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Nicholas Moss
Assistant Coroner
Cambridgeshire &
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Lawrence Court, Princes Street
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Date: 19th December 2019

Dear Mr Moss,

Regulation 28: Report to Prevent Future Deaths in relation to Rosa King

I am writing to you regarding our letter of 4 September 2019 in response to your 'Report to Prevent Future Deaths', dated 12 July 2019. I wish to update you on the timeline for revising the *Secretary of State's Standards of Modern Zoo Practice* (SSSMZP), which we had committed in our response to update by spring 2020.

Defra is committed to addressing the issues raised in the Regulation 28 report by creating a robust set of standards which place clear, legally enforceable obligations on zoos, and which are reflected in the zoo inspection reporting process. As set out in our response, the SSSMZP are developed by working closely with the Zoos Expert Committee (ZEC), an advisory body whose purpose is to provide independent, impartial and expert advice to Defra. Defra is working at pace in order to have the new set of standards published by the timescale. However, Defra has been advised strongly by ZEC to allow more time to engage fully with a wider range of experts to ensure that the new SSSMZP meet the intended objectives of securing public safety and improving animal welfare.

To allow for the above, we now expect that the consultation on the revised SSSMZP and associated licensing documentation, including the inspection reports and the Guide to the Zoo Licensing Act 1981, will be launched over the summer and publication will take place no later than the end of 2020.

Yours sincerely

Marc Casale

Deputy Director, Animal Welfare, Defra