

02/03/2024



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To Whom it may concern

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Re - Torriad Farms Ltd, Torriad Farm Bowling Bank, Wrexham, LL13 9RT

I write in my capacity as the Agricultural advisor to the above business. The farm currently has 450 dairy cows and 360 replacement heifers. There is enough housing for the cows, but not enough housing for all of the heifers, as currently around 170 are housed on another rented farm which the owner has agreed to sell to an investor, and hence this housing will not be available from the winter of 2024-25. Additional housing for rent has been searched for locally, but none has been found available. Furthermore, the heifer housing at Torriad farm is going to become overstocked as the animals grow up, which has the risk of being a compromise to animal welfare. Hence there is a requirement for housing for 200 heifers.

The farm has been under TB restrictions for the majority of time since the business was set up in 2021. When under TB restrictions, the business cannot move cattle on to other farms (unless to a linked holding which doesn't have any stock themselves), and the only option is that they go direct to slaughter. From an ethical, welfare and economic points of view, it has therefore meant that heifers have to be kept and a local farmer agreed to house them on his farm, but as mentioned previously, this option is not available in the future.

Housing for an additional 200 heifers will therefore mean that when the farm is under TB restrictions, all cattle can be kept on the holding in high welfare housing. As the farm sells its milk to Tesco's, via Muller, the welfare standards are even higher than the Red Tractor Farm assurance scheme, so it is even more important that additional high welfare housing is built at the farm.

Additional information can be provided, as required.

Yours faithfully