

KEITH TAYLOR
Green Party
for the South East of England



The Rt. Hon. James Paice
Minister of State for Agriculture and Food
House of Commons,
London,
SW1A 0AA

4th October 2011

Dear Minister,

I am concerned about the animal welfare of live animals being exported from Ramsgate port in Kent. Many local constituents have contacted me raising their concerns that animal welfare standards for the animals being exported are not being enforced.

As you know Regulation EC 1/2005 affords protection of animals during transportation. I do not feel the current regulation goes far enough, and have been calling on the European Commission to ensure that the any regulations include shorter journey limits as a step towards a ban on all live exports. Nevertheless, as you know the current Regulation does include measures to ensure that monitoring and enforcement of EU standards takes place.

A recent report by Compassion in World Farming has highlighted that across the EU standards on animal transportation are often not being met and animals are being transported in poor conditions resulting in exhaustion, dehydration and, in some cases, death in transit. I find this extremely worrying.

I would like to know how DEFRA is ensuring that EU standards are being met for the animals which are being exported from Ramsgate port. What monitoring of the transportation conditions is taking place and are DEFRA satisfied that adequate animal welfare standards are being met?

I very much look forward to hearing from you on this important matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keith Taylor". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke underneath the name.

Keith Taylor - Green Party MEP, South East England.