

c/o TFA, 5 Brewery Court, Theale, Reading, Berkshire RG7 5AJ
Tel: 0118 930 6130 Fax: 0118 930 3424 Email: george@tfa.org.uk

SSO/gwd/0712
15 June 2009



British Egg Industry Council

The Rt Hon Hilary Benn MP
Secretary of State
DEFRA
Nobel House, 17 Smith Square
London
SW1P 3JR



Dear Secretary of State

Defra Consultation on a New Independent Body for Animal Health

The sector specific organisations listed below have combined in the writing of this letter to make clear our opposition to the establishment of an independent body for animal health as promoted by the above consultation document. Each organisation will be submitting its own detailed response but we wanted you to be in no doubt as to the strength and unity of our concern on this issue.



Whilst rejecting the independent body approach, we fully support the development of the current framework of core and stakeholder group partnerships and believe this is the most effective and efficient basis for the way ahead. The core and stakeholder partnership model has already proved itself to be successful in the handling of disease crises and in the sharing of responsibility for animal diseases and the cost burdens associated with these.

The establishment of an arms length body is not the way forward and we are convinced that working in partnership to take the animal health agenda forward will be the best option for all concerned. What is important is working closely with you, the CVO and Defra officials to develop policies and practices which will deliver improved animal health and welfare within the budget constraints for both the government and the industry.



We sincerely hope that you will take our comments fully on board in your assessment for future options. In that respect we would welcome the opportunity of meeting with you to explain our concerns in more detail.



Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Williams".

Mark Williams
Chief Executive, British Egg Industry Council

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ted Wright".

Ted Wright
Chairman, British Poultry Council





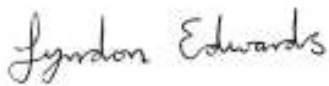
Jonathan Crow
Chairman, Game Farmers Association



British Egg Industry Council



Kim-Marie Haywood
Director, National Beef Association



Lyndon Edwards
Chairman, Royal Association of British Dairy Farmers



Greg Bliss
National Chairman, Tenant Farmers Association

