



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Patrick Brophy
Livestock Identification Team
Area 5B, Nobel House
17 Smith Square
London, SW1P 3JR
0207 238 6583

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Dear Consultee

Consultation on an electronic reporting system for sheep, goat and deer movements, and simplification of sheep and goat identification (England).

1. I am writing to invite views on Defra's plans to replace the current paper based method of reporting sheep, goat and deer movements in England with an electronic system from April 2014.
2. Delivering such a system was a key recommendation of the Task Force on Farming Regulation. It will also provide Government with more up to date and accurate information on animal movements.
3. A paper bureau service will be provided for farmers who choose to continue reporting on paper for example if they do not use computers or have access to the internet. However other businesses such as livestock markets, abattoirs, collection and assembly centres will be required to use the e-reporting system.
4. We also invite comments on i) a proposal to simplify the identification of slaughter lambs by removing the use of the non-electronic slaughter tag, and ii) permitting the voluntary use of an injectable identifier for certain categories of sheep and goats that have to be double identified - in order to be kept beyond twelve months of age.
5. The proposals have been discussed at length with industry representatives and other stakeholders during 2012-13.
6. The following documents may be found on Defra's consultation website at:
<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/farming/05a57241>
 - This consultation letter
 - The consultation document
 - A list of consultees
 - Two impact assessments



Responses

7. We would prefer that you give us your answers to the questions posed in the consultation document using the **online survey function** at the above website.
8. If you are unable to do so we will accept responses via email submitted to: email: sheepdatabaseconsultation2013@defra.gsi.gov.uk , or by post.
9. Responses should be received by 20 September 2013.
10. In line with Defra's policy of openness, copies of the responses we receive will be publically available, at the end of the consultation period, for at least 6 months. To see individual consultation responses, please contact us at the above address.
11. If you do not want your response to the consultation - including your name, contact details and any other personal information – to be publicly available, please say so clearly in writing when you send your response. Please note, if your computer automatically includes a confidentiality disclaimer that will not count as a confidentiality request. Please explain why you need to keep details confidential. We will take your reasons into account if someone asks for this information under freedom of information legislation. But, because of the law, we cannot promise that we will always be able to keep those details confidential.
12. We will summarise all responses and place this summary on our website. This summary will include a list of names of organisations that responded but not people's personal names, addresses or other contact details.

Consultation Criteria

13. This consultation is in line with the Government's consultations published at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/consultation-principles-guidance>
14. If you have any comments or complaints about the consultation process, please address them to: Defra Consultation Co-ordinator, Room 629, 9 Milbank, 17 Smith Square, London SW1P 3JR or email consultation.coordinator@defra.gsi.gov.uk.
15. Thank you for your consideration of these issues. If you have any queries please contact us at the above address.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "P. G. Brophy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Patrick Brophy