

JEREMY QUIN MP
Member of Parliament for Horsham



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

13th February 2017

Dear Constituent,

RE: CAGED HEN EGGS

Thank you for contacting me about enriched cages for laying hens.

I am committed to the highest standards of animal welfare and I know that the Government takes the same view. This strong commitment is reflected in World Animal Protection's recent Animal Protection Index, which judged 50 countries on their policy and legislation for animals and saw Britain ranked joint top alongside New Zealand, Austria and Switzerland.

As you may know, the ban on conventional hen cages came into force on 1 January 2012. The UK egg industry made significant efforts to prepare for the ban, investing millions of pounds converting conventional cages to enriched ones. I am not aware of any plans to extend the ban to cover enriched cages.

You will be aware that the independent Farm Animal Welfare Council concluded its advice to the Government in this issue that,

"The welfare of laying hens kept in enriched cages is acceptable provided that the highest standards of animal husbandry are practiced."

The industry-led British Lion Quality standards, under which 130 billion eggs have been sold since 1998, involve even higher animal welfare requirements than the law specifies, so I am confident that appropriate steps are being taken to safeguard laying hen welfare.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeremy Quin'.