



## SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE

---

Environment and Rural Affairs Department  
Agriculture Group

Pentland House  
47 Robb's Loan  
Edinburgh EH14 1TY

To: Agricultural related organisations, animal welfare organisations, trades and veterinary interests, local authorities, and police forces.

Telephone: 0131-244 6462  
Fax: 0131-244 6616  
animal.health@scotland.gsi.gov.uk  
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk>

Your ref:  
Our ref:

16 May 2005

---

Dear Sir or Madam

I am writing to invite comments on the enclosed consultation document and draft Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Bill.

In February 2003 the Scottish Executive issued a paper "Animal Disease Control: Proposals for Legislation in Scotland – Consultation Document on Protecting Scotland's Livestock Industry and Wider Rural Economy". This proposed amending the Animal Health Act 1981 by giving new powers to enhance Scottish Ministers' ability to respond quickly to exotic animal disease outbreaks. These powers would be used only in the event of a serious and fast-spreading animal disease outbreak. Some of the provisions would mirror those in the Animal Health Act 2002 already passed at Westminster for England and Wales.

A separate consultation on proposals to amend the Protection of Animals (Scotland) Act 1912 was issued in March 2003. This paper aimed to address the specific problem of the lack of statutory powers available to local authorities to remove neglected farm livestock to a place of safety. Responses to this consultation showed a clear desire for a much wider reform of existing animal welfare legislation. A further consultation "Proposals to revise existing animal welfare legislation" was issued in March 2004. This proposed to modernise, strengthen and consolidate Scottish animal welfare legislation relating to animals that are commonly domesticated in the British Islands, are under the control of man, or not living in a wild state.

A large number of responses were received to the animal health and animal welfare consultations and these have been taken into account in preparing the draft Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Bill. This current consultation brings together the separate health and welfare provisions into one draft Bill and poses a series of questions on their main policy issues. It represents a further stage in the consultation process for these provisions.

Comments on the proposals should be sent to the address below by **Monday 4 July 2005**. I would be grateful if you would clearly indicate in your response which question or parts of the consultation document you are responding to as this will aid the analysis of the responses. You should also complete and return the Respondee Information Form (which is attached to the letter) with your response. This will let me know how you wish your response to be handled.



Responses should be sent to:

Clare Hicks  
Animal Health & Welfare (Scotland) Bill Team  
Scottish Executive Environment and Rural Affairs Department  
Room 347, Pentland House  
47 Robb's Loan  
EDINBURGH  
EH14 1TY

You can, if you prefer, submit your response by e-mail to: [animal.health@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:animal.health@scotland.gsi.gov.uk)

If you have any queries contact Clare on 0131 244 3064.

If you would like further copies of this consultation or the document in an alternative format, such as large print, Braille, audiotape or disc, or in a community language, please get in touch with Clare using the contact details above. I expect that most respondents will find it easier to send in a written response, but if you would find it easier to respond in some other way (such as by telephone, by audiotape or at a meeting) please get in touch with Clare.

In addition to seeking written responses, I have arranged a number of meetings where you can express your views and seek clarification on the proposals. All the meetings will start at 7:30 pm and are open to all. If you would like to attend please would you telephone Mark Allen on 0131 244 3062. The meetings will be held at:

15 June	Inverness	Thistle Hotel	Milburn Road, IV2 3TR
16 June	Aberdeen	Marriott Hotel	Overton Circle, Dyce, AB21 7AZ
21 June	Glasgow	Grosvenor Hotel	Grosvenor Terrace, G12 0TA
22 June	Edinburgh	Holiday Inn Edinburgh	Corstorphine Road, EH12 6UA

This consultation, and all other Scottish Executive consultation exercises, can be viewed online at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/consultations>. You can telephone Freephone 0800 77 1234 to find out where your nearest public internet access point is.

The Scottish Executive now has an e-mail alert system for SE consultations (SEconsult). This system allows stakeholder individuals and organisations to register and receive a weekly e-mail containing details of all new SE consultations (including web links). SEconsult complements, but in no way replace SE distribution lists, and is designed to allow stakeholders to keep up to date with all SE consultations activity, and therefore to be alerted at the earliest opportunity to those of most interest. I would encourage you to register.

Consultation is an essential and important aspect of Scottish Executive working methods. Given the wide-ranging areas of work of the Scottish Executive, there are many varied types of consultation. However, in general Scottish Executive consultation exercises aim to provide opportunities for all those who wish to express their opinions on a proposed area of work to do so in ways which will inform and enhance that work.

While details of particular circumstances described in a response to a consultation exercise may usefully inform the policy process, consultation exercises cannot address individual concerns and comments, which should be directed to the relevant public body. Consultation exercises may involve seeking views in a number of different ways, such as public meetings, focus groups or questionnaire exercises.

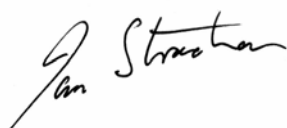
Typically, Scottish Executive consultations involve a written paper inviting answers to specific questions or more general views about the material presented. Written papers are distributed to organisations and individuals with an interest in the area of consultation, and they are also placed on the Scottish Executive web site enabling a wider audience to access the paper and submit their responses. All the responses to this consultation will be made available to the public in the Scottish Executive Library by 31 August 2005, unless confidentiality is requested. All responses not marked confidential will be checked for any potentially defamatory material before being logged in the library or placed on the website. The library is located at Saughton House, Edinburgh (K Spur, Saughton House, Broomhouse Drive, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD, telephone 0131 244 4552).

The views and suggestions detailed in consultation responses are analysed and used as part of the decision making process. Depending on the nature of the consultation exercise the responses received may:

- indicate the need for policy development or review
- inform the development of a particular policy
- help decisions to be made between alternative policy proposals
- be used to finalise legislation before it is implemented.

If you have any comment about how this consultation exercise has been conducted, please send them to Clare.

Yours faithfully



**Ian W Strachan**  
Animal Health and Welfare Division

## RESPONDEE INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the details below and attach it with your response. This will help ensure we handle your response appropriately:

Name:

Postal Address:

Consultation title:

1. Are you responding as: (please tick one box)

- (a) an individual  (go to 2a/b)  
(b) **on behalf of** a group or organisation  (go to 2c)

### 2a. INDIVIDUALS:

Do you agree to your response being made available to the public (in SE library and/or on the SE website)?

- Yes (go to 2b below)   
No, not at all

2b. Where **confidentiality is not requested**, we will make your response available to the public on the following basis (please tick **one** of the following boxes)

- Yes, make my response, name and address all available   
Yes, make my response available, but not my name or address   
Yes, make my response and name available, but not my address

### 2c ON BEHALF OF GROUPS OR ORGANISATIONS:

Your name and address as respondees **will be** made available to the public (in the SE library and/or on the SE website). Are you content for your response to be made available also?

- Yes   
No

## SHARING RESPONSES/FUTURE ENGAGEMENT

3. We will share your response internally with other SE policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for the Scottish Executive to contact you again in the future in relation to this consultation response?

- Yes   
No