

KEITH TAYLOR
Green Party
for the South East of England



Thanet District Council
PO Box 9
Cecil Street
Margate
Kent, CT9 1XZ

13th January 2012

Dear Councillor Hart,

I am writing to you regarding the continued live animal exports from the port of Ramsgate, for which Thanet District Council is the responsible authority.

The live transport of animals is a matter of great concern to many people across the UK. Many of my constituents in the South East region are extremely concerned about this continued practise and I have been heavily involved in trying to end it. I understand that Thanet Council is unable to ban the export of live animals under current UK and EU legislation but feel there is further action that the Council should consider taking on this issue.

As you may be aware, Portsmouth City Council have managed to prevent the export of live animals by increasing the levy that exporters must pay to £5000, in addition to the berthing fee. This fee is aimed to cover the increased costs incurred by the Council due to the shipment of live animals. These include policing the port, additional staffing and additional security.

Given that the current fee of £750 is inadequate to cover such costs some of the costs for these services currently comes from the public purse and represents a subsidy to the export of live animals. As such, I feel it is possible for Thanet Council to increase their charges to reflect these costs, which is a legal and justifiable measure if it can be shown that the costs are necessary.

Compassion in World Farming has a case study available (www.ciwf.org.uk/portsmouthcasestudy) of how Portsmouth City Council prevented the export of live animals from their port. Their success implies that Thanet Council may also be able to end a trade which it has stated it is morally opposed to.

I urge you to follow the example of Portsmouth and to end this trade from Ramsgate once and for all.

Kind regards,

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

Keith Taylor - Green Party MEP, South East England.