Written Question

Sarah Wollaston (Totnes, Conservative)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress she has made on bringing forward legislative proposals for the labelling of meat in respect of (a) method of slaughter, (b) method of rearing and (c) name of the abattoir of slaughter.

James Paice (Minister of State (Agriculture and Food), Environment, Food and Rural Affairs)

No legislative proposals have been made in relation to labelling meat in respect of method of slaughter, method of rearing and name of the slaughterhouse where slaughter was carried out. However we are aware of the considerable public interest in this issue.

People should know what they are buying in shops or when they are eating out, and I have had discussions with the supermarkets, the food and catering industries about the role labelling and point of sale information can play in giving consumers a greater choice. This is a difficult, complex and sensitive issue that cannot easily be resolved in view of the many competing interests involved.

We will be looking at this further, but will need to consider the impact of existing EU meat labelling Regulations on our ability to propose national method of slaughter labelling carefully, before any final decisions are taken.

They Work For You

Hansard