



**Andrew Rosindell M.P.**

*Member of Parliament for Romford  
Chairman of the Zoos and Aquariums A.P.P.G.*

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**The Rt. Hon. Boris Johnson M.P.**  
Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street  
Westminster  
LONDON  
SW1A 2AA

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2021

**Dear Prime Minister**

**Open Letter from MPs and Peers: Save Our Zoos and Aquariums**

I must tell you that our British Zoos, safari parks and aquariums face an existential crisis and require urgent support.

Lockdown and restrictions have hit the sector like no other, as they have to continue their care for some of the world's most endangered animals. Action is needed now, Prime Minister!

I am sorry to say that the Government's response has not been adequate to save the sector. The Zoo Animals Fund will expire in a matter of weeks with £95 million unspent, leaving the sector bereft of tailored support while other tourism sectors will continue to receive help.

Extending the existing support scheme will not be enough. You need to be aware that a paltry 33 out of over 300 zoos have benefited from the Zoo Animals Fund, as restrictive criteria renders most collections ineligible. The fund seemingly pays no mind to the needs of a sector caring for specialist animals.

As an animal lover and as a Prime Minister who truly cares about the welfare and survival of the animals with whom we share this planet and as Britain takes up the fight against biodiversity loss on the world stage, I am sure you will understand the urgent need to take urgent action before it is too late.

As the effects of the pandemic continue, the zoo sector must be provided with help to carry out the care they provide for the animals round the clock.

I would urge you to ring-fence the unspent millions for a scheme that supports the entire sector. The alternative is unthinkable.

Yours sincerely,

**Andrew Rosindell M.P.**

For and behalf of:

Andrew Rosindell MP  
Sir George Howarth MP



Andrew Selous MP  
Peter Aldous MP  
David Jones MP  
Christine Jardine MP  
Sir David Amess MP  
Bill Wiggin MP  
Greg Smith MP  
Sarah Champion MP  
Lord Randall of Uxbridge