



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

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www.gov.uk/defra

19 September 2019

Dear Consultee

Consultation on a proposal to introduce an optional alternative method to dentition for the purposes of removing Specified Risk Material

1. I am writing to invite views on a proposed amendment to English and Welsh legislation on Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSEs), which would permit the option of ageing sheep at slaughter by a means other than dentition for the purposes of removing Specified Risk Material (SRM).
2. The following documents may be found on Defra's website:
<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/animal-health-and-welfare/ageing-sheep-at-slaughter>
 - Consultation document
 - Covering letter
 - A list of consultees.
3. We welcome your views and comments on the proposals. If you wish to obtain a copy of this consultation, please contact AgeingSheepConsultation@defra.gov.uk.

Responses

4. To submit your consultation response please complete the consultation questionnaire provided through [Citizen Space](#) (Citizen Space is an on-line consultation tool).
5. You can also answer in the following ways:
 - Email to AgeingSheepConsultation@defra.gov.uk; or
 - Post to Defra at:
Animal By-Products and TSEs Team
Area 2B, Nobel House
17 Smith Square



London
SW1P 3JR

6. Our preferred method is online because it is the fastest and most cost-effective way for us to collate, analyse and summarise responses.
7. Responses to this consultation are also welcomed in the Welsh language.
8. Responses received by the deadline will be analysed and a summary will be placed on the consultation section of the government web site.
9. Responses should be received by **31 October 2019**.

Consultation criteria

10. This consultation is in line with the Consultation Principles. This can be found at <http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/consultation-principles-guidance>

Confidentiality and data protection

11. This consultation document and consultation process have been planned to adhere to the Consultation Principles issued by the Cabinet Office.
12. Representative groups are asked to give a summary of the people and organisations they represent and where relevant who else they have consulted in reaching their conclusions when they respond.
13. Information provided in response to this consultation, including personal data, may be published or disclosed in accordance with the access to information regimes these are primarily the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs), the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA). We have obligations, mainly under the EIRs, FOIA and DPA, to disclose information to particular recipients or to the public in certain circumstances.
14. If you want the information that you provide to be treated as confidential, please be aware that, as a public authority, the Department is bound by the Freedom of Information Act and may therefore be obliged to disclose all or some of the information you provide. In view of this it would be helpful if you could explain to us why you regard the information you have provided as confidential. If we receive a request for disclosure of the information we will take full account of your explanation, but we cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will not, of itself, be regarded as binding on the Department.
15. This consultation is being conducted in line with the Cabinet Office "Consultation Principles" and be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/consultation-principles-guidance>.
16. If you have any comments or complaints about the consultation process, please address them to:

Consultation Coordinator
Area 6B, 6th Floor
Nobel House
17 Smith Square,
London, SW1P 3JR.

Or email: consultation.coordinator@defra.gov.uk

17. Thank you for your help in this matter. If you have any queries, please contact us as above.

Yours Faithfully

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs