



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

# Consultation on poultry catching and handling

10 March 2025



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government



Scottish Government  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

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We work closely with our 33 agencies and arm's length bodies on our ambition to make our air purer, our water cleaner, our land greener and our food more sustainable. Our mission is to restore and enhance the environment for the next generation, and to leave the environment in a better state than we found it.



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# Overview

## Scope

We are seeking views on our proposals to provide clarity on the permitted methods for the manual lifting and carrying ('catching') of poultry for transportation in connection with an economic activity. The relevant legislation (assimilated Regulation (EC) No. 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport and related operations – '[Regulation 1/2005](#)') applies in England, Scotland and Wales and this is a consultation for Great Britain (England, Scotland and Wales). As Regulation 1/2005 falls within scope of the Windsor Framework, the EU version continues to apply in Northern Ireland and, as such, the proposed legislative amendments presented within this consultation would not apply to Northern Ireland.

Our policy proposals relate just to the species *Gallus gallus* which includes laying hens and meat chickens ('chickens'). Laying hens include sexually immature females (known as 'pullets'), sexually mature table-egg producing female hens, and male and female breeder stock. Meat chickens include male and female meat chickens (also known as 'broilers') and male and female breeder stock. We also hope to use this consultation to gain further information regarding the methods used to catch turkeys.

## Audience

Anyone may respond to the consultation. Those who may have an interest include:

- academic institutions
- animal welfare organisations
- consumers
- farm assurance schemes
- farming organisations and trade bodies
- local authorities (LAs)
- poultry breeders
- poultry catching businesses
- poultry farmers
- poultry processing plants
- poultry transporters
- retailers
- the veterinary profession

## Responding to the consultation

This consultation starts on 10 March and closes on 2 May 2025. Any responses received after this date will not be analysed.

Please respond to this consultation using the [Citizen Space consultation hub](#).

If you are unable to use Citizen Space, you can download the consultation documents and return your response by email to [poultry.catching@defra.gov.uk](mailto:poultry.catching@defra.gov.uk) or in writing to:

Poultry catching Consultation, Farm Animal Welfare Team, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Seacole Building 2nd Floor, 2 Marsham Street, London, SW1P 4DF.

Please note, any responses sent by post **must** have arrived at the above address by the closing date of the consultation (2 May 2025) to be counted. Any responses received after this date will not be analysed. To ensure your response is included in the analysis, please consider responding electronically, either online via Citizen Space or by email.

We recognise that respondents may choose to use some standardised text to inform their response. Campaigns are when organisations (or individuals) coordinate responses across their membership or support base, often by suggesting a set of wording for respondents to use. Campaign responses are usually very similar or identical to each other. For this consultation, campaign responses may be analysed separately to other responses to ensure the breadth of views received can be summarised effectively and efficiently. All campaign responses will be taken into account in the final analysis of public views and campaigns help provide an indication of the strength of feeling on an issue. The preferred route for all respondents to provide their views (including where a response is based on a campaign) is via the Citizen Space consultation hub.

## Introduction

This is a consultation for Great Britain issued by Defra on behalf of the UK Government, the Welsh Government and the Scottish Government.

We are seeking views on our proposals to provide clarity on the permitted methods of catching chickens during loading operations for transport.

[Chapter iii of Annex 1 to Regulation 1/2005](#) contains detailed rules on the handling of animals during loading operations which apply in relation to the transport of animals in connection with an economic activity. Paragraph 1.8(d) of that Chapter ('paragraph 1.8(d)') provides that: "*It shall be prohibited to.... lift or drag the animals by head, ears, horns, legs, tail or fleece or handle them in such a way as to cause them unnecessary pain or suffering.*" However, Defra's statutory codes of practice for the welfare of laying hens and pullets and the welfare of meat chickens and meat breeding chickens, similar codes in Wales, and similar statutory guidance in Scotland (the 'GB statutory guidance') include catching chickens by both legs as an acceptable method (see links below). For example, the most recent meat chicken code, published in 2018, states that: "*...Catching should either be by holding them round the body or, if by the legs, by both legs. If birds need to be carried, this should either be by holding them round the body or by both legs*". The preceding version, published in 2002, reflected similar advice.

The GB statutory guidance covering the welfare of chickens comprises:

[Defra Code of practice for the welfare of laying hens and pullets](#)

[Defra Code of practice for the welfare of meat chickens and meat breeding chickens](#)

[Welsh Code of Practice for the Welfare of Laying Hens and Pullets](#)

[Welsh Code of Practice for the Welfare of Meat Chickens and Meat Breeding Chickens](#)

[Scottish Guidance for the Welfare of Laying Hens and Pullets](#)

[Scottish Guidance for the Welfare of Meat Chickens and Meat Breeding Chickens](#)

Whilst the prohibition in paragraph 1.8(d) is expressed as applying to all vertebrate animals, the prevailing scientific consensus, at the time that Regulation 1/2005 was adopted by the Council of the European Union, was that catching certain poultry species by two legs could be appropriate and acceptable. Furthermore, recitals (8) and (9) to Regulation 1/2005 explained what new scientific evidence had been considered in the adoption of the Regulation and made it clear that specific provisions for poultry would be set out in appropriate proposals following a relevant opinion from the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA). In the absence of a relevant opinion from EFSA that the catching of chickens by the legs was not acceptable, there would have been no clear expectation or common understanding that the EU's welfare in transport rules should be amended to prohibit the lifting of chickens by their legs. It was, therefore, not widely appreciated that Regulation 1/2005 did in fact include such a prohibition. Further justification for this view is set out in the section [Policy considerations that have informed the proposed amendments](#).

The discrepancy between the GB statutory guidance and paragraph 1.8(d) first came to Defra's attention in 2021. In view of the uncertainty about the acceptable methods of catching poultry, as a first step, Defra and the Scottish and Welsh Governments commissioned the Animal Welfare Committee (AWC), an expert committee which advises all three governments on the welfare of animals, to consider the different methods of poultry catching to better understand the latest scientific and expert opinion on the associated welfare implications. AWC's report was published in 2024: '[Opinion on the welfare implications of different methods and systems for the catching, carrying, collecting and loading of poultry](#)'.

AWC's report concluded that they considered it preferable for poultry to be caught, lifted, carried and loaded upright by the body. However, they were unable to specify a single method which would deliver higher bird welfare in every circumstance. Several recommendations were made, including:

1. Not permitting lifting or carrying of poultry by one leg, since this method of handling is detrimental to bird welfare.
2. The lifting of chickens and turkeys (weighing less than 10kg) by two legs should be permitted for a period of 5 years.

Recommendation 2 would allow targeted data on the relationship between carrying methods and welfare outcomes to be gathered and analysed.

**We are now seeking views on our proposals to amend Regulation 1/2005 to provide clarity on the legal requirements that apply to the catching of chickens during transport operations, pending further research in this area.**

Article 30(1) of Regulation 1/2005 would be used to disapply the prohibition in paragraph 1.8(d) on the lifting of chickens by their legs and to amend Chapter III of Annex I to make it clear that when chickens are caught by the legs, they must be caught by two legs.

## **Background to commercial chicken catching in relation to routine transport operations**

Following placement in the rearing unit as day-old chicks, laying hens are usually caught for transport twice during their lifetime. Pullets are caught and crated at 16 to 18 weeks, for transfer to a laying unit on a different site. Pullets destined for caged production are likely to experience additional handling as they will also be manually removed from the transport crates and placed within the colony system at the egg production unit. Laying hens are caught and crated again at the end of the production cycle (at 70 to 100 weeks) for transport to a meat processing plant. Following placement in the rearing unit as day-old chicks, meat chickens are only caught once (at 6 to 12 weeks) for transport to processing at the end of the grow-out phase.

Chicken catching is predominantly carried out manually, in the dark, and often at night. The focus of this consultation is on manual catching. Manual catching includes an inverted technique (where a bird is lifted and carried by either one or two legs) and an upright technique (where a bird is either supported by two hands pinning the wings against the body or with one hand placed under the abdomen). GB statutory guidance refers to two permitted methods of catching, either upright by the body, or by two legs. Where catching is by two legs, the guidance specifies that no more than 3 chickens be held in any one hand.

Although welfare benefits have been linked to the use of modern automated mechanised catching systems for meat chickens, mechanised catching is infrequently used within Great Britain. This is due to the size of the machinery (the design of many poultry units cannot accommodate them), high cost, biosecurity concerns, and tendency for some models to produce greater wingtip damage compared to manual catching.

Due to the large flock sizes housed by the commercial poultry sectors, the catching, handling and crating of commercial chickens and turkeys for transport requires the services of specialist poultry catching teams. These are usually provided by external catching companies on a contract basis.

The process of manual catching is very repetitive and physical for those performing the task. In addition to the catching method itself, there are several confounding factors with the potential to substantially impact animal welfare. These include:

- the standard of training delivered to catching personnel
- the quality of bird handling (which may suffer due to human fatigue or other factors)
- insufficient staff resource to optimise the catching operation

It is very important that all these factors are considered collectively, especially given the scale of catching and handling operations. It is estimated that in 2023 1,114 million meat chickens, 39 million spent laying hens and 13 million breeding chickens were caught and sent to slaughter in Great Britain.

## Policy considerations that have informed the proposed amendments

A consultation impact assessment has been prepared alongside this consultation to assess the impact of 3 policy options with the potential to address the discrepancy between the GB statutory guidance and Regulation 1/2005. The 3 options are:

- **option 0:** do nothing
- **option 1:** amend Regulation 1/2005 to expressly allow chickens to be caught by both legs
- **option 2:** amend the GB statutory guidance to stop catching chickens by the legs and require catching by the body

If the British governments were to do nothing (**option 0**), operators would be required to comply with paragraph 1.8(d), but uncertainty as to the permitted methods of catching poultry would remain. If the non-regulatory option (**option 2**) was pursued, then it would be clear that operators would be required to comply with paragraph 1.8(d), and that all chickens must be caught by their body and carried upright for the purpose of commercial transport operations. We do not consider that these options reflect the commonly understood effect of Regulation 1/2005, evidenced by the guidance and advice published by official bodies within the UK and EU.

The method of upright catching of chickens by the body is not currently routinely performed within Great Britain. There is a potential risk that changes to the GB statutory guidance to bring about a comprehensive shift to upright (body) catching at this time could deliver unintended welfare consequences associated with longer catch, crate and waiting times, and be further exacerbated by workforce shortages within the egg and poultry industries. Such a shift would also have cost implications for industry, assuming the extra workforce could be found to perform upright catching. If the sector was to shrink in response to longer catch times, then this would pose a risk to food security.

The preferred regulatory option (**option 1**), to permit catching chickens by two-legs, would resolve the discrepancy between paragraph 1.8(d) and the GB statutory guidance, while further research to quantify logistical (including catch time and labour requirements) and welfare impacts of different catching methods is conducted. **Option 1** offers the British governments a means of increasing certainty regarding the welfare protection afforded to chickens during catching for transport in the short-term, while allowing the option of catching by two legs, as described in the GB statutory guidance, to continue for the time being. It will provide clarity for the British egg and meat chicken industries, and catching companies, on the legal requirements that apply to poultry catching operations. The generation of an additional data set, through targeted research, will enable decisions on whether further

amendments to the legislation, in terms of achieving even higher welfare standards for chickens, are feasible in the long-term.

The guidance on catching methods makes it clear that, as a minimum, poultry should be caught by two legs. The view that catching of poultry species by two legs can be acceptable from a welfare perspective is consistent with a 2017 report by the European Commission and the Animal Transport Guides Consortium entitled '[Good practices for animal transport in the EU: poultry](#)' and a 2022 EFSA report '[Welfare of domestic birds and rabbits transported in containers](#)', and is in line with wider European policy workstreams..

A European Commission proposal was published in December 2023 for a new [Regulation on the protection of animals during transport and related operations](#) ('the Commission proposal'), which would **repeal and replace Regulation 1/2005**. The Commission proposal exempts poultry from the prohibition on lifting animals by the legs (point 3.1(d) of Chapter III of Annex I), and specifically states that birds "*shall be caught, lifted and carried by two legs, using breast slides in cages or the operator's leg as support for the bird's breast*" (point 3.7 of Chapter III of Annex I).

Our preferred proposal (**option 1**) is more limited than both the Commission proposal, and AWC's recommendation on amending Regulation 1/2005, in that it would disapply paragraph 1.8(d) to chickens only, rather than to all poultry. Our current understanding is that, due to a greater body size, turkeys are unlikely to be lifted by the legs alone as part of transport operations. We would like to use this consultation to test whether this assumption is correct or if the amendment for exemption should also apply equally to turkeys under a certain weight.

The proposed amendment would not include ducks and geese for reasons of welfare and practicality linked to body size. AWC recommend that ducks should never be inverted out of water, that they should always be carried upright and individually, and never caught, lifted or carried by the leg(s) due to a high risk of hip dislocation and lameness.

We also propose to include an additional requirement to make it clear that catching of chickens by a single leg is not permitted. This amendment would reflect the GB statutory guidance on the permitted methods of catching chickens, which does not include the catching of chickens by a single leg. AWC's report confirms that the lifting or carrying of poultry by one leg is detrimental to bird welfare. The 2022 EFSA report '[Welfare of domestic birds and rabbits transported in containers](#)' also recommends that "*If birds are handled in inverted position, in order to reduce the risk of dislocated joints or fractures, they should be caught, lifted and carried by two legs, using breast slides in cages, maximum 3 birds per hand*".

Suspending the body mass of a chicken by two legs rather than one is very likely to reduce the risk of physical trauma linked to inverted catching. Osteoporosis or 'brittle bone disease' may be present in laying hens at the end of the egg production cycle and catching by two-legs has been shown to substantially reduce bone fractures (when compared to one-leg catching). Standard commercial meat chickens average 2.5 kg at depopulation and are susceptible to joint lesions. Heavier birds carried by a single leg are

more susceptible to leg fractures and dislocated femurs during the catching process, with many dislocations thought to result in fatal haemorrhaging (reviewed by [Weeks, 2007](#); [Weeks, 2024](#)).

**This consultation seeks to obtain a further understanding of the likely impact that the proposed legislative amendments could have on both poultry welfare and the relevant industries.**

## Consultation questions

### Confidentiality and data protection

Information provided in response to this consultation document, including personal information, will be shared with relevant policy officials in the Scottish Government, Welsh Government and the Northern Ireland Executive.

A summary of responses to this consultation will be published on the [government website](#). An annex to the consultation summary will list all organisations that responded but will not include personal names, addresses or other contact details. Defra may publish the content of your response to this consultation to make it available to the public without your personal name and private contact details (for example, home address, email address, etc).

If you choose 'Yes' in response to the question asking if you would like anything in your response to be kept confidential, you are asked to state clearly what information you would like to be kept as confidential and explain your reasons for confidentiality. The reason for this is that information in responses to this consultation may be subject to release to the public or other parties in accordance with the access to information law (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. In view of this, your explanation of your reasons for requesting confidentiality for all or part of your response would help us balance these obligations for disclosure against any obligation of confidentiality. If we receive a request for the information that you have provided in your response to this consultation, we will take full account of your reasons for requesting confidentiality of your response, but we cannot guarantee that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

If you choose 'No' in response to the question asking if you would like anything in your response to be kept confidential, we will be able to release the content of your response to the public, but we won't make your personal name and private contact details publicly available.

### Using and sharing your information

How we use your personal data is set out in Defra's [consultation and call for evidence exercise privacy notice](#).

Please find our latest privacy notice uploaded as a related document alongside our consultation document.

### Other information

This consultation is being conducted in line with the [Cabinet Office Consultation Principles](#).

If you have any comments or complaints about the consultation process, please email: [consultation.coordinator@defra.gov.uk](mailto:consultation.coordinator@defra.gov.uk).

## About you or your organisation

**Q1a. Would you like your response to be treated as confidential (required)?**

- Yes
- No

**Q1b. If yes, please give your reason:**

[Free text]

**Q2. Your name:**

[Free text]

**Q3. Your email address:**

[Free text]

**Q4. Are you responding as an organisation or an individual? (Select one option only)**

- Individual – You are responding with your personal views, rather than as an official representative of a business, business association or other organisation
- Organisation – You are responding in an official capacity as a representative of a business, business association or other organisation

**Q5. If you are responding as an individual in Question 4, where are you based (required)? (Select one option only)**

- England
- Scotland
- Wales
- Northern Ireland
- Not UK-based (Europe)
- Outside Europe

**Q6. If you are responding as an organisation in Question 4, where is your organisation's headquarters (required)? (Select one option only)**

- England
- Scotland
- Wales
- Northern Ireland
- Not UK-based (Europe)
- Outside Europe

**Q7. If you are responding as an organisation in Question 4, what is the name of your organisation?**

[Free text]

**Q8. Which of the following best describes your role? (please select all relevant options)**

- Academic
- Animal welfare organisation
- Consumer
- Farm assurance scheme
- Farming organisation or trade body
- Local authority (LA)
- Poultry breeder (meat chickens)
- Poultry breeder (laying hens)
- Poultry breeder (turkey)
- Poultry catcher
- Poultry meat farmer (chickens)
- Poultry meat farmer (turkeys)
- Poultry meat farmer (other)
- Poultry meat integrator
- Poultry processor
- Poultry transporter
- Pullet rearer
- Retailer
- Sector trade body or membership organisation
- Table egg producer (chicken)
- Table egg producer (other)
- Veterinarian
- Other - please specify

[Open box for response]

## Amending Regulation 1/2005 in relation to chickens: summary of proposals

We are proposing to amend [paragraph 1.8 \(d\)](#) to permit chickens to be lifted (caught) by two legs as part of loading or unloading operations to or from a vehicle or other means of transport. This amendment will bring the legal requirements in Regulation 1/2005 into line with the GB statutory guidance which has been in place for more than 20 years.

We also propose to amend Chapter III of Annex I to Regulation 1/2005 to explicitly disallow one-leg catching. This would ensure that the rules in this Chapter are consistent with the GB statutory guidance on permitted catching methods and that exempting chickens from the prohibition on lifting in paragraph 1.8(d) will not result in a lowering of welfare standards in practice.

This approach is in line with recent AWC recommendations and the Commission proposal. It will provide the British egg and meat chicken industries, and the catching companies, with much needed clarity on the legal requirements that apply to poultry catching operations as part of routine commercial production. It will also ensure that chickens can continue to be transported between housing units and delivered for processing in an efficient and timely manner.

Upright catching of chickens (by the body), has the potential to directly deliver higher welfare, in principle, by avoiding the stress of inversion and reducing the risk of leg trauma. We now seek to address important gaps in the evidence base, as identified in AWC's report, regarding the potential of this method to conclusively improve welfare outcomes, compared to two-leg catching, when performed commercially and at scale.

Our intention is to commission research into the practical logistics and welfare outcomes associated with manual (two-leg and upright body) chicken catching methods. This should help us to establish whether a comprehensive transition to upright catching is appropriate and practically feasible in the long-term. Once the outcome of this scientific research is known, we will consider whether future changes are needed to the legislation or to the GB statutory guidance.

A consultation impact assessment has been published alongside this consultation. The aim of this document is to estimate the current practice of different chicken catching methods (and the associated catching and crating times) and to assess the financial impact of the proposed amendments, compared to alternative policy options.

### **Q9.a) Should it be legally permissible to catch chickens by two legs for the purpose of loading and unloading for transport?**

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

### **Q9.b) If yes, please provide any information you can to support your view:**

[Open box for response]

## Current use of catching methods associated with transport-linked loading or unloading operations

**Q10. Do you or your organisation catch chickens for the purpose of loading and unloading operations?**

- Yes
- No, please move to Q17

**Q11. What sector and housing system do you work with? (Please select all that apply)**

- Laying hen pullets: caged
- Laying hen pullets: floor-housed
- Laying hen pullets: multi-tier
- Laying hen: caged table egg production
- Laying hen: floor-housed table egg production
- Laying hen: aviary-housed table egg production
- Laying hen: layer breeders
- Meat chickens: broilers
- Meat chickens: broiler breeders

**Q12.a) What method of chicken catching do you or your organisation use? (please select all that apply)**

- Two-leg
- Upright, by the body
- Other – please specify
- Prefer not to say

**Q12.b) If multiple methods were selected, please provide additional information on when, and why, each is most likely to be utilised (for example, specify if different catching methods are used for different sectors or systems, for welfare reasons, or on farms with membership of a particular assurance scheme)**

[Open box for response]

**Q12.c) If a single method was selected, please provide additional information as to why this method was chosen**

[Open box for response]

**Q13a. How long does it take to catch a full (transport lorry) load? For each scenario, please select from the relevant options provided and enter the number of birds**

**caught and the corresponding time (in hours and minutes). For example: meat chicken, floor, 2-leg, 6, module, 4,600, 1 h 15 minutes**

- Sector [pullet / laying hen / layer breeder / meat chicken (broiler) / broiler breeder / turkey]
- Housing system [cage / floor / flat-deck / multi-tier or aviary]
- Catching method [body / two-leg / mechanical / other]
- Size of catching team [less than 4 / 4 / 5 / 6 / 7 / 8 / more than 8]
- Transport container [crate / stacked tray / module]

Number of birds [Free text box]

Approximate catch time [Free text box]

**Q13b. If you can provide information relating to a scenario that differs from that given in Q13a, please submit the information below. If not, please move to Q14**

- Sector [pullet / laying hen / layer breeder / meat chicken (broiler) / broiler breeder / turkey]
- Housing system [cage / floor / flat-deck / multi-tier or aviary]
- Catching method [body / two-leg / mechanical / other]
- Size of catching team [less than 4 / 4 / 5 / 6 / 7 / 8 / more than 8]
- Transport container [crate / stacked tray / module]

Number of birds [Free text box]

Approximate catch time [Free text box]

**Q13c. If you can provide information relating to a scenario that differs from that given in Q13a and b, please submit the information below. If not, please move to Q14**

- Sector [pullet / laying hen / layer breeder / meat chicken (broiler) / broiler breeder / turkey]
- Housing system [cage / floor / flat-deck / multi-tier or aviary]
- Catching method [body / two-leg / mechanical / other]
- Size of catching team [less than 4 / 4 / 5 / 6 / 7 / 8 / more than 8]
- Transport container [crate / stacked tray / module]

Number of birds [Free text box]

Approximate catch time [Free text box]

**Q13d. If you can provide information relating to a scenario that differs from that given in Q13a, b and c, please submit the information below. If not, please move to Q14**

- Sector [pullet / laying hen / layer breeder / meat chicken (broiler) / broiler breeder / turkey]
- Housing system [cage / floor / flat-deck / multi-tier or aviary]
- Catching method [body / two-leg / mechanical / other]
- Size of catching team [less than 4 / 4 / 5 / 6 / 7 / 8 / more than 8]
- Transport container [crate / stacked tray / module]

Number of birds [Free text box]

Approximate catch time [Free text box]

**Q13e. If you can provide information relating to a scenario that differs from that given in Q13a, b, c and d, please submit the information below. If not, please move to Q14**

- Sector [pullet / laying hen / layer breeder / meat chicken (broiler) / broiler breeder / turkey]
- Housing system [cage / floor / flat-deck / multi-tier or aviary]
- Catching method [body / two-leg / mechanical / other]
- Size of catching team [less than 4 / 4 / 5 / 6 / 7 / 8 / more than 8]
- Transport container [crate / stacked tray / module]

Number of birds [Free text box]

Approximate catch time [Free text box]

**Q13f. If you can provide information relating to a scenario that differs from that given in Q13a, b, c, d and e, please submit the information below**

- Sector [pullet / laying hen / layer breeder / meat chicken (broiler) / broiler breeder / turkey]
- Housing system [cage / floor / flat-deck / multi-tier or aviary]
- Catching method [body / two-leg / mechanical / other]

Size of catching team [less than 4 / 4 / 5 / 6 / 7 / 8 / more than 8]

Transport container [crate / stacked tray / module]

Number of birds [Free text box]

Approximate catch time [Free text box]

**Q14. What is the optimum number of staff members for a standard catching team? Please indicate how this might vary with catching method, flock size, sector, and housing system:**

[Free text]

**Q15. How are poultry catcher or handler staff paid?**

- Hourly wage
- Annual salary
- Piece rate per bird
- Other – please specify

**Q16. Based upon your answer for Q15, what is the average rate of pay for a poultry catcher or handler?**

[Free text]

**Q17.a) Do you record, or have access to, data on bird welfare outcomes associated with catching? For example, trappings, dead-on-arrival at abattoir, carcass damage (bruising, broken bones, rejections), etc.**

- Yes
- No

**Q17.b) If yes, please provide any information you can:**

[Open box for response]

**Q18.a) Do you have any comments on the [consultation impact assessment](#) and its methodology? For example, has anything been excluded?**

- Yes
- No

**Q18.b) If yes, please provide any information you can to support your view:**

[Free text]

## Catching (lifting and carrying) turkeys

Amendments to [Regulation 1/2005](#) are only currently being proposed in relation to chickens. However, AWC's recent '[Opinion on the welfare implications of different methods and systems for the catching, carrying, collecting and loading of poultry](#)' recommended that the lifting of chickens and turkeys (weighing less than 10kg) by two legs should be permitted for a period of 5 years and that data on the relationship between carrying methods and welfare outcomes should be gathered and analysed.

This consultation seeks to obtain an understanding of the use of the various catching methods by the turkey industry and whether there is an evidence base to support allowing turkeys (under a certain weight) to be caught by the legs. We are not considering ducks or geese as the evidence clearly indicates that they are unsuited to inverted catching.

**Q19. Do you or your organisation catch turkeys (under 10 kg) for loading and unloading operations?**

- Yes
- No, please move to Q21

**Q20. Which of the following methods do you use to catch turkeys (under 10 kg) for the purpose of loading and unloading? (please select all that apply)**

- Two-leg
- Upright, by the body
- Other – please specify
- Prefer not to say

**Q21.a) To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement: 'It should be legally permissible to catch turkeys (under 10 kg) by two legs for the purpose of loading and unloading'?**

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

**Q21.b) Please provide any information you can to support your answer, including any information relating to the welfare of turkeys during, or after, two-leg catching:**

[Open box for response]

## Any further considerations

**Q22. We intend to commission research in response to AWC's recommendation that additional data on the relationship between different manual catching methods and welfare outcomes be gathered and analysed. Please provide any views you may have on how robust data of this kind could best be generated:**

[Open box for response]

**Q23. Please provide any further considerations that you feel should be noted regarding the policy proposal to amend Regulation 1/2005 (for example, barriers to recruitment). Please explain your answer:**

[Open box for response]