IVORY BILL – REGISTRATION SYSTEM AND FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

I would like to thank you for your careful consideration and scrutiny of the Ivory Bill as a member of the Commons Public Bill Committee. In a Committee Debate on 14 June, you raised a specific question in relation to the registration system, provided for under clause 10 of the Ivory Bill. You asked if personal details contained in this registration system could be made available subject to a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I would like to confirm that each request made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 must be considered by the government. Section 40 of the Act, however, provides that personal data constitutes exempt information, therefore it would not be sent in a government response to a request.

I am placing a copy of this letter in the Library of both Houses.

With best wishes,

DAVID RUTLEY MP

PS Many thanks for your important contribution to the Bill Committee – it is much appreciated.