

**Consultation on a New Code of Practice for the Welfare of Livestock:  
Meat Chickens and Breeding Chickens**  
**Response from the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities**

[Click here](#) to read the consultation document.

The Scottish Council of Jewish Communities welcomes the opportunity to comment on the draft Code of Practice. Kindness to animals is a cornerstone of *Halachah* (Jewish Law), which sets out detailed laws to ensure the welfare of animals, and we therefore, support the intention "*to encourage all those who care for farm animals to adopt high standards of husbandry*".

The only section on the Code on which we wish to comment relates to slaughter for meat. *Halachah* requires meat consumed by Jewish people to be prepared by *shechitah*, which is the humane method of slaughter for food animals. This requirement is absolute, and observant Jews may not eat meat prepared by any other method. It is, therefore, extremely important to the Scottish Jewish community that *shechitah* should remain legal, and we are grateful for the support of the Scottish Government, most recently from Richard Lochhead in response to S3W-8024, when he stated that "*it would be perfectly legal for [slaughter without pre-stunning] to be used in Scottish slaughterhouses*".

We would wish to see this formally recognised in the Code, and would therefore request that paragraph 5 on page 24 should be amended to include "*shechitah (the humane method of slaughter for kosher meat)*" among "*other permitted methods of killing*".

-----  
Note: The Scottish Council of Jewish Communities (SCoJeC) is the representative body of all the Jewish communities in Scotland comprising Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, and Dundee as well as the more loosely linked groups of the Jewish Network of Argyll and the Highlands, and of students studying in Scottish Universities and Colleges. SCoJeC is Scottish Charity SC029438, and its aims are to advance public understanding about the Jewish religion, culture and community. It works with others to promote good relations and understanding among community groups and to promote equality, and represents the Jewish community in Scotland to government and other statutory and official bodies on matters affecting the Jewish community.

In preparing this response we have consulted widely among members of the Scottish Jewish community.