

**From:** [Zac Goldsmith \[REDACTED\]](#)  
**To:** [\[REDACTED\]@defra.gov.uk](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Zoos  
**Date:** 27 April 2021 19:35:20

---

On 05/04/2020, 15:48, "Damian Aspinall" [REDACTED] wrote:

Hi everyone

Very happy to arrange a call

Zac is correct in that zoos cannot furlough the keepers as obviously the animals need looking after but as they will have no income many will be suffering to the point of closure. Zac is absolutely correct in that if the UK government is to help it must insist on great improvements made in the zoo community. My own negative beliefs regarding the conservation value of zoos are public knowledge and I am more than happy to work with you to see what improvements could be made.

Damian

Sent from my iPhone

> On 5 Apr 2020, at 14:29, [REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk wrote: >

> And very sorry for misspelling your name there Damian!

>

> [REDACTED]

>

> Sent from my iPhone

>

>>> On 5 Apr 2020, at 14:25, [REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk wrote:

>> Thanks very much Zac,

>> Damien, good to meet you. I'm adding max in the office who has been working with the policy teams on this issue. [REDACTED] - can you please feed this in and make relevant introductions?

> J[REDACTED]

> Sent from my iPhone

>>>> On 5 Apr 2020, at 13:55, Zac Goldsmith [REDACTED] wrote:

>>> Hi all, I wanted to introduce you via email. Damian runs the Aspinall foundation as well as both Howletts and Port Lynpne zoos. [REDACTED]

>>> I have been speaking to Damian about the crisis facing our zoos. His view is that we need to find a way of allowing them to keep their workforce but have part of their salary covered by the government. In other words they should be treated as if they have been laid off. That would make the difference between viability and closure – which is what would happen in any case if we do not step in. My view is that if we are going to bail out the zoos in this way, there should be a greater emphasis from the laggards among them in relation to conservation. They should all be doing much more of the kind of work that Damian is doing.

>>>> Z

> Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) This email and any attachments is intended for the named recipient only. If you have received it in error you have no authority to use, disclose, store or copy any of its contents and you should destroy it and inform the sender. Whilst this email and associated attachments will have been checked for known viruses whilst within Defra systems we can accept no responsibility once it has left our systems. Communications on Defra's computer systems may be monitored and/or recorded to secure the effective operation of the system and for other lawful purposes.

This email and any files transmitted with it are confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. If you have received this email in error please notify the sender. Please note that any views or opinions presented in this email are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of Aspers UK Holdings Ltd and its subsidiaries. Finally, the recipient should check this email and any attachments for the presence of viruses. Aspers UK Holdings Ltd and its subsidiaries Ltd accept no liability for any damage caused by any virus transmitted by this email.

