brutality of this particular hunt - the dolphins were chased for hours, run over by boats, then herded into the shallows and kept there for hours while people tried to deal with the fact that killing so many beings takes a horribly long time.<sup>6</sup>

In response [the Faroe Islands Government announced](#) on 16 September 2021 that it would be carrying out an evaluation of the regulations on the catching of Atlantic white-sided dolphins. The Government noted that “dolphin hunts have not been a part of Faroese tradition to the same degree [as pilot whale hunts] and do not have the same cultural legitimacy”. And it would be “looking closely at the dolphin hunts, and what part they should play in Faroese society”.<sup>7</sup>

The evaluation is ongoing, and [was discussed by the Government](#) in February 2022 but no decision has yet been announced. As reported by WDC there are [increased calls within the Faroes Island for dolphin hunts to be banned](#), although there is continued support for pilot whale hunts.

The issue was raised in the EU Parliament, in a question to the Commission. The Commission’s response explained that [the Faroe Islands are not covered by the Habitats Directive](#) which bans the killing of cetaceans, including dolphins:

The EU remains committed to the protection of all cetaceans, such as whales and dolphins. Within the EU, the capture or killing of cetaceans is prohibited under the Habitats Directive(1). The introduction of cetaceans into the Community for primarily commercial purpose is banned, pursuant to the EU Wildlife Trade Regulation(2), which implements the provisions of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) in the EU.

As the Commission stated in its joint reply to questions E-004272/2021, E-004286/2021, E-004297/2021, E-004388/2021, EC law does not apply to the Faroe Islands(3). This means that the abovementioned acts do not apply to the Faroe Islands or to activities taking place there.

As far as international measures are concerned, while Denmark is a member of both CITES and the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, the Faroe Islands have been excluded from the scope of application of both conventions. Moreover, the hunting of small cetaceans is currently not regulated by the International Whaling Commission (IWC), and the area covered by the Convention on Migratory Species, which lists long-finned pilot whales and white sided dolphins in its Appendix II, does not extend to the Faroe Islands.

The legal framework described above is not likely to change in a short to medium term, as it would require the amendment of the Treaties and international conventions.

The Commission has already expressed concerns to the Danish authorities about the annual hunt in the Faroe Islands. It will also continue to work with EU

---

<sup>6</sup> WDC, [The horror – reflecting on the massacre of 1,428 dolphins on the Faroe Islands](#), 28 September 2021

<sup>7</sup> Government of the Faroes Islands, [Dolphin hunt to be evaluated](#), 16 September 2021

Member States in support of ongoing efforts of IWC to tackle threats faced by small cetaceans.<sup>8</sup>

[European Member States are reported by OceanCare](#) to have issued a statement in December 2021 in response to the hunt calling it “cruel and unnecessary” and calling on the Faroe Island Government to Faroese Government to “immediately stop the outdated practice of whale and dolphin hunting”. The [UK Government also raised the issue](#) with the Faroe Islands government as set out in a written response from October 2021.

The UK is strongly opposed to the hunting of any cetaceans (whales, dolphins and porpoises), other than some limited activities by indigenous people for clearly defined purposes. Minister for Pacific and the Environment The Rt. Hon Lord Goldsmith has written to the Faroese fisheries minister to express the UK's opposition to the hunt that took place on the 12th September and the continued hunting of cetaceans in the Faroe Islands on both animal welfare and conservation grounds.<sup>9</sup>

The [Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Select Committee launched an enquiry into marine mammals](#) in April 2022 which is ongoing. One of the areas the Committee is examining is what role can the UK Government play to protect and promote the conservation of marine mammals internationally.

## 1.2

## UK Free Trade Agreement with Faroe Islands

To support mutual trade, the UK has a [free trade agreement with the Faroe Islands](#).<sup>10</sup> The agreement entered into force on 1 January 2021. This free trade agreement is one of the UK's trade continuity agreements – UK trade deals with countries and territories, which had an agreement with the EU before 1 January 2021. With some modifications, these deals generally replicate the terms of EU trade agreements, which the UK was part before leaving the EU.<sup>11</sup>

The UK-Faroe Islands free trade agreement replicates the provisions of the EU-Faroe Islands Agreement with minimal changes.<sup>12</sup> The agreement covers trade in goods, but not trade in services and other areas. It removes or significantly reduces customs tariffs on many goods except certain agriculture and fisheries products. It also sets tariff rate quotas allowing a certain amount of goods to be imported at a zero or reduced tariff rate. The extended ‘rules of origin’ recognise EU-originating content in Faroe and UK

---

<sup>8</sup> EU Parliament, [Parliamentary Question, E-004413/2021\(ASW\) 22](#) November 2021

<sup>9</sup> [HC Deb 25 October 2021 | PQ 56235](#)

<sup>10</sup> [Free Trade Agreement between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Kingdom of Denmark in respect of the Faroe Islands](#), CP 32, 31 January 2019

<sup>11</sup> UK trade continuity agreements are sometimes referred to as roll-over agreements. For an overview see [GOV.UK guidance on UK trade agreements](#) with non-EU countries

<sup>12</sup> The agreement incorporates the text of the EU-Faroe Island free trade agreement (Council Decision (EC) of 6 December 1996 concerning the conclusion of an [Council Decision \(EC\) of 6 December 1996 concerning the conclusion of an agreement between the European Community, of the one part, and the Government of Denmark and the Home Government of the Faroe Islands, of the other part](#), OJ L 53, 22 February 1997 (as amended)) with some necessary technical modifications.

exports as ‘originating’ allowing such goods to benefit from the preferential tariff rates.<sup>13</sup>

The agreement establishes a UK-Faroe Island Joint Committee to oversee its implementation (Article 8). It includes a new amendment clause which provides for a process when both sides agree to amend its text (Article 9).<sup>14</sup> Besides the Joint Committee the agreement does not provide for a general dispute settlement mechanism, or a suspension mechanism. Each party may terminate (“denounce”) the agreement by giving 12 months notice (Article 38 EU-Faroe FTA).

## 1.3 UK and Faroes Government agreement on fisheries

In 2020, the UK and the Faroes Government concluded a [Framework Agreement on Fisheries](#).<sup>15</sup> The agreement provides for annual negotiations on the exchanges of fishing quota and access to waters, as well as collaboration on control and enforcement measures, the licensing of vessels and scientific research. It seeks to maintain fishing opportunities available to the UK under the EU-Faroes Fisheries Agreement before the end of the transition period.<sup>16</sup>

Disputes between the parties are resolved through consultation (Article 6). The agreement can be terminated with one year’s notice (Article 11).

The Government was criticised for signing the annual agreement on fish quotas for 2022 after the Faroe dolphin hunt of September 2021.<sup>17</sup> The Government has said it has written to the Faroese fisheries minister expressing the UK’s opposition to the hunt and continues to raise the issue at international forums.<sup>18</sup>

---

<sup>13</sup> For an analysis of amendments see the House of Lords European Union Committee, [31st Report of Session 2017-19, HL Paper 300, 27 February 2019](#), chapter 2

<sup>14</sup> Department for International Trade, [Continuing the UK’s trade relationship with the Faroe Islands](#): Parliamentary report, February 2019; Department for International Trade, HM Government, [Explanatory Memorandum on the Free Trade Agreement between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Kingdom of Denmark in respect of the Faroe Islands](#), CP 32,

<sup>15</sup> Faroe Islands No.1 (2020), [Framework Agreement on Fisheries between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the Faroes](#), CP 317, 29 October 2020

<sup>16</sup> [Agreement on Fisheries between the European Economic Community, of the one part, and the Government of Denmark and the Home Government of the Faroe Islands, of the other part](#), OJ L 226/12, 29 August 1980

<sup>17</sup> [Fury as UK ministers sign new Faroes deal after record dolphin slaughter](#), Independent, 10 February 2022

<sup>18</sup> PQ 113698, HC Deb 2 February 2022

## 1.4

# Animal welfare and international trade

In general, countries are not allowed to ban imports from and exports to other countries, under GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) Article XI. However, there are exceptions to this rule, including the following from [GATT Article XX](#):

Subject to the requirement that such measures are not applied in a manner which would constitute a means of arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination between countries where the same conditions prevail, or a disguised restriction on international trade, nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to prevent the adoption or enforcement by any contracting party of measures:

(a) necessary to protect public morals;

(b) necessary to protect human, animal or plant life or health;

There are instances of the WTO accepting restrictions on imports related to animal welfare provided they are based on demonstrable ethical concerns. For example, the WTO Appellate Body found that the [EU ban on the import of seal skins](#) was justified as “[necessary to protect public morals](#)”.

The UK-Faroe Islands Free Trade Agreement contains a clause that does not prevent parties from introducing prohibitions and restrictions on trade on grounds such as “public morality”, and “the protection of life and health of humans, animals or plants” (Article 22 EU-Faroe FTA). Such measures must not, however, “constitute a means of arbitrary discrimination or a disguised restriction on trade” between the parties. This provision partially follows the general exception clause of the GATT [Article XX](#).

## UK Trade and Agriculture Commission recommendation

The UK [Trade and Agriculture Commission](#) – set up in 2020 as an independent advisory board – [considered](#) government policies to ensure that animal welfare and environmental standards in food production are observed in free trade agreements.<sup>19</sup> Its “[final report](#)” (PDF) of March 2021 made the following recommendation:

The UK should draw on its strengths in animal welfare to show world leadership in embedding it into trade policy. The UK government should play a leadership role in international forums, to raise worldwide standards of animal welfare. It should do this by investing in expert facilities and experts who can provide independent advice to government. It should then build international relationships and put forward proposals that are carefully crafted, convincing and evidence based.

Further, the TAC encouraged the Government to actively promote high animal welfare standards at the WTO level. The report recognises that options to

---

<sup>19</sup> The TAC has been replaced by a statutory Trade and Agriculture Commission set up under the Trade Act 2021

impose trade restrictions related to animal welfare are limited under current WTO rules, but might be possible under certain circumstances.

There is also the need to achieve reform within the WTO, where there are particular challenges. At present, trade restrictions on welfare grounds are generally not acceptable under WTO rules, although exemptions under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) Article 20(a) in some specific circumstances, might be possible. We believe a minister should be given explicit responsibility to lead on this and other important standards-based issues at the WTO and other international bodies.

In its response to the TAC final report the Government confirmed it was committed to animal welfare standards and practices which were “among the best in the world.” It would consider “the full range of mechanisms available” to promote high standards internationally, including through bilateral free trade agreement negotiations and at international forums such as the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the WTO.<sup>20</sup>

## 1.5

## UK trade with Faroe Islands

In 2021:

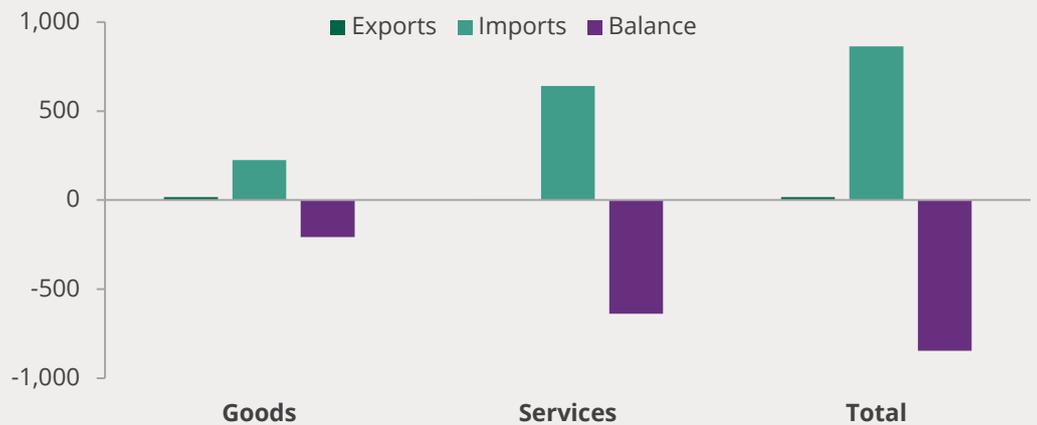
- The UK exported £17 million of goods and services to the Faroe Islands and imported £864 million, resulting in a trade deficit of -£847 million; this was composed of a trade deficit in goods of -£208 million and a trade deficit in services of -£639 million.
- Goods accounted for 94% of UK exports to and 26% of UK imports from the Faroe Islands; services accounted for 6% of UK exports to and 74% of UK imports from the Faroe Islands.
- The Faroe Islands were the UK’s 179<sup>th</sup> largest export market, accounting for 0.003% of UK exports and 64<sup>th</sup> largest source of imports, accounting for 0.1% of UK imports.

---

<sup>20</sup> DIT, [Government response to the final Trade and Agriculture Commission report](#), 21 October 2021

## UK trade with the Faroe Islands, 2021

£ millions, goods and services

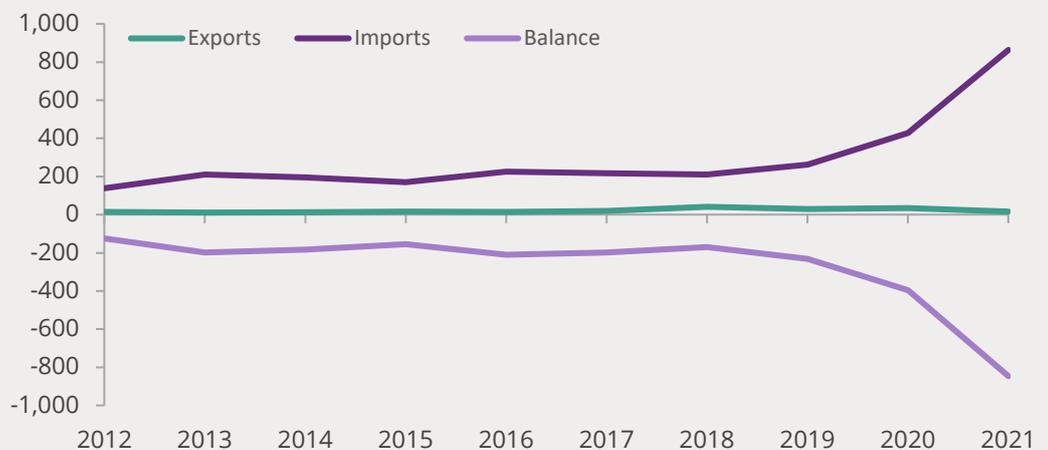


Source: ONS, [UK total trade: all countries](#)

The UK has now recorded a trade deficit with the Faroe Islands every year since 1999 (when comparable records began), the largest being -£847 million in 2021.

## UK trade with the Faroe Islands, 2012-2021

£ millions, goods and services

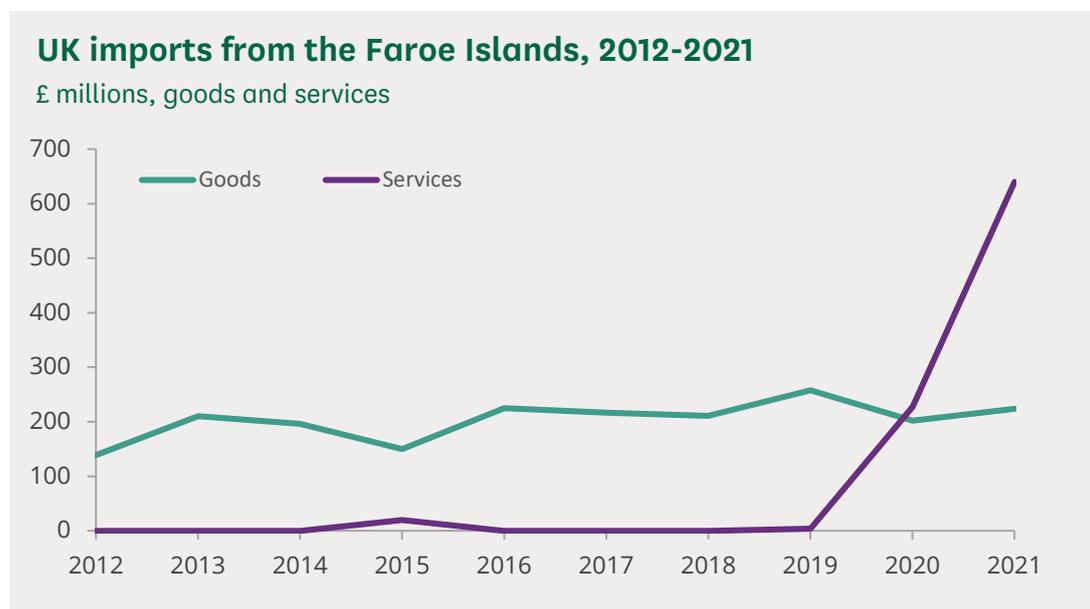


Source: ONS, [UK total trade: all countries](#)

While the Faroe Islands account for a very small proportion of UK trade, the value of UK trade with the Faroe Islands has grown rapidly since 2019. The total value of UK trade with the Faroe Islands (i.e., the combined value of exports and imports) grew by 59% in cash terms between 2019 and 2020 and by 90% between 2020 and 2021.

This was contrary to wider trends in UK trade – the total value of all UK trade fell by 19% in cash terms between 2019 and 2020 and grew by 5% between 2020 and 2021.

This growth in trade has been driven by growth in the value of UK imports from the Faroe Islands, particularly imports of services. The value of UK service imports from the Faroe Islands increased from £4 million in 2019 to £227 million in 2020 (an increase of over 5000% in cash terms) and to £629 million in 2021.



Source: ONS, [UK total trade: all countries](#)

It is not possible to get a breakdown of UK service imports from the Faroe Islands by type of service – the Faroe Islands Government website lists financial services, manufacturing services (especially servicing the maritime industries), IT and telecoms, and tourism as important service industries for the Faroe Islands.<sup>21</sup>

In terms of goods, fish and fish products accounted for 79% of UK goods imports from the Faroe Islands in 2021, while feeding stuff for animals accounted for 20% of UK goods imports from the Faroe Islands. The Faroe Islands accounted for 8% of the UK's imports of fish and fish products in 2021.

Feeding stuff for animals was the UK's single largest category of good exported to the Faroe Islands in 2021, accounting for just over a quarter of goods exported to the Faroe Islands.

---

<sup>21</sup> Government of the Faroe Islands, [Foreign Trade](#)

## 2

## Press articles

Newsweek

14 June 2022

[Faroe Islands Slaughter Begins with Pilot Whales Butchered Alive](#)

Independent

10 February 2022

[Fury as UK ministers sign new Faroes deal after record dolphin slaughter](#)

Financial Times

17 September 2021

[Faroes to re-examine hunt rules as anger grows at mass dolphin killing](#)

The Guardian

17 September 2021

[Faroes PM pledges dolphin hunt review amid outcry at carnage](#)

The Times

17 September 2021

[Faroe Islanders divided over slaughter of 1,400 dolphins](#)

BBC News Online

14 September 2021

[Faroe Islands: Anger over killing of 1,400 dolphins in one day](#)

## Parliamentary material

### [Cetaceans: Faroe Islands](#)

**Asked by: McCarthy, Kerry**

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, whether conservation and animal welfare concerns related to Faroese cetacean hunts will be discussed during the annual negotiations under the UK-Faroes Framework Agreement on Fisheries.

**Answering member: Victoria Prentis | Party: Conservative Party | Department: Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs**

The Faroe Islands are in no doubt as to the UK position on cetacean hunts, which we raise at every relevant opportunity, including in person. Minister Goldsmith wrote to the then Faroese Fisheries Minister on 23rd September 2021 to express the UK's opposition on both animal welfare and conservation grounds to the hunt of Atlantic white-sided dolphins that took place on the 12th September and the continued hunting of cetaceans in the Faroe Islands.

In their response, the Faroese government confirmed that they were launching an evaluation of regulations on the catching of Atlantic white-sided dolphins. While the government welcomed this news, we have advocated to the Faroese government that they expand the scope of the evaluation to incorporate all species of cetacean that are hunted and consider the wider benefits of cetaceans to the ecosystem. I recently reiterated to the new Faroese Fisheries Minister, Árni Skaale, that the UK looks forward to seeing the outcomes of the review.

We will continue to call on all whaling nations, including the Faroe Islands, at every relevant opportunity to cease their whaling activities. Instead, we encourage them to consider the many economic and social benefits that responsible cetacean watching can bring to coastal communities. We also continue to encourage the Faroe Islands to engage in the International Whaling Commission (IWC) and the Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas (ASCOBANS).

**HC Deb 2 February 2022 | PQ 113699**

### [Cetaceans: Faroe Islands](#)

**Asked by: McCarthy, Kerry**

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what further steps he will take, following Lord Goldsmith's letter to the Faroese Fisheries Minister in October 2021, to advocate for the end of Faroese cetacean hunts.

**Answering member: Victoria Prentis | Department: Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs**

The Faroe Islands are in no doubt as to the UK position on cetacean hunts, which we raise at every relevant opportunity, including in person. Minister Goldsmith wrote to the then Faroese Fisheries Minister on 23rd September 2021 to express the UK's opposition on both animal welfare and conservation grounds to the hunt of Atlantic white-sided dolphins that took place on the 12th September and the continued hunting of cetaceans in the Faroe Islands.

In their response, the Faroese government confirmed that they were launching an evaluation of regulations on the catching of Atlantic white-sided dolphins. While the government welcomed this news, we have advocated to the Faroese government that they expand the scope of the evaluation to incorporate all species of cetacean that are hunted and consider the wider benefits of cetaceans to the ecosystem. I recently reiterated to the new Faroese Fisheries Minister, Árni Skaale, that the UK looks forward to seeing the outcomes of the review.

We will continue to call on all whaling nations, including the Faroe Islands, at every relevant opportunity to cease their whaling activities. Instead, we encourage them to consider the many economic and social benefits that responsible cetacean watching can bring to coastal communities. We also continue to encourage the Faroe Islands to engage in the International Whaling Commission (IWC) and the Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas (ASCOBANS).

**HC Deb 2 February 2022 | PQ 113698**

[Dolphins and Whales: Faroe Islands](#)

**Asked by: Crosbie, Virginia**

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, what discussions she has had with her counterpart in the Faroe Islands on the practice of whale and dolphin slaughter; and what steps she will take through the UK's trade relationship with the Faroe Islands to discourage that practice.

**Answering member: Mr Ranil Jayawardena | Department: Department for International Trade**

We are dismayed that the needless slaughter of cetaceans continues around the world. My noble friend, Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park, has written to the Fisheries Minister of the Faroe Islands to express Britain's opposition to the continued killing of cetaceans in their waters.

The United Kingdom will continue to advocate for the cessation of cetacean hunts around the world, at every appropriate opportunity, including those provided by our trade relationships.

HC Deb 8 November 2021 | PQ 69216

[Faroe Islands: Dolphins](#)

**Asked by: Rosindell, Andrew**

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, whether officials in his Department have had discussions with officials in the Faroe Islands government on the recent killing of over 1400 dolphins.

**Answering member: Wendy Morton | Department: Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office**

The UK is strongly opposed to the hunting of any cetaceans (whales, dolphins and porpoises), other than some limited activities by indigenous people for clearly defined purposes. Minister for Pacific and the Environment The Rt. Hon Lord Goldsmith has written to the Faroese fisheries minister to express the UK's opposition to the hunt that took place on the 12th September and the continued hunting of cetaceans in the Faroe Islands on both animal welfare and conservation grounds.

HC Deb 25 October 2021 | PQ 56235

## 4

# Press releases, further reading

Government of the Faroe Islands

10 July 2022

[Fisheries Ministry to set annual limit on dolphin catches](#)

Born Free Foundation

30 June 2022

[Please take action on the slaughter of whales and dolphins in the Faroe Islands](#)

House of Commons Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee

29 April 2022

[MPs examine protecting whales and other marine mammals](#)

Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs

8 February 2022

[UK and Faroes reach agreement on fishing opportunities for 2022](#)

Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs

29 October 2020

[UK signs fisheries agreement with the Faroe Islands](#)

ASCOBANS, UN Environment

9 November 2021

[Catches of Dolphins in the Faroe Islands to be Reviewed](#)

ASCOBANS, UN Environment

19 October 2021

[Mass Killing of the Atlantic White-sided Dolphin \(\*Lagenorhynchus acutus\*\) in the Faroe Islands in September 2021](#)

### Disclaimer

The Commons Library does not intend the information in our research publications and briefings to address the specific circumstances of any particular individual. We have published it to support the work of MPs. You should not rely upon it as legal or professional advice, or as a substitute for it. We do not accept any liability whatsoever for any errors, omissions or misstatements contained herein. You should consult a suitably qualified professional if you require specific advice or information. Read our briefing [‘Legal help: where to go and how to pay’](#) for further information about sources of legal advice and help. This information is provided subject to the conditions of the Open Parliament Licence.

### Sources and subscriptions for MPs and staff

We try to use sources in our research that everyone can access, but sometimes only information that exists behind a paywall or via a subscription is available. We provide access to many online subscriptions to MPs and parliamentary staff, please contact [hoclbraryonline@parliament.uk](mailto:hoclbraryonline@parliament.uk) or visit [commonslibrary.parliament.uk/resources](https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/resources) for more information.

### Feedback

Every effort is made to ensure that the information contained in these publicly available briefings is correct at the time of publication. Readers should be aware however that briefings are not necessarily updated to reflect subsequent changes.

If you have any comments on our briefings please email [papers@parliament.uk](mailto:papers@parliament.uk). Please note that authors are not always able to engage in discussions with members of the public who express opinions about the content of our research, although we will carefully consider and correct any factual errors.

The House of Commons Library is a research and information service based in the UK Parliament. Our impartial analysis, statistical research and resources help MPs and their staff scrutinise legislation, develop policy, and support constituents.

Our published material is available to everyone on [commonslibrary.parliament.uk](https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk).

Get our latest research delivered straight to your inbox. Subscribe at [commonslibrary.parliament.uk/subscribe](https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/subscribe) or scan the code below:



 [commonslibrary.parliament.uk](https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk)

 [@commonslibrary](https://twitter.com/commonslibrary)