



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

The Rt Hon Mark Spencer MP
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Rt Hon Sir George Howarth MP
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Dear Sir George,

Thank you for your email of 17 February to the Secretary of State on behalf of your constituents about protections for farmed fish. I am replying as the Minister responsible for this policy area.

Legislation on the protection of animals at the time of killing requires that farmed fish are spared avoidable pain, distress or suffering during their killing and related operations.

Following the publication of the Post Implementation Review of the Welfare of Animals at the Time of Killing (England) Regulations 2015 in 2021, and as part of the Action Plan for Animal Welfare, we are currently considering a number of improvements that could be made to the welfare of farmed fish at the time of killing.

To inform this work, the Department has asked the Animal Welfare Committee to update its 2014 Opinion on the welfare of farmed fish at the time of killing. We will study their recommendations carefully to determine next steps.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you need further information.

Yours sincerely,

Rt Hon Mark Spencer MP