

22 July 2026

Dear

ATISN 27137 – Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework Group

Thank you for your request which I received on 24 June 2026. You asked for:

1. In the last 5 years (i.e., 1st June 2021 to 1st June 2026), what consideration has WAHFG given to the health and welfare of broiler chickens reared in Wales and what action (if any) has it taken in this regard.
2. In the last 5 years (i.e., 1st June 2021 to 1st June 2026), what consideration has WAHFG given to the processes of catching and transport of poultry in intensive chicken farms in Wales (including broiler chickens and so-called 'free-range' chickens). What action (if any) has it taken in this regard?
3. In the last 5 years (i.e., 1st June 2021 to 1st June 2026), what consideration has WAHFG given to the health and welfare of so-called game birds (including pheasants and red-legged partridges) and what action (if any) has it taken in this regard.
4. In the last 5 years (i.e., 1st June 2021 to 1st June 2026), what consideration has WAHFG given to the health and welfare of so-called 'race horses' reared in Wales and what action (if any) has it taken in this regard.
5. In the last 5 years (i.e., 1st June 2021 to 1st June 2026), what consideration has WAHFG given to the slaughter of sheep and lambs reared in Wales and what action (if any) has it taken in this regard? In particular, what consideration has WAHFG given to the fact that (according to the 2024 Food Standards Agency slaughter survey) 29% of sheep and lambs in the U.K. are now slaughtered (i.e., cut) without pre-stunning?
6. In the last 5 years (i.e., 1st June 2021 to 1st June 2026), what consideration has WAHFG given to the slaughter of unwanted male dairy calves in Wales very shortly after birth or within a short period subsequently, and what action (if any) has it taken in this regard?
7. What consideration is the WAHFG giving or has given in the last five years (i.e., 1st June 2021 to 1st June 2026) to the impacts of extreme and increasing temperatures on the rearing of farm animals in Wales, including the effects on intensively reared poultry kept at very high density and subject to heat stress? What action (if any) is it taking in this regard?
8. What explanation can the WAHFG provide for its failure to publish any information on its activities/meetings, etc., since March 2022?

Our response:

We hold no recorded information for requests 1-7. The only recorded information we hold is in respect to request 2 where the group received an animal health and welfare policy update from OCVO officials before their meeting in September 2025, which referenced changes to poultry catching regulations:

Extract from this policy update:

Following a joint GB-wide [consultation](#), [regulations](#) to amend assimilated EU regulation 1/2005 to permit chickens to be caught by two legs and explicitly disallow one-leg catching came into force on 22 July 2025.

It is relevant to note that the Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework Group is an advisory group established to support implementation of the Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework. In 2022, the [Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework Implementation Plan 2022 – 2024](#) was published.

We hold no recorded information for request 8. However, an independent review of the Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework has been undertaken with the [final report](#) published in December 2025.

Following the Senedd Election in May 2026, the newly elected Welsh Government has set out the ambition to develop a renewed and science-led Animal Health and Welfare Plan addressing the welfare of both companion animals and farm animals. Development of a new approach will be taken forward in partnership with stakeholders, operational partners, industry and the third sector.

Next steps

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Government's handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Welsh Government's Freedom of Information Officer at:

Information Rights Unit,
Welsh Government,
Cathays Park,
Cardiff, CF10 3NQ

or Email: Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House,
Water Lane,
Wilmslow,
Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely