

Thank you for your correspondence to Mr Phil Glyde, Acting Secretary, Department of Agriculture. Attached is your response.

Thank you for your email of 14 December 2013 to Mr Phil Glyde, Acting, Secretary, Department of Agriculture, about ESCAS and the recent report of mistreatment of cattle in Gaza. Mr Glyde has asked me to reply on his behalf.



As you are aware, the Department of Agriculture has responsibility for regulating the live animal export trade. As regulators, decision-makers operating under the legislative framework are required to exercise independent discretionary judgment. It is a matter for the regulator to decide which powers to exercise and the basis for the exercise of those powers.

The department is currently investigating the alleged breaches and will determine material questions of fact based on relevant evidence. In appropriate circumstances, the department will write to the exporter to request information about suspected breaches of legislative requirements, and may direct the exporter to address particular issues.

The department is committed to a transparent, procedurally fair process to ensure the purposes and outcomes of the legislative framework are achieved. Thank you again for your email.

Yours sincerely

Dr Jenny Cupit
A/g First Assistant Secretary
Live Animal Export Division

24 December 2013

Further departmental information and contact details are available on the department's website at <http://www.daff.gov.au/>.

Please note if you wish to contact the Minister please do not respond using this email address. The Minister's contact details are available on his official website at http://www.aph.gov.au/Senators_and_Members/Parliamentarian