

Annex B – Legislation across administrations

Current methods

Table 1. Castration legislation across each UK administration. Differences are highlighted and acronyms for relevant legislation are provided in brackets. See “using the least painful method for procedures” section for a description of each method.

	England	Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland
Rubber ring castration (under 3 months) – includes short scrotum method and combined method	May be carried out on an animal aged not more than 7 days (MRE). No pain relief required.	May be carried out on an animal aged not more than 7 days (MRW). No pain relief required.	May be carried out without an anaesthetic within the first week of life or with an anaesthetic up to three months (PAA).	May be carried out on an animal aged not more than 7 days (WAR). No pain relief required.
	May be carried out by any person of or over the age of eighteen (VSA).			
Surgical (knife) castration (under 3 months)	No pain relief required.			
	May be carried out by any person of or over the age of eighteen (VSA).	May be carried out by any person of or over the age of eighteen (VSA).	May only be carried out by a veterinary surgeon (PPR).	May be carried out by any person of or over the age of eighteen (VSA).
Other (for example, Burdizzo or similar clamp) castration (under 3 months)	No pain relief required.			
	May be carried out by any person of or over the age of eighteen (VSA).			
Castration over 3 months	An anaesthetic must be	An anaesthetic must be	An anaesthetic must be	No pain relief required.

	administered (MRE).	administered (MRW).	administered (PAA).	
	May only be carried out by a veterinary surgeon (VSA).			

Table 2. Tail docking legislation across each UK administration. Differences are highlighted and acronyms for relevant legislation are provided in brackets.

	England	Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland
Rubber ring tail docking (under 3 months) – includes combined method	May be carried out on an animal aged not more than 7 days (MRE). No pain relief required.	May be carried out on an animal aged not more than 7 days (MRW). No pain relief required.	May be carried out without an anaesthetic within the first week of life or with an anaesthetic up to three months (PAA).	May be carried out on an animal aged not more than 7 days (WAR). No pain relief required.
	May be carried out by any person of or over the age of eighteen (VSA).			
Surgical (i.e. knife) tail docking (under 3 months)	An anaesthetic must be administered (MRE).	An anaesthetic must be administered (MRW).	No pain relief required.	No pain relief required.
	May be carried out by any person of or over the age of eighteen (VSA).	May be carried out by any person of or over the age of eighteen (VSA).	May only be carried out by a veterinary surgeon (PPR).	May be carried out by any person of or over the age of eighteen (VSA).
Other (for example, hot iron) tail docking (under 3 months)	An anaesthetic must be administered (MRE).	An anaesthetic must be administered (MRW).	No pain relief required.	No pain relief required.
	May be carried out by any person of or over the age of eighteen (VSA).			
Tail docking over 3 months	An anaesthetic must be administered (MRE).	An anaesthetic must be administered (MRW).	An anaesthetic must be administered (PAA).	No pain relief required.

	May be carried out by any person of or over the age of eighteen (VSA).	May be carried out by any person of or over the age of eighteen (VSA).	May only be carried out by a veterinary surgeon (PPR).	May be carried out by any person of or over the age of eighteen (VSA).
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Novel methods

Some proposals in this consultation relate to the use of recently developed novel methods that are currently permitted to be carried out in each administration under different conditions.

ClipFitter involves applying a “clip” across the full width of the scrotum or between tail vertebrae using a precision compound-lever plier. It is regarded as a novel device with a mode of action not foreseen when the legislation restricting the use of rubber rings or other devices that constrict the flow of blood was being developed.

Numnuts involves using a device to inject a local anaesthetic into the scrotal neck or tail simultaneous to the attachment and release of a standard rubber ring. As a rubber ring is applied, it is considered in the same way as a rubber ring in all administrations. As an anaesthetic is applied simultaneously to rubber ring application, it may be carried out on lambs up to three months in Scotland.

Table 3. Novel method legislation across each UK administration. Differences are highlighted and acronyms for relevant legislation are provided in brackets. See “using the least painful method for procedures” section for a description of each method.

	England	Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland
ClipFitter (under 3 months)	May be carried out on an animal aged not more than 7 days (MRE). No pain relief required.	May be carried out on an animal aged not more than 7 days (MRW). No pain relief required.	May be carried out up to 3 months. No pain relief required.	May be carried out on an animal aged not more than 7 days (WAR). No pain relief required.
	May be carried out by any person of or over the age of eighteen (VSA).			
Numnuts (under 3 months)	May be carried out on an animal aged not more than 7 days (MRE).	May be carried out on an animal aged not more than 7 days (MRW).	May be carried out up to 3 months (PAA).	May be carried out on an animal aged not more than 7 days (WAR).
	May be carried out by any person of or over the age of eighteen (VSA).			