

Ban web sale of endangered animals

JOHN Penrose is backing a Bill to stop the sale of endangered animals over the internet.

John said: "It is possible to buy leopards, zebras, sea turtles, chimpanzees, mountain lions and many more endangered species over the internet.

"The Bill which I am backing would prevent their sale over the internet and help protect endangered species. Internet service providers and search engines like Google have an important role to play in preventing this evil trade."

John added: "Last August, the International Fund for Animal Welfare found that 9,000 endangered live animals

were offered for sale online in just one week.

"That same research found that 146 primates were available for sale here in the UK. All of the sales were illegal. All the animals were endangered. All were being traded through UK-registered websites.

"We do not know where the animals involved in such sales come from, how they are transported, or the conditions in which they are kept."

John added: "Internet sales are a growing phenomenon and need to be properly policed. The Bill will be considered again in May."



"THIS is a desperate measure to fiddle the waiting figures" - John Penrose

Anger over 'fiddled' hospital waiting times

GP REFERRALS in North Somerset are being deliberately delayed by up to four weeks in a desperate bid to save cash.

North Somerset Primary Care Trust (PCT) has admitted it is slowing referrals from GP surgeries to consultants at Weston General Hospital in a bid to balance the books.

Health bosses are taking drastic cost-cutting action to meet a £5.9 million shortfall.

Local MP John Penrose has written to Health Secretary Patricia Hewitt

demanding action. He said: "This is a cynical, desperate manoeuvre to delay patient treatment and fiddle the waiting figures. North Somerset PCT is not to blame - it has to dance to the Government's tune."

GPs in North Somerset send all their referrals to the PCT's Referral Management Centre. The centre is supposed to pass them on to the hospitals immediately.

But, John has discovered that referrals made in January were not passed on until February. The same delay happened the follow-

ing month. In a statement health bosses admitted the restrictions could lead to delays for patients of up to four weeks.

The PCT stressed that restrictions do not apply to "suspected cancers, other clinically urgent referrals or to young children."

But John has taken up the case of a skin cancer patient whose referral has apparently been delayed.

Patients who have any concerns should contact the PCT's Patient Advice and Liaison Service by phoning free on 0800 923 2222.



THOUSANDS of rare animals are being sold illegally

What do you think?

Here is your chance to tell John Penrose MP what you think about any issue

PLEASE complete the feedback form below and return it to: John Penrose MP, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA.

Full name

Address

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Telephone

E-mail

Please write your comments to John here (attach extra sheets of paper if necessary)