



His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales

14 May 2020

Via e-mail: enquiries@sandringhamestate.co.uk

Your Royal Highness,

I'm writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) and our 1.2 million members and supporters across the UK in relation to the planning application (ref: 20/00054/FM) seeking permission for the construction of additional sheds on the Sandringham Estate in order to expand the current cattle herd by 500 animals. In light of the devastating impact of animal agriculture on our planet and the species we share it with, we respectfully urge you to withdraw the application and to move towards plant-based agriculture.

According to a United Nations report, animal agriculture is "one of the top two or three most significant contributors to the most serious environmental problems, at every scale from local to global". This finding is backed up by much other research. For example, scientists at the University of Oxford have calculated the massive damage that animal agriculture does to the planet. They found that despite providing only 18% of calories and 37% of protein globally, the meat, aquaculture, egg, and dairy industries use approximately 83% of farmland and are responsible for up to 58% of the food industry's greenhouse-gas emissions. Speaking about "grass-fed beef", Joseph Poore, the lead author of the study, said, "Converting grass into [meat] is like converting coal to energy. It comes with an immense cost in emissions."

The destruction of habitats to provide grazing land and grow feed for farmed animals is also pushing wildlife to extinction. In fact, a [report by the World Wildlife Fund](#) revealed that 60% of global biodiversity loss is down to meat consumption, and this figure is set to increase.

Perhaps the most compelling reason to stop farming animals is to end the horrific suffering involved in getting every piece of animal flesh to the table. When you consider everything we know today about the intelligence and emotional complexity of cows, bulls, and other animals – when you recognise that they have distinct personalities and a will to live – it becomes impossible to justify killing them for a fleeting moment of taste. We understand that you intend to use the cows' manure as fertiliser for the crops grown on the Sandringham Estate, but this is not a good reason to expand the herd – there are many environmentally friendly plant-based fertilisers for which no animals suffer.

With all due respect, the last thing this country or any other needs is bigger farms and more farmed animals. By withdrawing your application and making the transition to farming healthy, sustainable crops at a time when the plant-based food market is booming, you'd be setting a positive example for all British people to follow.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully,

Theodora Iona

Theodora Iona
Campaigns Officer

PEOPLE FOR
THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT
OF ANIMALS

PO Box 70315
London N1P 2RG
United Kingdom
+44 (0) 20 7837 6327
+44 (0) 20 7923 6242 (fax)

Info@peta.org.uk

PEOPLE FOR THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT OF ANIMALS (PETA)
FOUNDATION – a charitable
company limited by guarantee,
with its registered office at
Cannon Place, 78 Cannon Street,
London EC4N 6AF.
Registered in England and Wales
as charity number 1056453,
company number 3135903.

Affiliates

- PETA US
- PETA Asia
- PETA India
- PETA France
- PETA Australia
- PETA Germany
- PETA Netherlands