



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

The Rt Hon Michael Gove MP
From the Secretary of State for Environment, Food
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Rt Hon George Howarth MP
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18th September 2017

Re George,

Thank you for your email of 30 August on behalf of a number of your constituents about the rearing of gamebirds in cages.

This is a complex issue, not least because different types of birds have different needs. Between 2010 and 2012 we carried out a Defra funded study of the use of raised laying cages for pheasants and metal boxes for partridges. That study did not show any significant differences in bird welfare between cages and traditional open pens over the duration of the study. The details of the study can be found on the GOV.UK website in the Defra research section.

The statutory *Code of Practice for the Welfare of Gamebirds Reared for Sporting Purposes* provides keepers with guidance on how to meet the welfare needs of their gamebirds as required by the Animal Welfare Act 2006.

Thank you again for your email.

With every good wish,

Mrs.
M

Michael Gove