

Lesley Griffiths AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Ynni, Cynllunio a Materion Gwledig
Cabinet Secretary for Energy, Planning and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: OAQ52289

Julie Morgan AM
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Dear Julie

At Oral Assembly Questions on 13 June, you asked a question regarding the Code of Practice for the Welfare of Gamebirds Reared for Sporting Purposes and I committed to write to you.

The welfare of gamebirds is protected by the Animal Welfare Act 2006. Section 9 of the Act, sets out the needs of animals to include; a suitable environment; a suitable diet; ability to exhibit normal behaviour patterns; to be housed with, or apart from, other animals (as necessary), and, the need to be protected from pain, suffering injury and disease. The Code of Practice for the Welfare of Gamebirds Reared for Sporting Purposes was produced in consultation with the shooting industry and welfare organisations. The purpose of the Code is to provide practical guidance in relation to Section 9 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006. The Code states that when birds are housed or penned their accommodation should be well constructed, well managed and of sufficient size to ensure good health and welfare. Any system should be appropriately enriched and those responsible for gamebirds should be knowledgeable and competent in husbandry and management techniques.

Any concerns about a specific gamebird rearing premises should be reported to the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) or relevant Local Authority. They are responsible for the delivery and enforcement of animal health and welfare provisions on behalf of the Welsh Government.

Work is ongoing to revise the existing Welsh Government Codes of Practice. Priorities for revising the Codes are agreed with stakeholders. I will update Assembly Members accordingly.

Regards
Lesley

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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.