

Compassion in World Farming/ Humane Society International

Thursday 18 February

0800 – 0859

Date:	Tuesday 16 February 2021
Time:	8:00am – 8:59am
Location	Teams

Members:	NAWAC Subcommittee (Chair Included)
Attendees:	MPI Representatives
Invited Speakers:	Humane Society International Representatives Compassion in World Farming Representative
Apologies:	NAWAC Subcommittee Member

Meeting Summary:

On Thursday 18 February the NAWAC pig subcommittee met with representatives from Compassion in World Farming and the Humane Society International to hear their views on farrowing crates.

Many large corporations and financial institutes are now looking to incorporate animal welfare into their businesses and have a standard for these. This is largely driven by not only animal advocacy groups, but by public perception, and the latest in science and innovation.

Farrowing crates have been prohibited in several European countries. Free farrowing pens that are well designed and well managed, have proven to have the same, if not lower mortality rates over systems that employ the use of farrowing crate. It was recommended that temporary crating should not be permitted, as it undermines several benefits of incorporating a free farrowing system.

Free farrowing of sows and gilts has shown to improve a variety of welfare aspects for both sow and piglets alike. Some of these include:

- Allowing crucial nest building behaviours to occur
- Increased oxytocin levels
- Shorter farrowing durations
- Improved maternal behaviours
- Greater suckling success
- Reduced stress in sow
- Greater body weights of piglets
- Enriched environments increase social development and increases play behaviours