

John Griffiths AC / AM
Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd a Datblygu Cynaliadwy
Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-433
Ein cyf/Our ref JG/07520/12
William Powell AM
Chair Petition's committee
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

19 December 2012

Dear William,

Thank you for your letter of 13 November informing me that a petition calling for the National Assembly to urge the Welsh Government to introduce mandatory CCTV in slaughterhouses has collected 1006 signatures.

A question about unobserved monitoring of the slaughter process was included in the recent consultation on implementing regulation 1099/2009 on the protection of animals at the time of killing. The majority of respondents called for the compulsory installation of CCTV in all Welsh slaughterhouses; however the issue of CCTV is outside the scope of the legislation to implement the regulation and will instead be taken forward by the Welsh Government after the regulation has been implemented.

Please see the attached brief summary of responses at Annex 1 which covers the main issues raised. This information forms part of the Decision Report which is due to be published shortly on the Welsh Government website.

<http://wales.gov.uk/publications/accessinfo/drnewhomepage/?lang=en>

<http://wales.gov.uk/publications/accessinfo/drnewhomepage/?skip=1&lang=cy>

A full summary of responses will be published at a later date.

Yan,
John

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Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)

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Brief analysis of the responses received to the consultation on the Protection of Animals at the Time of Killing

- Maintaining existing national rules that provide more extensive protection than Regulation 1099/2009

In response to the consultation, industry is broadly supportive of the national rules that are currently in place but were concerned that if any rules maintained go beyond the EU Regulation would be “gold plating”. Welfare groups and the public are broadly supportive of maintaining the current requirements on welfare grounds. Industry also sought that a common approach across whole of GB was adopted where possible.

- Religious Slaughter

It is proposed that current provisions are to continue the exception to the legal requirement to stun before slaughter in relation to religious slaughter but to re-visit this issue in the longer term. At that time careful consideration of potential human rights implications will be required, in particular article 9 of Schedule 1 to the Human Rights Act 1998: the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion.

- Certificates of Competence

The proposed arrangements for Certificate of Competence attracted considerable criticism. In particular they were considered to be too bureaucratic and expensive. Significant issues were raised by small-scale seasonal poultry producers who would struggle to meet the experience requirements as defined, to trigger the simplified application process. Welfare organisations and public want to ensure CoC's are credible and robust. They have suggested that all persons holding WASK licence should receive a Certificate of Competence because they currently meet requirements and have been certified as competent by a vet.

- Measures to ensure unobserved observation of the stunning and slaughter process

Strong views were presented by the responses received, which referred to CCTV, the majority calling for the compulsory installation of CCTV in all Welsh slaughterhouses. The consultation made it clear that it was Welsh Government's intention to re-visit this matter should there be clear objective evidence presented during the consultation.

The issue of CCTV is outside the scope of the legislation to implement the regulation and will instead be taken forward by the Welsh Government after the regulation has been implemented.