



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

Transforming Farm  
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**Date: 3 December 2020**

Dear Consultee,

## **CONSULTATION ON IMPROVEMENTS TO ANIMAL WELFARE IN TRANSPORT**

I am writing to invite views on ending live exports for slaughter and fattening, in addition to introducing further improvements to animal welfare in transport more generally.

The following documents may be found on GOV.UK:

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/transforming-farm-animal-health-and-welfare-team/improvements-to-animal-welfare-in-transport>

- Consultation Document; and
- Farm Animal Welfare Committee Report (including the systematic review by Scotland's Rural College and University of Edinburgh).

We welcome your views and comments on the proposals. If you wish to obtain a copy of this consultation, please contact [AnimalWelfare.Consultations@defra.gov.uk](mailto:AnimalWelfare.Consultations@defra.gov.uk).

### **Background**

The current rules aimed at protecting animal welfare in transport are derived from directly applicable European Union (EU) law, Council Regulation No 1/2005. The Regulation sets out the requirements that anyone transporting animals in connection with an economic activity must comply with. There are growing concerns that the current requirements for

the transport of animals do not reflect the latest scientific evidence on how best to protect animal welfare during transport.

## **Why we are consulting**

The Government is committed to the welfare of all animals and to making further improvements to animal welfare in transport and has a manifesto commitment to end excessively long journeys for slaughter and fattening. Now that the United Kingdom (UK) has left the EU, the Government can explore alternative options to better protect animal welfare during transport. As part of changing the current regulatory regime that sets the standards for animals in transport, it is right that we should gather the views of all interested parties.

The Farm Animal Welfare Committee (FAWC, now known as the Animal Welfare Committee) have reported to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on the welfare of animals during transport. This report took into account the responses to the 2018 Call for Evidence on controlling live exports for slaughter and improving animal welfare during transport, and the scientific systematic review conducted by the Scotland's Rural College and the University of Edinburgh on the welfare of animals during transport and at markets.

The Government has reviewed the FAWC report and is now consulting to seek views on ending the export of livestock and horses (this will not apply to poultry) for slaughter and fattening in England and Wales, where the journeys begin in or transit through either country, in addition to introducing further improvements to animal welfare in transport more generally. Due to the prior stakeholder engagement that has taken place, we are confident that this consultation can reach a substantial number of stakeholders over a shortened duration.

## **Responses**

To submit your consultation response please complete the consultation questionnaire provided through Citizen Space (Citizen Space is an on-line consultation tool).

If you require a copy of the consultation, please contact us at [AnimalWelfare.Consultations@defra.gov.uk](mailto:AnimalWelfare.Consultations@defra.gov.uk). Responses or additional information or documents can be sent to:

Consultation Coordinator  
2nd floor  
Foss House  
Kings Pool  
1-2 Peasholme Green  
York  
YO1 7PX

Responses should be received by 28 January 2021.

### **Confidentiality and data protection**

Members of the public may ask for a copy of the responses under the Freedom of Information (FOI) legislation. If you do not want your response – 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 to the consultation. Please note, if your computer automatically includes a confidentiality disclaimer this will not count as a confidentiality request. Please explain why you need to keep the details confidential. We will take your responses into account if someone asks for this information under the FOI legislation. However, because of the law, we cannot promise that we will always be able to keep those details confidential.

We will summarise all responses once the consultation window is complete. This summary will include a list of names of organisations that respond but not people's personal names, addresses or other contact details.

This consultation is in line with the UK government's Consultation Principles. **Please note that a consultation period of 8 weeks applies.** More information on the UK government's Consultation Principles can be found at:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/consultation-principles-guidance>.

If you have any comments or complaints about the consultation process, please address them to:

Consultation Coordinator  
2nd floor  
Foss House  
Kings Pool  
1-2 Peasholme Green  
York  
YO1 7PX

Or email: [consultation.coordinator@defra.gov.uk](mailto:consultation.coordinator@defra.gov.uk)

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

Yours Faithfully,

Transforming Farm Animal Health and Welfare Team

**Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs**