



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 27 September to the Secretary of State on behalf of your constituents, about mandatory food labelling on animal products. I am replying as the Minister responsible for this policy area.

Stimulating market demand for higher welfare products is a key strand of the Government's Animal Health and Welfare Pathway. The majority of consumers, like your constituents, value high animal welfare, but this is not always fully reflected in what they purchase. We want to make it easier for consumers to purchase food that aligns with their values.

Recognising this public interest, Defra ran a call for evidence in 2021 to gather data on the impacts of different types of labelling reforms for animal welfare, which received over 1,600 responses.

We will continue to work with stakeholders, including the RSPCA, to explore how we can harness the market to improve food information for consumers and raise animal welfare standards. As part of this, we will continue to gather evidence on the impacts of a wide range of market interventions, as well as how they could align with wider labelling proposals such as eco-labelling.

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

Yours sincerely,

Rt Hon Mark Spencer MP