

HUW MERRIMAN MP  
(Bexhill and Battle)



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Mark Spencer MP  
Minister of State  
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs  
Nobel House  
17 Smith Square  
London  
SW1P 3JR

Our Ref: HM29573

3 November 2022

Dear Mark,

Congratulations on your new appointment as Farming Minister.

I am writing with regard to the provision of abattoirs within East Sussex. The county's one remaining abattoir, Tottingworth Farm, in Heathfield, has announced its imminent closure. The owners cite staff difficulties, tighter regulations and the increased demands from regulators.

I spoke with your predecessor about the county's provision. Mention was made by her of a mobile abattoir being utilised. I would be keen to meet you, or to receive details, as to whether this, or another solution, could be delivered. East Sussex is a rural county. The land is largely low-grade pastureland. As such, livestock is at the heart of our farming community. Margins are low. I am concerned as to the economic impact on our farmers and the welfare impact on livestock which would have to travel many miles if we are left without abattoir provision in East Sussex.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Huw Merriman', on a light yellow background.

Huw Merriman  
Member of Parliament for Bexhill and Battle

Please reply to: Constituency Office, 29-31 Sea Road, Bexhill-on-Sea, TN40 1EE  
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