



Councillor Tina Combellack
Deputy Mayor
Rushcliffe Borough Council

12 April 2022

Via e-mail: Cllr.tcombellack@rushcliffe.gov.uk

Re: Planning application 22/00243/FUL

Dear Ms Combellack:

I am writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) and our more than 1.3 million members and supporters in relation to planning application 22/00243/FUL, which seeks permission for the development of four poultry sheds, feed-blending rooms, feed bins, an access road, and associated infrastructure on land north of Cotgrave Road in Owthorpe, Nottinghamshire.

Together, the proposed buildings would hold as many as 190,000 chickens per 48-day cycle. With 7.5 cycles a year, that's almost 1.5 million birds every year. We object to this proposal for the following reasons:

- Operations on the farm would produce strong odours – including of the chickens' waste and the bodies of dead chickens – that may disturb local residents and degrade their quality of life.
- Ammonia from the chickens' waste would be emitted into the atmosphere and spread across the surrounding area, likely having a negative impact on air quality and potentially having a detrimental effect on human health, wildlife, and the environment. The farm's elevated position would allow the ammonia to be carried by the south-westerly wind down the hill directly to its neighbours, and run-off from the units could pollute the ponds in close proximity to the site.
- The farm would produce large amounts of poultry litter, which would be transported offsite. This could leak or spill and contaminate the surrounding area.
- The increase in the number of chickens being transported to and from the farm and the number of staff needed to run operations would lead to much more traffic to the site, causing increased pollution and disturbing the neighbours, other residents, and the wildlife in the adjacent woodland.
- The proposal could be harmful for the surrounding wildlife in the Vale of Belvoir, an area of outstanding natural beauty, because of the air, water, noise, and light pollution it would perpetuate. As pointed out by another objector, light pollution from this facility would render the local observatory useless. Its position at the top of the hill would make it a blight on the surrounding landscape and spoil the countryside.
- The farm would cause immense suffering to the chickens confined there. Chickens are intelligent and social animals who can feel pain and distress. As

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

many as 190,000 birds at a time would be crammed into the four proposed buildings, which would measure less than 20.5 metres by 110 m. The animals would be denied the chance to do anything that is natural and important to them, such as roaming, scratching, pecking for food, and building nests for their offspring. Chickens reared for meat are bred to grow unnaturally quickly, and within a few weeks, many are unable to stand because they can't support the weight of their bodies, causing some to starve or die of heart failure or respiratory issues. They never have an opportunity to go outside or engage in natural behaviour.

- Chickens naturally live for up to 12 years, but those raised on this farm would be killed when, at just 5 to 6 weeks old, they would be sent to the abattoir. There, they would face a throat-cutting machine before being plunged into scalding-hot water.
- These plans are at odds with the government's commitments to animal welfare. It is impossible to "have and promote the highest standards of animal welfare" when cramming 1.5 million chickens into windowless sheds every year on a farm such as this, where they would endure a life of suffering.
- Finally, taking into account the negative effects of the coronavirus pandemic on our society, it is imperative that farms such as this one no longer be built or expanded in the UK. These farms are hotspots for zoonotic diseases – the H5N1 strain of bird flu originated in farmed geese before infecting chickens raised for meat and eggs – and the UK is currently in the midst of the most serious bird flu outbreak to date. Some strains of bird flu can be transmitted from birds to humans, and the deadliest of these, H5N1 and H7N9, have killed hundreds of people around the world. The proposed facility would be an ideal breeding ground for bird flu and pose an immense risk to public health. There are already five other intensive farms in the Rushcliffe Borough Council area, including another large poultry unit only 2.2 kilometres away. The last thing the country needs is another enormous chicken farm.

We hope you will take our objections into account, along with comments made by local residents, when coming to a decision on this application.

Yours sincerely,



Kate Werner
Senior Campaigns Manager