

Response ID ANON-M5N9-4CSM-Z

Submitted to **Farm Animal Welfare Committee's opinion on the welfare of animals during transport: consultation**

Submitted on 2021-02-26 17:52:11

Questions

1 Do you agree with the Farm Animal Welfare Committee (FAWC) recommendations for future research and the Scottish Government's position and proposed course of action?

No

Please provide any further relevant information.:

Animal Concern wants an end to long distance (including domestic journeys of more than an hour) transportation of animals to finishing and/or slaughter. This would include a total ban on export of live animals for finishing/slaughter. We have no control of the welfare of animals after they leave our shores and there is lots of evidence that welfare standards, especially at time of slaughter, can be worse than hellish in parts of Europe, Africa and the Middle East . Apart from the welfare issues there is more money to be made by Scottish farmers by exporting chilled finished product. This would also be environmentally friendly by greatly reducing the numbers of vehicles required.

It has been argued that animals must be "exported" from Shetland and other islands for finishing and/or slaughter. If animals cannot be finished on an island then they should not be farmed there. Animals that can be grown to slaughter weight should be humanely slaughtered on or close to the farm. We need investment in high standard local and mobile abattoirs.

2 Do you agree that prior permission should be obtained from the relevant UK authority for some journeys exporting live animals and permission should only be granted if the reasons for not undertaking a shorter alternative journey are justified?

No

Please provide any further relevant information.:

Live export must be banned.

3 Do you agree with the Scottish Government's position on determining fitness for transport and proposed course of action?

No

Please provide any further relevant information.:

Main concern is who determines fitness of the animals. The farmer, his or her vet, or would a Government appointed inspector oversee loading?

4 Do you agree that there should be no distinction between registered and unregistered horses in future legislation on welfare during transport?

Yes

Please provide any further relevant information.:

5 Do you agree with the Scottish Government's position on the means of transport and proposed course of action?

No

Please provide any further relevant information.:

We want to see transport of live animals stopped not simply tweaked and refined.

6 Do you agree with the Scottish Government's position on the maximum time an animal may spend at market and proposed course of action?

No

Please provide any further relevant information.:

Most of the stress is caused not by time spent at the market but by the off-loading, showing and re-loading which would not be reduced. Why not scrap traditional marts and switch to online auctions?

7 Do you agree with the Scottish Government's position on space allowances for animals in transport and proposed course of action?

No

Please provide any further relevant information.:

If properly enforced these would be better than current conditions but it would be much, much better to eliminate live transportation by investing in more local slaughter facilities and online auctions.

8 Do you agree with the Scottish Government's position on transport practices and proposed course of action?

No

Please provide any further relevant information.:

If properly enforced these would be better than current conditions but it would be much, much better to eliminate live transportation by investing in more local slaughter facilities and online auctions.

9 Do you agree with the Scottish Government's position on thermal conditions and ventilation for animals in transport and proposed course of action?

No

Please provide any further relevant information.:

If properly enforced these would be better than current conditions but it would be much, much better to eliminate live transportation by investing in more local slaughter facilities and online auctions. If animals must be transported there should be fixed minimum and maximum levels of temperature, humidity and wind speed below or above which transportation cannot take place. This especially import on ferry journeys.

10 Do you agree with the Scottish Government's position on maximum journey length and proposed course of action?

No

Please provide any further relevant information.:

If properly enforced these would be slightly better than current conditions but it would be much, much better to eliminate live transportation by investing in more local slaughter facilities and online auctions. If animals must be transported from farm to abattoir that journey should be no more than say one hour.

11 Do you agree with the Scottish Government's position on mid-journey breaks and proposed course of action?

No

Please provide any further relevant information.:

If properly enforced these might be better than current conditions but it would be much, much better to eliminate live transportation by investing in more local slaughter facilities and online auctions. Increasing the number of off-loading and re-loading procedures should not be allowed as not only do these procedures cause stress they are an admission that the animals have been transported too far.

12 Do you agree with the recommendation that anyone who transports livestock, poultry or horses should require transporter authorisation and a Certificate of Competence, including if they only transport animals on short journeys?

Yes

Please provide any further relevant information.:

13 Do you agree with the Scottish Government's position on transportation of animals by sea and proposed course of action?

No

Please provide any further relevant information.:

Animals destined for food should only be transported by sea as chilled finished product.

14 Do you agree the Scottish Government should consider the proposed review on research into transportation by rail or air alongside other research priorities?

Yes

Please provide any further relevant information.:

15 Do you agree with the Scottish Government's position on the collection and use of feedback to identify welfare risks in transport and proposed course of action?

No

Please provide any further relevant information.:

This should all be approached from a position of elimination of live transport for finishing or slaughter.

16 Do you agree with the Scottish Government's position on the enforcement of welfare of animals in transport and proposed course of action?

Don't Know

Please provide any further relevant information.:

I just don't know if it would work. Enforcement needs staff and resources the Government will not pay for.

17 Do you agree with the Scottish Government's position on post-export protection of animal welfare and proposed course of action?

No

Please provide any further relevant information.:

There is absolutely no way you can have any enforceable control over welfare standards as soon as a live animal leaves our shores, We MUST ban the export of live animals for finishing/slaughter and we should also ban the import of any animal products which do not at least meet our welfare standards for rearing and slaughter. This can easily be done just as the USA forced a ban on salmon farmers in Scotland shooting seals by threatening to stop all fish imports if we did not meet USA standards for marine mammal protection.

About you

What is your name?

Name:

John F. Robins

What is your email address?

Email:

john@animalconcern.org

Are you responding as an individual or an organisation?

Organisation

What is your organisation?

Organisation:

Animal Concern Ltd

The Scottish Government would like your permission to publish your consultation response. Please indicate your publishing preference:

Publish response with name

We will share your response internally with other Scottish Government policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for Scottish Government to contact you again in relation to this consultation exercise?

Yes

I confirm that I have read the privacy policy and consent to the data I provide being used as set out in the policy.

I consent

Evaluation

Please help us improve our consultations by answering the questions below. (Responses to the evaluation will not be published.)

Matrix 1 - How satisfied were you with this consultation?:

Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied

Please enter comments here.:

Could have done with a review of the relevant parts of the guidance documents alongside the questions as, without a hard copy, it's not easy to remember what's in the proposals.

Matrix 1 - How would you rate your satisfaction with using this platform (Citizen Space) to respond to this consultation?:

Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied

Please enter comments here.:

I think the set question and answer box layout does tend to lead the answers.