

SW/MHS/NAW Supplementary Evidence

Our ref:

Your ref:

When telephoning please ask for:



Aled Elwyn Jones  
Clerk to Rural Development Sub-Committee  
National Assembly of Wales

1 Mabledon Place  
London WC1H 9AJ  
*Telephone:* 0845 355 0845  
*Fax:* 020 7551 1195  
*Text tel:* 0800 0 967 968

*email:* localgovernment@unison.co.uk  
[www.unison.org.uk/localgov](http://www.unison.org.uk/localgov)

10 March 2010

Dear Mr Jones,

Many thanks for giving UNISON the opportunity to present oral evidence to the National Assembly for Wales Rural Development Sub-Committee's Inquiry into Animal Welfare and Meat Hygiene. At the end of our session we were invited by the Chair to submit supplementary evidence related to the Inquiry. I would like to take advantage of that invitation.

Further to our evidence on faecal contamination of meat and dirty livestock, I enclose a copy of our UNISON members' survey from late 2008. I also enclose a number of photos taken just this week at a plant in Wales. These demonstrate the continual problem of dirty livestock being processed on a daily basis.

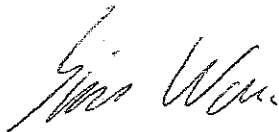
Further to our evidence on adequate inspection, I enclose a copy of our member survey from 2010 on this matter. Whilst we have received feedback from the MHS challenging the methodology used in this survey, this quantitative evidence supplements anecdotal evidence which we have supplied the MHS with over a period of time. The MHS have consistently refused to investigate this serious matter, despite the damning conclusions of the FVO report into red meat production in Britain from 2009.

Additionally, UNISON has identified a number of plants where we believe there is prima facie evidence that the 'line speeds' are too fast and the number of inspectors too few to possibly be able to inspect carcasses in accordance with the requirements of EU legislation. I enclose a copy of a letter sent to DG SANCO and copies to the MHS of 'failing plants'. This is by no means comprehensive, and we believe the situation is worsening as the number of Meat Inspectors in meat plants in Wales is continually reduced.



We would welcome any opportunity to be of further assistance to the Inquiry.

Yours sincerely,



Simon Watson  
National Officer  
UNISON

[s.watson@unison.co.uk](mailto:s.watson@unison.co.uk)  
020 7551 1309

Cc. Darren Dupre, UNISON Regional Officer  
Ron Spellman, UNISON National Convenor  
Graham Cross, UNISON Regional Convenor (Cymru / Wales)

Attached:

1. UNISON Members Survey 2008 Wales
2. UNISON Inspection Time Survey results 2010
3. Letter to DG Sanco
4. Photographs of contaminated carcasses