

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Post Implementation Review of The Mandatory Use of Closed Circuit Television in Slaughterhouses (England) Regulations 2018 - Shechita UK Response
Date: 17 January 2023 09:28:21

Good morning,

I hope you are well.

Please find a response below on the Post Implementation Review of The Mandatory Use of Closed Circuit Television in Slaughterhouses (England) Regulations 2018. This response is from Shechita UK, who represents the Jewish community on matters relating to the protection of the provision of Kosher meat in the UK and across Europe.

Please can you confirm receipt of this email?

Many thanks!

[REDACTED]

Shechita UK Response

The Jewish community has long supported the use of CCTV in abattoirs to prevent animal welfare abuses. Animal welfare is a fundamental principle of the Jewish faith and is integral to the Shechita process. Any measure that can be introduced to prevent suffering to animals is welcomed by us.

Many of the abattoirs used by the Jewish community where Shechita takes place already had CCTV implemented at the time of the 2018 regulation and we found, and continue to find, that this has helped to ensure that abattoir operatives act in the best interests of the welfare of animals, as required by Jewish law.

In our original submission, we expressed that there was not any necessity to film the actual act of slaughter itself or have a camera situated in the slaughter area. While Shechita is a legal and humane method of slaughter which is regulated by DEFRA, the FSA and the Rabbinical Commission for the Licensing of Shochetim, it is fair to say that no form of dispatching an animal is pleasant to watch.

By filming the act itself, we felt that there could be a significant danger that this could be taken out of context and used against religious slaughter and those who practise it. This had previously been the case in the past, during Animal Aid's campaign for CCTV where we saw more intense media scrutiny of the religious slaughter abattoirs filmed, in comparison to the conventional abattoirs. This is also why we explained in our original submission that holding footage for 90 days would significantly increase the potential of footage becoming public - carrying the risks of misuse - and should instead be limited to 31 days (with an exemption for any specific incidents

that require analysis to be held for longer).

We are pleased to see that the introduction of CCTV has not been about placing disproportionate and discriminatory scrutiny on religious slaughter, but to improve animal welfare in abattoirs across the board. We are also not aware of any data breaches where the material has fallen into the hands of people with a hostile agenda. As long as CCTV in abattoirs continues to be used in this way, with strong safeguards on the footage, we are comfortable with the regulations as they stand.

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