

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

31st October 2017

Dear Constituent,

RE: FACTORY FARMING.

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of factory farming.

I am committed to the highest standards of animal welfare, including on farms. World Animal Protection's recent *Animal Protection Index* judged 50 countries on their policy and legislation for animals and saw the UK ranked joint top alongside New Zealand, Austria and Switzerland. Recent changes to legislation regulating the quality of cages for hens shows this protection in action.

I believe animals should be slaughtered locally wherever possible. I am pleased the Government has announced plans to make CCTV mandatory in slaughterhouses. However, under European Union single market rules, it is illegal to ban the export of animals to other EU countries. You are right to highlight that, as the UK withdraws from the EU, there are great opportunities to re-evaluate existing structures.

Mandatory labelling for method of production has to be weighed against the costs involved for businesses. Legislation already provides scope for producers to label their products voluntarily, and several assurance schemes are also in place. Consumers can therefore readily find meat products labelled with information to inform their choice.

Ministers are fully committed to ensuring that antibiotics are used responsibly. In September 2016, further plans were announced to reduce antibiotic use in animals significantly. Long term, sector-specific reduction targets are being set that will bring sustainable change across the agricultural industry.

Once again, thank you for having taken the time to contact me and if I can ever be of any further assistance to you then please do not hesitate to contact me again.

With best wishes,
Tom

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE