

Number: WG36274



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Welsh Government
Consultation – summary of response

Slaughter Consultation Summary

September 2012

Mae'r ddogfen yma hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg.
This document is also available in Welsh.

Of the 55 responses received, 27 responses were from members of the public, 7 from animal welfare organisations, and the remainder from a variety of sources such as faith community representatives and the slaughter industry. Defra, Scottish Government and DARDNI held similar consultations.

Brief analysis of the responses received to the consultation.

- Maintaining existing national rules that provide more extensive protection than Regulation 1099/2009

The industry were broadly supportive of the national rules that were in place but were concerned that any new rules that go beyond the EU Regulation would be “gold plating”. However, industry sought a common approach across GB where possible. Welfare groups and the public were broadly supportive of maintaining the current requirements on welfare grounds.

- Religious Slaughter

There was strong pressure from welfare groups, veterinary interests and the public for a prohibition on all slaughter without stunning. Welfare organisations would prefer the current arrangements to be tightened if slaughter without stunning continues. Religious community representatives were concerned this could undermine their religious freedoms.

It is proposed that current provisions are to continue with the exception to the legal requirement to stun before slaughter in relation to religious slaughter. However, this issue will be re-visited in the long term which will require careful consideration of potential human rights implications, particularly Article 9 of Schedule 1 to the Human Rights Act 1998: the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion.

- Measures to ensure unobserved observation of the stunning and slaughter process

The majority of responses called for compulsory installation of CCTV in all Welsh slaughterhouses. The consultation made it clear that it was the Welsh Government’s intention to re-visit this matter should there be clear objective evidence presented during the consultation. The issue of CCTV was outside the scope of the legislation to implement and will instead be taken forward by the Welsh Government after the regulation has been implemented.

- Certificates of Competence

The proposed arrangements for Certificate of Competence attracted considerable criticism. They were considered to be too bureaucratic and expensive. Significant issues were raised by small-scale seasonal poultry producers who would struggle to meet the experience requirements as defined to trigger the simplified application process. Welfare organisations and the public wanted to ensure that CoC’s were credible and robust. They suggested all persons holding a WASK licence should receive a Certificate of Competence because they meet requirements and been certified as competent by a vet.