

John F. Robins, Secretary and Campaigns Consultant, Animal Concern,
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Animal Concern is a pressure group registered as a non-profit making Limited Company
(Co. No. SC109126) established in 1988 as Animal Concern (Scotland) Ltd.
It incorporates the Scottish Anti-Vivisection Society which was founded in 1876.

To Health & Safety Executive Scotland.

Dear Sir or Madam,

I have just viewed a video taken earlier this month (July 2019) at a Mowi salmon farm at Corran Ferry, Ardgour, Loch Linnhe.

You will find the video here:

<https://www.facebook.com/don.staniford.3/videos/10162569303130355/>

From my viewing of this video the walkways on this salmon farm pose a severe safety risk to anyone working there.

Several of the walkways are littered with unsecured pipes and ropes, large quantities of plastic membranes, floats and other debris. In places the walkways are totally covered with materials likely to cause people to slip or trip or become entangled.

When working in any marine environment it is vital that work areas are kept as clear and unobstructed as possible. This is obviously not the case on the salmon farm shown on this video.

I ask you to make an unannounced inspection of this farm ASAP and take any action that might be required to ensure the highest health and safety standards are met. If my concerns are shown to be valid I urge you to visit other salmon farms to ensure they too employ high safety standards.

Several decades ago I worked in a place you might have heard of, ICL Plastics, Maryhill Road, Glasgow. I've taken Health & Safety seriously ever since.

Yours faithfully,

John F. Robins

TO: General-Account.Secretariat@hse.gov.uk

E-MAIL FROM: John F. Robins, Secretary and Campaigns Consultant, Animal Concern,

Dr David Snowball
Acting Chief Executive
Health and Safety Executive
Redgrave Court
Merton Road
Bootle
Merseyside
L20 7HS

Dear Dr Snowball,

On 30th of July I used your on-line reporting form to inform your Glasgow Office of my concerns re safety at a Mowi salmon farm on Loch Linnhe.

I have not yet received an acknowledgment of my communication and visited your website to see if I could find an e-mail address to write to to find out if my message had been received. Yours is the only e-mail address I could find.

This is not a complaint just a request for confirmation or otherwise that my message was received.

Yours sincerely,

John F. Robins,
Secretary

PS: If I had a complaint it would be why, in 2019, do your offices not have publicly available e-mail addresses to make it easier for people to contact the HSE?

From: [REDACTED]@hse.gov.uk

Sent: 02 August 2019 14:14

To: john@jfrobins.force9.co.uk

Subject: Concern regarding cluttered walkways on salmon cages at Corran

Hello Mr Robins

I am writing in response to your concern which I received yesterday and which I understand you copied to Dr Snowball today.

You expressed concern about the obstructed condition of the walkways on the cage group shown in the video attached to your concern. I have contacted the company and brought these matters to their attention. I was given an assurance that it would be dealt with as a priority and I am currently awaiting formal confirmation that the matters you raise have been addressed.

I am afraid we are unable to make unannounced visits to cage groups on fish farms as it is not logistically possible although we do make visits at very short notice. Visits to fish farming operations form part of our inspection programme.

Regards

HM Inspector of Health & Safety | Field Operations Division
Health & Safety Executive | Longman House, 28 Longman Road, Inverness, IV1 1SF |