

[Insert address]

XX - <https://members.parliament.uk/FindYourMP> - XX

[insert date]

Dear [insert name of MP]

As a **vet** and resident in your constituency of [insert constituency], I am calling on you, as my MP, to urge the Government to clarify its position on the future of housing systems for laying hens, following the consultation on the potential ban of enriched cages.

As you will be aware, leading veterinary bodies including the British Veterinary Association (BVA) and British Veterinary Poultry Association (BVPA) have set out a clear position: calling for enriched cages for laying hens to be banned due to their negative impact on the welfare of the animals. While enriched cages meet some basic needs, each hen is typically given only around the space of an A4 sheet of paper. It is clear they deliver poorer overall welfare outcomes than cage-free systems. While most UK egg production is already cage-free, there is an opportunity to improve welfare standards further.

However, transitioning away from enriched cages to free-range, organic or barn housing brings its own animal welfare challenges, which must be carefully managed to ensure consistently high standards. Farmers will need support to move to higher welfare systems, and the Government must ensure that UK producers are not undercut by imports produced to lower welfare standards.

In this context, I am asking you to write to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs seeking answers to the following questions:

- When will the Government publish its response to the consultation on cages for laying hens
- What support will be provided to help egg producers transition to higher welfare systems if a ban is implemented
- What measures will be taken to ensure imported eggs and egg products meet UK animal welfare standards

The UK has long been a leader in animal welfare, and it is important that future policy changes support both high welfare standards and British farmers.

Yours sincerely,

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