

CCU 7th Floor
Eastbury House
30-34 Albert Embankment
London
SE1 7TL

Email: ccu.correspondence@defra.gsi.gov.uk
Website: www.defra.gov.uk

Dr Caroline Lucas MEP
Suite 58, The Hop Exchange
London
SE1 1TY



CCU Ref: DWO125726/DB

31 March 2009

Dear Ms Lucas,

Industrial Emissions Directive

Thank you for your letter of 11 March to Hilary Benn about the impact of the proposed Industrial Emissions (IPPC) Directive. I have been asked to reply.

As you may be aware, the proposed Industrial Emissions (IPPC) Directive is still the subject of ongoing negotiations between Member States, the Council and indeed the European Parliament. A settlement has yet to be reached between all parties before it becomes law. Therefore, it would be inappropriate to comment on how competent authorities in the UK might implement it as its final provisions are unknown at this stage. Nevertheless, the UK, along with some other Member States, has expressed its concerns about the reduction in poultry thresholds and extending Best Available Technique (BAT) to manure spreading outside of the boundaries of installations and will continue to make representations at the negotiations.

On the subject of current permitting charges, this has indeed been the key focus of recent discussions, chaired by Defra, between representatives of the livestock sector, the Environment Agency (EA) and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA). The key facts emerging from this meeting were that: (1) the EA had devised a standardised approach which kept permit application charges (at typically £3,000 - £3,500) some 50% lower than they might otherwise have been; and (2) inspection and product assurance regimes would be combined for farms designated to take part in the scheme by the EA resulting in annual fees of £1500. This was developed following Defra-brokered discussions between the sector, the Agency and the assurance bodies. Installations not authorised to participate – perhaps because of poor compliance history or other concerns about the operation – are charged £2,386 annually.

Recently, and in line with representations made by industry to government and following consultations, the EA devised a new charging regime which takes environmental performance into account and postponed its implementation to April 2010 in order to allow the agricultural sector time to prepare.



Defra and the EA remain in dialogue with members of the livestock industry sector through the IPPC Sounding Board forum which Defra chairs. It is my hope that the NFU and other representative groups continue to input into these discussions so that mutual concerns can be aired and a solution that benefits all can be agreed.

Yours sincerely,

Dan Bowan
Defra - Customer Contact Unit

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Dan Bowan', located below the typed name and title.