



SANDSTONE VET GROUP

25 May 2022

To Whom It May Concern

Further to my letter dated 29 March 2022 please see below my responses to the questions raised.

As stated in my original letter this 600 animal herd has on average one to two calvings per day. Approximately half of these occur during the hours of darkness when Torriad Farm isn't staffed thus on average there is one calving per night every night throughout the year.

We have reviewed and listed the accidents, injuries and losses incurred over the last year (Appendix 1). Overall, this amounts to approximately 90% of the total events. I believe that this balance of daytime versus nighttime events is because someone is always present on farm during the daytime to intervene should any problem arise.

Whilst I am unaware of published targets specific to acceptable levels of injury and loss, in professional opinion the level of loss sustained at Torriad is much too high. I therefore have made this one of our key targets to address. I believe however that this should be as close to zero as is feasible and so their incidence at Torriad must be reduced significantly from both a production and a welfare point of view. Based on the balance of events occurring at night versus daytime, I believe that the total number of events would reduce significantly with someone on site during nighttime.

Furthermore, as mentioned in my previous letter, it is highly irregular that no person is present on a unit of this size during night and I am unaware of any other similar units being left unattended overnight that we look after at Sandstone Vet Group. Being unattended in my view compromises the welfare of these animals and could possibly have food safety issues.

Should you require further information or would like to discuss this further please contact me on 07432 875531.

Yours Sincerely,

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Appendix 1: List of night time incidents over the past 12 months at Torriad Farm.	
Date	Incident
May 2021	Unregistered calf suffocated in amnionic sac, found dead in the morning.
June 2021	Adult cow 402344 died during calving, found dead in the morning.
June 2021	Adult cow 103083 died though blood loss at calving, found dead in the morning.
June 2021	Adult cow 103979 strangled, found dead in the morning.
July 2021	Adult cow 602563 found with broken leg in the morning and euthanased.
Nov 2021	Unregistered calf suffocated in amnionic sac, found dead in the morning.
Nov 2021	Second unregistered calf suffocated in amnionic sac, found dead in the morning.
Nov 2021	Adult cow DE86277 accident overnight, found unable to stand in the morning and euthanased.
Feb 2022	Calf 504396, trapped leg, broken and euthanased when found in the morning.
Feb 2022	Adult cow 27 found with broken leg in the morning and euthanased.
March 22	Adult cow DE80259 found with injured leg in the morning and euthanased.
May 22	2x unregistered calves born overnight and stood on by cows resulting in broken legs and euthanasia when found in the morning.
May 22	Unregistered twins suffocated in amnionic sac, found dead in the morning.