

Rebecca Evans AC / AM  
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Ffermio a Bwyd  
Deputy Minister for Farming and Food



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-536  
Ein cyf/Our ref RE/00040/15

William Powell AM  
Assembly Member for Mid & West Wales  
Chair Petitions Committee  
Ty Hywel  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

6 February 2015

Dear William,

Thank you for your letter to the Minister for Natural Resources about the petition *P-04-536 Stop Factory Dairy Farming in Wales* which has been passed to me to reply. Carl Sargeant AM, Minister for Natural Resources, has previously responded to the issues raised by the petitioner.

The petitioner has not provided a clear definition of “factory dairy farming” and it is unclear whether the petitioner wishes to limit the size of a dairy herd (number of animals per farm unit), the management system under which the cows are kept (housed for more than six months in the year) or perhaps a combination of both these factors.

The Welsh dairy industry is extremely diverse with enterprises that vary in size, production systems and herd numbers. For example, there are some relatively small herds in Wales that have high output per cow and use robotic milking machines and others with more than 500 cows which operate a grazing system with a relatively short housing period.

There are small efficient farms making a profit and large inefficient farms making a loss so it is not correct to say large farms in Wales put smaller farmers out of business. It is important to note that the Welsh dairy industry does not operate as a market on its own but is influenced by the wider UK and international markets.

We have an excellent record of animal husbandry and promote the highest standards of welfare regardless of the size of the enterprise. The Welsh Government have all necessary legislation and reporting procedures in place to protect both animal welfare and the environment.

*Yours,  
Rebecca*

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