



Hannah Foster
Parliamentary Spokesman
for Exeter

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Dear Sirs

Mr Holwill asks for my views on hunting ("What is Hannah's stance on hunting?" 2nd June) and he deserves a response.

I have never hunted and I do not support any field sport where the animal is not eaten or used and where the sport is simply killing an animal without purpose. I feel that hunting of any kind should give the animal a decent life and a quick death. Death should be for consumption (either by the hunter or via a game dealer) or necessary control of population, from disease or to protect livestock.

Generally I am a supporter of animal welfare legislation however I feel the Hunting with Dogs Act is unworkable and badly drafted. It lost its way as a piece of legislation to protect animals and was about restricting rural people. It has created more confusion than clarity for those who live in rural Britain and look after our countryside. The situation we have now, in my view, does not give most foxes a less painful or prolonged death and often will cause the reverse. If you accept that foxes must be controlled then the alternatives to hunting are in most cases equally or more cruel.

David Cameron has said that he will allow for a free vote in the House to repeal the law. This means no party line would apply and MPs would vote with their conscience on the issue. My conscience would be to for repeal this law and recommend regulatory or licensed hunting system to promote fox control as humanely as possible.

I recognise that my response means Mr Holwill will not be voting for me but hope he might give me credit for not dodging the question or the issue.

Yours sincerely

Hannah Foster