

Michael Sheen

Right Honourable Gordon Brown
Prime Minister of the United Kingdom
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

29 April, 2009

Dear Mr Brown,

I am writing on behalf of PETA to request that you act immediately to put a stop to the killing of Canadian black bears for the Royal Guards' fur caps and require the use of humane and durable synthetic materials instead.

Not only is the purchase and importation of bearskins from Canada a deplorable waste of military funding, it is also a waste of animals' lives. These intelligent, curious animals often must be shot repeatedly before they die; those who escape with wounds usually face a slow, agonising death from blood loss or infection. Mother bears are sometimes shot in front of their cubs. Orphaned, terrified and defenceless, the cubs usually succumb to starvation or are killed by predators.

Opinion polls have found that nearly 70 per cent of the British public – as well as many prospective tourists – oppose the use of animal fur for the Guards' headpieces.

The Ministry of Defence (MoD) has reneged on their public commitment to invest in research and development to help find a suitable alternative to bear fur. In October, the MoD said that they would work with suppliers to find or create a synthetic alternative, and it looked like an end to this cruelty was in sight. However, they have recently backed away from the agreement, stating that they will continue to use bearskins for the caps.

Please contact me through Yvonne Taylor at PETA Europe (yvonne@peta.org.uk) to let me know that the MoD will soon establish a fur-free policy, end the purchase of bear pelts from Canada and set a firm timeframe for the introduction of synthetic caps.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Sheen', written in a cursive style.

Michael Sheen OBE