



Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

King Charles Street  
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The Rt Hon George Howarth MP  
House of Commons  
London  
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Dear George.

Thank you for your email of 6 September to the Foreign Secretary on behalf of your constituents, about the Republic of Korea (ROK). I am replying as the Minister for Asia and the Pacific.

I share your constituents' concerns about the treatment of dogs in the dog meat industry and the horrific ways in which some of these animals are killed. In the Westminster Hall Debate of 12 September about the dog meat trade in the ROK, I spoke of the strength of feeling among the British public and Parliamentarians about this issue.

Ahead of the debate, I spoke with the ROK Ambassador to raise this issue of the dog meat trade and highlight the United Kingdom's concerns. In addition, our ambassador in Seoul has raised this issue directly with the ROK authorities on several occasions. There is evidence that Korean attitudes to animal welfare are beginning to change, with the younger generation more inclined to view dogs as pets.

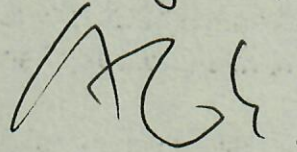
Our Embassy officials in ROK have visited a dog farm to observe the conditions in which dogs are reared. Officials have also been in contact with the Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), Change for Animals Foundation, who help dog farmers move out of the industry and into other trades. We welcome the work that they and other NGOs, such as the International Fund for Animal Welfare and the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals undertake with the authorities of other countries to improve standards of animal welfare.

While we cannot intervene directly in the protection of animals abroad, we will



continue to raise our concerns on specific animal welfare issues with the relevant authorities.

Kind regards,



Alok Sharma MP  
Minister for Asia and the Pacific