



Ein cyf/Our ref LG/05712/19

David Grimsell

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Dear Mr Grimsell

Thank you for your letter of 1 April, regarding CCTV in slaughterhouses.

As I have previously stated the Welsh Government is committed to ensuring 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 have publicly stated I am considering legislating to ensure CCTV is in place in all Welsh slaughterhouses. However, I have also committed to working with the Food Business Operators (FBOs), in a supportive relationship, to achieve the same objective. The Food Business Investment Scheme – Slaughterhouse, opened to expressions of interest (EOI) on 30 September.

The network of small slaughterhouses in Wales is one to be proud of. They provide essential services to farmers, butchers and consumers in some of our most remote areas. They also provide skilled jobs and support locally integrated supply chains.

I believe that CCTV is an important part of animal welfare protection in slaughterhouses, however, it is not a catch-all. This is why I will require all successful grant applicants to receive expert advice on their welfare safeguards, premises, animal management and movement. Guidance on the installation and management of CCTV and a joint protocol, agreed by FSA and industry bodies, to enable Official Veterinarians access to CCTV footage will be provided.

The larger red meat slaughterhouses, which process the majority of animals, already have CCTV and official veterinarians are able to access footage if they suspect welfare standards are not being met. They are also members of various assurance schemes such as Red Tractor and Freedom Foods. These make additional animal welfare requirements and impose additional audits on slaughterhouses. Freedom Food sites have to install CCTV and give the auditors access to the footage.

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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.

The Food Business Investment funding package specifically for small and medium size slaughterhouses has been welcomed by the industry and stakeholders, including the British Veterinary Association. The safeguarding of welfare requires both knowledge and a culture that respects animals and the grant scheme will go some way to address these twin challenges

However, we will review the progression of the scheme, uptake by Food Business Operators and the type and scale of investments undertaken. I want Wales' slaughterhouses to be fully prepared as I continue to explore opportunities to legislate in the longer term.

Yours sincerely
Lesley Griffiths

Lesley Griffiths AC/AM

Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd, Ynni a Materion Gwledig
Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs