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Bernard Van Goethem, Director  
Crisis Preparedness in Food, Animals and Plants  
Directorate General for Health and Food Safety  
European Commission  
1049 Brussels

1 December 2023

Dear Bernard,

### **Ongoing outbreaks of *Salmonella enteritidis* related to poultry meat exported from Poland to the UK**

You will be aware that outbreaks of *Salmonella enteritidis* linked to Polish poultry meat, poultry products, and eggs have been ongoing in the UK since 2016. Since 2019 the UK has detected six significant outbreaks, resulting in around 2,680 human cases and several deaths.

We have written to you previously seeking assurance that suitable risk mitigation measures have been implemented to control this issue. In our most recent letter dated 22 August 2022 (attached), we understood that the situation had improved following the introduction of enhanced control measures within Poland.

However, we are again seeing an increase in reports of *Salmonella* contaminated poultry products from Poland being placed on the UK market. More broadly, the table below shows recent RASFF notifications connected to poultry meat and poultry meat products from Poland:

<b>Time period</b>	<b>RASFF notifications</b>
October to November 2023	<b>14</b>
May to November 2023	<b>66</b>

Given this data, we are increasingly concerned that the risk mitigation measures put in place by Poland, and as outlined in your correspondence dated 27th September 2022 (attached), are not appropriately controlling *Salmonella* contamination as is required.

We are therefore requesting an update on the plans the EU Commission and Poland have in place to resolve this issue and resolve the ongoing threat to UK public health. In that regard, please provide:

- a comprehensive review of the controls implemented to date to address this issue, including the outcomes of actions so far; and
- the measures and systems that will be introduced to prevent products contaminated with *Salmonella* being exported to the UK.

Owing to the significant public health risk posed to the UK by affected Polish products, we are considering the options available to us to protect UK consumers. This includes the potential for safeguard measures on affected products. We would be happy to arrange a technical meeting between relevant officials to discuss how best to resolve this issue, and to keep you informed of any actions we propose to take.

Thank you for your co-operation to date on this matter and we look forward to receiving your response.

Yours sincerely,

Redacted

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**CC:** Dr Paweł Niemczuk, Chief Veterinary Officer for Poland

**Enc:** Letter dated 22 August 2023 from UK CVO and FSA CEO