

The Rt Hon Luke Pollard MP
Minister for Defence Readiness and Industry
Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

Dear Minister,

It is deeply concerning that the number of bearskin caps purchased by the Ministry has, according to an FOI request, increased by more than 336% between 2024 and 2025. Public opposition to the fur trade is clear and the continued use of real bear fur is both unnecessary and increasingly out of step with modern British values. We, the undersigned Members of the Houses, urge you to take immediate action to replace the bear fur used in the ceremonial caps worn by the King's Guards with a faux fur.

Both Parliament and the British public have consistently rejected the cruelty associated with the fur trade. You, yourself, have publicly expressed opposition to the use of fur. The Government's continued use of real bearskin is impossible to justify. This moment calls for leadership and modernising the caps to meet today's ethical standards.

We call on you to instruct the Ministry of Defence and its suppliers to work proactively with manufacturers to develop and adopt a suitable faux fur alternative, in line with the Government's commitment to advancing animal welfare.

Most urgently, while this process continues, bears are still being shot with crossbows and killed, their cubs orphaned, and their pelts used to produce new caps. The Ministry of Defence must suspend any further orders of real bearskins pending a faux-fur replacement.

We look forward to seeing meaningful progress on this issue without delay.

Yours faithfully,

Paula Barker MP
Sian Berry MP
Irene Campbell MP
Dr Ellie Chowns MP
Steve Darling MP
Carla Denyer MP
Neil Duncan-Jordan MP
Patricia Ferguson MP
Christine Jardine MP
Kim Johnson MP
Baroness Jenny Jones
Ruth Jones MP
Brian Leishman MP
Seamus Logan MP
Rachael Maskell MP
Manuela Perteghella MP
Adrian Ramsey MP
Ian Sollom MP
Hannah Spencer MP