

**Elin Jones AC/AM**  
Y Gweinidog dros Faterion Gwledig  
Minister for Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru  
Welsh Assembly Government

Eich cyf / Your ref:  
Ein cyf / Our ref: LF/EJ/0013/08

Mick Bates AM  
Chair  
Legislative Scrutiny Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

18 November 2008

Dear Mick

When I gave evidence to the Legislative Scrutiny Committee on Tuesday 11 November 2008 I agreed to provide information on two particular points concerning the size of the goat industry in Wales and the proportion of red meat levy that is raised on animals brought into Wales for slaughter.

### **The size of the goat industry in Wales.**

These animals are not included in the annual digest of Welsh Agricultural Statistics so information is not readily available but the following estimates give an indication of the scale of the activity in Wales.

- The total number of goats in the UK is estimated to be 95,000 of which 9,000 are in Wales.
- The number of milking goats is estimated to be 33,000 in England and Wales and the largest known milking herd in Wales is approximately 400 animals.
- Approximately 7,500 goat kids are killed for meat in England and Wales.
- The total UK market for goat meat is estimated to be £336,000 per annum.

### **The proportion of the Welsh Red Meat Levy that is raised on animals that are brought in from outside to be slaughtered in Wales**

There are a large number of livestock movements both ways across the English/ Welsh border, for grazing, finishing and slaughtering. As such, determining the exact proportion of sheep, cattle and pigs that are slaughtered in Wales and which originate from outside of Wales is difficult to calculate.

However, HCC have calculated the proportion of GB stock which are located in Wales and compared it to the red meat levy collected in Wales.  
Figures are based on 2007 data.

### **Sheep**

- 28.2% of GB total sheep and lambs are located in Wales
- 25.7% of GB sheep levy is collected in Wales

Using the above, sheep levy collection in Wales is lower than the sheep stock numbers located in Wales. This difference has been calculated by HCC to equate to approximately **£297,040 per annum**.

### **Cattle**

- 13.4% of GB total cattle and calves are located in Wales
- 6.8% of GB cattle levy is collected in Wales

Using the above, cattle levy collection in Wales is significantly lower than the cattle stock numbers located in Wales. This difference has been calculated by HCC to equate to approximately **£569,427 per annum**.

### **Pigs**

- 0.5% of GB total pigs are located in Wales
- 0.4% of GB sheep levy is collected in Wales

Using the above, pig levy collection in Wales is slightly lower than the stock numbers located in Wales. This difference has been calculated by HCC to equate to approximately **£10,881 per annum**

Yours sincerely



**Elin Jones AC/AM**

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