

**Thursday 13 December 2007**

**Compassion in World Farming presents Mayor of London with Good Egg award**

Mayor of London Ken Livingstone was today (Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> December) presented with a Good Egg Award by Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall on behalf of leading farm animal welfare charity Compassion in World Farming. The Mayor was awarded for ensuring the use of free-range eggs and chicken by catering contractors at City Hall and urging the functional bodies of the Greater London Authority, such as the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority, to do the same. The commitment at City Hall has followed work carried out by the Mayor with Jenny Jones, Chair of London Food.

The award was presented by TV chef and presenter Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall at City Hall - the Mayor now joins the likes of Sainsbury's, Marks & Spencer, Starbucks, Google, Sky, Microsoft and the House of Commons as winners of a Good Egg Award in recognition for sourcing eggs from free-range or barn hens instead of caged hens.

The House of Commons led the way for cage-free catering in government authorities, receiving its Good Egg Award in March this year; a move that has been followed by a number of local councils around the country as part of Compassion in World Farming's Cage-free Councils campaign.

Barren battery cages confine hens in small wire cages providing each hen about the size of an A4 piece of paper to live on. In London alone six million eggs are eaten every day - around two thirds of these come from battery caged hens. Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall is currently progressing his Chicken Out campaign, which is encouraging people to purchase free-range chickens instead of chickens that are raised in intensive conditions, such as cramped spaces with no natural daylight.

Mayor of London Ken Livingstone said: 'Compassion in World Farming and Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall are to be commended for raising awareness on the issue. I am

happy to support this campaign to encourage Londoners to choose free-range chickens and eggs as we are already doing at City Hall.'

Presenting the Good Egg Award to Mr Livingstone at City Hall today Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall said: 'When it comes to animal welfare, poultry is in the front line. It's time to stop intensive factory farming of broiler chickens and laying hens, and I'm delighted that London will be leading the way. I'm pleased to present this Good Egg Award on behalf of Compassion in World Farming. Well done City Hall and Ken Livingstone.'

Jenny Jones, Chair of London Food and Green Party Member of the London Assembly said: 'If we are going to eat chicken and eggs we should at least ensure they come from free-range sources and that they allow their natural behaviour. This means space to perch, nest, exercise, dustbath and forage. It is reassuring that the Mayor is happy to suggest the free-range policy currently at City Hall is extended to other Greater London Authority bodies and to support me in my work towards ensuring all poultry products are free range at the Olympics.'

Rowen West-Henzell, Food Policy Manager at Compassion in World Farming said: 'We are delighted to recognise Ken Livingstone for ensuring City Hall uses only free-range eggs and for supporting cage-free staff canteens and catering facilities throughout the Greater London Authority.'

'We know from surveys of European public opinion that citizens and consumers are concerned about laying hens. It's great to see government, as well as leading companies, responding to people's concerns so well'.

#### **Notes**

1. For further information contact: Annabel Davis or Emily Durrant at Compassion in World Farming on 01483 521950 or 07771 926005 / [www.thegoodeggawards.com](http://www.thegoodeggawards.com)
2. Jenny Jones, Chair of 'London Food' and Green Party Member of the London Assembly is available for interview - 0207 983 4411 / 07786 277 376