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11 April 2017

Heather Hancock  
Chair of the FSA Board  
Food Standards Agency  
Aviation House  
125 Kingsway  
London WC2B 6NH

Dear Heather,

**Serious animal welfare abuses at the Malik Food Group**

At UNISON we regard animal welfare to be one of our highest priorities. Undercover reporting reported in the Daily Mail on 7<sup>th</sup> April, shows horrific and distressing animal cruelty that the FSA must decisively deal with and prevent future abuses.

Having seen the photographs here: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4391914/amp/Halal-slaughterhouse-investigated-animal-cruelty.html>, I am formally writing on behalf of our members to demand a full investigation.

Our members feel strongly that the FSA is not doing enough to prevent these abuses. In our recent member survey, 22% of respondents have seen animals mistreated at premises where they work. These abuses range from hitting, kicking, inflicting pain, shouting, stunning to inappropriate areas, torturing and dragging.

It is also worrying that the FSA does not know where the meat produced by the plant is sold. I know that the FSA is in favour of mandatory CCTV in all slaughterhouses. Our members working as Official Veterinarians and Meat Hygiene Inspectors are willing to review this footage as part of their role. It is vital that such an independent system is introduced immediately. I urge the FSA to do all it can to persuade Government of the urgency of this monitoring.

I look forward to hearing your response.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul Bell".

Paul Bell  
UNISON National Officer

Cc Martin Evans, Animal Aid