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The Rt Hon Tessa Jowell MP  
House of Commons  
London  
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**Your ref:** 01101775  
**Our ref:** MC185986/CS

11/6 June 2010

**From the Secretary of State**  
The Rt Hon Caroline Spelman MP

Dear Tessa,

Thank you for your letter of 27 May enclosing a copy of an email from a number of your constituents about farm animal welfare.

We are aware that farm animal welfare is an issue in which many people and organisations are interested. The programme of the new Coalition Government is set out in the following document:

[http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/media/409088/pfg\\_coalition.pdf](http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/media/409088/pfg_coalition.pdf)

We are committed to achieving high standards of animal welfare and are now working through the detail of policies to ensure that we accomplish this. We are also committed to ensuring that food procured by government departments, and eventually the whole public sector, meets British standards of production wherever this can be achieved without increasing overall costs. As a first step towards attaining this, we are seeking to embed Red Tractor standards into UK Government procurement policy.

  
CAROLINE SPELMAN