

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

Ein cyf/Our ref MA-P/LG/1507/18

David J Rowlands AM  
Chair National Assembly for Wales Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

April 2018

Dear David,

Thank you for your letter of 9 April regarding Petition P-05-815 Control Rapidly Expanding Intensive Poultry Industry in Wales.

Poultry production is a vital part of Welsh agriculture. My vision is for a prosperous, resilient poultry industry promoting Wales' present and future well-being. This will be achieved by ensuring the highest standards of health and welfare, minimising use of antibiotics and reducing its impact on the environment.

Poultry farms are regulated under the Environmental Permitting Regulations by Natural Resources Wales (NRW) and careful consideration of the environmental impacts is required as part of the planning process for new units. The petition asks the Welsh Government to provide resources for NRW to do urgent research, regulate and monitor intensive poultry units and give better planning help to Local Planning Authorities (LPAs). NRW is the largest Welsh Government Sponsored Body with a total operating budget of £180 million. This Government continues to appropriately support and resource NRW and provided an uplift in its Grant In Aid funding in 2017-18.

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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.

I refer to the next representation within the petition; issuing planning policy and guidance to LPAs to improve decisions, ensure cumulative impacts are considered and monitor and enforce planning conditions. We are currently consulting on a revised version of Planning Policy Wales (PPW). We propose PPW should be restructured into policy themes, in light of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, around the well-being goals and the land use policy updated to reflect new Welsh Government strategies and policies. The consultation draft includes a section on the location of polluting development. The consultation is open for the public to comment until the 18 May.

Planning applications for poultry units must be determined in accordance with the Local Development Plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise. Local Planning Authorities must take into account the views of statutory consultees such as Natural Resources Wales, bodies such as Public Health Wales, Local Wildlife Trusts and other organisations or members of the public who have views about these applications. It is for Local Planning Authorities to ensure they have sufficient expert advice available to them to properly determine applications. If this is not available internally, such as from their ecologists or environmental health specialists they will need to procure external advice in the same way they do for other application types.

The petition asks the Welsh Government to make the industry contribute towards the costs of regulation and monitoring and hold it to account for breach of environmental responsibility. It also asks we publish transparent public reports on progress. NRW have produced extensive guidance to help customers applying for new bespoke intensive farm activities, or who want to expand their existing activity. [Guidance Note 20: Assessing the impact of ammonia and nitrogen on designated sites from new and expanding intensive livestock units](#), sets out how applicants must demonstrate they have considered the potential impacts of ammonia and nitrogen, from their activity. This guidance was initially published October 2017 and subsequently reviewed December 2018. Details of applications for new permits or variations of existing ones are available from NRW in line with transparency and public interest.

Poultry units of any size must also adhere to strict biosecurity requirements in their operation. Larger units are subject to greater regulatory controls for the protection against both animal and human health disease risk. This includes adherence to the Salmonella National Control Plan requirements. The Food Standards Agency is responsible for the enforcement of food hygiene standards at slaughterhouses and manages the health and welfare monitoring system applied at the slaughterhouse, when the broilers are presented for slaughter. The Animal and Plant Health Agency inspects broiler premises in Wales. Producers are responsible for investigating and monitoring the health status of all birds within the whole flock and also monitoring the housing, climate and environmental conditions of the building.

The welfare of poultry is protected by the Animal Welfare Act 2006. Section 9 of the Act, on the duty of a person responsible for animals to ensure welfare, sets out the needs of animals to include; a suitable environment; a suitable diet; ability to exhibit normal behaviour patterns; to be housed with, or apart from, other animals (as necessary), and; the need to be protected from pain, suffering injury and disease. The requirements of the Animal Welfare Act are supplemented by the Welfare of Farmed Animals (Wales) Regulations 2007 which detail the minimum standards under which farm animals must be kept, including those relating to freedom of movement and accommodation.

In addition, our Water Strategy for Wales commits to ensure Wales has a thriving water environment which is sustainably managed to support healthy communities, flourishing businesses and biodiversity.

Yours sincerely,



**Lesley Griffiths AC/AM**

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