

SL(5)490 – Code of Practice for the Welfare of Meat Chickens and Meat Breeding Chickens

Background and Purpose

This Code of Practice (“the Code”) is issued under section 14 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 (“the Act”). It applies to all Meat Chickens and Meat Breeding Chickens for which a person is responsible.

The Code was originally considered by the Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee on 30 September 2019. Due to several errors, it was subsequently withdrawn on 2 October 2019 and re-laid on 5 December 2019. It was withdrawn and re-laid for a third time on 21 January 2020.

The existing Code of Practice reflected the science and legislation in force at the time. A review was required to capture any changes in those areas and to ensure the standards being advised are still appropriate. It also replaces the interim guidance for keepers of conventionally reared meat chickens in relation to the Welfare of Farmed Animals (Wales) Regulations 2007 as amended by the Welfare of Farmed Animals (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2010, issued in 2011.

The purpose of the Code is to ensure that those who are responsible for an animal are aware they have a legal duty to take reasonable steps to ensure welfare needs are met. The Code of Practice explains what you need to do to meet the standard of care the law requires.

Breach of a provision of the Code is not an offence in itself but, if proceedings are brought against someone for a welfare offence under the Act, the Court may take into account the extent to which they have complied with the Code in deciding whether they have committed an offence or have met the required standard of care.

Procedure

Draft negative.

Scrutiny under Standing Order 21.7

One point is identified for reporting under Standing Order 21.7 in respect of this code:

As the draft code has been withdrawn on two occasions, this will be the third time that the Committee has considered the Code. The Committee previously considered the Code on 30 September 2019 and 6 January 2020.

Implications arising from exiting the European Union

No points are identified for reporting under Standing Order 21.7 in respect of this code. The Code is made using domestic powers.

Government Response

A government response is not required.

Legal Advisers



