

Minister for agriculture:

June 2024

Dear

I write to you today to share my sadness and shock at the recent documentary shared by RTE '*Horses – Making a Killing*' on the 12th of June 2024.

In this documentary serious animal welfare abuse and cruelty has been exposed. Witnessed in this documentary is the mishandling, beating and in one instance a horse is prodded with a pitchfork to get it to stand.

I call upon the Government to take immediate action to address these barbaric practices. At a minimum I call for the following:

- Immediate ceasing of operations at Shannonside Foods Ltd whilst a comprehensive investigation occurs with a view to potentially shutting this abattoir down permanently.
- This investigation must be disclosed to the public with full transparency the breakdown in operations at Shannonside Foods Ltd.
- For all animals still at Shannonside Foods Ltd facility in Straffan and other premises associated or affiliated with Shannonside Food Ltd I ask that all animals receive immediate veterinary inspection/attention.
- Immediate dismissal of all employees witnessed performing these acts of cruelty and criminal charges pursued in line with the Animal Welfare Act of 2013.
- I call upon you as a Government official to issue a formal statement in respect of the recent discovery outlining the additional actions to those called out above that you will take.

I welcome your response to my email and I expect this matter to be dealt with at pace, particularly ensuring any animals at these holdings are vet checked immediately and shown the respect and dignity they deserve in their final days or week on this earth.

Regards