

*Dear Sir/Madam,*

*Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the Free Range Egg Labelling Consultation Paper.*

*A legislated definition of free-range eggs is critical to ending the exploitation of consumers and the unfair market that confronts genuine free-range farmers.*

*In order to meet consumer expectations of animal welfare, it is essential that the definition of 'free-range' includes specific conditions like stocking density and husbandry practices.*

*Taking this into account, I believe that the following definition of 'free-range' should be legislated:*

*"Free-range production systems must have a maximum stocking of 1,500, as outlined in the Model Code of Practice. It must be ensured that hens can, and do, move about freely on an open range on most days. De-beaking is not permitted as a routine procedure."*

*I also believe that Production systems that stock hens intensively at 10,000 birds per hectare should not be permitted to use the 'free-range' label. Eggs must not be labelled as 'free-range' if this is not true, we need stricter food labelling laws that respects the animals and the farmers who do the right thing.*

*Thank you for your time.*

*Yours sincerely,*

*Sarah-Jane Eynon*