



Ein cyf/Our ref LG/WQ 8640

Russell George  
Member Senedd (Montgomeryshire)

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Dear Russell

**Russell George (Montgomeryshire):** Will the Welsh Government make a statement on the efficacy of the policy of on-farm slaughter of cows and what other options has the Welsh Government considered to control the spread of bovine TB?

**Lesley Griffiths:** Cattle are only slaughtered on-farm if they are deemed unfit to transport to a slaughterhouse, or are within medicine withdrawal periods, otherwise they are transported to an abattoir for slaughter. The cattle are slaughtered on-farm by using methods which satisfy the requirements of the welfare legislation by persons approved to carry out slaughter using these methods. This ensures the welfare of cattle which cannot be transported to an approved slaughterhouse due to various reasons e.g. are heavily in-calf, have broken limbs, are very ill, are very lame, are within medicine withdrawal period, etc.) is not compromised and from a bovine TB control perspective APHA can still arrange for these animals to be examined post-mortem.

Due to industry demand, a pilot took place from January to March 2020, to see whether chemical euthanasia could be used for on-farm slaughter as an alternative method. There were major issues identified with the organisational practicalities involved and at this time this will not be taken forward as a business as usual option. There remains an option for keepers themselves to arrange for their own vet to privately slaughter an animal on-farm at their own expense.

Yours sincerely

**Lesley Griffiths AS/MS**  
Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd, Ynni a Materion Gwledig  
Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs

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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.