

FREE RANGE EGG LABELLING INFORMATION STANDARD SUBMISSION

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

The issue of correct labelling, especially where it comes to preventing cruelty to animals involved in the production of a product, is very important to me.

I am delighted that the Government is working to clarify what "free range" actually is, in relation to egg production. However, I am concerned that the definition proposed is not clear enough and could be open to incorrect interpretation which will mean that hens will continue to suffer in this industry.

I would request that Treasury give consumers confidence when they choose to purchase eggs classified as "free range" by:

- Tightening the exceptions for providing access to the outdoor range so that access cannot be denied on a routine basis;
- Including a requirement that regulators consider the following in determining what "meaningful and regular access" means:
 - Flock size and stocking densities inside the barn;
 - Size of openings relative to the number of hens;
 - Placement of physical structures and architecture inside the barn;
 - The condition of the outdoor range including providing adequate shelter, foliage and vegetation; and
 - The extent to which hens actually access the range.

Anything less will not prevent cruel conditions for hens and will not give consumers certainty about exactly what they are buying when choosing "free range" eggs.

Yours faithfully,

Karen Gillow