



River Court, Mill Lane, Godalming, Surrey, GU7 1EZ  
T: +44 (0)1483 521 950

The Rt Hon Theresa Villiers  
Secretary of State  
Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs  
Seacole Building, 2 Marsham Street  
London, SW1P 4DF

1<sup>st</sup> October 2019

Dear Secretary of State,

Compassion in World Farming was encouraged to hear your announcement at Conservative Party Conference about proposals to end the export of live animals for slaughter. However, we are extremely concerned that your speech failed to make any mention of the exports that are undertaken for fattening.

We know that you have been supportive of a ban on live exports for slaughter and fattening (not least with your recent 10 Minute Rule Bill on this issue) and have addressed of our rallies on this issue in recent years. Whilst a ban on slaughter exports is a welcome first step, it does not go far enough to bring about an end to this inhumane trade in its entirety.

Figures for 2018, obtained from APHA under FOI, show that around two thirds of all animals (sheep and calves) exported live from the UK were done so under fattening certificates. Around 50% of sheep were exported under fattening certificates even though in common sense terms they were being exported for slaughter. This is because some sheep do not go directly to a continental abattoir but instead to near-by premises and are then slaughtered a few days after arrival. A ban that only covers slaughter exports would mean that 50% of the sheep which currently leave the UK would continue to do so.

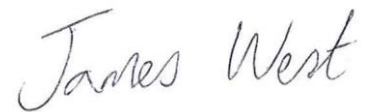
Furthermore, a ban on slaughter exports would not stop any of the more than 5,000 calves which currently leave Britain annually being sent on long distance journeys to Spain. As you know, scientific research makes it clear that young calves are poorly equipped to deal with long journeys. Their immune systems are not fully developed, and they are not able to control their body temperature well, thus they are susceptible to both heat and cold stress. In addition, unweaned calves should be fed milk replacer every twelve hours; however, this cannot be done onboard a livestock truck. As a result, they are at great risk of suffering during transport to Spain. Moreover, on reaching Spain they may be reared in conditions that would be illegal in the UK.

It is therefore possible that a ban on live exports solely covering slaughter will be open to being undermined – and the intended aims of this policy may fail to be realised as a result. This is particularly the case if exporters try to avoid this ban by rebadging slaughter exports as fattening exports. It would be extremely disappointing if such a potentially positive policy resulted in such disappointment to those who have campaigned for many years to ban live exports.

Would you be able to clarify whether the proposals you intend to bring forward will also extend to fattening animals?

We would, of course, be happy to discuss this issue with you in more detail if that would be helpful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James West". The script is cursive and fluid.

James West  
Senior Policy Manager

cc. Zac Goldsmith, Minister of State, Defra