



# ANIMAL CONCERN

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Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> September 2006

The Right Honourable John Reid MP,  
Home Secretary,  
The Home Office,  
2 Marsham Street,  
London SW1P 4DF

Dear Minister,

I write regarding the misuse of airguns.

Last month a 12 year old boy from Stoke on Trent died after an airgun pellet went through his eye into his brain.

On Thursday a man plead guilty at Edinburgh High Court to culpable homicide after shooting his friend with an airgun during a drunken prank.

Day in day out people are injured and property damaged by people misusing airguns. Every year thousands of pet, farm and wild animals and birds are killed and injured by airguns. Airguns are the most commonly used weapon in firearms crimes throughout the U.K..

For decades your predecessors have tinkered with the laws on airguns to no avail. People and animals are still dying, property is still being damaged and crimes are still being committed by thugs using these lethal weapons.

I urge you to take proper action and bring in laws banning airguns from general ownership. The only people who should have airguns are licensed pest controllers and licensed target sports gun clubs where the guns are kept under lock and key when not in use and never leave the premises.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

John F. Robins,  
Secretary