

Email to: helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Template email:

Dear Secretary of State,

I hope this email finds you well. I am writing on behalf of *insertcompanyname* to urge you to ban the use of cages for laying hens.

This week marks the 200th anniversary of the 1st ever animal welfare legislation in the UK. Known as Martin's Act, after Richard Martin MP, the law sought to prevent the cruel and improper treatment of cattle. This was a historic occasion for animals and, now, you have the opportunity to make history too by ensuring a legislative ban on cages for hens.

The UK has seen a growing shift away from cage egg production over the past decade, following on from the ban on barren battery cage systems in 2012. All major food companies have committed to transition to cage-free egg supply chains, with many already having done so. Alongside this, the majority of egg producers have committed to completely remove cage egg production from their supply chain by 2025.

Looking further afield, the European Commission has committed to proposing legislation to phase out cages. 18 countries, including seven European ones, and ten US states have already phased out cage egg production or have legislative bans pending. As recently as June 20, Israel, where just 3.2% of hens are cage-free, approved regulations that would end cages for hens.

Now is the time for the UK to secure national legislation to phase out cages completely. At, *insertcompanyname*, we have committed to ending the use of cages for laying hens in our supply chain. We are calling on you to follow suit.

Kind regards,