

CHRIS HEATON-HARRIS MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

February 2017

Dear Constituent,

Thank you for contacting me about the use of CCTV in slaughterhouses.

Let me assure you that the Government shares my own commitment to maintaining high standards of animal welfare at slaughter, and there are strict legal requirements in place. In slaughterhouses, these requirements are monitored and enforced by Official Veterinarians of the Food Standards Agency to ensure that animals are spared unnecessary suffering, distress or pain during the slaughter process.

CCTV, as with other monitoring methods, does have limitations and relies on businesses to monitor their operations appropriately. As part of the Government's ongoing consideration of this issue, the committee that advises it on farm animal welfare has reviewed the effectiveness of CCTV in verifying the welfare of animals in slaughterhouses.

The committee's report did not recommend legislation to make CCTV mandatory, but did express the view that CCTV can be beneficial to animal welfare. I am pleased to note that the Food Standards Agency estimates that 94 per cent of slaughtered cattle, 96 per cent of pigs, 90 per cent of sheep and 99 per cent of poultry are now processed on premises with CCTV, and the Government is keen to see the minority of abattoirs still without any form of CCTV move quickly to introduce it.

Once again, many thanks for taking the time to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chris'.

CHRIS HEATON-HARRIS MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR DAVENTRY