



Janet Finch-Saunders MS|AS

Aelod Senedd Cymru dros Aberconwy
Member of the Welsh Parliament for Aberconwy



Mr Jason Tarry,
CEO Tesco UK & ROI
Via email.

25/06/2020

Dear Chief Executive,

I hope that this letter finds you and your staff well during this extremely challenging period.

I am writing following allegations raised by several constituents that Tesco has begun to sell eggs from caged hens for the meagre price of 25 pence. I wish to convey collective dismay at this fact, which undermines the significant moves by the British farming industry to improve their welfare standards. For too long we have allowed individuals to put cost above welfare.

As you are aware, the UK egg industry is worth billions of pounds each year. British farmers operate within a competitive global marketplace and we currently import eggs from several countries within the EU and import egg derivatives from countries outside the EU. According to RSPCA Assured, approximately 50% of egg laying hens in the UK are still kept in battery cages. This is a major concern as cages - mainly made of wire mesh – fail to allow hens enough space or the ability to scratch freely and perch comfortably. It is widely accepted that restricting a hen's behaviour can lead to frustration and suffering.

As a world-renowned British brand, with over 3,700 stores, Tesco stands in a privileged position to help facilitate change. Whilst I am glad that you have announced that the company will stop sourcing eggs from caged hens by 2025, there is more you can do in the immediate term. For example, Tesco has a proud history of educating its customers through its *Food to Fork* campaign. I ask that you look at providing clear signage about the circumstances in which these eggs came about. I also ask that you look at providing further educational resources to consumers about the caged eggs hidden in processed foods, like pasta, quiche, cakes and mayonnaise so they can make an informed choice when shopping.

A pioneering and positive campaign by a company such as yours could result in better practices being adopted across the board, with thousands of hens having the opportunity to enjoy a better life. I look forward to hearing your reply to my proposals in due course.

Yours sincerely,

Janet Finch-Saunders MS/AS

Office of Janet Finch-Saunders MS,
29 Madoc Street,
Llandudno,
LL30 2TL.
07540 964676

Welsh Parliament,
Cardiff Bay,
CF99 1SN.

Janet.Finch-Saunders@Senedd.Wales