



Animal &  
Plant Health  
Agency

## APHA Briefing Note 22/24

# Upcoming ban on the export of livestock and horses for slaughter and fattening

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### Purpose

1. To inform Official Veterinarians (OVs) located in England, Scotland and Wales that as of 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2024, it will be an offence to export cattle, sheep, pigs, goats and equines for slaughter and fattening from Great Britain to destinations outside the UK, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man.
2. OVs should be aware that the ban will not apply to exports for other purposes, such as breeding or competitions, nor to exports of other species such as poultry.

### Background

3. The Animal Welfare (Livestock Exports) Act 2024 came into law on 20<sup>th</sup> May and makes it an offence to export livestock and horses for slaughter and fattening, beginning in or transiting through Great Britain to another country. Thereby stopping the stress, exhaustion and injury caused by this unnecessary trade.
4. The legislation also ensures that animals are slaughtered domestically, in high welfare UK slaughterhouses; preventing the export to unknown and possibly lower welfare slaughterhouse conditions.
5. The ban applies to:
  - cattle and other bovine animals (such as bison or buffalo)
  - horses and other equine animals (such as ponies, donkeys, and mules)
  - sheep
  - goats

APHA is an Executive Agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and also works on behalf of the Scottish Government, Welsh Government and Food Standards Agency to safeguard animal and plant health for the benefit of people, the environment and the economy.

- pigs, and wild boar.
6. The ban **does not** apply to livestock and horse movements **within the UK**, nor to exports for other purposes, such as breeding, competition, racing and scientific purposes, and not to exports of other live animals, such as poultry. The ban **does not apply in Northern Ireland**.

## Action

OVs involved in animal exports should familiarise themselves with the content of this note and new guidance when it becomes available.

## Further Information

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