

Rt Hon Kemi Badenoch MP
Secretary of State
Department for Business and Trade
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19 July 2023

Dear Secretary of State,

Animal Health and Welfare and the CPTPP

On behalf of the British Veterinary Association and the British Veterinary Poultry Association we are writing to voice our concerns over the animal health and welfare implications of the recently agreed terms for the UK to join the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP).

While we appreciate that the deal will open up trade with those countries in the partnership, we are extremely concerned that import tariffs on eggs and egg products will be phased out over a 10-year period, with no apparent consideration of the types of systems used in other countries. This creates the opportunity for eggs to be imported from those countries which use conventional battery cage systems, which as you know have been illegal in the UK since 2012.

Under the British Lion Code of Practice, British egg producers operate to world-leading standards of animal welfare. In addition to undercutting our egg producers, such imports would also send a concerning message that the UK will not negotiate for high animal health and welfare standards on the global stage.


Leaving the EU allowed the UK to take control of its trade policy and ensure that animal health and welfare underpins its trade agreements. It is vitally important that existing standards are maintained and that opportunities to improve and enhance them are taken.

As the CPTPP allows members to set their own levels of protection, we are seeking your assurance that the UK's high standards will not be compromised by this agreement, and that a set of core standards will be developed before the UK offers tariff-free access to its market. Engagement with the veterinary profession will be vital in the development of these standards and we would welcome the opportunity to discuss this with you further.

Yours sincerely,



Malcolm Morley
BVA President



Michael Clark
BVPA President

cc. Rt Hon Dr Thérèse Coffey MP, Defra Secretary of State
Professor Christine Middlemiss, UK Chief Veterinary Officer

British Veterinary Association
Patron: Her Majesty The Queen

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