

Lesley Griffiths AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Ynni, Cynllunio a Materion Gwledig
Cabinet Secretary for Energy, Planning and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-399 & P-04-433
Ein cyf/Our ref LG/00435/18

David John Rowlands AM
Chair - Petitions committee.
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
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March 2018

Dear David

Thank you for your email of 23 February, regarding petitions P-04-399 Slaughter Practices and P-04-433 CCTV in Slaughterhouses.

Animal welfare is a priority for the Welsh Government and the Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework Group (WAHWFG). We have some of the highest animal welfare standards in the world and strict regulations to address any cases where these standards are not met. There are a number of controls already in place in slaughterhouses and official veterinarians are present, overseeing welfare and compliance with regulations. The larger slaughterhouses, which process the majority of animals, have CCTV and official veterinarians are able to access footage if they suspect welfare standards are not being met.

In my previous update to the petitions committee, I said that I was waiting for the views of the WAHWFG before commenting or making any decisions. The Framework Group recognised the evidence presented to support the use of CCTV and support the aspiration for there to be CCTV in all slaughterhouses in Wales. However, they subsequently agreed with the Task & Finish Group, based on the statistics presented concerning the number and type of welfare incidents in slaughterhouses, and the important role played by smaller slaughterhouses in parts of Wales, that currently there is not sufficient basis upon which to make CCTV a mandatory requirement. Please find the Group's report attached in Annex 1.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

This being said, I am determined to improve standards and practices where it is necessary and reasonable to do so. My officials will be working closely with the industry to take further steps to improve operational standards and to safeguard animal welfare in the whole process. The intention is to provide support to the industry which could assist in improving facilities, operating processes, training and, as a result, the delivery of higher standards of animal welfare in all slaughterhouses across Wales and other parts of the meat supply chain. The increased use of CCTV will support this objective.

I have noted with interest the UK Government has, on 23 February, laid legislation which will make CCTV cameras mandatory in slaughterhouses in England. The legislation will come into effect from May 2018, once it passes through Parliament, at which point businesses will have six months to comply. The Scottish Government has also a commitment to consult.

A handwritten signature in blue ink. The word 'Regards' is written in a cursive style on the top line, and the name 'Lesley' is written below it, also in a cursive style. The signature is positioned to the left of the typed name and title.

Lesley Griffiths AC/AM

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