

Sian James MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

CPH Ref:
Our Ref: MC 138446

Date: 01 July 2009

Dear Mr James

Thank you for your letter dated 12 June 2009, addressed to Rt. Hon. Hilary Benn, MP, regarding correspondence from your constituent Mr Paul Murphy, [REDACTED] Swansea, Glamorgan, SA1 [REDACTED] in relation to rules covering quarantine of hedgehogs. This was passed to me on 17 June 2009 for a response.

Firstly I must confirm that I am unable to discuss or comment on an individual case and hence respond directly your constituent's claims.

There are strict rules attached to bringing Hedgehogs into the United Kingdom. They are covered by the Rabies (Importation of Dogs, Cats and Other Mammals) Order 1974. Contrary to your constituent's claim, the United Kingdom does not allow home quarantine under any circumstances and as a result all animals must be entered into approved quarantine premises to serve the required six month period.

If your constituent has a suspicion that animals have entered the United Kingdom illegally then the local Trading Standards should be informed. Trading Standards are the enforcement authority under the Rabies (Importation of Dogs, Cats and Other Mammals) Order 1974.

I hope the information in this letter will assist your constituent; if you require any additional clarification, please let me know.

Yours sincerely



Catherine Brown
Chief Executive