



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

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Rt Hon Sir George Howarth
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Dear Sir George,

Thank you for your email of 16 October to the Secretary of State on behalf of your constituents about the welfare of farmed fish at slaughter. I am replying as the Minister responsible for this policy area.

Legislation requires that fish bred or kept for the production of food must be spared any avoidable pain, distress or suffering during their killing and related operations.

The UK fish farming industry has widely adopted voluntary codes as part of their membership of producer organisations, such as the Code of Good Practice for Scottish Finfish Aquaculture and the British Trout Association Code of Practice, that apply welfare standards through the production process.

Following publication of the [Post Implementation Review of the Welfare of Animals at the Time of Killing \(England\) Regulations 2015](#), we are currently considering how the welfare of farmed fish at the time of killing could be improved. To assist us with this, the Animal Welfare Committee has updated its 2014 Opinion on the welfare of farmed fish at the time of killing and we are studying 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