

Mrs Anne Main M.P.  
St Albans



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Michael Gove MP  
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs  
Nobel House  
17 Smith Square  
London  
SW1P 3JR

24 August 2017

Dear Secretary of State,

I am writing in relation to the consultation *Mandatory Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) recording in slaughterhouses*. Please accept this letter as my formal representation to the consultation.

Firstly, let me express my support for the consultation.

It is absolutely right and proportionate that authorised officers such as official veterinary surgeons will have unrestricted access to footage. I do believe that post-Brexit this will send a strong signal to consumers around the globe that British animal welfare standards are world leading.

Of course it is important that if breaches are found then there is proper enforcement. This is why I support measures in the consultation such as a welfare enforcement notices, licence suspensions or powers to revoke, and, in the worst-case scenarios, criminal proceedings.

I was heartened to read that both the Food Standards Agency and the British Veterinary Association were supportive of the action that the government is taking. As experts in their field, they understand well the need for these measures, how they will be implemented, and how industry will best be able to cope with the changes.

As you are aware, I have long campaigned on animal welfare issues. It is absolutely essential that we treat our animals properly and humanely. I am confident that we are already world leaders in animal welfare standards, and that our farmers treat their animals incredibly well. This measure will give confidence to consumers and producers all over the world that we in Britain are held to these high standards.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anne Main".

Anne Main MP