

## Policy Case-Study: Reduction in broiler stocking density from 39kgm<sup>2</sup> (legal max) to 30kgm<sup>2</sup> (legal max)

1. Description of policy change	Reduction of maximum stocking density to align with RSPCA Assured of a maximum indoor SD of 30kgm <sup>2</sup>
2. UK animal populations affected (species, systems, numbers)	Meat chickens (Gallus gallus) with around 1bn slaughtered annually
3. Current different main systems of production for that species (for example, Defra view on the named systems which currently exist)	See WOFAR for requirements associated with keeping meat chickens, stocking density of 33kgm <sup>2</sup> and additional requirements when stocking at the maximum permitted level of 39kgm <sup>2</sup> . (RSPCA Assured indoor max 30kgm <sup>2</sup> , free range max 27.5kgm <sup>2</sup> , with organic at 30kgm <sup>2</sup> or 21kgm <sup>2</sup> )
4. Proportion of the different systems in the UK at current time and likely post-policy	Around 90% are conventionally reared to Red Tractor assurance scheme standards which sets a maximum stocking density of 38kgm <sup>2</sup> (lower than the max set in legislation of 39kgm <sup>2</sup> ). Remaining production RSPCA Assured, free range, organic and retailer schemes.
5. Likely impacts foreseen as a result of the policy change	More space which should improve animal welfare and enable birds to exhibit more normal behaviours (particularly in terms of roaming and wing stretching).
6. Any linked recent policy changes (are there any other policy changes or policy directions which may also impact this same area?)	x
7. Legal basis for current systems (of the system(s) under consideration) - e.g. if policy is for a change in stocking density, a statement of current regulation around stocking density	WOFAR Sched 1 and specifically Sched 5A (conventionally reared meat chickens)
8. Animal 'lifecycle' information specific to the system(s) under consideration – e.g relevant information on common management practices for the system(s) under discussion	<a href="https://publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/672222/code-of-practice-for-the-welfare-of-meat-chickens-and-meat-breeding-chickens.pdf">Code of practice for the welfare of meat chickens and meat breeding chickens (publishing.service.gov.uk)</a>
9. Any other available information about the policy change proposed (e.g. from a Defra policy appraisal)	For the purposes of analysis, it will be assumed that changes from stocking densities with a starting point lower than the 39kgm <sup>2</sup> legal level will result in a pro rata change in welfare score compared with that estimated for the 39 to 30 range.