



**Heritage Party**  
**Madeleine Hunt**  
**General Secretary**

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**Subject: Urgent Appeal for Transparency and Ethical Oversight Regarding Mass Animal Slaughter**

**To:**

**The Health and Social Care Committee,  
The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA),  
Relevant Parliamentary Ministers (e.g., Health Secretary, Environment Secretary),  
The Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee,  
The Public Accounts Committee (for accountability in governmental decisions related to animal welfare and culling policies).**

I am writing on behalf of the Heritage Party members and supporters to formally express our strong opposition to the ongoing practice of mass animal slaughter, particularly under the justification of public health emergencies such as bird flu outbreaks. These measures echo alarming precedents where public health was used as a pretext for control, and they pose significant ethical concerns for animal welfare and public trust.

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## **Historical Parallels to Manipulative Practices**

### **Recent Example: Bird Flu Outbreaks**

In the current bird flu outbreaks, the mass culling of poultry has been implemented without transparent evidence of its necessity or effectiveness. These policies result in immense suffering for animals, financial harm to farmers, and a growing distrust among the public. Similar tactics have been used historically to consolidate power or achieve political goals under the guise of health protection.

### **Mad Cow Disease (BSE) in the UK**

In the 1990s, the UK government culled thousands of cattle during the BSE crisis, citing public health concerns. This was later revealed to be a mismanaged response, harming farmers and undermining public trust. Today, we see similar patterns in bird flu culling decisions, where transparency and sufficient scientific evidence are lacking.

### **Soviet Union: Health Crises as a Pretext**

During Stalin's regime in the 1930s, fabricated health crises were used to justify mass animal culling, such as the slaughter of cattle, to maintain state control over food supplies. These actions, presented as protective measures, were politically motivated and caused devastation for communities reliant on livestock.

### **China's Sparrow Campaign and Ecological Collapse**

In the late 1950s, China's "Four Pests Campaign" led to the mass killing of sparrows,

purportedly to protect grain crops. This decision ignored ecological balance and caused widespread famine, demonstrating the catastrophic consequences of poorly conceived culling practices.

### **East Germany: Agricultural Controls**

The East German regime frequently used health emergencies to justify controlling livestock. Like the UK's current culling practices, these measures prioritized state control over transparency or the welfare of animals and people.

### **Bovine Growth Hormones and Industrial Farming**

In the 1980s and 1990s, the introduction of bovine growth hormones led to widespread health issues for cattle, prioritizing economic gain over animal welfare. This manipulation mirrors today's intensive farming practices, where profit often supersedes ethical considerations. It is premature to establish the safety of bovine and similar products, and there are documented cases that have already alarmed animal welfare organizations, proving fatal consequences of bovine growth hormones.

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## **The Erosion of Animal Welfare and Ethical Oversight**

In both historical and modern contexts, animal lives are treated as disposable commodities to serve political or economic agendas. The Heritage Party strongly opposes the commodification of animal life under the guise of public health or environmental protection.

### **1. State Control Over Life and Death**

The practices of the Soviet Union, East Germany, and China demonstrate how governments can use public health as a pretext to exert control. The UK's current approach to animal culling risks setting a similar precedent, where the state undermines ethical principles in the name of emergencies.

### **2. Undermining Public Trust**

The lack of transparency in mass culling policies leads to public distrust in government decisions. This erodes confidence in the institutions responsible for safeguarding both human and animal welfare.

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## **The Heritage Party's Position on Animal Welfare**

The Heritage Party advocates for strong animal welfare protections, grounded in respect, compassion, and dignity. We call for:

- An immediate review of mass animal culling practices to ensure they are evidence-based and humane.
  - Policies that respect the intrinsic value of life and prioritize animal welfare over political or economic expediency.
  - Greater transparency and accountability in governmental decisions affecting animals and the public.
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Thank you for considering our concerns. We trust that you will take the necessary steps to ensure that animal welfare remains a priority in future policy decisions. The parallels between past totalitarian regimes and current practices are clear, and we must act to prevent history from repeating itself.

Yours sincerely,

**Madeleine Hunt**

General Secretary, on behalf of Heritage Party members and supporters