

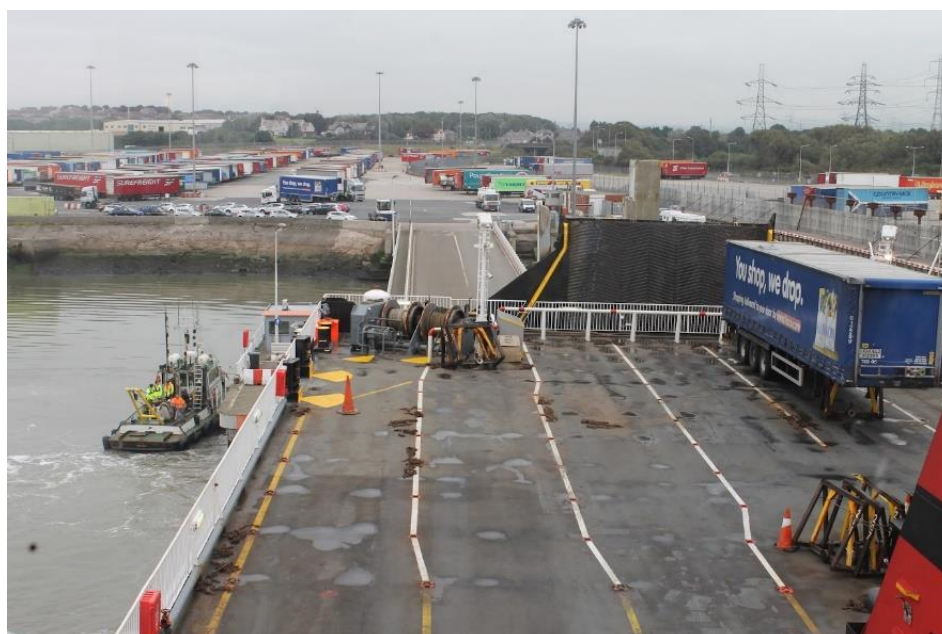
15,749 live sheep exported from IOM in 2023



Sheep and cattle begin their long journey from Ellan Vannin in livestock wagons to cross the Irish Sea by ferry to the UK.

In 2023 a shocking number of 15,749 live sheep and 4,031 live cattle were exported from the Island.

These farm animals were transported in cramped livestock wagons on the *Steam Packet* freight ferry mainly to Heysham for onward slaughter or purchase.



Heysham Port, Lancashire: many Manx livestock are moved from the port on to UK abattoirs.

Livestock continues to be exported from the Isle of Man despite the Island's Meat Plant receiving millions of pounds of taxpayer's financial support every year.



IOM Meat Plant: why is the export of live animals for slaughter necessary?

We recently submitted a *Freedom of Information* request to the Department of Environment, Food & Agriculture (DEFA) regarding those animal exports.

We raised a number of significant concerns regarding animal welfare on the tiring journey to the UK, why, when the Island has its own abattoir/meat plant, is it necessary for so many live sheep and cattle to be exported from the Island, what is the total government financial assistance given to the Meat Plant and how much were Board members of this Meat Plant paid in the last financial year.

You can read DEFA's *unhelpful* response dated 16th May 2024 below.

Hyperlink: <https://www.ik.im/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/16.05.24-Live-farm-animal-exports.pdf>