



DEBATE PACK

Number CDP 2018/0042, 20 February 2018

Debate on an e-petition relating to ending the export of live farm animals after the UK leaves the EU

This pack has been prepared ahead of the debate to be held at 4.30pm on Monday 26 February 2018 in Westminster Hall on [e-petition 200205](#) relating to ending the export of live farm animals after the UK leaves the European Union. The subject for the debate has been selected by the Petitions Committee and the debate will be opened by Steve Double MP.

By Elena Ares
Dominic Webb
Matthew Ward
Nikki Sutherland

Contents

1.	Background	2
2.	Live animal exports	3
3.	The Petition	5
4.	News items	6
5.	Press releases	8
6.	Parliamentary material	16
	PQs	16
	Debates	19

The House of Commons Library prepares a briefing in hard copy and/or online for most non-legislative debates in the Chamber and Westminster Hall other than half-hour debates. Debate Packs are produced quickly after the announcement of parliamentary business. They are intended to provide a summary or overview of the issue being debated and identify relevant briefings and useful documents, including press and parliamentary material. More detailed briefing can be prepared for Members on request to the Library.

1. Background

Live animals are exported to EU countries from the UK for breeding, fattening, and slaughter. EU rules to protect the welfare of live animals during transport and related operations were agreed in 2004, and implemented in the UK in 2007. However, there are a number of ongoing campaigns calling for a ban on live exports for slaughter, on welfare grounds. The UK vote to leave the EU has prompted renewed calls for such a ban.

EU Regulations: protection of animals during transport

The transport and export of live animals within the European Union is regulated by [Council Regulation \(EC\) 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport](#). This sets out a series of measures, including requirements for transporters to be authorised, vehicle and container requirements, limits to time in transit and requirements for authorised rest stops. These rules do not allow unfit animals to travel and set minimum age of travel for different animals. Different rules apply to journeys under and over 65km, and those under and over eight hours.

The Commission [reviewed the regulations](#) in 2011. This review found that the regulations had had a positive impact, but acknowledged that severe animal welfare problems persisted. The main concern related to a lack of effective enforcement of the regulations.

UK implementation

The Council Regulation was implemented in the England by the [Welfare of Animals \(Transport\) \(England\) Order 2006](#), and by parallel legislation in [Scotland](#), [Wales](#)¹ and [Northern Ireland](#). The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) is responsible for carrying out inspections of animals at point of loading and at ports. Trading Standards also has powers to inspect animals during transport, and is responsible for carrying out any prosecutions under the regulations.

Is the vote to leave the EU an opportunity to ban live animal exports?

There have been a number of [campaigns](#) against live animal exports for slaughter on welfare grounds; and concern about cases such as that of 40 sheep that were euthanised in 2012 at the Port of Ramsgate following transport problems. In the case that followed the High Court ruled that the Port could not ban live animal exports, on the grounds of freedom of movement within the EU and existing UK legislation.

There has been speculation that once the UK leaves the EU, it could ban live exports. In November 2016, the then [Minister explained](#) that the Government had not reached a position on the nature of future arrangements concerning live animal exports after Brexit. Some, including [the RSPCA](#), have questioned whether it will be legally possible to ban such trade under World Trade Organisation rules. The 2017 Conservative Manifesto stated the UK could take early steps to control the export of live farm animals for slaughter once it left the EU. Since then, [Defra has stated](#) that a ban is one of the options being considered. Concerns have been raised on the impact of a ban on the export of live animals from Northern Ireland to the Republic of Ireland. There is a [Private Members Bill](#) in the current session, aimed at a live export ban with exemption for the Northern Ireland border as soon as the UK leaves the EU. The [Labour Party](#) has also proposed a ban, with a similar exemption for the Northern Ireland border

¹ [The Welfare of Animals \(Transport\) \(Wales\) Order 2007](#)

2. Live animal exports

Live animals are exported from the UK to EU member states for several reasons for slaughter, breeding, production (further rearing or 'fattening') and other purposes. Statistics on UK exports of live animals to EU member states in 2016 are shown in Table 1. The reason for export generally varies by type of animal: the majority of live cattle exported from the UK to EU are for production, while the majority of pigs, sheep and goats are exported for slaughter.

Table 1: UK live animal exports to the EU 2016	
Cattle	42,515
For production	60%
For slaughter	25%
For breeding	15%
Pigs	10,615
For slaughter	84%
For breeding	16%
Sheep	483,859
For slaughter	80%
For production	19%
For breeding	1%
Goats	1,198
For breeding	86%
For slaughter	14%
Equidae	16,931
Registered horses	81%
Other purposes	16%
For breeding	3%
Source: European Commission, TRACES	

The value of UK live animal exports to the EU by country and region between 2012 and 2016 are shown in Table 2 below. In this period, the UK has exported £1.3 billion of live animals to the EU - England accounted for 84% of this total, with the East of England alone accounting for 66%. Scotland accounted for 9%, followed by Northern Ireland at 5% and Wales at 1%.

Table 2: UK live animal exports to the EU by country and region, 2012-2016						
£ millions						
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total
East	133.0	157.5	176.6	170.3	204.6	842.0
East Midlands	0.1	4.8	4.0	3.3	14.9	27.2
London	0.3	0.003	0.003	0.0	0.01	0.3
North East	0.0	0.4	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.6
North West	13.3	10.5	11.6	4.9	12.0	52.3
South East	12.1	18.9	17.7	10.4	14.1	73.1
South West	0.04	6.1	1.9	3.3	7.8	19.1
West Midlands	5.1	6.6	4.6	1.0	2.2	19.6
Yorkshire and the Humber	6.6	6.7	8.2	5.6	9.3	36.3
Total, England	170.6	211.5	224.9	198.7	264.9	1,070.6
Northern Ireland	10.6	8.7	15.2	8.5	16.4	59.3
Scotland	29.9	20.6	16.9	11.5	35.0	113.9
Wales	0.2	0.4	0.7	3.8	11.2	16.3
Unknown	2.0	1.9	6.4	1.2	2.4	13.8
Total, UK	213.3	243.0	264.1	223.7	329.8	1,273.9
HMRC, UK Trade Info						

By value, export of live horses, asses mules and hinnies were £1,056 million, and accounted for 70% of the UK's live animal exports to the EU over the last five years. By tonnage, sheep and goats accounted for the largest single share of live animal exports to the EU at 39%, or 22,846 tonnes.²

² HMRC, UK trade info

3. The Petition

The petition [End the export of live farm animals after Brexit.](#):

The transport of live animals exported from the UK causes immense suffering. This trade is governed by EU law, not the UK Government.

The Government should plan legislation to ban the export of live farm animals in favour of a carcass only trade and introduce this as soon as we leave the EU.

Long distance travel causes enormous suffering: overcrowding; pain and stress; compromised immunity; inhumane slaughter on arrival; loss of legal safeguards. SOURCE CIWF

During live transport there is a high risk of animal suffering: handling during loading and unloading; strange sights and sounds and animals; heat stress and lack of water and rest. SOURCE RSPCA

Animals are crammed into unsuitable transport and endure gruelling journeys heading for conditions illegal in this country. RSPCA

had 84,021 signatures on 21 February 2018 and is open until 19 March 2018.

DEFRA has responded:

Government has a Manifesto commitment “as we leave the European Union, we can take early steps to control the export of live farm animals for slaughter” and will be considering options in this context.

The Government is committed to improving the welfare of animals. The Government share the public’s high regard for animal welfare. We are proud to have some of the highest animal welfare standards in the world.

The Government believes animals should be slaughtered as close as practicable to their point of production. A trade in meat and meat products is preferable to the long distance transport of animals to slaughter. Once we leave the European Union, and in line with our manifesto commitment, we can take early steps to control the export of live farm animals for slaughter. We will be considering the options further in the context of our departure from the EU.

Until negotiations are concluded, the UK remains a full member of the EU and all the rights and obligations of EU membership remain in force. During this period the Government will continue to negotiate, implement and apply EU legislation.

We have made clear in Brussels that we support improvements being made to enforcement across the EU of existing rules on the long distance transport of livestock. We have also supported calls for the European Commission to make improvements to the existing EU Regulation on protecting animal welfare in transport.

4. News items

FT [subscription]

Labour calls for ban on live exports and foie gras

13 February 2018

<https://www.ft.com/content/7ca6168e-10bb-11e8-940e-08320fc2a277>

Farming Life

DAERA must back live exports, says UFU

10 February 2018

<https://www.farminglife.com/farming-news/daera-must-back-live-exports-says-ufu-1-8373712>

BBC News Online

Minister opposes live animal exports ban [Scotland]

5 February 2018

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-42939624>

Scotsman

Brexit: Scotland-UK trade war looms over livestock exports

5 February 2018

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/brexit-scotland-uk-trade-war-looms-over-livestock-exports-1-4682590>

BBC News Online

Ban on live animal exports considered

2 February 2018

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-42916291>

Farmers' Weekly

MPs to debate petition seeking live animal exports ban

23 January 2018

<http://www.fwi.co.uk/livestock/mps-debate-petition-seeking-live-animal-exports-ban.htm>

Scottish Farmer

Michael Gove pledges to end live export for slaughter

6 December 2017

http://www.thescottishfarmer.co.uk/news/15705967.Gove_seeks_to_restrict_live_export_for_slaughter/

BBC News Online

European live animal trade raises major welfare concerns

18 September 2017

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-41281570>

The Ecologist

Will Brexit spell the end for live animal exports?

12 September 2017

<https://theecologist.org/2017/sep/12/will-brexit-spell-end-live-animal-exports>

5. Press releases

Ulster Farmers' Union

DAERA must back live exports

8 February 2018

Ulster Farmers' Union president, Barclay Bell, says that DAERA must follow the lead of the Scottish Government and publicly back the live export trade. The comments were made following Scottish Rural Affairs Secretary, Fergus Ewing's, statement this week that the Scottish Government will defend the interests of Scottish agriculture by opposing proposals to ban live exports.

Scotland is very similar to Northern Ireland in that agriculture plays a significant role in the rural economy.

I must commend the Scottish Rural Affairs Secretary for coming out and backing the farming industry,

said Mr Bell.

In Northern Ireland, the farming industry is heavily reliant on the free movement of livestock both within the UK and also to other EU Member States. Mr Bell said without this trade farmers will undoubtedly be worse off and existing production levels, which support the wider agri-food industry, would be undermined.

We need a competitive and profitable livestock sector. Any attempts to impose more controls or ban live exports would have a hugely detrimental impact,

said the president.

The Scottish government has recognised the importance of the free movement of livestock for their farming industry. We need DAERA to do the same. Farmers will not accept the excuse that the department needs a Minister in place to support a live export trade that is based on fair and proportionate regulations,

said Mr Bell.

UK Centre for Animal Law

A-Law joins forces with over 40 animal charities to produce the Brexit manifesto for animals

16 January 2018

UK Government urged to take action on cruel puppy trade, live farm animal exports, foie gras and fur imports, farm subsidies and severe animal experiments to ensure UK can maintain its role as pioneer for animals as Britain exits EU.

The UK Centre for Animal Law and Wildlife and Countryside Link[1] are today releasing a new report '[Brexit – getting the best deal for animals](#)' calling on the UK Government to turn words into action for animals.

The report is supported by 41 of the UK's best-known animal welfare charities[2] who have joined forces to make sure that animal protection is strengthened and not lost as Britain exits the EU. The report recommends a suite of changes that would enable Ministers to realise their goal of being 'a world leader on animal welfare'.

To fulfil Michael Gove and Theresa May's stated ambitions to enhance animal welfare in post-Brexit Britain, the charities are calling for animal welfare to be put centre stage in relevant future legislative decisions, including through the Animal Welfare Bill currently under consultation. The groups are urging the Government to commit to tangible actions such as: banning live exports of animals for slaughter; clamping down on pet travel loopholes exploited by unscrupulous puppy farmers; and ensuring that any farming subsidies reward best animal welfare practices.

The report also calls on the UK Government to demonstrate strong global leadership on animal welfare, including by committing to ensure that protecting and enhancing animal welfare is a priority in new trade agreements.

While many strong EU animal welfare protections have improved welfare standards, there are still major gaps in welfare law and issues where legal protections need significant improvement.

Ten top animal welfare opportunities which should be addressed during Brexit:

- *Close loopholes in the Pet Travel Scheme* that allow the cruel trade in poorly bred pups from Central and Eastern European puppy-farms: If the UK raised standards by reintroducing blood testing requirements and improving border checks, it could help thousands of dogs affected.[3]
- *Extend existing fur trade bans*. Only the sale of cat, dog and seal fur is banned in the EU, despite some 90% of the British population wanting a stop to all fur sales.[4]
- *Ban live exports for slaughter*: Livestock legislation has remained the same for 12 years despite European scientists calling for improvements on conditions and journey times. Brexit gives an opportunity to ban cruel live exports for slaughter or fattening and strengthen journey times and standards.
- *Introduce strong welfare incentives in British farming*: There is no meaningful animal welfare aspect in the existing Common Agricultural Policy, 80% of payments are essentially based on farm size. UK welfare incentives could help transform conditions for animals on British farms.
- *Introduce new animal product labelling laws*: At present meat and milk don't have to be labelled to identify how they were produced. Mandatory egg labelling saw free-range sales soar and should be replicated into other areas to aid consumer choice.

- *Ban imports of foie-gras:* The UK has been unable to ban foie-gras imports because of the EU free movement of goods principle, despite a de facto UK ban on production already existing[5] and 63% of the UK public supporting a ban on sales due to welfare concerns.[6]
- *Work with UK fisheries to promote humane catches:* Encouraging the UK fishing fleet to invest in new stunning technology would improve the welfare of billions of fish during capture.
- *Introduce legal protection for crabs, lobsters, octopuses and squids* in the Animal Welfare Bill: These animals aren't protected by EU law outside of use in laboratories, despite being proven to experience pain and suffering, and being protected in countries like New Zealand and Norway.
- *Adopt world-leading measures aimed at combatting wildlife trafficking and domestic wildlife crime:* Wild animals are being widely exploited and traded in the UK despite EU legal protection. UK legislation enforcement should be bolstered post-Brexit to protect wild animals in trade by adopting a stricter 'positive list' approach – anything on the list can come in, anything not can't.
- *Commitment to ending 'severe' suffering' in animal experiments, keep the cosmetics testing ban:* The UK should; maintain the EU testing and marketing ban on animal-tested cosmetics, improve transparency around the use of animals in research, commit to eliminating experiments causing 'severe' suffering, and invest in humane non-animal technologies – 74% of us want more done to find alternatives.[7]

Claire Bass of Humane Society International UK and Chair of Wildlife and Countryside Link's Animal Welfare Group, said:

Legal protections from the EU have helped raise animal welfare standards but as the Secretary of State has said, there is still substantial room for improvement. Animal welfare matters to voters, and it matters to British businesses; the government can satisfy both by taking the tangible steps in our report. Animal protection NGOs are united in urging government to capitalise on Brexit as a once in a generation opportunity to protect and improve the lives of billions of animals.

Alan Bates, of the UK Centre for Animal Law, said:

Fixing gaping animal law flaws is a big opportunity for post-Brexit Britain and should be a key objective for the UK Government. Not only would boosting animal welfare protections help prevent thousands of animals from unnecessary suffering and even death, it also makes economic sense. Consumers in the UK, EU and beyond are increasingly looking for welfare-responsible products. Improving labelling and welfare standards not only gives greater consumer choice in the UK, it could give a valuable boost for our products being traded abroad.

David Bowles, Head of Public Affairs at RSPCA, said:

Brexit offers huge opportunities to give animals a better deal in the UK. While the EU has given animal protections in many areas, it has also handcuffed our hands and stopped improvements to welfare in other areas like mandatory meat and milk labelling based on method of production, improving the slaughter of farm animals or stopping the sale of foie-gras, already banned in the UK. The Government has given lots of warm words on animal welfare, we now want to see cold hard action in the Animal Welfare Bill and post-Brexit legislation.

Notes to editors:

1. Wildlife and Countryside Link is the biggest coalition of wildlife and environment charities in England, and operates as part of a UK-wide coalition – Environment Links UK.

[The UK Centre for Animal Law \(A-law\)](#) is a UK charity that brings together lawyers, academics, students and others who are interested in animal protection law to share experience and to harness expertise for the benefit of the animal protection community.

2. The charities supporting these calls are: All Dogs Matter, Animal Equality, Animal Interfaith Alliance, Animal Protection Agency, Badger Trust, Battersea Dogs and Cats Home, Blue Cross, Born Free Foundation, Catholic Concern for Animals, Cats Protection, Change for Animals Foundation, Christian Vegetarian Association, Compassion in World Farming, Cruelty Free International, Crustacean Compassion, Dog Breeding Reform Group, Dogs Trust, Environmental Investigations Agency, Forever Hounds Trust, Fourpaws UK, Humane Society International UK, International Animal Rescue, International Fund for Animal Welfare, League Against Cruel Sports, Mayhew, National Anti-Vivisection Society, Naturewatch Foundation, OneKind, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, People's Dispensary for Sick Animals, Quaker Concern for Animals, Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Run Free Alliance, Save Me Trust, The Donkey Sanctuary, The Humane League, The UK Centre for Animal Law, Whale and Dolphin Conservation, Wild Welfare, Wildlife and Countryside Link, World Animal Protection, World Horse Welfare, Worldwide Veterinary Service.

3. DEFRA figures show that non-British registered dogs entering Great Britain under PETS has risen year-on-year since PETS changes, with a noticeable increase in imports of puppies and dogs from certain central and eastern European countries such as Hungary, Lithuania, Romania and Poland. For example, the number of Lithuanian dogs travelling into Britain under PETS increased by a shocking 780% between 2011 and 2013. The number of Hungarian dogs travelling into Great Britain under PETS increased by 663% in the same period. Source: [RSPCA](#)

4. [YouGov 2016 research](#).

5. No foie gras production occurs in the UK. The Government has stated that the Welfare of Farmed Animals England Regulations 2007 would prevent anyone starting to produce foie gras. It is contrary to the feed conditions in the Regulations particularly the need to feed a wholesome diet appropriate to species fed sufficient quantity to maintain them in good health, and not to be fed anything that may cause unnecessary suffering.

6. RSPCA/MORI research 2007.
7. [BEIS research 2016](#).

RSPCA

Live exports ban of animals for slaughter

25 October 2017

We welcome MP Theresa Villier's bill to ban the live export of animals for slaughter. It sets out the ways in which the UK can do so after Brexit, while remaining competitive and compliant with World Trade Organisation (WTO) rules.

The Live Animal Exports (Prohibition) Bill will be introduced in Parliament today as a 'Ten Minute Rule Bill' by Ms Villiers, MP for Chipping Barnet. The Bill will set out a strong case to garner support from MPs, laying the groundwork to persuade the Government to bring about an end to this trade in future legislation.

Current awful conditions for live exports

David Bowles, our Head of Public Affairs said:

The RSPCA strongly supports Ms Villiers' Bill to ban the live export for animals for slaughter.

These animals can suffer from exhaustion and dehydration, extreme temperatures and lack of food, water or rest. It's unacceptable that live animals are still being transported over long distances in such shocking and stressful conditions to the continent and then subjected to never ending journeys.

We also have grave concerns about the patchy enforcement of live transport laws – something highlighted by recent European Commission reports – and the fact that animals are being exported to countries where they face conditions considered illegal in the UK.

Brexit provides an unprecedented opportunity to bring about an end to this cruel and needless trade and consign live exports to the history books.

EU law prevents any restriction on imports and exports between Member States.

After Brexit, the UK will no longer be constrained by these regulations on the free movement of goods and live animals.

Better live transport

The Secretary of State for Defra, Michael Gove, has publicly said that the government is 'committed to taking steps to control the export of live farm animals for slaughter as we leave the EU.'

David added:

The RSPCA believes that the UK has two options when it comes to live transport.

Firstly, it could ban the live export of farm animals for

slaughter alone, or even for further fattening. Secondly it could impose journey time limits on transport once the animals had left UK territory. Both are not possible until the UK leaves the EU.

We're confident that a live export ban or a restriction upon export journeys could be acceptable to the WTO, now that a clear framework has been established to ensure regulations can be crafted so they can pass the tests set at the WTO.

Compassion in World Farming

Gove commits to restrict live exports

2 October 2017

Today, Michael Gove, Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, made some positive comments regarding animal welfare post-Brexit.

In his speech at the Conservative Party Conference he made a commitment to 'restrict live exports'. Although we are yet to see how or to what extent they will be restricted, we see this as a positive step in the right direction.

Further to this, we are delighted that Gove acknowledged animals as 'sentient beings', after we had raised [our concerns](#) that the legislative protection they hold within Article 13 of the 2009 Lisbon Treaty could be lost once the UK leaves the EU.

The announcement on live exports follows calls from our supporters and the wider public who have campaigned for years to end this cruel trade, culminating in our rally outside Parliament last month for '[Stop Live Transport: International Day of Awareness](#)'.

We will continue to campaign to ensure that live exports are brought to an end as soon as possible, as well as working towards retaining animals' status as sentient beings. Our Policy team will be meeting with Mr Gove later this month to press these issues.

You can show your support to Stop Live Transport by signing the petition [here](#).

Green Party

Brexit isn't the silver bullet that will end live exports - Keith Taylor MEP

18 September 2017

Keith Taylor MEP, Green Party animals spokesperson, has reiterated his call for an outright ban on live animal exports in response to an investigation by BBC's Victoria Derbyshire programme [1].

Taylor, the vice president of the European Parliament's Welfare Intergroup, joined campaigners from [across the world](#) who came together last week in [opposition to live animal exports](#) [2].

The 'Stop Live Exports' awareness day events were organised by Compassion in World Farming and supported by the RSPCA and other international animal welfare organisations.

Taylor has been a long-term campaigner against live exports and has written an article [3] urging his fellow campaigners not to be 'seduced' by the idea that Brexit will put an end to the cruel industry.

Commenting on the issue, he said:

Live exports are barbaric and the latest heartbreaking exposé is shocking but, sadly, the practices uncovered are all too common. I continue to stand alongside the passionate and dedicated campaigners across Europe and the world calling for an outright ban on this cruel and unnecessary trade.

Live exports treat beautiful and sentient animals as 'goods' as if they're no different from a bottle of whiskey or bar of chocolate. Greens want to see it banned outright.

All this suffering is entirely unnecessary. And, following the tumultuous EU referendum last year, there has been a misplaced buzz of excitement amongst British animal welfare activists that leaving the EU might finally offer an opportunity to ban live exports outright.

Let's not get ahead of ourselves. Brexit is unlikely to be the silver bullet that halts live exports.

The Government is pursuing an extreme Brexit with Britain outside of the Single Market. Ignoring the disastrous economic consequences and the loss of vital environmental, workers' rights and even animal welfare protections — if that comes to pass — Britain will become an independent member of the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

As a member of the WTO, it's as likely — if not more likely — that live animal exports will increase rather than decrease. The WTO governs the conditions, rules, and regulation of trade between countries and governments. There are currently no grounds to restrict trade, as a member of the WTO, based on animal welfare objections.

Other WTO member states, particularly those that profit from live exports, can challenge any proposed UK ban if they see it as a barrier to trade. Complicating this further is that it is entirely down to the UK government to explicitly include animal welfare standards in the language of future Free Trade Agreements (FTA).

We, therefore, as passionate, animal-loving Brits, need to continue fighting to strengthen animal welfare standards as members of the EU. We already have the necessary legislative tools at our disposal to help us in the fight — they were a gift from the EU, afforded to us by membership.

We are stronger working with our friends and neighbours, and we can — and should — continue to fight as part of the EU with the strength that our membership brings.

Austria, Denmark, Germany, and the Netherlands have all backed the [#StopTheTrucks](#) campaign calling on the European Commission to review and update EU transport regulations and, so far,

the campaign's online petition has garnered the signatures of [over one million EU citizens](#).

Notes:

1. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-41281570>
2. Keith also recorded a message in support of campaigners: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tfdeGpXvFlk>
3. http://www.theecologist.org/News/news_analysis/2989275/will_brexit_spell_the_end_for_live_animal_exports.html

6. Parliamentary material

PQs

[Livestock: Overseas Trade](#)

Asked by: Baroness Byford

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether any ban or strict controls on the export of live animals after Brexit will be matched by the same controls on import of live animals.

Answering member: Lord Gardiner of Kimble | Department: Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

The Government's manifesto commitment is that as we leave the EU, we can take early steps to control the export of live farm animals for slaughter. We are considering all the options in line with the commitment made in the manifesto.

HL Deb 15 February 2018 | PQ HL5473

[Livestock: Transport](#)

Asked by: Drew, Dr David

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what the value was of the live export of animals to the EU in each of the last five years for which figures are available.

Answering member: George Eustice | Department: Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

The value of live animal exports to the EU is estimated in the HMRC Overseas Trade statistics. The data for 2017 is not complete and only captures January to November.

	£	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017 (Jan-Nov)
Live						
Bovine	430,200	4,170,852	4,177,330	3,474,672	3,580,019	
s						
Live						
Swine	81,973	-	-	3,360	19,418	
Live						
Sheep	7,008,540	17,107,733	17,073,492	17,825,461	14,345,500	
and						
Goats						
Live	168,422,7	186,647,9	214,531,1	221,715,0	182,084,2	
Horses	40	48	00	64	04	

Live Poultry	50,103,111	41,764,297	53,484,735	69,411,788	63,341,534
Live Fish	5,911,064	5,400,239	4,075,328	6,711,044	8,639,103
Other live animals	17,166,674	16,093,367	15,805,511	17,824,004	18,076,036
Total	249,124,302	271,184,436	309,147,496	336,965,393	290,085,814

Source: HMRC
Overseas Trade
Statistics

HC Deb 13 February 2018 | PQ 126649

[Livestock: Transport](#)

Asked by: **Drew, Dr David**

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment Food and Rural Affairs, how many prosecutions there have been for (a) the illegal transportation of live farm animal exports and (b) consignments that failed to meet animal welfare standards in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and how many such prosecutions were successful.

Answering member: **George Eustice** | Department: **Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs**

In England, Local Authorities are responsible for enforcing the Welfare of Animals (Transport) (England) Order 2006 (WATEO). Local Authorities will take prosecution action when serious welfare issues relating to the transport of live animals have been identified.

As action is taken by individual Local Authorities, we do not hold specific data as to whether the action was taken against a transporter exporting live animals.

We do have data on the number of successful convictions in England and Wales made under WATEO and the equivalent legislation in Wales each year, which is published in the "Return of expenditure incurred and prosecutions taken under the Animal Health Act 1981 and incidences of disease in imported animals" presented each year to Parliament. In the last five years there has been the following number of successful convictions under WATEO:

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Convictions	14	15	8	2	12

HC Deb 08 February 2018 | PQ 126651

[Animals: Exports](#)

Asked by: McCarthy, Kerry

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, whether he plans to review the laws governing the export of live animals for slaughter or fattening.

Answering member: George Eustice | Department: Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

The Government is committed to improving the welfare of all animals. The Government has always been clear that it would prefer animals to be slaughtered close to the point of production. Leaving the EU gives us an opportunity to examine rules around animal transportation, including live exports, which are currently set by the EU. Our manifesto made it clear that we would take early steps to control the export of live farm animals for slaughter, once we leave the European Union. We are currently considering options.

HC Deb 01 December 2017 | PQ 115876

[Animals: Transport](#)

Asked by: Stevens, Jo

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what estimate his Department has made of the number of live animals transported between the UK and its international trading partners in each of the last three years.

Answering member: George Eustice | Department: Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

The number of farmed animals transported between Great Britain and its international trading partners in each of the last three years are shown in the tables below. APHA only hold export data for Great Britain. Import data has also only been provided for Great Britain for the purpose of consistent comparison.

Imports

Year Number of farmed animals*

2014 144,177

2015 128,603

2016 72,936

Exports

Year Number of farmed animals*

2014 44,923

2015 34,965

2016 68,205

*Farm animal figures include cattle, pigs, sheep and goats.

This excludes fish, invertebrates, reptiles, amphibians, birds (including poultry day old chicks) rabies susceptible animals and ungulates. This also excludes dogs, cats and ferrets moving into and out of the UK commercially and under the Pet Travel Scheme.

The information is held by the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) on Defra's and the Scottish and Welsh Governments' behalf. Northern Ireland has a separate system.

The Government is committed to improving the welfare of all animals. The Government has always been clear that it would prefer animals to be slaughtered close to the point of production. EU rules prevent the UK from restricting live exports while it is a member. Our manifesto makes clear we will take early steps to control the export of live farm animals for slaughter, as we leave the European Union. We will set out proposals in due course.

HC Deb 01 December 2017 | PQ 109499

Debates

Westminster Hall debate: Animal Welfare

HC Deb 12 December 2017 | Vol 633 cc77WH-

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2017-12-12/debates/17894A8F-795D-493D-AAB0-227C147DA4E5/AnimalWelfare>

Lords debate: Plans to Improve the Natural Environment and Animal Welfare

HL Deb 07 December 2017 | Volume 787 cc1225-

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/Lords/2017-12-07/debates/7F8930B9-5D52-4B18-8541-F8FC80B84947/PlansToImproveTheNaturalEnvironmentAndAnimalWelfare>

About the Library

The House of Commons Library research service provides MPs and their staff with the impartial briefing and evidence base they need to do their work in scrutinising Government, proposing legislation, and supporting constituents.

As well as providing MPs with a confidential service we publish open briefing papers, which are available on the Parliament website.

Every effort is made to ensure that the information contained in these publically available research briefings is correct at the time of publication. Readers should be aware however that briefings are not necessarily updated or otherwise amended to reflect subsequent changes.

If you have any comments on our briefings please email papers@parliament.uk. Authors are available to discuss the content of this briefing only with Members and their staff.

If you have any general questions about the work of the House of Commons you can email hcinfo@parliament.uk.

Disclaimer

This information is provided to Members of Parliament in support of their parliamentary duties. It is a general briefing only and should not be relied on as a substitute for specific advice. The House of Commons or the author(s) shall not be liable for any errors or omissions, or for any loss or damage of any kind arising from its use, and may remove, vary or amend any information at any time without prior notice.

The House of Commons accepts no responsibility for any references or links to, or the content of, information maintained by third parties. This information is provided subject to the [conditions of the Open Parliament Licence](#).