

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-04-399 & P-04-433  
Ein cyf/Our ref RE/00420/15

William Powell AM  
Chair - Petitions Committee  
Ty Hywel  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

22 June 2015

Dear William,

I write to provide an update to P-04-399 and P-04-433.

#### **P-04-399**

I am committed to ensuring that a high standard of welfare for all animals kept in Wales is maintained at all stages of their life, including at the point of slaughter. I launched the Wales Animal Health & Welfare Framework in July 2014. The broad vision for the new framework is to continue improving standards of animal health and welfare in Wales. I will be issuing a statement on the first annual Implementation Plan published under the Framework in due course.

The Welfare of Animals at the Time of Killing (Wales) Regulations 2014 introduced by the Welsh Government in May 2014, implement the provisions of the European Council Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009 on the protection of animals at the time of killing, which provide extensive animal welfare protection.

(EC) No 1099/2009 requires that animals are stunned before slaughter, but this stunning requirement can be disapplied in relation to animals killed to meet religious requirements, at the discretion of the competent authorities within each Member State.

There are long-standing provisions in our law which, subject to specific requirements, permits the slaughter of animals without stunning to meet Jewish and Muslim religious requirements.

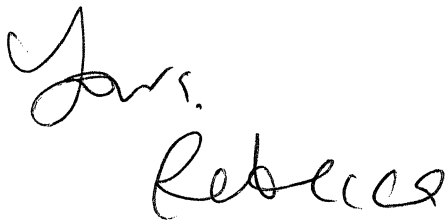
The Food Standards Agency (FSA) monitors, delivers and enforces the welfare provisions at all slaughterhouses in Wales on behalf of the Welsh Government. The role of FSA Official Veterinarians at slaughterhouses includes the monitoring of provisions in place to ensure that animals are spared unnecessary suffering, distress or pain during the slaughter process.

My Officials have been working with the FSA and Local Authorities in Wales to improve the enforcement provisions for the welfare of animals during transport and at the slaughterhouse.

**P-04-433**

Following a request by the Welsh Government, the Farm Animal Welfare Committee (FAWC) has prepared advice about the use of CCTV in slaughterhouses. I am currently reviewing its content. I provide a link to the opinion of advice produced and published by FAWC.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fawc-opinion-on-cctv-in-slaughterhouses>

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of the name 'Rebecca' written in a cursive style. The first few letters are larger and more stylized, with a small flourish above the 'R'. The rest of the name is written in a more consistent cursive script.

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