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Mr John Swift

Our ref: [REDACTED]

7 November 2016

*Dear Mr Swift*

Thank you for your letter of 14 September to the Secretary of State about lead ammunition. I am replying as the Minister responsible for this policy area.

I note the additional points you have raised on this difficult subject, however, your letter does not change the views expressed in Liz Truss's letter to you of 12 July.

The Food Standards Agency accepts that eating lead-shot game on a frequent basis can expose consumers to potentially harmful levels of lead and its advice published in 2012, which was reissued last year, made clear that frequent consumers of lead-shot game should eat less of this type of meat.

The Government does accept that compliance with the lead shot regulations is poor and that more needs to be done to reduce the amount of lead shot. Officials are currently looking at options on how to enforce the regulations more effectively, such as in Sites of Special Scientific Interest, and to reduce the amount of lead shot in the countryside.

Yours sincerely,

*T. Coffey*

DR THERESE COFFEY MP

