



APGAW Abattoir Inquiry 2019

Name:		Organisation or Role:	
Email:		Response can be published Y/N	

Overview: The numbers of abattoirs, and in particular, their local availability to primary producers and local consumers, is in decline. There are now only 56 small red meat abattoirs left in the UK¹, with a third having closed between 2007 and 2017 and further closures in 2018. There were 30,000 abattoirs in the UK, across all sizes, in 1930 declining to just 249 in 2017. It has been questioned by a number of key stakeholders as to whether this dramatic decline in abattoir infrastructure has led to animals being transported further; an effective monopoly on costs for both the slaughter and sale of by-products, and a loss of skills. Additionally, it has been stated by some groups that the absence of local abattoirs detrimentally affects rural resilience by restricting the ability of local producers to process and market their products and add value. Importantly for APGAW, we question whether these changes have had an impact on animal welfare.

NB: Definition of small or medium size abattoir: A large abattoir is classified as 30,000+ LU, medium sized 5,000-30,000 LU and anything less than 5,000 is seen as small. (LU=Livestock Unit)

Aim: To understand the welfare and wider impacts of fewer abattoirs and to evaluate whether small and medium sized abattoirs provide better welfare for animals, support rural resilience, and, if so, whether the Government should recognise their provision as a “public good” for both producers and consumers.

This inquiry will focus on pig and ruminant slaughter.

Questionnaire

Please limit each answer to **300 words maximum** to ensure political members will read your response

If you do not want to answer all of the questions, please leave the space blank

Please send your response to admin@apgaw.org or by post to: Office of Lord Trees, House of Lords, Westminster, SW1A 0AA. The closing date for responses is the 10th March 2019.

APGAW may contact you to ask you to give oral evidence on the basis of your answers below.

1. Has the decline in abattoir provision caused concern for your industry/sector and for what reasons?

Answer:

¹ <https://www.fginsight.com/news/news/small-abattoirs-must-be-recognised-as-a-public-good-in-the-uk-77003>

2. Are large scale abattoirs able to meet the needs of your industry/sector? Why or why not?

Answer:

3. Do you feel the welfare of the animals you take to slaughter is compromised at a large scale abattoir and if so how?

Answer:

4. Do you feel the welfare of the animals you take to slaughter is compromised at smaller abattoirs and if so how?

Answer:

5. Do you think increased traceability is the best way to improve animal welfare standards? Can large scale abattoirs provide this or would it be better achieved by more abattoirs of different sizes and how?

Answer:

6. Do large scale abattoirs affect the rural economy and, if so, in what way? Would more small abattoirs, geographically dispersed, affect the rural economy and, if so, how?

Answer:

7. Do you have any examples of small abattoirs running a sustainable and viable business which you could share? How do the economics of smaller abattoirs compare to those of larger abattoirs?

Answer:

8. Could the economics of smaller abattoirs be improved, including reducing costs, mutual or cooperative ownership, and targeted public support?

Answer:

9. Are there any additional comments you would like to raise? (please stick to 300 words)

Answer:

Thank you for participating in this inquiry. Your data will be held securely for the purposes of this work