

Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS
Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog ac Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros
Newid Hinsawdd a Materion Gwledig
Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate
Change and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: MA/HIDCC/1009/25

Mike Hedges MS
Chair
Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

23 June 2025

Dear Mike,

I am writing to inform you of my intention to consent to the UK Government making regulations to provide the poultry industry, and their associated catching companies, with clarity on the legal requirements that apply to the catching of poultry during transport operations.

This follows a joint public consultation on poultry catching and handling: [Poultry catching and handling: proposed changes to permitted methods | GOV.WALES](#)

If the preferred option, option one, is pursued, then regulations could disapply the prohibition in assimilated Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport and related operations ("1/2005") on the lifting of animals by their legs, to chickens, to allow chickens to be caught by two legs. This amendment would remove a discrepancy between 1/2005 and the statutory codes of practice for the welfare of laying hens and pullets, and the welfare of meat chickens and meat breeding chickens. The consultation also sought to gain further information on the methods used to catch turkeys, and to understand whether there was evidence to support allowing turkeys under a certain weight to be caught by two legs.

It is normally the policy of the Welsh Government to legislate for Wales in matters of devolved competence. However, in certain circumstances there are benefits to working collaboratively with the UK Government where there is a clear rationale for doing so. On this occasion, I am giving my consent to the UK Government to make regulations. This approach will ensure regulations are introduced simultaneously across England, Wales and Scotland, and will provide the poultry industry with clarity on the legal requirements that apply to the catching of poultry during transport operations. Separate regulations, or any divergence in the coming into force of regulations, across Great Britain could lead to complexity, inconsistencies and administrative burden for industry and enforcement agencies.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
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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.

Welsh Government officials have a good working relationship with their Defra counterparts and will continue to work with them and the Scottish Government to strengthen the protection of animal welfare during transport, maintaining positive and constructive intergovernmental relations.

I anticipate regulations will be laid during the week commencing 30 June (based on the date I have). I will provide an update to committees once regulations have been laid.

I am copying this letter to Andrew RT Davies MS, Chair of the Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Huw Irranca-Davies', written in a cursive style.

Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS

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