



Ronald Kers
2 Sisters Food Group

Via e-mail: ronald.kers@2sfg.com

Dear Mr Kers,

I'm writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) and our more than 1 million members and supporters to ask that you close the 2 Sisters abattoirs and poultry-processing and cutting plants in the UK to prevent the further spread of the novel coronavirus.

In the last few months, the meat industry has been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic – outbreaks have occurred in at least three UK meat-processing plants, infecting around 3,000 workers and leading to 14 deaths to date across the EU. PETA was pleased to see 2 Sisters do the right thing by closing its plant on Anglesey in North Wales last week. We now ask that you act to prevent the spread in other parts of the country by closing all of your plants and abattoirs, at least until the virus has been eradicated from the UK.

Working on a kill floor or poultry production line has always been a dangerous and dirty job. Staff must work in cold, cramped conditions and keep up with absurdly fast slaughter speeds, in addition to witnessing and participating in truly revolting practices, such as killing petrified chickens. Now, as long as the facilities stay open and the pandemic persists, they also have to worry about contracting deadly COVID-19. That's not right.

The detrimental impact of animal agriculture on our planet is now widely recognised. Researchers at the University of Oxford confirm eating vegan is the single best way to help save the planet, and the UN has named meat "the world's most urgent problem". A study published in April this year found that wildlife species will die out and natural ecosystems will collapse much sooner than originally anticipated, should the climate crisis continue unchecked.

What's more, factory farms and abattoirs threaten everyone's health – not just that of workers and meat-eaters – by creating a breeding ground for deadly diseases. Mad cow disease came from the spinal cords of cows that were cut out at slaughter. Swine flu – which came from farmed pigs – has killed hundreds of thousands of people worldwide. Likewise, bird flu can easily spread on crowded chicken farms. Now, while the world is battling the current pandemic – which is thought to have originated in a live-animal market – it's crucial that all of us, including 2 Sisters, do our part to help prevent future outbreaks and protect people around the world.

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

One way you could do this is by making the transition to vegan meats, which would help protect human health, the environment, and, of course, animals and makes business sense. Twenty-five per cent of millennials as well as 22% of Londoners told Mintel that vegan eating is now more appealing to them. Vegan meat sales were 50% higher than sales of animal flesh during the panic-buying frenzy (8 March to 29 March), and the momentum is continuing. Plant-based meat sales grew at a rate of 61% in the following four weeks, although sales of animal flesh declined. A recent survey reveals that 39% of UK adults are now regularly buying "free from" food and drink. Such is the popularity of meat-free food that sales are expected to be in excess of £1.1 billion by 2024, as many meat-substitute companies are rapidly expanding.

Successful businesses adapt to the times, and UK supermarkets and high street retailers are rushing to keep up with the demand for vegan fare. As the new CEO of 2 Sisters, you could lead the company away from meat production by closing its processing plants and focusing attention on producing vegan foods, which are healthier, better for the planet, and kinder to animals. We urge you, as a major player in the UK meat industry, to lead by example and take this opportunity to reinvent your business. Doing so would spare countless workers and animals suffering.

I would be thrilled to discuss this important matter with you.

Kind regards,

Kate Werner

Senior Campaigns Manager