



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

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Rt Hon Sir George Howarth MP
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Dear Sir George,

Thank you for your email of 6 July to the Secretary of State on behalf of your constituent about 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 publication in 2021 of the [Post Implementation Review of the Welfare of Animals at the Time of Killing \(England\) Regulations 2015](#), we are considering how the welfare of farmed fish at the time of killing could be improved.

Defra asked the Animal Welfare Committee to update its 2014 Opinion on the welfare of farmed fish at the time of killing and we expect their report to be published this summer. 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