BIAZA
BRITISH & IRISH ASSOCIATION OF ZOOS & AQUARIUMS
REGENT'S PARK
LONDON NW1 4RY
Web: www.biaza.org.uk

An Taoiseach,
Mr Micheál Martin, TD
Government Buildings
Merrion St Upper Dublin 2

CC: Boris Johnson, Prime Minister (UK)
Brandon Lewis, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (UK)
Charlie McConalogue, Minister for Agriculture
Malcolm Noonan, Minister for Heritage and Electoral Reform

Ursual Von Der Leyen, European Commisisoner

RE: Sanitary and Phytosanitary agreement for the movement of animals between GB and EU

Dear Taoiseach,

We, the undersigned, are writing to call for the Irish and UK Governments to work collaboratively with the European Commission in the name of species conservation. As Ireland and Northern Ireland's members of BIAZA, the British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums, we urge you to clear the red tape and give a green light to species conservation by advocating for a high-level Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) agreement for the movement of the animals between GB and EU Member States, including Ireland and Northern Ireland.

Zoo- and aquarium-led international breeding programmes are essential to the ongoing survival of many species. Species as diverse as gorillas, toucans and sawfish are conserved through collaborative efforts on a European and world-wide scale. There are species that now only exist in the dedicated care of zoos and aquariums and for whom cross-border movements are critical to their ongoing survival.

We urge you to act. Excessive (and in some cases prohibitive) regulations between GB and the EU (and now also Northern Ireland) is an existential threat to these carefully coordinated breeding programmes. Not only are transfers between zoos in GB and Ireland (and Northern Ireland) being prevented, but animals can now no longer be transited through GB on onward journeys into the EU which previously allowed for the fastest (and hence best possible welfare) journeys. Last year just 48 animal transfers between EU and UK zoos took place, compared to 1,400 in a normal year. This is completely undermining the conservation impact of BIAZA member zoos, in all these nations.

The Irish and UK Governments must work together to negotiate an SPS agreement with the European Commission that would give the green light to conservation programmes and ensure future generations live in a world thriving with wildlife, a world shared with much-loved species.

All our nations share in our vision as world-leaders in nature conservation. We all want to see a world where wildlife is in abundance and our natural systems sustainably meet our needs as societies. Through bodies such as BIAZA and EAZA, our world-leading zoos and aquariums have a rich and proud history of cross-border collaboration. We now urge you not to let this historic collaboration diminish but to lead us all in going further, doing more and truly enabling a better future for us all.

Kind regards the undersigned zoos of Ireland and Northern Ireland:

DUBLIN ZOO

Dr Christoph Schwitzer,

BELFAST ZOO

Alyn Cairns,

BIAZA
BRITISH & IRISH ASSOCIATION OF ZOOS & AQUARIUMS

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Dublin Zoo

Belfast Zoo

Matthew Hawkins,
Galway Atlantaquaria

Sean Mckeown,
Fota Wildlife Park

Bridget Collins,
Ardmore Open Farm

Ann O'Connor,
Secret Valley

Máire O Shea
Oceanworld Aquarium,

Lee Donoghue,
Tayto

Marc Boardman,
WWT Castle Espie

Matt Bolland,
Exploris Aquarium

Tropical World, Alcorns,
Nicola Moore

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