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Hayman MP, Labour's Shadow Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, commenting

on the announcement that the government intends to bring forward legislation to

increase maximum sentencing for animal cruelty cases, **said:**

"I am

pleased that the Government has decided to follow Labour's manifesto commitment

to increase maximum sentencing for the worst cases of animal cruelty.

"We know

that judges have complained for some time that they want to hand down tougher sentences to those guilty of abusing animals. The current six-month maximum sentence is simply inadequate for the severity of some of these terrible crimes.

"While

this is a step in the right direction from this Conservative government, they still

have a long way to go to prove their credibility on animal welfare following Theresa May's declared support for fox hunting and their recent shocking and poorly regulated roll out of the badger cull.

"We will

be monitoring the Government closely to make sure they implement this policy having previously announced and failed to deliver on a ban on ivory trading and wild animals in circuses."