

Meeting of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Lead Ammunition

Tuesday 22 November 10.30 to 11.30am. The Archbishops' Room, Millbank House, Westminster

In attendance:

Lord Browne of Ladyton (**DB**) (Co-Chair)

Earl of Leicester (**TK**)

Lord Trees (**AT**)

Niels Kanstrup (**NK**) (Aarhus University, Denmark)

John Gregson (**JG**) (Waitrose/John Lewis Partnership)

Matt Browne (**MB**) (WCL)

Ruth Cromie (**RC**) (WWT)

Julia Newth (**JN**) (WWT)

Lucy Jupe (**LJ**) (WWT) (Note taker)

1. Opening of meeting

- Attendees introduced themselves to the group.

2. Minutes of last meeting

- MB confirmed that the draft minutes of the previous APPG meeting (06.09.22) had been circulated amongst group members. The minutes were approved.

3. Presentation from Dr Niels Kanstrup of Aarhus University, Denmark

- NK provided an overview of the transition from lead to non-toxic ammunition types in Denmark, which banned all lead shot in 1996 and will ban all lead bullets in 2024. Key points included:
 - Today, shooting is more popular than ever in Denmark, and there is empirical evidence to show that the lead shot ban did not lead to a decline in the number of shooters.
 - The push for a ban of lead rifle bullets in Denmark is more recent (last 5 years) and has been primarily motivated by concerns around the human health impacts of consuming lead-shot game; lead bullets leave fragments in animal carcasses that can lead to lead poisoning in humans, scavengers and predators.
 - There is evidence to show that non-lead bullets are just as effective as their lead counterparts, and it is widely accepted that bullet placement is the most important factor influencing kill success.
 - There has not been widespread pushback from hunters in Denmark around the proposed lead bullet restrictions, most likely because the use of alternative ammunition has already been accepted by the community.
- NK and the group discussed his presentation, and the use of lead ammunition in target shooting. NK confirmed that there was a select handful of ranges in Denmark where lead shot

is permitted for training purposes ahead of international competitions, but that most athletes will train with steel, which doesn't seem to affect their ability to win in international competitions. Danish domestic championships only use steel shot.

4. Update on UK REACH process & next steps on restriction proposals

- JN provided an update on the status of the ongoing UK REACH process which is considering restrictions on the use of lead shot and bullets in hunting and sports shooting in England, Wales and Scotland. She highlighted that final restriction proposal was due to be published by the HSE in May 2023, for Ministers to consider within three months.
- JN noted that the outcomes of this process will only apply to Great Britain, and that the status of lead ammunition in Northern Ireland will be determined by the EU REACH process (currently running in parallel with the UK REACH process) as long as the Northern Ireland protocol remains in place. It is technically a devolved matter, but the Scottish, English and Welsh governments have voluntarily joined up in this process.

5. AOB

No items raised.