



Enhanced Animal Welfare Enforcement

Requirement for slaughterhouse operators to retain CCTV footage for 90 days

12. We would welcome the retention of CCTV footage for 90 days as a reasonable requirement. Such a requirement is in line with legislation in England and Scotland, the [Farm Animal Welfare Committee \(FAWC\) recommendations](#), the requirements of several large retailers and the RSPCA Freedom Foods quality assurance scheme. As FAWC recommends, if there is an indication that footage might be used as evidence in enforcement action, it should also be retained beyond the 90-day period. In addition, to support authorised officers to verify CCTV footage retrospectively, there should be clear protocols in place that outline who is able to monitor the footage and why. Likewise, appropriate training should also be provided for staff involved in reviewing CCTV footage, on how to carry out effective observational techniques and securely store and access recorded material.
13. We understand that the cost of 90 days' storage would be relatively low and so not act as a financial burden to FBOs. Further, the retention of CCTV footage for 90 days would allow for the retrospective viewing of footage for training purposes which would be a useful training tool for both Food Standards Agency (FSA) and slaughterhouse staff, as well as informing overarching FBO business operations to consolidate an unwavering focus on animal welfare throughout slaughterhouse processes.

Unrestricted access to authorised persons to view (in real time and stored), copy or seize recorded images

14. Unrestricted access for Official Veterinarians and other authorised officers to real time and stored CCTV footage is paramount. The purpose of CCTV in slaughterhouses is fundamentally undermined if vets are refused access to footage and the footage is not monitored independently of the slaughterhouse business operator. Permitting unfettered access to real time and stored CCTV footage enhances OVs' and other enforcement officers' opportunities to monitor and verify compliance with animal welfare requirements retrospectively, and allows for the identification of suspected compromises or breaches of animal welfare for further investigation.
15. However, as the consultation document recognises, the unrestricted viewing of CCTV footage should be seen as an additional management tool to protect animal welfare. CCTV should be used to complement, not reduce or replace, the existing physical presence and controls exercised by OVs in slaughterhouses to assess and maintain compliance with animal welfare standards.
16. It should

