



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

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Year 4 Pupils  
Rhodes Avenue Primary School  
Wood Green  
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Our ref: DWO420321/JS

17 January 2017

Dear Year 4 Pupils of Rhodes Avenue School,

Thank you for your letter of 20 December to the Prime Minister about elephants and the trade of ivory. The Prime Minister receives hundreds of letters every day and cannot answer them all herself. Your letter has been passed to Defra as the Government Department responsible for wildlife and I have been asked to reply.

It is encouraging to see that you are taking an interest in protecting our wildlife. Your posters are a fantastic means of raising awareness about the plight of elephants and I am pleased to hear that your elephant-shaped biscuit sale was a great success.

We share your concern about the effect illegal killing is having on elephant populations. Illegal trade in elephant ivory and other wildlife products is a particular priority for us and we are supporting action to tackle it.

We have been actively exploring options to implement the Government's manifesto commitment to press for a total ban on ivory sales and we will consult on our proposals soon. Our proposal to ban sales of ivory less than 70 years old as of March 2017 will make UK rules among the world's toughest. This will complement our existing approach of not permitting sales of raw ivory tusks of any age, and will both send the message that the ivory trade is a thing of the past and increase pressure on other nations to implement bans.

Thank you again for taking the time to write to the Prime Minister about this important issue.

Yours sincerely,

Jordan Stanley

Defra - Ministerial Contact Unit