



Consultation on improvements to animal welfare in transport 2021

Dear Consultation Coordinator,

I am delighted that the Government has announced a consultation to ban live animal exports, which will end suffering for thousands of farm animals.

There are some specific questions in the consultation document that I'd like to respond to and am enclosing. These views are my own and show my concern on this issue. I would be grateful if they are counted as a single response to the consultation.

Question 1: Do you agree that livestock and horse export journeys for slaughter and fattening are unnecessary? Please explain your views.

I agree that it is absolutely unnecessary to subject animals to stressful live export journeys for slaughter and further fattening. Long distance live animal transport can cause a number of welfare issues, including exhaustion, injury, hunger, dehydration and heat stress. Further, many ports have unsuitable facilities that do not adequately safeguard animal welfare. We also lose control over what happens to these animals once they leave our shores and they could be kept in conditions, and slaughtered using methods, that are illegal in the UK. There should therefore be a carcass only export trade for animal products.

Question 2: Do you agree that in order to prohibit livestock and horse export journeys for fattening where the animal will be slaughtered soon after arrival, these export journeys where animals are slaughtered within 6 months of arrival should be prohibited? Please explain your views.

I believe that the export of animals for further fattening should be prohibited, regardless of any time period to slaughter after arrival. This is for several reasons, including that the journey itself can cause a number of welfare issues (as described under question 1) and that once an animal leaves the UK they can be kept in conditions that are illegal in the UK.

Question 3: Do you agree that the only exceptions to prohibiting live export journeys should be for poultry live exports, and animals going for breeding or production that will not be slaughtered within 6 months of arrival? Please explain your views.

No. Any exception must apply to breeding animals only. Breeding animals have a higher economic value and therefore the conditions under which they are transported are generally better, as is the care that they receive when they arrive at their final destination. I do not believe there should be an exemption made for exporting poultry.

Question 6: Do you agree with the proposed maximum journey times as outlined in Table 1? Please explain your views and highlight any potential regional impacts that your business or organisation might experience.

I believe that journey times must be kept to an absolute minimum to protect animal welfare and should not exceed those permitted under the RSPCA's species specific higher welfare standards: depending on the species, this is up to a maximum of 8 hours for all animals except for meat poultry, which is 4 hours. The RSPCA's farm assurance scheme - RSPCA Assured - has shown the maximum journey times permitted under the standards to be commercially viable for these species.

Question 28: Do you think that there should be any exceptions to the previously mentioned proposals alongside the specific exceptions already outlined, excluding the proposal to prohibit live exports for slaughter and fattening? Please provide evidence.

Animal welfare must not be jeopardised, there should be no other exemptions.

Thank you for putting forward this consultation and I genuinely hope that, once and for all, this marks the end of live animal exports from the UK.

Yours Sincerely,