

Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS
Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog ac Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet
dros Newid Hinsawdd a Materion Gwledig
Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for
Climate Change and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: WQ96760 WQ96761

Darren Miller MS
North Wales Business Park
Abergele
LL22 8LJ

Darren.Millar@senedd.wales

23 July 2025

Dear Darren,

Thank you for your following written questions:

- WQ96760 - Will the Cabinet Secretary outline the Welsh Government's position on non-stun animal slaughter?
- WQ96761 - What discussions has the Cabinet Secretary had with stakeholders about banning non-stun animal slaughter?

Apologies for not replying to you sooner.

We take welfare at slaughterhouses very seriously. The Food Standards Agency (FSA) monitors and enforces animal welfare compliance in approved slaughterhouses in Wales. Approved slaughterhouses can choose their slaughter method, provided any legal and religious requirements are met. This means that a slaughterhouse can perform stunned or non-stunned slaughter according to customer and contractual need. There is no legal requirement for the slaughterhouse operator to inform the FSA of the slaughter method being used at any point in time, and there is no facility for FSA to routinely collect data on the levels or origins of non-stun slaughter.

Non-stun slaughter of sheep, goats, cattle, and poultry within approved slaughterhouses in Wales is permitted under animal welfare legislation. The requirements for non-stun slaughter are set out in Schedule 3 of the Welfare of Animals at the Time of Killing (Wales) Regulations 2014 and in Article 4(4) of assimilated regulation (EC) 1099/2009.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

The requirements that must be met for Halal and Kosher slaughter in accordance with religious practices include:

- It must take place in a slaughterhouse approved by the FSA.
- It must be done by someone who has a Certificate of Competence.
- The slaughter must be done in a way that follows Jewish or Islamic religious practice.
- The meat must be intended for consumption by Jews or Muslims.

We respect the rights of religious communities to eat meat prepared in accordance with their beliefs and continue to work with other UK administrations to provide assurances that Halal stunning prior to slaughter is compatible with the requirements demanded by the Muslim faith.

Thank you for writing to me on this important matter. I hope you find this response helpful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several fluid, overlapping loops and strokes, characteristic of a cursive signature.

Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS

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