

**Turkey Standards Technical Advisory Group Online meeting**  
**10am Wednesday 2nd March 2022**  
**Meeting Summary**

**Proposed new and amended standards**

The group considered proposed changes to the RSPCA welfare standards for turkeys for inclusion within the next revision of the standards, scheduled for November 2022. The proposals discussed included natural light during rearing, brood and move standards, Avian influenza preparations, antimicrobial resistance, biosecurity and catching standards.

**Beak trimming**

The RSPCA would like to progress with phasing out the need for Infrared beak trimming. The group discussed the current strategies to manage feather pecking and the success of managing some intact beak flocks. Further information is needed on the strategies that can be implemented to reduce feather pecking and the prevalence of infrared beak trimming within the industry.

**Transport times for brood farms**

The recently approved addendum to the total incrate time and lairage time standards requires the consideration of total incrate time for the transfer from brooding farms to finishing farms. The group discussed the practicalities of transporting poults to multiple finishing sites.

**Surplus poults**

The group discussed concerns over surplus poults being retained at the hatchery. Further discussions are required to determine future actions that can contribute to reducing any surplus.

**Pophole height**

Queries regarding the minimum pop-hole height for smaller turkeys have been raised previously. The use of broiler sheds with smaller pophole heights for small finishing weight turkeys were discussed for seasonal production. The RSPCA will collect information on this to consider further.