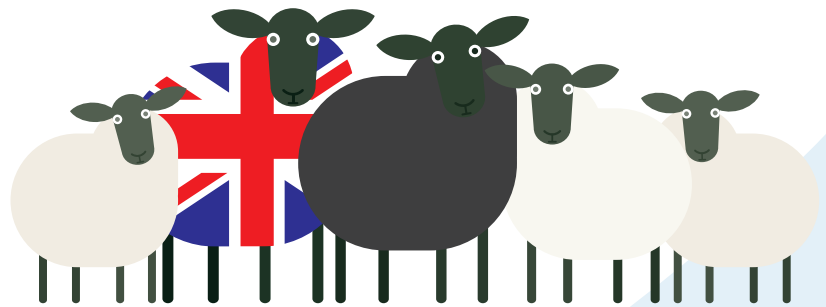# Animal Welfare
The role of British Wool

British Wool is the approved provider for shearing and wool handling training in the UK. Our shearing training programme is designed around animal welfare, with all candidates trained to shear carefully and sympathetically, whilst also maximising the commercial value of each fleece.

What is British Wool responsible for?

Whilst we do not have any powers to enforce animal welfare legislation, if we are made aware of any cases of animal mistreatment we will work closely with the agencies who have such responsibility, providing all and any information which supports their investigations.

As the approved provider for shearing and wool handling training in the UK, we teach best practice shearing methods, designed to show candidates how to shear carefully and sympathetically, whilst also maximising the commercial value of each fleece.

What is the role of agencies in the industry?

The Animal Welfare Act 2006, introduced by **Defra**, contains the general laws relating to animal welfare which makes it an offence to cause unnecessary suffering to any animal. The welfare of farmed animals is additionally protected by The Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2007 which sets minimum standards for all farm animals. Very similar legislation exists for the other UK countries – Northern Ireland, Wales and Scotland. Defra's agencies and local authorities are responsible for inspecting farms in the UK, providing advice and support, and ensuring farmers comply with regulations.

Defra is a UK government department, responsible for supporting the farming industry (amongst other areas) and putting government policy into practice. The **Farm Animal Welfare Committee** provides advice to Defra on the welfare of farmed animals. The **RSPCA** (England & Wales), **SSPCA** (Scotland) and **ISPCA** (Northern Ireland) are responsible for investigating complaints of animal cruelty and neglect with the powers to prosecute in certain cases.

Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs

RSPCA

SCOTTISH**SPCA**
Scotland's Animal Welfare Charity

ISPCA
CARING FOR ALL ANIMALS