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Aarti Ramachandran
FAIRR Initiative
116 Park St
Mayfair
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21st September 2018

Re. Livestock production and the prophylactic use of antibiotics

Dear Ms Ramachandran,

Thank you for your letter dated 15th August 2018 and your commendation for the approach taken to publically support the reduction in antibiotic usage in our supply chains.

Since our last dialogue with FAIRR last year we have continued to collate data from our suppliers re the levels of antibiotic usage and welfare KPI data. We have faced challenges in obtaining consistently reported data from the veterinary agencies in each of the locations purchased from as it is the responsibility of veterinarians representing local government agencies rather than our suppliers whom are prescribing and collating the data on antibiotic usage.

All suppliers of meat, fish and seafood supplying to The Restaurant Group confirm antibiotics are prescribed by approved veterinarians and that prophylactic use nor use for growth promotion is not permitted.

Social responsibility and ethical standards are embedded into the business ethics of our suppliers and antibiotic usage is a fundamental being targeted for reduction across the species we procure.

We have taken steps to build into our tendering guidelines the requirements for antibiotic monitoring and reduction targets and are pleased to report we are working towards the 'European Better Chicken Commitment' within which welfare standards, growth rates and slaughter methods are targeted to improve the welfare during the lifespan of the animals used in our poultry supply chain.

We are monitoring the efforts of DEFRA and other European and International agencies to ensure our policies are in line with industry best practice in antibiotic stewardship.

We commit to defining specific targets and implementation timelines for suppliers to achieve by 2021. Following the confirmation of our final guidelines the monitoring of compliance will fall into our standard audit and monitoring review programme with all suppliers assessed annually.

We trust you find our efforts to date and future plans evidence of our ongoing commitment to engage, support, monitor and reduce antibiotic usage across the products purchased.

Yours sincerely,

Jo Paxton
Head of Technical
The Restaurant Group Plc